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The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford
P. O. Box 4186
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"While casting a vote is every citizen's right, casting an informed vote is every citizen's responsibility."

The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

Making Democracy Work for All of Us!



League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a national non-partisan political organization with over 1,200 local chapters in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League grew out of the National Women Suffrage Association, which led the 72 year drive for a woman's right to vote in the United States.

History

The LWV of the United States began in Chicago at the Congress Hotel on February 14, 1920. Knowing woman suffrage was inevitable, Carrie Chapman Catt urged the National Woman Suffrage Association to change direction and help American women learn about the issues and "be worthy of the privilege of voting."

Purposes

The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen, 18 or older, male or female, may join. The LWV is nonpartisan and neither supports nor opposes candidates for elected office but does act on issues after member study and consensus.

Local Leagues

There are 52 Leagues with almost 5,000 members in Illinois. Local Leagues hold public meetings on issues, host candidate forums, monitor local government activities, and act to ensure better communities. For instance, the Rockford League has lobbied to improve safety at the Commonwealth Edison Nuclear Plant at Byron, Illinois.

Today's Leaguers in Local Politics

The League of Women Voters is a training ground for people in leadership positions and in politics. The League's founders sought to educate the woman voter initially, but that insight also empowered her to seek office in order to make a real contribution to society. Many of today's leaders are members of the League of Women Voters.

The Rockford League

The League of Women Voters of Rockford was established in 1922, just after the formation of the LWV of the United States. Among the founders of Rockford's League was Julia Lathrop, a woman suffragist and founder of both the national and Illinois League of Women Voters. As early as 1926 when a discrepancy was found in the counting of votes, the League brought about the implementation of training for local election judges, a practice which continues today. Originally named the LWV of Winnebago County, the name was changed to LWV of Rockford in 1953 and to LWV of Greater Rockford in 1998.

Please call 227-8589 or visit our web site at <http://www.lwvgr.org> for more information.



Who Joins The League of Women Voters?

- **Voters**
who want to make government more responsive and accessible.
- **Women and Men**
who want to influence policies that affect their community, state and nation.
- **Motivated Individuals**
who are interested in developing their skills in leadership, conflict resolution, lobbying and public speaking.
- **Busy People**
who want to support a progressive public policy agenda looking for a lively discussion of issues.
- **Thinkers and Doers**
who want to find out about the hot issues in their community.
- **Parents**
who are concerned about the world their children will inherit.
- **Concerned Citizens**
who want to work together to improve the quality of life in their world.

"Voting is the great equalizer in American society. No matter how much money you have or who your friends are or whether or not you contributed to a particular candidate, you have one vote - the same as everybody else. And with that one vote, you have the power to affect decisions that will affect your life. Your job, your taxes, your health care, your children's education, your Social Security, you name it -they are all at stake."

The League of Women Voters is...

- **Political but Non-Partisan**
The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. The League does work to influence public policy through citizen education and advocacy.
- **Grassroots**
League members themselves choose which public policy issues will be targeted for study and action.
- **Multi-Issue**
The League takes action on a broad range of issues-from violence prevention to pollution control, campaign finance reform and local school referenda.
- **Informative**
The League registers voters, sponsors candidate debates, publishes voters guides and public policy research, and holds conferences on key issues.
- **Influential**
The League lobbies elected officials and works in coalition with others to press its agenda in Washington, Springfield, and local communities.
- **Inter-Connected**
When you join, you become a member of a local League in your community, the Illinois League and the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

When You Join the League, you...

- Become a force for change
- Learn how government works and how to make your voice heard
- Act on issues of concern to you
- Strengthen an activist network that shapes public policy
- Experience personal growth
- Join in-depth discussions about timely political issues and the complex challenges facing government
- Build your network of personal and professional contacts
- Develop skills and expertise that will enhance your resume and open the doors to new experiences
- Gain access to information
- Receive membership benefits

The **National Voter**, a bi-monthly magazine that keeps you one step ahead of the issues

The **Illinois Voter**, a quarterly publication covering state legislation, statewide programs and member activities

A local League bulletin featuring member events and community issues

Discounts on products and events

Any questions? call 815/227-8589.

Local LWV Committees:

Campaign Finance Reform
Lobbies/researches national, state and local legislation dealing with campaign finance reform.

Children at Risk
Promotes the well-being and safety of all children.

Education
Studies state and local educational issues..

Health Care
Studies types of health care delivery systems and advocates for the right affordable patient care .

International Relations
Studies international issues.

Local Government
Promotes community vision/leadership by citizens; observes government boards and councils.

Natural Resources
Advocates for protection and preservation of natural resources including land, water and air from pollution.

State of the Community Event

cut and mail today!

Join Today!

___ Individual Membership \$45.00

___ Student Membership \$22.00

___ Household Membership \$67.50

___ My contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone-H _____ Phone-W _____

E-Mail Address _____

Choosing the President: A Citizen's Guide to the 2000 Election., a LWV Book