Issues Affecting Voting

Current threats and what is the League (and other groups) doing to protect voting?

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ILLINOIS

June 9, 2026

Before the Election

- Key Concerns
  - Voter roll purges
  - New voter registration restrictions
  - Armed troop or ICE presence
  - Reduced CISA funding
  - Underfunding of elections
  - Last-minute redistricting
  - Vote by Mail suppression setup

League Strategy

Prevention

- education, capacity building

Public education and awareness

- Paid media,
- Letters to the editor, Op-Eds,
- Social media

Election judge recruitment

Legal readiness and documentation planning

Recommended League Actions

- **Strengthen Organizational Partnerships**
  - Currently forming with Common Cause and Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil RIghts at a state level
  - Illinois NOW, AAUW, YWCA, ACLU, CASA, Delta Sigma Theta, NAACP, faith-based partnerships
  - Illinois Library Association
  - Encourage local connections with these networks

Recommended League Actions

Protests Rallies and Vigils

- Encourage Local Leagues to exercise their First Amendment rights: *protest while you still can.*
- During protests, rallies and vigils, our #1 priority must always be public and member safety.
- Local Leagues should participate in No Kings and other mobilizations
  - LWVIL will provide support, such as sign templates and sample League slogans for homemade signs.
  - LWVIL to provide ongoing training for protests, rallies, and vigils

Threats During the Election

KEY CONCERNS

- Voter intimidation at polls
- Armed presence near polling places
- ICE activity
- Ballot chain-of-custody risks
- Seizing or attacking voting equipment
- Disinformation around Vote by Mail validity

League Strategy

- Train, credential and deploy election observers
- Real-time documentation & reporting
- Voter education and reassurance
- Coordination with election authorities

Recommended League Actions

Election Observation

- **Equipment Testing**
- **VBM Ballot Processing**
- **Poll watchers**
  - **Early voting**
  - **Election day voting**
  - **Ballot Certification**

Threats After the Election

Key Concerns:

- Blocking of or refusal of certification
- Decertification of ballots or records
- Attempts to stop ballot counting
- House refusal to seat elected officials
- Federal takeover or interference
- Criminalization of election officials

League Strategy

Documentation and public accountability

Legal action where appropriate

- Support legal response through partners

Public pressure and “make noise” strategies

Support for election officials

Observe, document, and report certification and counting processes

Monitor chain-of-custody and ballot handling issues through trained observers

Maintain communication with state League and partner organizations

Raise public awareness at local and state levels when certification is threatened

Encourage member documentation only (do not intervene directly)

Advocate for timely and lawful certification; Support credibility and protection of election authorities

LWVIL Responsibilities

- TRAIN AND CREDENTIAL POLL WATCHERS
- PROVIDE BROAD ELECTION TRAINING AT STATE ASSEMBLY
- MONITOR STATE ELECTION LEGISLATION
- STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS
- PROVIDE ONGOING TRAINING AND RESOURCES FOR PROTESTS
- PUBLICIZE ACTIONS

Recommended League Action

Ballot certification observation

Local League Responsibilites

- Attend State Assembly
- Provide poll watchers
- Observe & report
- Recruit judges of election
- Publicize actions

Priorities

Share VOTE411 now

- Voter Education
- Check registration status
- Register to vote online
- Candidate information will be available as of start of Early Voting

Look for partnership opportunities

NOW, AAUW, YWCA, ACLU, CASA, Delta Sigma Theta, NAACP, faith-based partnerships

Priorities

Vote by Mail

Sign up for text alerts from LWVIL

Recruit election judges and poll watchers

Priorities

Cultivate relationship with your Election Authority

Watch VBM processing

Attend equipment testing

Share your experiences

Attend State Assembly

Friday August 28

In person: Springfield
Virtual

In conclusion….

QUESTIONS?

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