



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF McLEAN COUNTY

**In this Issue:**

- From Our President p. 2
- Voter Services p. 3
- Programs p. 4
- More News & Photos p. 5

The Voter of LWV of McLean Co. is published 9 times a year

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- National [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

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# The Voter

Vol. 83 No. 4

March 2017

*Save the Date:*

**Reducing Our Prison Population**  
**Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.**

- Normal Public Library Community Room – sponsored with the ACLU
- Can we reduce Illinois' prison population by 25%?

**WJBC Bloomington Mayoral Candidate Forum**  
**Thursday, February 23, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.**

- Another chance to hear the 5 candidates

**Bloomington Mayoral Primary**  
**VOTE! Tuesday, February 28**

- Top 2 out of 5 candidates will move forward to the **April 4 election**

**Drinks & Dialogue: State of the State Budget**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

- Michael's Restaurant, 110 W. Washington, Bloomington
- Rescheduled from February, see p. 4

**WGLT Normal Mayoral Candidate Forum**  
**Thursday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.**

- ISU University Galleries, 11 Uptown Circle, Normal

**International Women's Day Breakfast:**  
**Our Resilient Voices – sponsored with Soroptomist Intl.**  
**Saturday, March 4, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

- Eastland Suites Conference Center, 1801 Eastland Dr., Bloomington

**Candidate Open House**  
**Saturday, March 11, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

- Heartland Community College, Community Commons Building
- Don't miss this opportunity to meet candidates from many local races

**Drinks & Dialogue: What's in the News?**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

- Michael's Restaurant, 110 W. Washington, Bloomington
- WGLT's Colleen Reynolds to facilitate, see page 4

**LWV Annual Dinner & Fundraiser**  
**Tuesday, April 25**

- Holiday Inn & Suites, 3202 E. Empire St., Bloomington

## Greetings From Our President

The League continues to partner with WGLT, WJBC and other media to educate our voters about the candidates running for office this April. So many opportunities are available to learn about the choices you, as voters, have. If there are questions that you would like to have addressed by the candidates, please forward those to the respective radio stations, spread the word, and spend some time reviewing this newsletter, *The Voter*, for important dates.

We encourage you to keep updated on League activity at the state ([lwvill.org](http://lwvill.org)) and national ([lwv.org](http://lwv.org)) levels. Key issues have been identified for focus including the state budget impasse, voter suppression, the League's position on immigration, and other voter education as well as social policy issues. The State League will be holding its annual Issues Briefing on March 4<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, Illinois. The theme, 'Making Democracy Work for Justice' will address topics of education funding, health care, immigration, and fiscal policy under the new administration as well as share opportunities for action. If you are interested in attending, please contact me at [kn.ttosh@comcast.net](mailto:kn.ttosh@comcast.net).

The National League has put a call out for help in fighting voter suppression. Per their website, "The League remains committed to fighting suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote. In addition, throughout 2016, the League worked to make sure voters impacted by new laws were aware of these restrictions.

The League is gearing up to take a stand in Congress, statehouses and courtrooms nationwide to ensure no voters are left behind. Stand with the League in our fight to ensure our elections are always "free, fair, and accessible." You can sign the petition agreeing to support the League in this effort and/or make a donation to support the many activities with which they are engaged.

Locally, there are a variety of activities with which you can become involved! First and foremost, are participation in our candidate forums for our locally elected offices. Second, we invite you to join us at a monthly community education meeting and/or Drinks and Dialogue. Another activity occurring on March 4<sup>th</sup> in our community is the International Women's Day Breakfast at Eastland Suites. Sponsored by the Soroptimists and the League of McLean County, this breakfast brings women together to learn from each other and celebrate our similarities and differences. It is an inspiring event!

Finally, the annual meeting that is traditionally held at the end of May is taking on a new look! On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we plan to hold our first annual League of Women Voters of McLean County brunch. This will include a brief business meeting and will also provide an opportunity for all participants to have input into the future activities of our local league through roundtable discussions and learning about local engagement opportunities. More information will be forthcoming. Please mark your calendars now!

--Kathy

**International Women's Day**

### Our Resilient Voices

**Saturday, March 4, 2017**  
Eastland Suites Conference Center  
Buffet open at 8:30 a.m.  
Event 9:00–11:00 a.m.  
Tickets \$25 for \$10 students  
Table Sponsors \$250/8 guests  
*Includes: sponsor recognition at table & in event program.*

**Tracy Lockenour**  
Speaker/Master of Ceremonies

Checks payable to SBN and mailed in advance to:  
Karen Fleming • 1416 Godfrey Drive, Normal, IL 61761  
(309) 454-2512; e-mail: [kfleming1973@gmail.com](mailto:kfleming1973@gmail.com)

Reservations required—Deadline February 23

On this day in the Twin Cities, we affirm our support for women around the world in our common pursuit of peace and prosperity, and come together to learn from each other.

Like us on Facebook: McLean County International Women's Day






**21st Annual International Women's Day Breakfast**  
*In celebration of International Women's Day—a worldwide event. Bring it to you too!*

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL** **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

# Voter Services

Here are some things LWV members are doing in this busy local election season –

So far we have held two **forums** for Bloomington mayoral candidates. There will also be a **Bloomington Mayoral Roundtable** broadcast live on **WJBC** on February 23, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Several more candidate forums are scheduled with WGLT. All of these are at 6:00 p.m. and are broadcast live on **WGLT** and you can attend at ISU University Galleries, 11 Uptown Circle, Normal:

-  3/2 (Normal mayor)
-  3/14 (Bloomington city council wards 1, 5 & 7)
-  3/16 (Bloomington city council wards 3 & 9)
-  3/21 (Normal town council)
-  3/23 (Bloomington mayor – final 2 candidates)

**Voter's Guides for the April 4<sup>th</sup> Bloomington and Normal** elections are now on our website, [lwvmclean.org](http://lwvmclean.org). Most candidates have sent statements. It has been a lot of work for Katie and Meg Murphy to gather contact information for candidates as they file in different places.

**Letters to the editor** have appeared in the Pantagraph to encourage people to vote in the Bloomington primary on February 28. Members are contacting friends and neighbors to make sure they know about this election.

**Pollwatching** will happen on the next Election Day, February 28, in the City of Bloomington. We have sent information about polling places to those who have said they want to learn more about what really happens on Election Day. We will hold a VERY short orientation and hand out credentials (which you must have in order to be a pollwatcher) on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Normal Public Library just before our program on reducing the prison population.

Heartland Community College is helping us with a **Candidate Open House** on March 11. Candidates for town, city, township, school boards, library boards, community college boards, etc. are invited to share their information with attendees. Several members have volunteered to help and we will be reaching out to more of you.

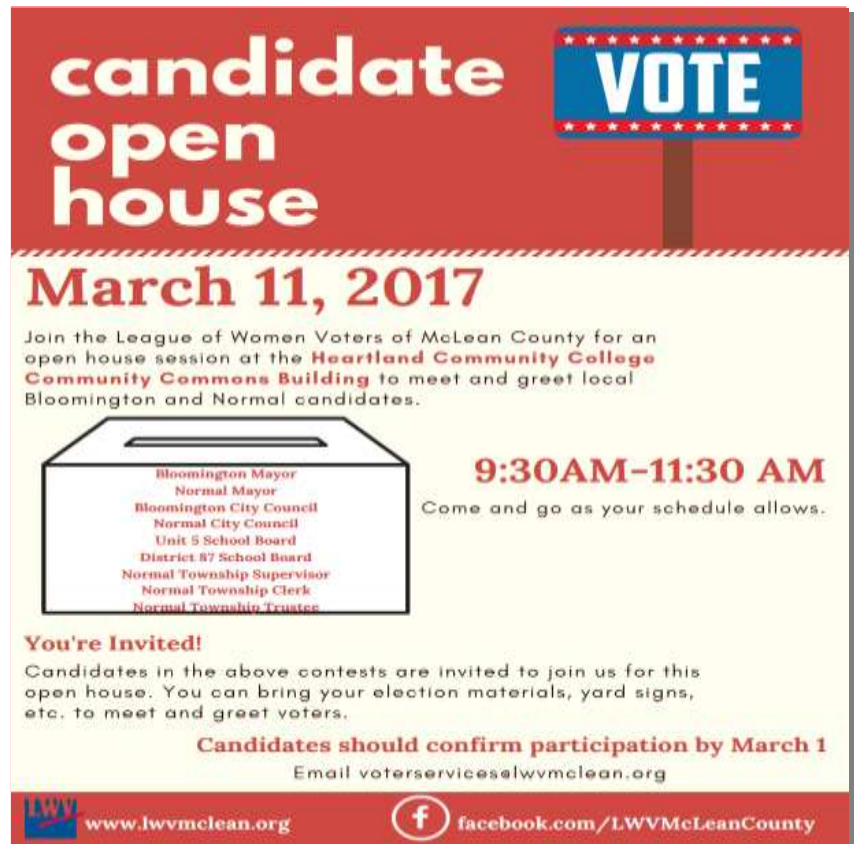
**Voter registration** is happening in several places to help people become voters.

Thank you, thank you to our great members for helping educate and inform the community about these important elections.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE BLOOMINGTON PRIMARY ON FEBRUARY 28** (EARLY VOTING IS HAPPENING NOW AT THE BLOOMINGTON ELECTION COMMISSION, M-F, 8:30-4:30). YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THIS LOCAL ELECTION!

On March 1 you will start getting requests for help in the April 4 consolidated local election!

–Katie Pratt & Phylis VerSteegh



**candidate open house**

**VOTE**


**March 11, 2017**

Join the League of Women Voters of McLean County for an open house session at the **Heartland Community College Community Commons Building** to meet and greet local Bloomington and Normal candidates.

**9:30AM-11:30 AM**  
Come and go as your schedule allows.

**You're Invited!**  
Candidates in the above contests are invited to join us for this open house. You can bring your election materials, yard signs, etc. to meet and greet voters.

**Candidates should confirm participation by March 1**  
Email [voterservices@lwvmclean.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvmclean.org)

[www.lwvmclean.org](http://www.lwvmclean.org)  [facebook.com/LWVMcLeanCounty](https://facebook.com/LWVMcLeanCounty)



# Programs



## Drinks & Dialogue March 1

The February Drinks and Dialogue on the "State of the State Budget" has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Liz German, VP of Operations at the YWCA, and Jennifer Carillo, Director of Mission Impact will be there to lead our conversation.

We'll meet at Michael's Restaurant, 110 W. Washington St. in downtown Bloomington, for Social Hour from 5:30 to 6:00 followed by directed conversation from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. See you there!

## April 12

April's Drinks and Dialogue will offer another "timely" topic, "What's In the News?" Colleen Reynolds, from WGLT, will facilitate our discussion on the media's role in the political process. We will discuss things like:

- How to identify fake news versus reliable news sources.
- How has this recent election cycle impacted our ability to get reliable news?
- How have the 24/7 news stations and social media impacted the messaging we are getting?
- How do we protect our right to freedom of speech?

Join us at Michael's Restaurant in Bloomington, for Social Hour from 5:30 to 6:00 followed by a more-focused discussion from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

--Camille Taylor

### FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## Reducing our prison population: Recommendations of the Illinois Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

**Elizabeth Robb**  
Retired Chief Judge  
McLean County Circuit Court

**Andrew Leipold**  
Edwin M. Adams Professor  
University of Illinois College of Law



*Hear from the two members of the governor's commission how they propose reducing Illinois' prison population by 25%.*

**When: Wednesday, February 22**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: Normal Public Library Community Room**

**Presented by ....**



## Register Now for LWVIL Issues Briefing

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is hosting the 2017 Issues Briefing at the University Center, 525 S. State St., Chicago on Saturday, March 4, 2017. This year's theme is *Making Democracy Work for Justice*. Information is on the LWVIL [website \(www.lwvil.org\)](http://www.lwvil.org). The registration deadline is Monday, February 27 (February 23 if you want to include meals). If you are interested in attending, please contact our President, Kathy Tosh, about reimbursement for some expenses: [kn.tosh@comcast.net](mailto:kn.tosh@comcast.net) or 309-530-2050.

## Contributions Needed

Although we're still several weeks away, it's time to start thinking about this year's main fundraiser for the League of Women Voters of McLean County—the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction which will be held April 25, 2017. We are seeking donations to the Silent Auction from all Leaguers. The items which consistently garner the most interest and attention are the donations that highlight the treasures and talents of our members. Do you have a unique talent or skill? Quilting, cooking, gardening, photography, woodworking, jewelry making, or art in any medium? Please consider gifting your unique talents or skills to the Silent Auction! Place what you consider a minimum bid on your donation and we'd be honored to include it. Gifts such as these bring us closer as a community and help us celebrate the unique talents and skills of our diverse membership.

Please respond to either Dianne Williamson [dwill2@comcast.net](mailto:dwill2@comcast.net) or Maureen O'Keefe [mokbg@comcast.net](mailto:mokbg@comcast.net) (309-258-4233) to let us know what you can contribute to the Silent Auction. We'll even pick up donations if needed. Proceeds will help our League support local causes such as voter services, citizen education and advocacy, and scholarship opportunities for students at Heartland CC. Again, it's your unique talents and skills that make our Silent Auction a success, whether that's making a dinner for a small group, lending your expertise as a master gardener, or donating your unique crafts or impressive works of art. All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated! Donations due April 15.

## SRO Study

School Resource Officers (SROs) are law enforcement officers who provide security and crime prevention services in schools. Our team on SROs has been busy interviewing District Superintendents and the Head of the Regional Office of Education. Heads of Youth Build, and the Regional Alternative School, where there are no SROs, have also been interviewed. We have gathered statistics on chronic truancy and citations issued by SROs in our area. We will also consider the national debate and national studies on the role of SROs.

Our team members are: Rose Marsaglia, Kathy Tosh, Pam Lubeck, Camille Taylor, Maureen O'Keefe, and Julie Prandi.

## Did You See It?



*Women's March in Champaign*



*Bloomington Mayoral Forum at Luther Oaks: (L-R) Diana Hauman, Ian Bayne, Robert Fike, Kevin Lower, Tari Renner*



*Standing room only at the WGLT/LWV Bloomington Mayoral Forum*