

**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF OAK PARK
AND
RIVER FOREST
(LWV OPRF)**

**P. O. Box 3301
Oak Park, Illinois
60303-3301**

Email: lwvoprf1924@gmail.com

Website: lwvoprf.org

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OFFICERS

Term

President

Jane Hastings
Joan Petertil

2021-23
2021-23

Vice Presidents

Michelle Fitz-Henry
Judith McDevitt

2020-22
2020-22

Secretary

Mary Ann Porucznik

2020-22

Treasurer

Pauline Koch

2020-22

DIRECTORS

Tina Birnbaum
Judith Crown
Beverly Graham
Belina Lutz-Hamel
Mary Cay Murray
Linda Valentine

2021-23
2020-22
2021-23
2021-23
2021-23
2021-23

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Administration	Peggy Kell
Advocacy	Diane Moses
Archives	Mary Ann Porucznik
Children and Youth	Cleraine Camper
Communications	Peggy Kell Leslie Lauderdale
Drinks & Dialogue	Kathy Balk Beverly Graham
Environment	Marsha Borders Beverly Graham
Fundraising	Beverly Graham Judith Crown
International Relations	Alex Matthews
League Matters	Peggy Kell
LWVCC Liaison	Leslie Lauderdale
LWV Lake Michigan Liaison	Sarah Shirk
Membership Development	Mary Haley
Membership Recording	Tina Birnbaum Judith Crown
Nominating Committee	tina birnbaum Judith Crown
Observers	Cleraine Camper
Second Tuesday	Jane Hastings Bob Chimis
Voter Services	Peggy Kell

Standing committees to be appointed by the Board of Directors

Bylaws
Financial Review
Political Activity Policy

LWV MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership Services

Contact Membership Recording Chair to update your mailing or directory information or with questions about your membership dues. Contact Mary Haley with names of prospective members.

Annual dues are \$70 for individuals, \$30 for additional household members, and \$30 for students.

LWV ORGANIZATIONS

Each member of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest is also a member of:

League of Women Voters of Cook County

332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 634, Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939-5935 x127
Email: info@lwvcookcounty.org
Home Page: lwvcookcounty.org
President : Cynthia Schilsky

League of Women Voters of Illinois

332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 634, Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939-5935
Email: info@lwvil.org
Home Page: lwvil.org
President: Allyson Haut

League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

980 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1400 PMB239, Chicago, IL 60604
Email: lwvlakemichigan@gmail.com
Home Page: lwvlmr.org
President: Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller

League of Women Voters of the United States

1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-1965
Home Page: lwv.org
President: Deborah Turner
CEO: Virginia Kase Solomon

Local League Cluster:

League of Women Voters of Chicago

332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 634, Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939-5949
Email league@lwvchicago.org
Home Page: my.lwv.org/illinois/chicago
President: Anne Jamiesen

League of Women Voters of the La Grange Area

Post Office Box 542, La Grange, IL 60525
Email: league@lagrangearealwv.org
Home Page: lagrangearealwv.org
Co-Presidents: Lara Taylor & Janice Miller

TERMINOLOGY

ACTION or **ADVOCACY** is the next step after the League has taken a position as a result of consensus or concurrence. It can assume many forms: letter writing, calling elected officials, testifying at hearings, circulating petitions, holding informational meetings, and working in coalitions with other groups with the same goals.

CONCURRENCE occurs when a League agrees with the position reached by other League entities without duplicating the complete study and consensus process. Concurrence depends on accepting the validity of the research and analysis process by which other League members arrived at a position.

CONSENSUS is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. Neither unanimity nor a simple majority, it is the over-all “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. Consensus is always based upon study, and it leads to action.

NONPARTISAN POLICY is in accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the LWVUS bylaws: “The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.”

OBSERVER CORPS consists of League members who observe and report on meetings of public bodies.

PER MEMBER PAYMENT (PMP) is the amount paid by members through their local leagues to the LWVCC, LWVIL, and LWVUS to support the cost of membership in those levels of the League.

POSITION is a statement of the League’s stand on a particular issue. Positions may be arrived at by member consensus or concurrence and are adopted by the appropriate League board.

League PROGRAM is a blueprint for the year’s activities. It includes new issues chosen by the membership or convention delegates for study and consensus, as well as positions already arrived at for action at the local (LWVOPRF), county (LWVCC), regional (LWVLMR), state (LWVIL), and national (LWVUS) levels of the League.

VOTER SERVICE is basic citizenship training. This takes the form of unbiased and nonpartisan information regarding voter registration, understanding representative government, determining candidates’ views on issues, and presenting candidate forums.

LWV OPRF Focus/Priority

- Improve local League website, electronic, and media communications to serve as a resource to foster transparency and participation in government.
- Develop programs/speakers on timely issues as suggested by the Board of Directors or other members.
- Continue our voter service efforts to register and provide information to voters.
- Expand membership and encourage participation in League activities through social media and informal social gatherings.
- Encourage participation and engage all members in League advocacy and priorities.
- Partner with other community organizations to accomplish shared goals and to increase League visibility.

Continuous/Revised

- Promote LWVIL tax and school finance positions within our communities and convene studies and discussions of local economic issues as needed.
- Provide support for the environment including sustainability and attention to water as a precious resource.
- Continue to be the eyes and ears of our communities by strengthening our Observer Corps.
- Maintain our involvement in coalitions to improve well-being of youth.
- Support archival development and oral history.
- Encourage and educate women on how to run for elected office.

Education

Support of the public educational institutions including the community college with emphasis on fiscal responsibility and educational excellence and equity. (Revised 1989, 1995, 1999, 2011, 2018)

Government

Support of measures to improve the structure and operation of the local governments that serve Oak Park and River Forest.

Support a concentrated effort to improve economic development and retention of businesses in Oak Park and River Forest with the goal of increasing and diversifying the tax base. (March 1988; reviewed 1999 and 2003; revised 2018)

Support the concept of intergovernmental coordination of resources, planning and expenditures. (2018)

Library

Support the Oak Park and River Forest Libraries in their effort to meet increasing demands for service and maintaining and expanding the collection while emphasizing fiscal responsibility. (October 1992; revised 2018)

Recreational Services

Support of quality recreational services to meet the needs of our diverse population and of well-maintained and accessible facilities in Oak Park and River Forest. (March 1985; revised 2018)

Human Relations

Support of practices and activities to develop better community relations with emphasis on equal housing opportunities and all aspects of diversity. (June 1984; edited 1993, revised 1997, 2018)

Senior Needs

Support efforts to create programs and provide assistance that enhance the lives of older people in our communities and to educate and inform them about these programs. (May 1997; revised 2018)

Environment

Support a pollution-free environment in Oak Park and River Forest, and all efforts to promote and educate our community on: 1) recycling and reduction of solid waste, 2) keeping our waters clean and 3) improving energy efficiency and conservation. (2018)

DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism.

The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest recognizes that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and effective decision-making in democratic organizations.

The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest affirms its commitment to removing barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin. We actively seek to be inclusive.

For a summary of positions of related League organizations, please visit their respective websites:

League of Women Voters of the United States:

<http://www.lwv.org>

League of Women Voters of Illinois:

<http://www.lwvil.org>

League of Women Voters of Cook County:

<http://www.lwvcookcounty.org>

*Whatever the issue, the League believes that
efficient and economical government
requires competent personnel,
the clear assignment of responsibilities,
adequate financing,
coordination among levels of government,
effective enforcement,
and well-defined channels for
citizen input and review.*

**The bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest are now online.
See the link at the bottom of the home page on the website: lwvoprf.org.**

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to encourage political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is a nonpartisan political organization: nonpartisan in that it never supports or opposes any candidate or political party; political in that it does act on those governmental issues selected by its members and on which a position has been reached through study and member agreement. In all League activities members should avoid conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest with the League's nonpartisan policy.

RATIONALE

The LWV must be nonpartisan so that:

- Its position on an issue can be readily accepted and independent.
- It will not be obligated to any political party or faction.
- It can seek solutions in the public interest on the basis of fresh inquiry and objective study.
- Its Voter Service work will have wide public acceptance and trust.
- League membership will appeal to individuals of varying political views.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY COMMITTEE

The committee shall consist of at least two Board members, one of whom should be the President or Co-President, and one or more non-Board member(s). The Board will appoint the committee for a one-year term. The committee shall review the Political Activity

Policy at least once a year and report to the Board of Directors. It shall also consider any questions which arise concerning political activity and report its recommendations to the Board.

MEMBERS

A. League members as individuals are encouraged to:

- Seek an active role in the nomination/election of candidates for public office.
- Run for elective office themselves.
- Hold office in a political party.
- Stimulate public discussion of candidates and their views.
- Take part in the political activities of their choice.

B. League members may not speak or write in the name of the League unless specifically authorized to do so by the President(s) or Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT(S) AND VOTER SERVICE CHAIR(S)

- May not circulate petitions for candidates (whether partisan or nonpartisan elections).
- May not circulate petitions on issues which disagree with League positions or on which the League has no position.
- May not host candidate coffees, rallies, etc.
- May not display candidate buttons, bumper stickers or other campaign paraphernalia.
- May not take part in any political activity which might be construed by the public as League endorsement of parties or candidates.
- May not publicly support or finance any candidates.
- May not hold office or participate in slating candidates for, or work actively or publicly in, a political party or organization.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

A. All other Board members and official League Observers should consider the sensitivity of their particular portfolio when considering participation in political activities. None of the activities listed below are allowed at League sponsored events. These activities should be clearly done as individuals and not in the name of the League. After such considerations Board members may: sign candidate petitions; circulate candidate petitions; serve as poll workers; attend political party caucuses; distribute campaign literature; contribute to political parties; display campaign buttons, bumper stickers, etc.; contribute to candidates; attend candidate coffees, rallies, etc.; host candidate coffees; serve as election judges.

At League-sponsored open meetings, Board members and official League Observers should not display any campaign paraphernalia that indicates support of a political candidate or likewise any issue that has not been approved by the League.

B. Board members and official League Observers considering an active political role must offer their resignation when the member:

- Decides to run for public office (whether partisan or nonpartisan).
- Is appointed or elected to elective office (whether partisan or nonpartisan).
- Wishes to serve as campaign manager for a candidate (whether partisan or nonpartisan).

When a Board member or official League Observer resigns to pursue political activities, public notices announcing the resignation of a Board member or official League Observer should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsement of the candidacy or activities of the resigned member.

ISSUE CAMPAIGNS

When the League has a position:

- The Board should plan appropriate campaigns to further League goals.
- The Board may remain silent, but may not oppose a League position.

- The Board should inform the members of the issue to allow individual action.

AREAS OF POSSIBLE CONCERN

When a League member participates in a community or governmental committee, commission, or board, she or he should make it clear that she or he is participating as an individual unless directed by the Board to represent the League's position. In that case she or he cannot testify or represent herself or himself as an individual.

Political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member are to be considered separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

For the duration of a study, study chairs may not speak out for or against the issue being studied.

HAZEL HANSON AWARD

Hazel Hanson had a long history of involvement in the League and held the office of President twice: 1953-55 and 1969-71. She shared her wealth of knowledge and expertise not only with the League, but also with the larger Oak Park community. She served as a trustee for the Village of Oak Park and was instrumental in the passage of the Oak Park Fair Housing Ordinance. She was also active on the committee to build a new library and was involved in many other community activities.

This award was proposed and established at the Annual Meeting in May 1987, in response to a \$1000 donation by Mrs. Hanson. Hazel did not specify how the donation should be used, leaving it to the discretion of the Board. We were extremely grateful for her most generous gift. The award is given in her name to a League member whose work within the League not only serves to promote the goals of the organization, but also has a positive impact on the community at large.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for eliciting nominations from the general membership. Information on nominees is reviewed by members of the Nominating Committee, and a recommendation is made to the Board. The recipient is honored at the Annual Meeting.

RECIPIENTS OF THE HAZEL HANSON AWARD

1988	Therese Sabo	2005	Jeanette Fields
1989	Child Welfare Committee	2006	Elizabeth Lippitt
1990	Elsie Jacobsen	2007	Nancy Staunton
1991	Catherine Deam	2008	Priscilla Mims
1992	Esther Brodsky	2009	Winifred Pozorski
1993	Margot Clayton	2010	Marge Gockel
1994	Sue Rizzo	2011	Nancy Clark
1995	Janine Katonah	2012	Nancy Leavy
1996	Carlotta Lucchesi	2013	Mary Cay Murray
1997	Sherlynn Reid	2014	Pauline Koch
1998	Nancy Waichler	2015	Peggy Kell
1999	Mary Ellen Matthies	2016	Sarah Shirk
2000	Kathryn Nesburg	2017	Marilyn Cantisano
2001	Barbara Furlong	2018	Mary Rose Lambke
2002	Senior Services Committee	2019	Marge Massarello
2003	Laurie Huget	2020	Marsha Borders
2004	Virginia Cassin	2021	Beverly Graham

LOCAL MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

(E) Elected Members of all other bodies are appointed.

OAK PARK

Village

Website: oak-park.us

Phone: (708) 383-6400

Boards

Board of Trustees (E)

Citizen Volunteer Commissions and Committees List: [Website](#)

Oak Park Township

Township Board (E)

Website: oakparktownship.org

Phone: (708) 383-8005

Community Mental Health Board

Website: oakparktownship.org/community-mental-health/

Financial Advisory, Senior Services, and Youth Services Volunteer Committee: [website](#)

Other Boards

Elementary School Dist. 97 (E)

Website: op97.org

Phone: (708) 524-3000

Park District (E)

Website: pdop.org

Phone: (708) 725-2200

Library Board (E)

Website: oppl.org

Phone: (708) 383-8200

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST

Oak Park River Forest High School Board. (E)

Website: oprfs.org

Phone: (708) 383-0700

RIVER FOREST

Village

Website: vrf.us

Phone: (708) 366-8500

Boards

Board of Trustees (E)

Citizen Volunteer Commissions and Committees [Website](#)

Township

Website: riverforesttownship.org.

Phone (708) 366-2029

River Forest Township (E)
River Forest Civic Center Authority
Mental Health Services
Senior Services
Youth Services

Other Boards

Elementary School District 90 (E)

Website: district90.org

Phone (708) 771-8282

Library Board (E)

Website: riverforestlibrary.org

Phone (708) 366-5205

Park District (E)

Website : rfparks.com

Phone (708) 366-6660

FOREST PARK

Village

Website: forestpark.net

Phone: (708) 366-2323

Village Council (E)

Boards

Fire Pension Board
Library Board
Recreation Board
Zoning Board of Appeals

Commissions

Diversity
Environmental Control
Ethics
Fire and Police
Plan
Safety and Traffic

Other Boards

Elementary School District 91 (E)

Website: forestparkschools.org

Phone: (708) 366-5700

Park District (E)
Website: pdofp.org

Phone: (708) 366-7500

TRITON COLLEGE

Website: triton.edu
Triton College Board (E)

Phone: (708) 456-0300

VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

The following websites represent a small selection of sites giving information on candidates, issues, voter registration, and/or other election-related information.

FEDERAL

1. vote411.org
Vote411.org
LWV Education Fund site for nonpartisan election related information.
2. votesmart.org
Project Vote Smart
Factual information on candidates and elected officials.
3. loc.gov
The Library of Congress
Search for and track bills, votes, laws, and congressional activity.
4. rolcallvotes.com
Thomas Voting Reports, Inc.
An overview of key votes in Congress.
5. eac.gov
United States Election Assistance Commission
Information on the administration of federal elections.
6. fec.gov
United States Federal Election Commission
Information on campaign financing of federal elections.

STATE

1. elections.il.gov
Illinois State Board of Elections
Election administration throughout the state.

2. ilga.gov
Illinois General Assembly
Information on legislation and laws, and members of the General Assembly.
3. illinois.gov
Illinois State Website
General information about Illinois government.

VOTING INFORMATION WEBSITES

COOK COUNTY AND CHICAGO

1. cookcountyclerk.com
Cook County Clerk—Elections—Suburban Cook County.
2. chicagoelections.com
Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago.

JUDGES

1. voteforjudges.org
A nonpartisan group covering Cook County elections.
2. brennancenter.org
Brennan Center for Justice
Information on voting rights and elections.
3. isba.org
Illinois State Bar Association
Judicial rating charts as well as research, briefs, and legislative information.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

1. civicfed.org
The Civic Federation
A nonpartisan government research organization covering the Chicago region and the State of Illinois.
2. bettergov.org
The Better Government Association
An independent nonpartisan government watchdog.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION

1. opensecrets.org
The Center for Responsive Politics
Guide to money's influence in U.S. elections.
2. ilcampaign.org
Reform for Illinois
A nonpartisan public interest group.

Communication Tips

Whether you're communicating by letter, telephone, or email, here are some tips to remember:

Timing is important.

Address your written message properly.

Include your return address.

Write separately to each legislator.

Keep your message short and to the point.

If you are a constituent, begin your message by saying so.

Refer to a specific bill or issue by name and/or number.

Make your position clear and say exactly what you'd like the legislator to do.

Write about only one bill or issue in each letter.

Include your personal experience as supporting evidence.

Make the letter entirely your own.

Ask the legislator to state his/her position in reply to you.

Proofread carefully.

Remember to thank your legislators later on, if appropriate.

Follow up by contacting the Governor or President after your bill

has passed both chambers to show your support for signing it into law.

Proper address:

Envelope and inside address:

The President

The Honorable Jane/John Smith

Salutation:

Dear Mr. President

Dear Senator Smith/Representative Smith/Governor Smith

congress.org

Congress.org by Capital Advantage (used by the LWV)

A convenient way to contact federal and state legislators via email.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard

(202) 224-3121

(800) 828-0498 toll free

A convenient way to phone federal legislators.

Federal Elected Officials

President Joseph Biden

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202)456-1111
(202) 456-2461 fax

Richard J. Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2152
(202) 228-0400 fax

230 S. Dearborn Street, #3892
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-4952
(312) 353-0150 fax
durbin.senate.gov

Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2854
(202) 228-0618 fax

230 S. Dearborn Street, #3900
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-3506
duckworth.senate.gov

Marie Newman (3rd District)
1022 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5701
(202) 225-1012 fax

6245 South Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638
(773) 948-6223

7902 S. Oketo Avenue
Bridgeview, IL 60455
(Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Danny K. Davis (7th District)
2159 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5006

Jesus Garcia (4th District)
1519 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-8203
(202) 225-7810 fax

5624 W. Diversey Avenue
Chicago, IL 60639
(773) 342-0774

4376 S Archer Ave
Chicago, IL 60632
(773) 475-0833

(202) 225-5641 fax

2815 W. Fifth Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612
(773) 533-7520
(844) 274-0426 fax

website: www.house.gov/davis/zipauth.htm

State Elected Officials

Governor of Illinois

JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-6830
(888) 261-3336 TTY

Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, #16-100
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-2121
illinois.gov

Illinois State Senators

Kimberly Lightford (4th District)
329A Capitol Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8505

4415 W. Harrison St., Suite 550
Hillside, IL 60162
(708) 632-4500
(708) 632-4515 fax

Don Harmon (39th District)
327 Capitol Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8176

6939 W. North Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 848-2002

Illinois State Representatives

Emanuel Chris Welch (7th District)

300 Capitol Bldg.

Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-5350

10055 W. Roosevelt Road #E
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 450-1000
(708) 450-1104 fax
repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com

LaShawn K. Ford (8th District)
Camille Y. Lilly (78th District)
200-1 S. Stratton Office Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-6400
(217) 558-1054 fax

6937 W. North Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 613-5939
staterepcamillelilly@gmail.com

239-E Stratton Office Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-5962
(217) 557-4502 fax

5051 W. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60651
(773) 750-0866
(773) 378-5903 fax

Cook County Board

Toni Preckwinkle, President

118 N. Clark Street #537
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 603-6400
(312) 603-4397 fax

Commissioners:

Brandon Johnson (1st)

118 N. Clark St. #567
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 603-4566
(312) 603-3696 fax

6614 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60707
(312) 603-4566
brandonjohnson@cookcountyil.gov

Peter Silvestri (9th)

118 N. Clark Street #567
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 603-4393
(312) 603-1154 fax

5515 N. East River Road
Chicago, IL 60656
(773) 444-0346
(773) 444-0373 fax
cookcty9@aol.co

Frank J. Aguilar (16th)

118 N. Clark Street #567
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 603-4735

7833 Ogden Ave.
Lyons, IL 60534

(312) 603-4744 fax

Local Elected Officials

Oak Park Village President and Board of Trustees

Vicki Scaman, President
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
(708) 358-5797

[Email: presidentscaman@oak-park.us](mailto:presidentscaman@oak-park.us)

River Forest Village President and Board of Trustees

Catherine Adduci, President
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, Illinois 60305
(708) 366-8500
(708) 366-3702 fax

[Email: vrf.us](mailto:vrf.us)

Forest Park Mayor and Village Council

Rory E. Hoskins, Mayor
517 Des Plaines Avenue
Forest Park, IL 60130
(708) 615-6200

[Email: mayorhoskins@forestpark.net](mailto:mayorhoskins@forestpark.net)