



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF McLEAN COUNTY**

Co-Presidents

Julie Sullivan
107 Warner Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-663-4425
info@lwvmclean.org

Maureen O'Keefe
501 Centennial Avenue
Normal, IL 61761
309-258-4233
info@lwvmclean.org

Membership

Phylis VerSteegh
49 Kenfield Circle
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-664-5357
membership@lwvmclean.org

Treasurer

Linda Stockton
19 Brompton Court
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-663-5244
treasurer@lwvmclean.org

Bulletin

Charlette Elm
30 Stonebrook Court
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-664-5857
bulletin@lwvmclean.org

**League of Women Voters
of McLean County Bulletin
is published 8 times a year.**

**The official address of the
League of Women Voters
is 1918 Owens Drive
Bloomington, IL 61701
Telephone: 309-663-5166**

**New web site!
www.lwvmclean.org**

**LWVIL – www.lwvil.org
LWVUS – www.lwv.org**

The Voter

Vol. 76 No. 5 of McLean County February 2010

Tuesday • January 26, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.
ISU Bone Student Center • Old Main Room

The Politics of Illinois Higher Education Funding, Curriculum, and Public Demands

Dr. Diane Dean

Assistant Professor for Higher Education Administration and Policy at ISU

Dr. James Palmer

American Community College, Grapevine project, Community College Review

Jonathan Rosenthal

Associate Vice President of Admissions at ISU

Debra K. Smitley

Associate Vice President for Finance and Planning at ISU

Co-Sponsored by:

ISU College Student Personnel Administration Group

Tuesday • February 23, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.
ISU Bone Student Center • Old Main Room

TERRORISM AND PEACE PROSPECTS Pakistan, India and Kashmir

Dr. Matthew A. Rosenstein - Associate Director

Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security
(ACDIS) at University of Illinois

Terrorism isn't just in the Middle East, and doesn't involve only Al Qaeda. Some of the most dramatic – and deadly – terrorist attacks in recent years have taken place in India and Pakistan, and much of it involves fighting over the small territory of Kashmir.

What it's all about and how it affects the United States – broader issues of terrorism and world peace – is the topic of this stimulating talk.

Thursday • April 15, 2010 • 6:00 p.m.
Eastland Suites

ANNUAL DINNER and AUCTION

Speaker: Frank Mackaman, Dirksen Center

From the desk of . . . Co-Presidents Julie Sullivan and Maureen O'Keefe

The weather might be typically frosty and cold, but League is heating up. This month, in addition to our monthly program on January 26 on Higher Education, you...

- Are asked to complete the member survey in this issue. We want to know what you are interested in and how our League can become better.
- Should get your Census 2010 form. It's vital to return your form, since accurate census numbers drive redistricting and federal money available to Illinois.
- Have an opportunity to be part of the League of Women Voters of Illinois petition drive to put a Fair Map Amendment on the November ballot. Information on why this amendment is important and how you can participate are found in this issue.
- Still have time to register for the League of Women Voters of Illinois Issues Briefing to be held in Chicago on February 6. A registration form is in this issue. If you are interested in attending, League may pay the registration fee. For information, contact Sally Rudolph.
- Can help raise money for our League by donating goods or services for the Silent Auction at the annual dinner on April 15. Many of our "best sellers" are donated by members and the money raised helps fund local League programs and projects throughout the year. For more information, contact Maureen O'Keefe.
- Can shape future League studies and program positions. League members are encouraged to recommend possible study items to be considered at the Annual Meeting. Guidelines for submitting proposals are found in this issue.

. . . Julie

League of Women Voters of the United States ★ 49th National Convention
June 11 - 15, 2010

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE ★ A FUTURE OF HOPE

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

Convention 2010 site, the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium, relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center. For detailed information on this fabulous metropolis, visit the website www.Atlanta.net and click on 50 Things to do in Atlanta. Do plan to arrive early or stay a few extra days to explore the many attractions the Atlanta area has to offer.

The Marriott Atlanta Marquis recently completed a \$120 million renovation including a new Ballroom and meeting rooms on the Atrium level which will accommodate all of the LWVUS Convention events. Guests enter the hotel and a soaring 50 story atrium, and can check-in at the front desk or at a self-serve interactive kiosk which produces your room key with a swipe of a credit card. Hotel restaurants include a Starbucks Café, SEAR for breakfast, lunch and dinner and the M-Shop Deli. The hotel has an indoor/outdoor pool and a Health Club and Spa. A 2 minute walk on an indoor covered pathway leads to Peachtree Center, with over 60 restaurants and shops. For more information please call 404-521-0000 or visit www.Atlantamarquis.com

2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

An Introduction to the 2010 Census

Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian – as well as language guides in 59 languages – will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation – our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more – are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/2010>.

US CENSUS BUREAU

United States
Census
2010

**A New Initiative
from LWVIL:
THE ILLINOIS
FAIR MAP
AMENDMENT**

The League of Women Voters has long supported redistricting reform as a fundamental change needed to insure fair and equitable representation. Currently, legislative boundaries are drawn by the General Assembly and its leaders, with partisan control literally picked out of a hat every ten years. According to data from the State Board of Elections, since the current legislative map was drawn in 2001, incumbents have been re-elected at a staggering 98% success rate.

Now, with the results of the 2010 census changing the face of the legislative map, the League has joined other reform groups to take back Illinois. This partnership proposes a constitutional amendment, the Fair Map Amendment, which will take redistricting out of the hands of the General assembly, will allow for public participation and citizen input, will foster transparency and will create a process for map drawing which is just and equitable.

The Fair Map Amendment is based on a proposal put forth by the bipartisan Illinois Reform Commission and results of public hearings of the Senate Redistricting Committee, with input from reform groups determined to preserve the integrity of the process. The Amendment will create an independent commission to draw the State's legislative district boundaries after the 2010 census in an open and transparent fashion.

Highlights of the proposed Fair Map Amendment include:

- Places map-drawing duties in the hands of an independent commission;
- Allows de-nesting: representative districts need not be contained within a single Senate district;
- Requires a 2/3 majority vote of the General Assembly to approve maps put forth by the independent commission and does not allow the General Assembly to draw maps of its own;
- Removed the Governor from the approval process;
- Increases public transparency by requiring public hearings, public display of proposed maps and allowing submission of maps by the general public;
- Requires the commission to use neutral criteria that will specifically protect minority voting rights and eliminate unduly favoring a political party;
- Removes the current tie-breaker provision and replaces it with fair resolution of map-making process. If the commission fails to produce an approved map, the Illinois Supreme Court would choose a "Special Master" to review all maps and data and draw the district boundaries.

Grassroots in Action: How to Help Put the Fair Map Amendment on the Ballot

The first step in making fair redistricting a reality is to get the Fair Map Amendment on the November 2010 ballot. Local Leagues have been asked to help collect 500,000 signatures Statewide by May 2 to put this proposal in front of the voters.

We need your help to make this happen. If you are willing to circulate a petition

- Go to www.IIFairMap.com, click the tab "Sign the Petition" and download the appropriate petition. In McLean County, two petitions will circulate. If you are collecting signatures within the authority of the Bloomington Election Commission, you will download a municipal petition for the City of Bloomington. If you are collecting signatures for Normal or the County, you will download the County-wide petition. It is recommended you download both petitions in order to avoid confusion.
- Circulate the petition among friends, neighbors, co-workers, at meetings or gatherings. Remember that each person who signs the petition must be a registered voter and live in appropriate jurisdiction.
- Remember that to circulate a petition you do not need to be a registered voter, but must be 18, a citizen of the United States and a resident of Illinois.
- When you have finished circulating your petition, you must have the petition notarized by signing it in the presence of a notary. This must be done in person. Notaries are available at banks, currency exchanges and real estate offices.
- Laurie Bergner will coordinate the petition drive for the League of Women Voters of McLean County. If you circulate a petition or have questions about the process, please let her know.

It's Your Turn: Call for Proposed Studies 2010

A key philosophy of the League of Women Voters is grassroots citizen involvement. For 76 years, the League of Women Voters of McLean County has studied local issues, has reached consensus, and has taken action to improve our community.

How does our League decide what issues to tackle?

It's up to you. All League members are encouraged to submit proposals for a new study or a re-study of a current program position (found in the Yearbook). At the Annual Meeting, May 25, 2010, League members will be asked to decide whether or not to adopt any proposed studies.

What kinds of issues are appropriate to recommend for study?

A local League study should be in line with the League's mission, should focus on local public policy issues, should lead to a consensus meeting, and, if consensus is reached, should lead to League action. If the proposal is for a re-study of a current local program position, the proposal should reflect changing conditions which warrant re-studying the issue. Issues which have State or National scope are not appropriate for a local League study.

How do I submit a program proposal?

Gwen Pruyne will chair the Program Planning Committee. All proposals must be submitted to her no later than March 15, 2010. Study proposals for 2010-2011 will not be accepted after that date. All proposals must be in writing.

Please note, according to LWVUS protocol, program proposals from the floor at the Annual meeting are not allowed, as the full membership has not been notified. All proposals must be submitted in advance.

What do I include in my proposal?

You must include:

- **Your name and contact information**, including phone number;
- **Title of the proposed study**;
- **Rationale for the proposed study.**
What is the problem and why should our League study this issue?
- **Scope of the study.**
In broad strokes, outline how the proposed study fits the League mission and suggest possibilities for education, consensus and action.
- **Leadership for the study.**
League members have great ideas, but League study and action requires leadership. In the past, several studies have foundered for lack of a leader.
If you propose a study, you must be willing to chair it or be willing to recruit a chair.
Your proposal must include names of possible chairs.

What happens after my proposal is submitted?

- The Program Planning Committee reviews the proposal for conformity to League guidelines. You may be contacted if your proposal needs modification or clarification.
- At the April Board meeting, the Board of Directors reviews the proposal and recommends or does not recommend the proposal for adoption at the Annual Meeting.
- All proposals, recommended and not recommended, are published in the Voter one month before the annual meeting.
- At the Annual Meeting, a majority of the members present and voting adopt or reject the proposal.

Observer's Report: McLean County Board

The McLean County Board is organized into ten districts. There are two representatives elected for each district. The 20 representatives and their districts are as follows:

District 1: Stan Hoselton (R) and Dan Cavallini (R)

District 3: George Wendt (R) and Diane Bostic (R)

District 5: William Caisley (R) and Sondra "Sonny" O'Connor (R)

District 7: John Butler (R) and Bette Rackauskas (R)

District 9: Eric Rankin (D) and Cathy Ahart (D)

District 2: Matt Sorensen (R) and Jim Soeldner (R)

District 4: Laurie Wollrab (D) and Duane Moss (D)

District 6: George Gordon (D) and John McIntyre (R)

District 8: Tari Renner (D) and Paul Segobiano (D)

District 10: Bob Nuckolls (R) and Ben Owens (R)

Matt Sorensen is Chairman of the Board.

A map of your district can be found at <http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/countyboard/BoardMaps.HTM>

Board members serve a four-year term, but elections are every two years. Every two years someone from your district will be up for election. The next election is coming up in 2010.

A good cross-section of the community is represented. Men and women, young and old, business people, housewives, farmers, and college professors are all included in the mix. With 7 Democrats and 13 Republicans, different political and philosophical views are represented.

A meeting of the full board is convened every third Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Government Building in downtown Bloomington. They follow a consent agenda. Most of their business is hammered out during committee meetings that are held at various times during the month. A schedule of their meetings can be found at http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/elected_and_appointed/countyboard/schedule.aspx

All of the minutes for each committee meeting are recorded and compiled into a booklet, along with the agenda, and passed out to all members several days before each full board meeting. These booklets are usually about 300 pages long.

Matt Sorensen runs the meetings efficiently with adherence to Roberts Rules of Order. Generally an attitude of teamwork prevails, but people aren't afraid to disagree with one another. Things are decided fairly in a civil manner by taking a vote.

Depending on the topics discussed each month, audience attendance varies. The public may not provide input without clearing it beforehand with the board and being placed on the agenda.

Every meeting begins with a call to order, the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer or devotions. Some meetings have been as short as 20 minutes. Other meetings have lasted over two hours. Mostly the meetings are short. Presentations, programs, and discussions about controversial topics make the meetings last longer.

In September the board had a lengthy discussion about the gravel pit proposal across from Fox Creek School. In a 9 to 8 vote they amended the distance to ½ mile from property line to property line. The board did not vote along party lines.

Jill Henriksen, from the U.S. Census Bureau, gave a presentation in October about Census 2010. Matt Sorensen subsequently issued a proclamation in support of an accurate census count.

The tax rate merited discussion in November. Several taxpayers made statements. Many board members made statements. It was a very long meeting. When all was said and done, most of us will see an increase in our tax bill; however, the County rate went down by a small percentage.

In December, Judge Robb gave a presentation on specialty courts. She introduced Leon Evans, CEO of the Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio, TX, to speak on the topic of local community response to mental health and mental illness in the judicial system. He said that when convicts are treated rather than jailed, the recidivism rate goes down to only 10% as compared to 60% national average for all offenders.

A Route 66 bike trail proposal was also discussed at length during the December meeting. Several board members didn't want it to be built. Even though the construction will be largely paid for by an IDOT grant, the future will require upkeep which they didn't want to commit to paying. The bike trail was approved anyway.

The County Board has a huge responsibility and I think they handle it well, making decisions in the best interests of their constituents.

-- Submitted by Joni Painter

Help Wanted

We are in need of someone to chair our Land Use Study.
Several people are interested in being on the committee but we need a chair.
If you are interested, contact our co-president, Julie Sullivan
julianalou@aol.com ▪ 309-663-4425.

LWV of McLean County Land Use Study 2009 (adopted May 26, 2009)

A study of local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances
and issues regarding urban sprawl and affordable housing.

The scope will include but shall not be limited to:

- The current state of affordable housing and urban growth in McLean County.
- The role of government at all levels in managing land use in McLean County.
- The role of the private sector in meeting housing needs and directing growth.
- Innovative smart growth ideas and practices and how they could be encouraged in McLean County.

Some questions that could be considered in the study:

- How could higher density housing be encouraged?
- How could developers be encouraged to re-develop the "holes" in Blm/Nor?
- How could developers be encouraged to develop more affordable housing?
- What role should the cities and McLean County governments have in any of the above?
- What is flexible zoning and should it be encouraged?
- What is inclusionary zoning and what role could it play in promoting affordable housing?
- What changes in local zoning ordinances are needed regarding affordable housing and urban sprawl?
- Is more cooperation between local units of government needed?

Of potential interest to Leaguers...

THE LIVING DEMOCRACY PROJECT OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
invites you to a **Community Forum**

Toward the End of Life: What Are the Choices?

Medical technology has greatly extended American lives. These days, death often does not come as a natural event but as the result of complex decisions. Any decision about death is an intensely personal one. But as a society, we have a shared interest in choosing what kinds of options are available to us at the end of life, how they are accessed, and what rules are involved.

This Forum offers you an opportunity to think through end-of-life issues from a variety of perspectives. The format is not a lecture, a debate, or a "panel of experts," but a community conversation guided by moderators trained by National Issues Forums, a project of the Kettering Foundation. Following an introductory video, participants will look at three different approaches to the forum question, discussing benefits and drawbacks of each.

Community Room, Normal Public Library • 206 West College Avenue, Normal

Saturday, February 13th • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

To Register: Please e-mail pescott@ilstu.edu or call 454-2990 by Tuesday, February 2nd
so that we may have materials on hand for all who wish to participate. Thank you!

Free and Open to the Public

Free parking is available for library users in the College Avenue Parking Deck –
Vouchers will be available at the Circulation Desk as you leave.

***The Living Democracy Project of Bloomington-Normal provides opportunities for citizens to
come together for civil dialogue about issues of public life.***



Find inside:

- Program Schedule Pg. 1
- Co-President's Letter Pg. 2
- LWVUS 2010 Convention Pg. 2
- 2010 Census Pg. 3
- IL Fair Map Amendment Pg. 4
- Proposed Studies for 2010 Pg. 5
- McLean County Board Pg. 6
- Land Use Study Pg. 7
- End of Life Choices forum Pg. 7
- Absentee & Early Voting Pg.8

INSERTS:

- Issues Briefing Registration Flyer
- Member Survey



ABSENTEE and EARLY VOTING for General Primary Election

The Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners and the McLean County Clerk will accept absentee ballot applications during regular business hours on weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street

Room 403 – *City of Bloomington residents* ▪ Room 102 – *all other McLean County residents*

In-person Absentee Voting continues through Monday, February 1, 2010, and will also be available in the offices Saturday, January 30 2010, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Early Voting for City of Bloomington and McLean County registered voters will take place at: The Government Center 115 E. Washington, Bloomington, until January 28 Monday-Friday - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Early Voting for McLean County voters outside City of Bloomington will take place at: Freestar Bank #1 Mike's Way, Downs Crossing, Downs, IL, until January 28 Tuesdays and Thursdays - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - in the lobby
Heartland Bank & Trust 801 Cemetery Avenue, Chenoa, IL, until January 28 Tuesdays and Thursdays - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - in the lobby
Town of Normal City Hall 100 East Phoenix Avenue, Normal, IL until January 28 Monday through Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A government-issued photo ID is required to vote early.

For more information contact:

Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners
(309) 888-5136
www.becvote.org

McLean County Clerk
(309) 888-5190
www.mcleancountyil.gov/countyclerk