



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF EVANSTON

# THE INTERCOM

MAY-JUNE 2018

## 2018 PRIMARY TURNOUT UP 25%

— by Jennifer O’Neil

The March primary demonstrated that contested elections boost voter turnout. Here are some highlights:

- More than 1.2 million Democrats cast votes in their party’s primary. That was nearly double the number who cast Republican ballots and a roughly 25% increase over 2010, the last time Democrats had a competitive gubernatorial primary.
- Suburban Cook County turnout was 28.7%, the highest turnout for a gubernatorial primary since 2002, and the second-highest turnout in at least the last 24 years.
- Evanston—no surprise—was ahead of the curve, with a 40% turnout: 20,027 of 50,007 registered voters cast ballots.
- Election Day Registration, available for the first time in a gubernatorial primary, is very popular – 4,241 voters took advantage of Election Day Registration in Suburban Cook County. Of those voters, 1,006 had reregistered because their address had changed, while the remaining 3,235 were new voters.
- Based on unofficial results, for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, J.B. Pritzker won 21 of 30 suburban Cook County townships, while State Sen. Daniel Biss won five and Chris Kennedy won four.
- Biss’s highest vote total came in Evanston Township, where he got 12,281 votes to Pritzker’s 4,145 and Kennedy’s 3,049.
- Older voters turned out in greater numbers than younger ones. Voters aged 17-24 accounted for 15,011 – or 3.4 percent of voters. Voters aged 58-67 years old made up 17.3 percent of voters, while the next closest age group, 48-57 years old, accounted for 15.2 percent of all voters. Unofficial results for all races right down to the precinct level are available on the Cook County Clerk’s website: [www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com)



## DAVID ORR BRIEFING ON VOTER TRANSPARENCY

— by Carole Weber

The LWV of Wilmette sponsored a presentation by Cook County Clerk David Orr at the Wilmette Public Library on April 5th. Orr described attempts nationally to increase transparency in the electoral process, including:

- **DEMOCRACY VOUCHERS (Seattle)** - The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission offers a new way for Seattle residents to participate in local government. Eligible Seattle residents receive \$100 in Democracy Vouchers to support candidate(s) in the City of Seattle elections. The Democracy Voucher Program aims to encourage more Seattle residents to donate to campaigns and/or run for elected positions themselves.
- **CHALLENGING “DARK MONEY” (California)** - In California, strong state campaign finance laws and a commitment to enforcement exposes who is spending millions on campaigns. As a result, dark money--campaign donations from undisclosed sources-- has been kept to a minimum.
- **SMALL DONOR MATCHING (Illinois, New York City)** - In February 2015, Chicago voters responded to a ballot question calling for a small donor match campaign finance program. 79% of all Chicago voters supported the proposal, a clear mandate to implement Fair Elections. We can also look to a similar model in New York City where a small-donor matching program was implemented in 1986.

Orr also talked about common types of voter suppression, including voter ID requirements, redistricting, limited early voting, limits on voter registration drives, preventing ex-offenders from voting and the census question (asking respondents if they are US citizens) proposed for the 2020 census. He balanced that with some examples of “good news” - motor voter laws, early voting, vote by mail, teen judges, online registration, AVR (Automatic Voter Registration), ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center), and election day registration.

Asked about election protections that are in place, he included encrypted databases, paper trails, forensic testing, audits, new equipment and technology.

—Carole Weber is Voter Services Chair of the LWV of Glenview/  
Glencoe

This issue of the INTERCOM includes our  
**ANNUAL MEETING KIT**  
Please join us on  
**THURSDAY, MAY 10 AT 5:30 PM**  
at Three Crowns Park — Details inside!

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

Lately, we've been reflecting on our role as co-presidents in helping to secure LWVE's future. We're optimistic and energized: our ranks are strong, and we have a robust policy agenda and a very active calendar. None of this would be possible without member involvement. Over the last year, so many of you have shared your time and expertise to register voters, hold candidate forums, keep a watchful eye on our city government, plan our events and educational programs, advocate for our policy positions, and even help prepare for the national convention. You've also taken on the nitty-gritty work that makes it all possible -- staffing the office, managing finances, maintaining the database, keeping our members informed, and so much more. We're deeply grateful for the spirited and committed involvement of our members!



Still, we know that it's not easy to sustain and deepen our success, in part because we rely on our members to carry out our work. Not only do we get to agree collectively on what we want to do, we get to do it all ourselves! Which means that our primary job as co-presidents, and the job of our board, is to make it possible -- to make it feasible, sustainable, and rewarding -- for our members to participate and to lead. Of course, this challenge is nothing new, nor is it unique to the League. But we want you to know that it's front and center in our minds, and in our board discussions.

So. We admit that we're asking those of you who have done so much, and for so long, to keep at it. But we're also asking you to help us foster new leadership. If you haven't been actively involved, please know that we'll be checking in to find even tiny ways that we can match your interests with opportunities to advance our cause. And if you've been involved, but are wary of taking on a bigger role, please help us find ways to make it realistic for you to lead. We're depending on you -- every one of our members -- to help us shape the future of LWVE.

In League, *Casey & Julianne* [casey208@comcast.net](mailto:casey208@comcast.net)  
[julianne.dieterich@gmail.com](mailto:julianne.dieterich@gmail.com)



## GREETINGS FROM SUNNY TUCSON

Susan Black, who served as LWVE president from 2010-2013, recently relocated to Tucson. She sent this note from her new home:

There are those who might wonder what happened to my plans to move to Kalamazoo, Michigan. The absolute truth is that when we had the snowstorm in February, I asked myself why on earth I would move further north to more intense winters. After careful consideration, and a visit in early March, the decision was made to move to Tucson. The cost of living was far more reasonable and with abundant sunshine, how could I pass it up!

I developed many deep and special friendships with LWVE members during my involvement, starting in 2007. I regret that I didn't have the time before I left Evanston to connect with those I worked most closely with and to whom I will be forever grateful for their talents, dedication and willingness to serve. This was a richly rewarding experience for me. As I write this message (4/20) I have joined the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson and when I registered online to attend the annual meeting on 4/21, the president immediately put me into service to be parliamentarian at the meeting. There are new members to meet and new issues to be explored as I continue to pursue this amazing new phase in my life. And, most obviously, I registered to vote!

*Many gracious thanks for your friendship and your contributions to the League of Women Voters of Evanston!*

## League of Women Voters® of Evanston

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### 2017-2018 ELECTED OFFICERS Co-Presidents

Casey Christensen & Julianne Dieterich

#### VP Voter Service

Jennifer O'Neil

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**Secretary** Candice Dalrymple

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**Local Government – Observer Corps**

Jessie Feldman

**Monthly Events – Local Program Chair**

Joan Lakebrink

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### OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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### THE INTERCOM

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## MISSION STATEMENT



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



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ON FACEBOOK**

# WHERE DO THEY STAND? LWV FINDS OUT AT LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS



— Betty Hayford

Every spring, the state LWV Issues and Advocacy Committee asks local leagues to interview their legislators to hear how they are approaching important issues and to get their views on pending legislation. These yearly visits are also good mechanisms for reminding legislators that the League is active and concerned and is following developments in Springfield.

This year Evanston League members visited three of our local legislators: Representative Lou Lang (D-16th, Skokie), Senator Heather Steans (D-7th, Chicago and Evanston), and the office of Senator Daniel Biss (D, 9th, Evanston, Skokie and Wilmette). While Senator Biss was busy in Springfield working on the budget, his legislative aide committed time to meeting. We reached out to Representative Robyn Gabel (D-18th, Evanston) only to learn that she had injured her knee and was planning surgery.

The Illinois League wanted information from legislators on their positions on two key issues: The Protect Our Vote Project and Fair Maps. The Protect Our Vote Project involves several initiatives, including an inventory and assessment of voting equipment, regular reporting on voting procedures from local authorities and extension of Vote Centers up to Election Day. All the legislators contacted support broad voting rights and noted that protection for voting rights is strong in Illinois. Steans agreed that the recent primary was confused by uncertainty about whether some candidates met the qualifications for being on the ballot. While there is no legislation pending, it may be necessary to reconsider the timing of the primary

and the deadline for submitting petitions.

The second core issue for LWVIL is the proposal to end gerrymandering and change the way Illinois draws its legislative maps. The legislature is considering an amendment to the Illinois Constitution to create a nonpartisan commission to draw legislative maps, as well as legislative changes to create rules that make the process more transparent and accountable. Senators Biss and Steans are strong supporters of these measures, But Representative Lang is opposed, thinking the current system works well and the Fair Map amendment may violate the federal voting rights act.

All three legislators support efforts to have Illinois sign on to the Equal Rights Amendment; Lang and Steans are both sponsors and somewhat hopeful it will pass. All also support the Fair Tax measure for a graduated income tax. This would require a constitutional amendment, which may pass in the Senate but is less likely to be approved by the House. Biss believes that the Senate may be able to come up with a workable, balanced budget in May sufficient to support needed social services. Several years will be needed to generate revenue sufficient to fully fund the new Educational Funding Bill designed to ensure that all schools receive funding adequate to address 27 evidence-based best practices.

These yearly legislative interviews are a good opportunity to support the LWVIL Issues and Advocacy Committee and for league members to have personal interaction with their representatives in Springfield. The Committee also sponsors a yearly lobby day in Springfield where league members visit legislative offices to press concerns. These three legislators expressed thanks to League members for their efforts, and encouraged regular communication with their offices, by phone or email.

## CCLWV: PREVIEW OF WHAT'S TO COME IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

— Betty Hayford

All Cook County Commissioners are up for re-election this fall. With several incumbents going down to defeat in the March primary, along with pending retirements, more seats are in play than is typically the case. Among the issues facing the new board are: taxes, criminal justice, the fate of Stroger Hospital and affordable housing. LWV members will get a preview at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Cook County on Monday, May 14, at the University Service Center, 525 South State Street, Chicago, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. (All LWV members are members of LWV Cook County.)



LWVIL Interest Groups conduct oversight and investigation to understand the content and the trade-offs in the \$5 billion county budget. One group is studying pre-trial services in the Cook County courts and has presented recommendations to the County Board on reducing the jail population. The number of inmates in the jail has dropped sharply, and League members continue to observe and evaluate the process. League members also observe the vast Health and Human Services Department's efforts to improve services as well as reduce costs. Another group is conducting interviews with housing experts to identify effective approaches to providing affordable

housing while reducing racial segregation.

That last topic—affordable housing—will be the subject of a presentation at the meeting by Richard Monocchio, Executive Director of the Cook County Housing Authority.

In addition to addressing county-wide issues, his perspective will provide valuable background for the LWV's focus on affordable housing and the ongoing discussion in the Evanston City Council on priorities and potential partners for affordable housing in Evanston. Monocchio will speak at noon, after the business meeting beginning at 9:30 am.

LWV members interested in attending should register through the LWVCC web site, [www.lwvcookcounty.org](http://www.lwvcookcounty.org) You do not need to be a delegate to attend. Meeting materials are posted on the website and will also be distributed at the meeting. Registration fee is \$35. DEADLINE is Monday, May 7.

This year's meeting includes a Silent Auction! If you have an item to donate, please let Karen Hunt at [khunt@firstbt.com](mailto:khunt@firstbt.com) know, and include a detailed description and the item's value. Silent Auction purchases must be paid for with cash or checks – credit cards not accepted.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### THURSDAY, MAY 3 - 7:00 PM

#### DRINKS & DEMOCRACY – WHAT'S UP WITH GERRYMANDERING?

Sheridan Shores Yacht Club, 20 Harbor Dr, Wilmette. Co-sponsored by LWV of Wilmette, Evanston & Glenview/Glencoe. Presentation and Q&A with Ruth Greenwood, Senior Counsel for Voting Rights and Redistricting at the Campaign Legal Center. Ms. Greenwood is part of the legal team challenging the political maps in Wisconsin (*Whitford v. Gill*) and North Carolina (*LWV of North Carolina v. Rucho*).

### THURSDAY, MAY 10—LWVE ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER - 5:30 PM

Three Crowns Park, 2323 McDaniel Avenue, Evanston. Dinner, business meeting and keynote speaker **Mayor Steve Hagerty**. \$30. RSVP by May 6.

### MONDAY, MAY 14—LWV OF COOK COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING - 9:30 AM

University Center, 525 S. State Street, Chicago. Annual business meeting, silent auction, lunch. Keynote speaker: Richard Monocchio, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Cook County. Register at [www.lwvcookcounty.org](http://www.lwvcookcounty.org) (more information page 3)

### JUNE 28-JULY 1—LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHICAGO!

(See sidebar for details) Sign up to volunteer at: [tinyurl.com/ydawdo34](http://tinyurl.com/ydawdo34) One delegate slot open! Contact Casey Christensen if you are interested at [casey208@comcast.net](mailto:casey208@comcast.net)

Unless otherwise indicated, please RSVP for events to 847-859-7883 or [LWVEvanston@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEvanston@gmail.com) Updates at [www.LWVE.org](http://www.LWVE.org) click on Calendar

## COUNTDOWN TO LWV CONVENTION!



The national LWV convention is being held at the **Chicago Hilton on June 28-July 1**. As one of the largest leagues, Evanston can send four delegates, with registrations paid by LWVE. **We still have one delegate spot open.** And, there are still volunteer spots available: Come downtown for 4-hour stint and then stay for the day and attend any of that day's convention activities for free.

I also encourage you to buy a ticket to our Second City fundraiser on Friday, June 29th at 7:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton. This is their national touring company and they will be performing a unique topical show. Tickets are \$58 at the door or \$52 on-line through the LWVUS website. [tinyurl.com/y8y74wr8](http://tinyurl.com/y8y74wr8)

Fellow LWVE members Michelle Smith, Lisa Kaihara, and Sue Calder will be joining Michelle Jordan and me on the plenary committee. Look for us with purple sashes that say "Votes For Women." Hope to see you there! —Casey Christensen

## ALERT: THEATRE IN OUR BACKYARD

The League of Women Voters of Evanston is offering an opportunity for members and their guests to attend a performance of an acclaimed play at our outstanding local **Fleetwood Jourdain Theatre**. "Crowns," Regina Taylor's Gospel Musical, reveals the story of six African-American women and the hats they wear to church. Over the course of a Sunday, we journey with these women as they attend church service, a wedding, a funeral and a baptism.

The performance will be on Sunday, August 26, at 3:00 pm at the **Noyes Cultural Arts Center**, 927 Noyes Street. Tickets are normally \$25, but if we have a group of 10-20 persons, they will be discounted to \$10. Full payment must be made by July 15. We know it's early to know your summer schedule, but we do need some idea of how many may attend. If you think it's likely you will attend, please email Gloria Callaci at [gjcallaci@aol.com](mailto:gjcallaci@aol.com) by May 15 with the number of persons who may come.

## MODERATORS NEEDED FOR LWV CANDIDATE FORUMS



League-sponsored candidate forums are an important voter education service. As we look ahead to a lively 2018 campaign season, we need moderators who can keep these events on track. Consider attending the upcoming moderator-training workshop to see if you'd like to get involved.

Jan Dorner, LWVIL Voter Service Co-Chair and seasoned trainer, will lead the workshop on Saturday, June 9 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm at Mt. Prospect Public Library at 10 South Emerson Street, Mt. Prospect. The workshop is designed for both new and experienced moderators.

**Friday, June 1 is the deadline to register.** To register, please send your (1) name, (2) name of your league, (3) your email address, and (4) phone number to [voterservice@lwvill.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvill.org). An email confirmation of your registration will be sent. While space is limited, there must be a minimum of 10 Leaguers registered for the workshop.



## HELP EVANSTON LEAGUE CONSERVE RESOURCES

If you would prefer to receive the **INTERCOM** only on the internet, as a link to our LWVE website, please email [LWVEPresident@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEPresident@gmail.com) or call the League office at 847-859-7883 and leave a message telling us to stop sending you a printed copy. It will help us be more eco-friendly and reduce printing and mailing costs!