

HERE'S HOW TO

stay informed about issues that affect our community, state, and nation
gain insight into how government works
learn to make your voice heard
help educate others about the political process
build greater participation in the democratic system
have an impact on public policies
make government more accessible, accountable, and responsive
work in coalition with others who share similar concerns
meet a variety of interesting people
invest in the future.

JOIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

www.prairienet.org/lvw



The League of Women Voters of Champaign County is a non-partisan political organization which never supports candidates or political parties. We do speak on issues we have studied and work to influence public policy through citizen education.

Because the League is a grass roots organization, each year members choose issues for study, consensus and action. We lobby for good schools, libraries, parks, and the well-being of children. Our program is as varied as campaign finance reform, the justice system, environmental quality, and more. Members regularly observe and report on numerous local governmental boards, councils, commissions and the courts. Government officials and the general public respect our opinions because we do our homework.

Many of us are deputy registrars and have made voter registration available at convenient sites and times. Our candidate forums, held before many elections, offer the public opportunities not only to hear the candidates but also to ask them questions.



Membership is open to all citizens, women and men, of voting age. The League is organized on three levels: local, state, and national. When you join, you become a member of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County, of Illinois, and of the United States.

Members receive ten monthly newsletters from LWVCC, publications from LWVIL and LWWUS and our local annual publication, *A Directory of Who's Who in Government*.

The Champaign County League has ten meetings a year, usually at noon one Thursday of each month. Interesting speakers present a variety of topics related to League issues. Members also work together in study/action committees. The League's Student Unit meets on the U of I campus during the school year.

Some people like to be active members; others join to support our efforts and receive informational materials. We welcome all levels of membership according to your interests and available time. Becoming involved is rewarding.



March 24, 1919

Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the formation of a League of Women Voters at a suffragette convention.

May 14, 1919

The House of Representatives passed the 19th Amendment, 304 to 90.

June 4, 1919

The Senate passed the 19th Amendment with two votes to spare, 40 years after its first introduction in Congress.

February 14, 1920

The National League of Women Voters was formally organized in Chicago.

August 26, 1920

After all states had ratified the 19th amendment, it was proclaimed part of the U.S. Constitution. Women finally had the right to vote!

October 10, 1922

The League of Women Voters of Champaign County was formed.

Spring 1998

Student Unit, formally organized as a result of a bequest from Rena Ullmann, begins meeting.

Until 1946, The National League was a federation of affiliated state Leagues. The organization's name was then changed to The League of Women Voters of the United States.

In 1957, the LWVUS established the LWV Education Fund, an organization operated exclusively for educational purposes. Contributions to this fund are tax deductible.

From its beginning, the League of Women Voters has been an activist organization. In addition to women's suffrage, over the years we have supported child labor laws, the social security act, pasteurization of milk, restaurant inspections, and school consolidation.

We were one of the earliest advocates for international peace-building through The United Nations, The World Bank, and NATO.

Our organization worked relentlessly for equality of opportunity in education, employment, and housing as a means to combat discrimination. We pushed for water pollution-control amendments, the clean air act, normalization of relations with China, and the ratification of the ERA.

The League has sponsored presidential debates, supported arms control and advocated the right to privacy in reproductive choice. We urged Congress to pass the National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter) and have spoken for constitutional reform in Illinois. We have promoted local inter-governmental cooperation in planning, land use, and drainage districts.

Leagues act on program positions. We monitor government, we lobby public officials, and we enlist community support through the media. Action is the lifeblood of the League.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

**ENCOURAGING INFORMED AND ACTIVE
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY**

OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE