



Join/Support

March 2021

The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Greetings!

This is a special issue of the *Voter* that includes information that you will need for the upcoming Annual Meeting including: Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes; 2021-22 Proposed Budget; 2021-22 Nomination Slate of Officers; and Recommended Updates of our Positions and By-laws. Please review them before the Annual Meeting to be held virtually on Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 pm. Please RVSP for the meeting by Thursday, April 22 to receive something additional for the meeting.

In the meantime, we know that the vaccine distribution is increasing and we hope to see you in-person around town and at future League meetings when we will finally feel safe to gather together again. If you missed the six candidate forums for the local election, you can find the links to the videos on www.lwvge.org. Please make sure to vote on Tuesday, April 6 or visit the website for locations for early voting.



BE VOCAL. VOTE LOCAL. If you are interested in attending the 60th LWV Illinois Biennium Convention to be held virtually Friday, June 11-Sunday, June 13, please let us know. **We are 200 members strong**, now. So, now we are able to send eight delegates to

represent Glen Ellyn.

As we close out our term as co-presidents, we want to thank our wonderful board members and the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to inform and register voters. It has been an incredible year with the pandemic, and our organization has made a difference. And, we will continue to do our important work to support democracy including the critical work across the county to secure the right to vote. We are looking forward to seeing you all "in person."

Supporting democracy,
Kristin B. Malone and Erica Nelson
Co-presidents LWVGE

[Visit Our Website](#)

League Issues

LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING 2021. The League of Women Voters of Illinois holds an Issues Briefing annually in February or March. It is normally an all-day event, but this year it was held virtually on two Saturday mornings in February. Three topics relating to positions of the State League were presented by an expert panel each week. The topics presented were:

- Restoring Environmental Stewardship and the Pursuit of Ecojustice
- After the Graduated Rate Income Tax Campaign: Now What?
- Housing is Everything: The Role of Housing as a Determinant of Economic Success
- Recognizing and Doing Something About Systemic Racism and Inequality
- Welcoming City, Sanctuary City
- Redistricting in 2021: Community Mapping

Information about the panelists and their presentation materials are available at LWVIL.org. If you are interested in joining a Google Group pertaining to any of these topics, you can send a request to LWVIL. Issues Briefing is always a very informative day, and hopefully we will be able to attend in person in 2022.

Jayne Boeckelman

Legislative Interviews Continue Virtually

The LWV annual Legislative Interviews have begun, albeit differently this year. Instead of the traditional face to face interviews that local Leagues hold each spring, this year they will be done virtually.

On March 15 we partnered with two other Leagues, Wheaton and Downers Grove-WoodridgeLisle on a Zoom meeting with District 48 Representative Terra Costa Howard. Here's a summary of what we discussed.

Legislating during a pandemic was mostly virtual and lacked the usual spontaneous negotiations that are an important part of bill making. Six to seven virtual committee meetings per day is common. The three primary focuses of our conversation this year were: funding education, redistricting and environmental legislation. Other topics we covered were: her vote on

the criminal justice omnibus bill and the Governor's budget. In determining her vote on an education bill, or any bill, the representative will always consider how it affects her district, including taxes for constituents. She does not support the "Invest in Kids" initiative, a tax credit scholarship program, as it would take money away from public schools in DuPage County. Representative Costa Howard was the lead sponsor of the Fair Maps Bill that ultimately did not get voted on in 2020 because the COVID pandemic drastically interrupted and shortened the legislative session. The legislature will begin working on the 2021 redistricting plan soon, with a virtual, town hall meeting in DuPage County April 2. She stressed that voters need to understand that you can't tell whether a map is fair just by looking at the district shapes. What's important is making sure that communities aren't split across districts for partisan reasons.

Citizens of DuPage County and D48 are supportive of environmentally related legislation. Representative Costa Howard will support the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) and believes it will gain bi-partisan support. The representative did not vote for the Criminal Justice Reform omnibus bill. She explained that voting for an omnibus bill, which includes many diverse issues, requires an "all in" or "all out" vote. She supported some issues included in the bill, but not all. In addition, voting against it seemed to be important to her constituents as witnessed by the overwhelming number of calls she received opposing the bill, while there were no calls in support of it.

Representative Costa Howard is in favor of decoupling the Illinois tax structure from the federal structure as it applies to the COVID relief 2020 CARES Act. Under the current structure, certain large companies in Illinois would be able to claim losses against gains going back five years. Decoupling would remove that provision, allowing the same companies to still deduct losses going forward one year. Without decoupling, Illinois could lose \$500m to \$1.8b in revenue. This is something the governor also supports.

Contact the representative at REPTCH48@gmail.com to let her know if you support or oppose any of these issues. Constituent opinion is important to her. We continue to push for a meeting with D 46 Representative Deb Conroy and our two state senators, Suzy Glowiak Hilton and Thomas Cullerton.

Rita Doyle Legislative Liaison

Get Out the Vote!

<https://www.lwvge.org/league-lawn-sign>

BE VOCAL VOTE LOCAL!

Lawn Signs and Car Magnets

\$5 each



Member Information for You

League Comms: Getting the Word Out In A Changing World

Your League Communications team has had quite a year. With the pandemic turning everything "virtual" in the midst of our 100th year of the League and women's suffrage, we have had to up our game! The team's work runs the gamut: From managing the website, putting out *The Voter*, creating and posting on social media, sending meeting reminder postcards and emails, creating the membership directory and making sure all the League news and events get published in local media and community venues.

The Communication's team has two key target audiences: Our League members and our community, with some overlap. And everyone likes to be communicated to in a different way so that creates a challenge. This year, we branched out into new areas during the 2020 election, such as suffragette scarecrows and storefronts, voter postcards, lawn signs, Voting FAQ flyers and posters and targeted communication to houses of worship, working closely with the voter services team. Voters were motivated to turn out and be involved, and we hope we did our part to encourage the historic voting levels with our strong visibility and prominent "Don't Just Vent, Vote" messaging. Our website attracted over 12,000 unique visitors in 2020, with 4,000 visiting in October, both record highs.

The April election has been a different challenge given historic voter apathy for off-year municipal elections, so we leveraged a "Be Vocal, Vote Local" effort to try to encourage participation. We kept our website always up to date so that League members and the community always knew the latest information.

Let's celebrate all the work of the Comms team, keeping us informed! And there is always more

to be done. If you are interested in helping, please reach out and let us know!

Communications (in alphabetical order)

Sarah Allen
Jayne Boekcelman
Lynne Bruno
Karin Daly
Nicole Dejouris
Michelle Peterson
Candy Purdom

Membership

We have recently crossed an important threshold. We have now exceeded 200 members, making LWVGE the third largest League in Illinois! Thank you all and please help us welcome our latest joinees:

Laura Brown
695 Plumtree Road GE
laurabrown2007@gmail.com

Stephanie Clark
316 Brandon Avenue GE
stephclark14@yahoo.com

Nia Esposito
521 Carlisle Court GE
630-476-3360
niaesposito23@gmail.com

Carey Fredrick
154 S. Montclair Avenue GE
708-945-9462
robncarey@sbcglobal.net

Tayyaba Syed
1002 Windsong Circle
Glendale Heights 60139
630-926-7933
tayyaba.s.syed@gmail.com

Barbara Kwiatkowsky
351 Woodstock Avenue GE
708-710-2589
barbarak@comcast.net

Amy Crowley
850 Hillside Avenue GE
630-776-7198
accrowley@gmail.com

Cynthia Nelson

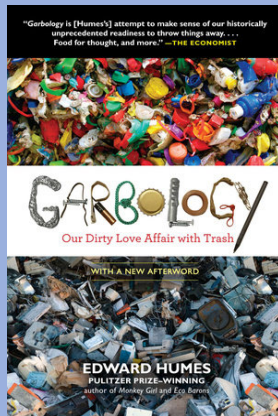
630 Carolyn Drive GE
240-271-2420
cynthia.bushar@gmail.com

Mark Franz
646 Pleasant Avenue GE
markfranz5@gmail.com

Jen Bystry
621 Turner Avenue GE
630-607-9382
bystry@yahoo.com

Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

February Book Club Inspires Essay

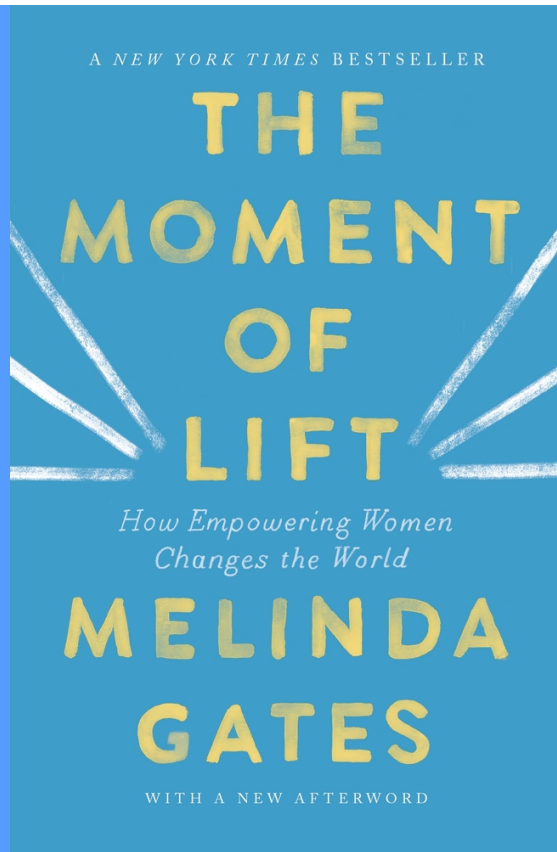


After our LWVGE discussion of the book *Garbology* a few League members asked me to explain a little more about my perspectives surrounding garbage. So, I wondered, where did my garbage-obsessed life come from? It might have started in Guatemala where I lived with a group of fellow students working in the small, rural village in the mountains near Conacaste. As we lived and worked there building a school, we began to notice that the villagers were very interested in our American garbage. As we finished with plastic sheeting, one family took it home and made a roof. As we emptied a large shampoo bottle, a local woman asked to have it so she could have a container reliable enough to hold water and carry it home from the village well.

Or maybe my obsession started when I was in Georgia working for Habitat for Humanity. A group of us went out to work on what appeared to be an abandoned house, surrounded by trash in a remote woodland setting, where if you looked very closely through the trees, a woman could be seen on her porch with her open-lidded washing machine running next to her. As we left after a full day of work on her property, our mentor explained that this woman, Mary, was considered well off in the local community. Her garbage was evidence of her ability to consume, and no one was allowed to tidy her property ever. When asked about the curious use and location of the washing machine, I learned that this was the ultimate in status. Mary was proving she could afford both electricity and a working washing machine, which was extremely rare. Any other washing machines we spotted in the nearby yards didn't work. They were simply an attempt at collecting a very curious local status symbol. When the book *Material World* was published in 1994 I was connected back to these moments from my own life and saw them expanded to homes and people from all over the world. This book isn't about garbage exactly, but it seems to indicate something about the future garbage humanity will be facing. This idea of "future garbage" leads to thoughts on a final book I will mention, *Secondhand*, which was recommended to me by our own LWVGE expert on recycling, garbage, and minimizing your impact on the planet, Eileen McArdle. This book is about tracking our donations, usable discards and garage sale items around the planet to see where they end up and who wants them. The results are surprising. Who wants my broken TV? Evidently many people do. It's just a matter of getting it to them. This book is about how that happens.

When analyzing my personal garbage issues, it is easy to blame my mother (Freud would) but now that I am a mother, I try not to go there too often. After reading *Garbology* and these other books, and discussing them with League friends, my mother would say we have to find ways to do better. She

would say, don't buy it in the first place unless absolutely necessary, and even then, think twice about the garbage trail this item has left in its wake of production and will leave forever into the future, leaving this teacher with the perpetual question; "Does that really need to be laminated?" I don't think so.
Submitted by Laura Lee, Member



Next Book Club

Michelle and I will be hosting Book Club via Zoom. We will meet on Saturday April 24 at 9:00am. Wanted to get one more Zoom Book Club in before we are all vaccinated and traveling the world.

Shawn will check out all the copies on March 27 from the Glen Ellyn Public Library and will drop them off at Karin Daly's porch (532 Anthony St) for convenient pick up. If you are not able to get to Karin's no worries - we do deliveries! The book we are reading is:

The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World by Melinda Gates

Email Shawn (fasules@sbcglobal.net) to be added to the Book Club list for the Zoom invite and updates, for deliveries, questions, and suggestions.

Feel free to invite a friend. League membership is not a requirement.
Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club

Annual Program Planning Wrap-Up

February 6 brought members together virtually to examine governmental issues. Our annual assessment asks members to weigh those needing concerted study and/or directing action be taken at the local, state and national levels. You are encouraged to review what was discussed at this year's planning session. Please click below to read the 2021 summary.

[February 2021 Program Planning Summary](#)

In Case You Missed These....

In February and March, LWVGE continued hosting virtual Community Meetings. And, although we'd much rather be in person, one plus is we do

provide those programs for later viewing.

It's not too late to review both February's "Local Elections and You: Fighting Voter Apathy" and/or March's "Environmental Justice" events. Simply click on the buttons below to see them now.

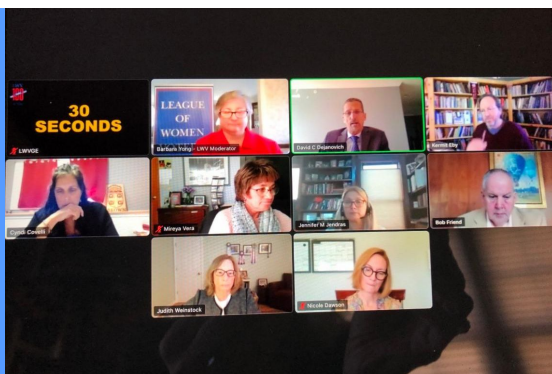
Pictured here is a moment from our February meeting with moderator extraordinaire, Karin Daly (top left and then clockwise) with guests Reatha

Owen, Patrick Watson and Connie Mixon.



[February 18, 2021 Community Meeting Recording](#)

[March 18, 2021 Community Meeting Recording](#)



Forums in Action!

Our six Candidate Forums provided voters with an opportunity to "meet the candidates." And they were widely viewed. (See details below.)

Pictured is a screenshot of the Glenbard High School District 87 School Board Candidate Forum on Saturday, March 20.

Informed voters are democracy's best friends!

3 Saturdays + 6 Forums = 1,000 Informed Voters!

LWVGE hosted six virtual candidate forums in March. The forums allowed voters to hear directly from the candidates in a nonpartisan format and aided voters with casting an informed ballot in the 2021 Consolidated General Election. Recordings of the events are posted on our website as well as on the Illinois Voter Guide. The combined views of all six forums is now over 1,000 views! (As of March 22.)

March 6

Glen Ellyn Village President
88 Attendees
101 recording views

District 41 School Board
124 attendees
375 recording views

March 13

Glen Ellyn Village Trustee

39 attendees

69 recording views

District 89 School Board

50 attendees

149 recording views

March 20

Milton Township Supervisor

60 attendees

132 recording views

District 87 School Board

45 attendees

81 recording views

LWVGE Voter Services thanks Moderator Barbara Yong and Question Vetting Team: Sonja Faulkner, Dorothy Hess, Joyce Hothan, Judy Kinn, Michelle Thorsell



Our talented Lynn Bruno stepped up again to create LWVGE's entry into February's "Share the Love" promotion. This fun community event encouraged groups to design a wreath representing what they love about Glen Ellyn.



The Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce organized the promotion to warm our hearts throughout the chilly month. Although we didn't win the most votes this year among the 50 overall entries, we applaud Lynn's beautiful work. Lynn sure made us look good!

Get Informed!

Please familiarize yourself with the attached documents. Our Annual Meeting gives us a chance to review the important workings of LWVGE. To that end, we offer the following documents for your careful consideration. Please make time to review the

information here prior to our very special annual meeting on April 29, 7:00 pm. And watch for invitations to come!

Proposed Budget 2021-2022

LWVGE Annual Meeting Minutes 2020 (for approval)

Slate of League Board Candidates

Position Removal: DuPage County Program and Positions in Brief

Position Update: Socio-Economic Study Consensus (Questions 2-7 - no change in Position)

Position Update: Comprehensive Plan Consensus (Page and Section numbers referenced removed – no change in Position)



League Annual Awards

We make a little history every year with our LWVGE Annual Awards. One of the most anticipated components of the League's Annual Meeting is the presentation of the prestigious annual awards to League members for:

Susan B Anthony Voter Service Award. Someone who has worked diligently to register voters and inform voters on candidates & issues

Outstanding New League Members Service Award. New member who has been actively involved and has taken a leadership role

Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award. Someone who has been exceptionally active in League and an activist in the community

Nominate someone you think deserves to be recognized!

Please send your nomination, along with a short paragraph of why you nominated this individual, including what the person has accomplished in the past year, to Sarah Allen ridesrowdy@aol.com. The awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting April 29th. All nominations **MUST BE RECEIVED** by April 1, 2021, so do not delay!!!

A committee will review the submissions and make a decision on the recipients of this year's awards. If you are interested in volunteering for the committee, please let Sarah know right away. The committee consists of 3-4 people (including the chair, Sarah Allen), who will count and read all the submissions. The work can be done by phone and email between April 1-10.

Thanks in advance for your help!

Submitted by Sarah Allen, Text/voice: 630-988-8231
ridesrowdy@aol.com

LWV Illinois Upcoming Events

Ranked Choice Voting

Monday, April 5, 5:00–6:00 pm

Learn more about this election system, endorsed as an option by League membership during 2020 convention. Rob Richie, President and CEO of FairVote, will provide an overview of the different types of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and discuss their pros and cons. [Registration required](#). *The event link will be sent a day in advance.*

Forum Moderator Training

Saturday, April 17, 10:00 am–noon

Well-moderated candidate forums are a League hallmark thanks to well-trained moderators! Learn how to facilitate a fair, informative, respectful, and inclusive forum. [Registration required](#). *The event link will be sent a day in advance.*

Legislative Hour

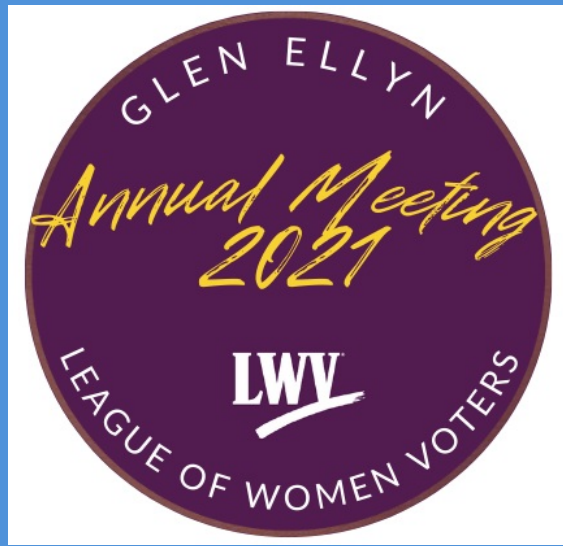
Monday, April 19, 5:00–6:00 pm

Join state legislators for a discussion of the latest developments in bills advancing through the General Assembly. [Registration required](#). *The event link will be sent a day in advance.*

Lobby Day

Monday, April 26, 10:00–11:00 am

Mark your calendars for LWVIL Lobby Day! Plan to let your legislators know the League's position on specific legislation. This year's focus will be on bills targeting environmental protection, gun violence prevention, and the budget. Begin the day with an overview from legislators of the bills being sponsored. [Registration required](#). *The event link and fact sheets will be sent in advance.*



CALENDAR

March 31- Substance Use Disorders/Addiction, 7:00-8:15 pm- "Understanding the Benefits of a Township Mental Health Board" panel discussion

April 8- LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm via Zoom

April 29- 2021 Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Questions about League events? Get details here:
www.lwvge.org.

Please visit our website for the most current information.

PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
(630) 790-2237
(630) 347-0922

