

LEAGUE UPDATE

November 2022

LWV of Park Ridge

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed / Nov 16th** Action Ridge meeting with guests from D207 student organization, *Students Organized Against Racism (SOAR)*, Park Ridge Community Church, 7 pm
- Tues / Nov 22nd** LWVPR Student Leadership Committee Meeting, 6-7 pm
- Mon / Nov 28th** Affordable Housing Advocacy Meeting, hosted by Action Ridge, 7 p.m. on Zoom (actionridge2017@gmail.com)
- Sat / Dec 10th** **LWVPR General Meeting & Holiday Gathering**
2:30 p.m. start time, PR Community Church.
Guest: Allyson Haut, LWVIL President

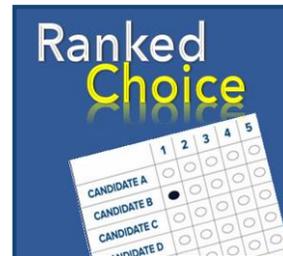
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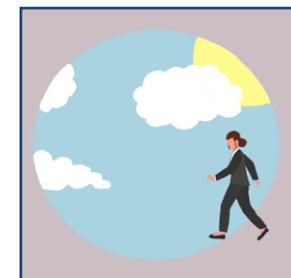
Do you know which **local offices** are going to be on the ballot this spring? Find out on pg. 2



We voted ... now what? Suggestions to **keep up our momentum & take further actions.** Pg. 3



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General Election: LWVPR Voter Services Got Out the Vote

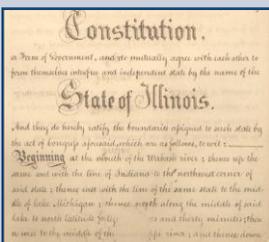


Thank you to the hard-working members of our Voter Services Committee for their resolve, dedication, and success at getting out the vote this November. League

volunteers held voter registration events at five area high schools, Oakton Community College, senior living facilities, and several additional community events. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, they conducted outreach activities throughout the community, providing area voters with educational flyers, voting guides, informative emails, social media postings, and a voter education display at the public library.

While it's too early to know the official turnout rate for Park Ridge, there is no doubt that the efforts of LWVPR volunteers and our partners played a vital role in empowering area residents to cast informed votes this November. Sincere thanks to all members who took part in these efforts, including Karen Reid, Mary Fontaine, Susan Kosinski, Jackie McNeilly, Tina Kapinos, Karen Hein, Judy Fregetto, and Daisy Bowe.

In April, there will be another opportunity for the League to support voter education, registration, and participation in the Consolidated Election. If you are interested in volunteering for one or more events, or in helping with communications and outreach activities, please reach out via email to lwvpr.league@gmail.com.



State Election Update:

Pending certification by the State Board of Elections, the Workers' Rights Amendment to the state constitution appears to have gained support from more than 50% of Illinois voters, enough to ensure its adoption. This measure guarantees the right to collective bargaining but is predicted to result in legal wrangling in the courts over the extent of its applicability to the private sector.

Welcome, New Members!

- Janessa Nikols
- Kim Schaefer
- Erin Stevens
- Olivia Das Gupta
- Sharon Knowles
- Megan Roberts
- Charlotte Chapman

Quick Reads

Local Governance Updates

Park Ridge City Council Does Away with Second Readings

On November 9th, the Park Ridge City Council voted to amend a city ordinance which required two readings for approval of resolutions and ordinances. Alders supported the change specifically as it applies to cases referred to Council by the Planning and Zoning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals. This change is expected to significantly cut waiting time for homeowners and businesses and is permissible under state law.

We Did It! Forest Preserve Referendum Passes

On Nov 8th, voters acted at the ballot box to address the pressing needs of the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Voters said YES to protect, restore, and expand the forest preserves. This investment will improve our water and air quality and restore habitats which nurture wildlife and help reduce flooding.

Thank you, members of League of Women Voters, for advocating for this important measure. We proudly partnered with a broad coalition of over 170 nonprofits, businesses, and organizations to urge voters to protect vital natural resources. Voters listened. By the latest unofficial count, over 62% of suburban Cook County voters and 74% of city voters supported the measure.

You can hear directly from a member of LWV Chicago speak about the importance of this referendum on the Joan Esposito Live show [HERE](#).

Park Ridge Park District Gets Green Light for Oakton Project

Unofficial election results show support for the Park District's \$33.4 million dollar referendum to improve and expand Oakton Park / Ice Arena, by a margin of 55.85% to 44.15% (not yet certified). Project plans include replacing the ice rink, building an indoor turf field, and addressing ADA compliance issues to improve accessibility. The goal date to begin construction is Spring of 2024.

Filing Deadline Nears: Who Will Step Up to Serve?

Even as we await the final election results for November 8th, candidates for local offices are just getting started campaigning for the Consolidated Election to be held April 4, 2023. It is not too late to throw a hat into the ring. The last day for filing for candidacy is December 19, 2022.

In the divisive times we live in, this election could have especially significant impact on our community and its future. D64 school board will have 4 openings, as will D207. There are also 3 seats available on Park Ridge Park District Board, and Park Ridge residents will elect 4 Alderpersons (Wards 1, 3, 5, & 7).

As we learned in our recent League study, *Rarely Running*, seats in our local elections often go uncontested. **A healthy democracy is one in which voters have choice.**

We hope to see high levels of local civic involvement in the coming months, among both candidates and voters. Turnout in our 2021 consolidated election was a disappointing 16%. Increased involvement, on all levels, is needed if we hope for our governing bodies to truly represent the people. This is the work that the League of Women Voters is especially well-suited to do.

As LWV members, we play an important role in promoting civil discourse and helping voters stay informed with high quality information. As a reminder, the League is strictly non-partisan, in that we (as an organization) do not endorse any political party or specific candidate. When we speak on behalf the League, we must remain non-partisan. That does not preclude the League from hosting election forums, sharing accurate information on issues, or advocating for our established policy positions. Well-informed voters are empowered voters.

LOCAL ELECTIONS MATTER.

How will the election in April shape the future of our city?

D64 School Board

D207 School Board

City Council / Alderperson

Park Ridge Park District

FAQ

I think I might be interested in one of the offices up for election this spring. What do I do next?

How to decide?

First, know that indecision comes with the territory. Most potential candidates struggle with uncertainty about this decision. Public office is a large time commitment and responsibility. Most of the offices in the upcoming election are for 4-year terms, but there is one available seat on D64 and one seat on D207 that are 2-year terms. Investigate the meeting schedule online & talk to a current office holder, if possible, to help you determine the extent of time commitment.

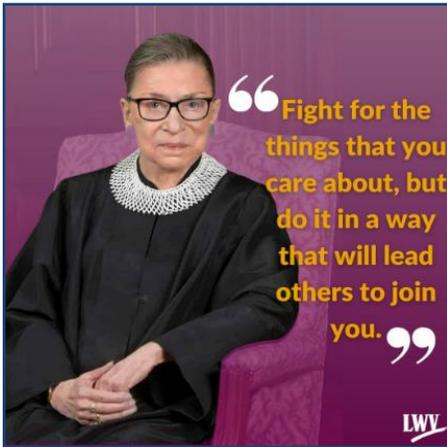
How do I file?

To officially become a candidate, you will need to file specific paperwork (e.g., Statement of Candidacy form, Statement of Economic Interests, and petition sheets). Details on how many signatures are needed on petitions for each office, forms applicable to each race, and filing locations are available in the [2023 Candidate Guide](#) on the Illinois State Board of Elections website. Paperwork must be filed between Dec 12th and Dec 19th at 5 p.m.

What comes next?

The months between filing and the election are the time to really deepen your knowledge of the public body & help residents learn more about you. Read minutes, go to meetings, or watch videos of them, to learn more about current issues of importance. Get out to meet potential voters and share your story. You will also likely want to invest in some signs, flyers, and other printed materials. Participating in election forums and interviews with local journalists also helps voters learn more about you and your candidacy.

LWVPR Impact: What are YOUR Goals for 2023-24?



Like all local Leagues around the U.S., each spring we hold a year-end business meeting known as our “Annual Meeting.” At that important meeting, we elect officers/directors, adopt a budget, vote on any proposed bylaw changes, and adopt a program of work to pursue in the coming year. Now is a great time to start sharing ideas, goals, and priorities with one another. What shared issues and values would you like to see us focus upon? How can we have a positive impact on issues? At the December general meeting, we will start brainstorming and sharing resources.

Post-Election Action Alerts: Use Your Voice!

Election preparation is a big focus of the LWV, but our momentum cannot slow once votes have been cast! There are many additional ways to continue leveraging our network, resources, and momentum to defend democratic processes and advocate for issues we believe in.

The Illinois General Assembly may take important legislative actions during upcoming Veto and Lame Duck sessions in Springfield this November, and again in January of 2023. Timing is essential, and the time is *now* to contact legislators to voice your opinion on issues including:

- **Criminal Justice / SAFE-T Act:** Urge legislators to **oppose trailer bill SB4228** which would undermine essential features of the Pretrial Fairness Act. Find more information about this law on our [website](#) or the [LWV of Illinois website](#).
- **Reproductive Health:** Illinois lawmakers are seeking ways to expand licensing provisions and strengthen protections for health care providers to help ensure safe abortion care, given the influx of care-seekers from neighboring states.
- **Assault Weapon Ban:** Gun violence prevention organizations have launched a campaign, [Halt the Assault](#), to push for passage of a statewide ban during the Lame Duck Session. Add your name directly at the campaign link above!

It’s also important to use your voice to counter the rampant spread of misinformation on these issues. Direct engagement or argument is seldom helpful, though often tempting. Instead, try to counter the threat by consciously committing to share accurate information on key issues.

Finally, we can work together to grow the strength and cohesiveness of our local League, taking local action to educate and advocate on issues for which the League has positions. In the coming months, let’s start sharing priorities and passions. Together, we will decide the LWVPR’s priorities for our 2023-24 program. Each member of LWVPR has a voice in determining our focus and trajectory as a League.

Spotlight on Sister Leagues

LWV of Evanston

Over 82% of ballots cast in Evanston favored the adoption of a new voting system called **ranked choice voting (RCV)**. Evanston will be the first municipality in Illinois to adopt ranked choice voting for local consolidated elections.

The LWV of Evanston supported RCV based on its ability to make elections more democratic. In October, LWVE hosted a program to educate citizens about this alternative method. Their advocacy efforts were supported by the LWVUS position on Voter Representation and the Electoral System.

How it Works

Residents rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives more than 50% of “first-choice” votes, they win; the election is over. If no candidate wins over 50% of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is considered defeated. Supporters of the defeated candidate then have their vote moved to their second-choice candidate.

The process of dropping the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes and “reassigning” votes to their second choice continues until one person receives at least 50% of all first-choice votes. At that point, a winner is named.

Elections Impacted

Elections impacted include mayor, city council, and the city clerk. The process begins in Evanston in April 2025.

Benefits

The process supports positive and collaborative campaigning, encourages diverse or marginalized candidates to run, and fosters more emphasis on substantive issues. Many studies show an increase in voter turnout when jurisdictions use ranked choice voting.

DEMOCRACY IS WORTH WAITING FOR

Absentee and provisional ballots continue to be counted for several weeks after election day. The official certification deadline for the General Election is December 9th. As official election results become available, find them here: [Illinois Board of Elections website](#).

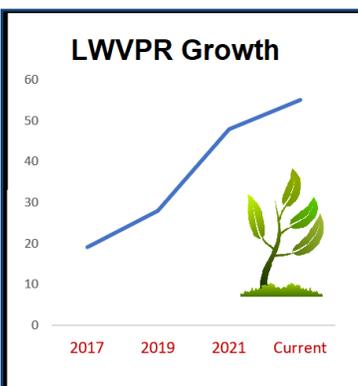


Transitions at LWVPR: Help Us Chart a Bright Future

The Board has been giving careful thought to member input and our organization's goals and trajectory. In October, Julianna shared news with membership of transitions taking place at the Board level. The entire organization is grateful for the numerous significant contributions made by Arlene Levin, Becky Mills, Karen Hein, Kathy Hanson, and Mary Fontaine during their time on the Board. Likewise, we greatly appreciate the contributions of Tina Kapinos to our League communications.

In this time of transition, we are also experiencing continued growth, with new members expanding our capacity for effective collaboration. Partnerships between long-time members and new members hold much promise for ensuring our organization's future and potential impact.

In May of this year, our Director of Membership sent out a survey to get member feedback on our strengths and weaknesses, as well as feedback on opportunities you would like to see LWVPR pursue. The 25 respondents represented a good mix of our members.



Overwhelmingly, members noted our main challenge as the need for broader engagement. Despite strong support for the mission and goals, many members struggle to find time and capacity, and are often uncertain where to start. Relatedly, a common sentiment was the desire for more social connection and presence in the community. In the months ahead, we hope to deepen our connections and engage additional members in League efforts at a manageable pace and level. Imagine the impact we could have if we fully realized the awesome collective power and energy of our 60+ member local League!

As we welcome seven new members this fall and look to expand the Board, it's the perfect time to reintroduce ourselves to the League and each other. By sharing our talents and finding ways to work smart to increase efficiency, we look forward to growing close to each other and our community. We hope you can join us at our December general meeting to begin this conversation! Please reach out to us at lwvpr.league@gmail.com if you have ideas to share!

First Annual LWVPR Holiday Gathering: December 10th

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next general meeting! In addition to catching up on League business, we are leaving plenty of time for connecting with one another over good food, drinks, and engaging conversation. Plan to arrive at 2:30 p.m. if you can! (Business meeting portion scheduled for 3 p.m., followed by informal festivities.)

Message from Our President

Dear members (old and new), Welcome to November, aka the beginning of election season 2024!

First, I want to welcome all the new members to the League. It's great to see new faces and names as our ranks grow larger daily. I look forward to meeting each of you soon at our general meeting coming up in December.

Secondly, I want to thank all our existing members. It's been truly inspiring to see what we can accomplish together. Special thanks this season to our Voter Services Committee and all of you who volunteered time to support another successful election season. We owe each of you our gratitude as members and fellow voters. Your efforts can quite literally help shape our country! The impact of this work and the reach of the League ignites my excitement for the next projects our League undertakes.

I must also take this moment to thank my board of directors. It's not easy to embrace change, but I'm consistently impressed in deed and in word. I am beyond ready to step into the new normal with each of you. We have a ton of exciting plans, and I can't wait to share and develop them with members.

Remember, my "door" is always open, should you ever have questions, ideas, or concerns. Please feel free to connect with me via email or phone.

- Julianna Lopez de Philbrook

LEADING EFFORTS TO ENGAGE AND PROTECT VOTERS,
BUILDING COMMUNITY-BASED POWER,
TURNING OUT AT THE POLLS,



**WOMEN POWER
THE VOTE.**



Board of Directors

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Vice President

Ginger Pennington
gingerpennington1@gmail.com

Director of Membership

Amy Bartucci
aeb925@gmail.com

Connect
With Us:

www.lwvpr.org



General Inquiries:
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**MEMBERSHIP FORM
2022-2023***

Select Membership Type:

- Individual Membership: \$75.00
- Household (two or more members): \$125.00
- Student (ages 16-26): \$25.00

Mailing Address:

League of Women Voters of Park Ridge
333 Busse Highway
P.O. Box 179A
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City/State: _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Can we include your information in the Member Directory?

(Name, email, phone number, accessible to LWVPR members only)

Yes

No

Do you have interest in assisting with:

- Voter Services
- Observer Corps
- Membership Committee
- Student Leadership
- Budget Committee
- Communications Committee

Please send check payable to: *League of Women Voters of Park Ridge*, to the address listed above.

Membership Dues \$ _____

Donation** \$ _____

TOTAL:

Additional donations are greatly welcomed.

A large percentage of regular dues go to support our collective work at the national, state, and regional levels of the League. Any additional donation amounts stay entirely within our League and support our local programs.

**Thank you very much for your support of the League of Women Voters of Park Ridge.
We value your membership!**

*Our membership year lasts from September 1st, 2022 to August 31st, 2023.