67 East Madison St., Chicago 60603	- 30	
(312) 236-0315	TO:	Local League Presidents Constitutional Implementation Chairmen
	FROM:	Coleen Holmbeck Const. Imp. Chairman
Early in the summer the State Board asked loc on single member districts and reduction of t tee for Legislative Reform, of which we are proposed constitutional amendment on the ball	the size of the a member, hope	legislature because the Commites to place the following
"Do you approve reducing the size of from 177 to 118 members and election member districts?"		
RESPONSE FORM	Deadlin Mail to	
The League of Women Voters of DECATUR ILL	INOIS	
1. Concurs with the present League p		
Concurs with the present League p Dissents with the present League		
Concurs with the present League p Legislature.  Dissents with the present League Legislature.		
Number and Kind of Meetings Held ONE GENERAL MEETING  ABout the Petition DRIVE,	guestions, bis	evenine Elbert Smith talkes
Other Methods Used for Re-evaluation Sample Bottot market b	y members as	they Left THIS MEETING.
Do you feel above results indicated a substant On 1 yes; on 2 yes; on 3	tial consensus?	
21 members praticipated		
21 memores practipation		

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

October, 1973

Abolish Cumulative Voting Single Men Dissent Concur Concur

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#### League of Women Voters-Election Laws Study

Consensus- Registration
Decatur

1. Yes, League members are in favor of a personal registration system.

Yes. They believe registration procedure affects voter turnout in that cumbersome or time-consuming requirements discourage registration which in turn would mean that some potential voters would be ineligible to vote.

#### Residence Requirements

- Now that our county clerk verifies that residence requirments have already been reduced to 30 days, members felt that ho further reduction was desirable. The county clerk has said he needs at least that long to prepare for elections.
- 2. Permanent residence" was considered an appropriate requirement for registration if some flexibility was allowed for the voter to designate his choice of the residence at which he wants to be considered a voter.
- 4. Several suggestions were considered concerning the definition of "residence", such as "where their car insurance is paid" "where they are claimed as an income tax deduction". There was agreement that prospective voters should have some leeway in name as their voting residence an address at which they residence of the time.
- 5. Members did not think that college students should have any specific residence requirements. (A minority could understand the fears of some city fathers where the student population is a high proportion of the total. Most felt it unlikely that the fears were justified in view of the fact that only a small part of the student population would register in the college town.)

## Mechanics of Registration

- 6. It was concluded that there was no need for different laws and procedures in areas of different sime because laws could be flexible enough to cover different situations.
- 7. Members thought that the same methods of registration should be allowed rather than required throughout the state. These could include a central registration office. Adeputy registrars, precinct registration, and temporary locations, and mobile units.
- 8. It was felt that extending the times when registration could be handled would be helpful to those who work. This could include some required hours on Saturday and occasionally in the evening. More publicity about registration was suggested especially for the period immediately prededing the cut-off date before elections.

#### Permanent Registration

- 9. Accuracy of the permanent registration list can be assured by having an election authority oversee the process, by the 4 year purge, by precinct canvas, by the local election authority making use of monthly death lists, convictions and power company reports.
- 10. Most agreed that the present cutoff date for registration did not disenfranchise

too many though there was some setiment for 15 days.

The decision was helped by word that our county clerk felt that a 30 day period was needed to prepare valid precinct lists and prepare for elections.

Absentee Registration

- Il. Yes. Absentee registration should be permitted Illinois residence who are out of the country whether in the armed services or not.
- 12. It was agreed that further examination of the concept of national registration was acceptable in that you don't want to eliminate any possibility of improvement. There was little support for it at present, however.

#### ELECTION PROCEDURE IN THE POLLING PLACE

Selection and Training of Judges

- 1. Yes. It should be mandatory that all judges of all elections be trained. The local election authority should do the training.
- 2. No. The present method for the selection of election judges is not adequate. It was suggested that advertising for ones to indicate they wanted to be judges would provide a wider choice even if precinct committeemen were still allowed to bok the choices. Many thought only ones who passed a proficiency test should be eligible to become judges.
- 3. When polls are open only 12 hours and electronic counting is used, it was felt that one set of judges was sufficient. With longer hours and paper ballots, efficiency of judges might be impaired so provision should be make for the possibility of a special set of tally judges. If over 600 voters reside in a precinct, special arrangements may be needed.

Polling Place Procedures

4. No. It was felt that present hours for voting are adequate, that if sizable numbers of voters found it difficult to vote in the present 12-hour span that other arrangements such as excusing one from work to vote was the answer.

There was some sentiment for trying Sunday hours or the hours 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. ob 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. to test voter reaction.

- 5. There was no strong feeling cencerning for any particular method for recordin g votes since voting machines have not been used here. Some felt there is an opportunity to punch the wrong space when using electronic voting devices—particularly when the ballot is long, but the ease in counting such ballots made them desirable anyway. It was felt that electronic voting was most reliable.
- 6. Members felt that the intent of the voter was the important thing in judging the marks on the ballot. They would allow the check mark in addition to the intersecting lines which are now approved.

School Board Question

Members beleived that school beard elections should be under the authority and supervision of the new Illinois Board of Election Commissioners and should have a binder with which to verify voter registrations.

Hot phote detting judges

Absentee Voting

7. Yes. Illinois Law should facilitate absentee voting.

8.Yes. An application should be necessary before receiving an absentee ballot.
9.Yes. Illinois law should dispense with notarization requirement for an application for an absentee ballot and for the ballot envelope. Signature comparison is a satisfactory means of protecting against fraud when coupled with the original affoliout.

- 10. Yes. Illinois voters should be able to apply for absentee ballots without specifying their reasons for doing so.
- 11. No. The sick and handicapped should not be required to submit a doctor's statement for absentee ballot applications.

note: Voter registration abouses little concern here because there has been very little difficulty prelated to it. Our present country clerk and his father who preceded him in the affice have served to the sotis faction of both parties.

League of Wessen Voters-Election Laws Study

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- 5. Members did not think that college students should have any specific residence requirements. (A minority could understand the fears of some city fathers where the student population is a high proportion of the total. Most felt it unlikely that the fears were justified in view of the fact that only a small part of the student population would register in the college town.)

# Mechanics of Registration

- 6. It was concluded that there was no need for different laws and procedures in areas of different size because laws could be flexible enough to cover different situations.
- 7. Members thought that the same methods of registration should be allowed rather than required throughout the state. Thesecould include a central registration office Adeputy registrars, precinct registration, and temporary locations and mobile units.
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affectiviti 18

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- 11. No. The sick and handicapped should not be required to submit a doctor's statement for absentee ballot applications.

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PRES. COPY DECATUR 1972

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

#### ELECTION LAWS STUDY

#### CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Are you in favor of a personal registration system?

Yes.

Do you believe that registration procedures affect voter turnout? How?

Yes. Time-consuming requirements discourage registration, which in turn means that some potential voters are ineligible to vote.

2. Is "permanent" residence still an appropriate concept in our increasingly mobile society?

Yes, if some flexibility is allowed for the voter to designate his choice of the residence at which he wants to be considered a voter.

3. Residence requirements have already been reduced to 6 months in the state and 30 days in the precinct. Is further reduction desirable? To what level?

Now that our county clerk verified that residence requirements have already been reduced to 30 days, members felt that no further reduction was desirable. The county clerk has said that he needs at least that long to prepare for elections.

4. How do you think the legislature should define residence? Be specific and detailed.

Several suggestions were considered such as "where their car insurance was paid", or "where they are claimed as an income tax deduction."

There was an agreement that prospective voters should have some leeway in choosing as their voting residence an address at which they live some of the time.

- 5. Should there be a specific residence definition for college students? What type
  - No. (A minority could understand the fears of some city fathers where the student population is a high proportion of the total. Most felt it unlikely that the fears were justified in view of the fact that only a small part of the student population would register in the college town.)
- 6. Should there be different laws and procedures governing election authorities

whose areas of jurisdiction differ in population size, i. e. counties over or under 500,000?

No. Laws could be flexible enough to cover different situations.

7. Should the same methods of registration be allowed throughout the state: (precinct registrars), deputy registrars, temporary locations for registration?

Yes, the same methods should be <u>allowed</u> rather than required. These include those listed plus a central registration office and mobile units.

8. What ways could you suggest to improve present registration procedures? Should new methods of registration be considered for Illinois, i. e. voter registration by post card? Other?

It was felt that extending the times when registration could be handled would be helpful to those who work. This could include some required hours on Saturday and occasionally in the evening. More publicity about registration was suggested, especially for the period preceding the cut-off date before election.

9. By what means can we assure the accuracy of the permanent voter registration list?

By having the state election authority oversee the process, by the four-year purge, by precinct canvass, by the local election authority making use of monthly death lists, convictions, and power company reports.

- 10. Do you think that the cutoff date for registration disenfranchises too many
- voters in your area?
  No; our county clerk says a 30-day interval is needed to prepare lists and get ready for elections.
  No, although there was some sentiment for 15 days.
- Should absentee registration for other than armed forces be permitted in Illinois?

Yes, for Illinois residents who are out of the country.

Do you believe that we should further examine the concept of a national registration system?

<u>Examination</u> was acceptable in order not to eliminate the possibility of improvement. There was little support for national registration at present, however.

#### ELECTION PROCEDURES IN THE POLLING PLACE

#### Selection and Training of Judges

1. Should it be mandatory that all judges of <u>all</u> elections be trained?

Yes.

Who should do the training?

The local election authority should do the training.

Is the present method for the selection of election judges adequate?

No.

Do you prefer some other method?

It was suggested that advertising for ones who want to be judges would provide a wider choice even if precinct committeemen were still allowed to "ok" the choices. Most thought that only ones who passed a proficiency test should be eligible to become judges.

3. Do you feel the efficiency of judges is affected by long hours? If so, should a special set of tally judges be assigned to conduct the count?

Consensus was that when polls are open only 12 hours and electronic counting is used, one set of judges is sufficient. With longer hours and paper ballots, efficiency of judges might be impaired so provision should be made for the possibility of a special set of tally judges. If over 600 voters reside in the precinct, special arrangements may be needed.

- 4. Do you believe that voting hours for primary and general elections should be extended? If so, what hours would be your choice?
  - No. (A minority would like to try an added two hours at the end of the day.) It was felt that if sizable numbers of voters found it difficult to vote within the present 12 hour span that arrangements such as excusing one from work was the answer. There was some sentiment for trying Sunday hours or opening the polls from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. to test voter reaction.
- 5. Given the three methods of recording votes: voting machines, electronic voting systems and paper ballots, how do you rate their reliability? Which do you prefer?

There was no strong feeling for any particular method. Voting machines have not been used here. Some felt there is a possibility of punching the wrong space when using electronic devices—particularly when the ballot is long; but the ease in counting such ballots made them desirable anyway. It was felt that electronic voting was most reliable.

6. In marking a paper ballot, should the voter be able to use a mark other than the X now required?

Yes. The intent of the voter is the important thing.

What mark(s) would you allow?

They would allow the check ( $\sqrt{\ }$ ) mark in addition to the intersecting lines which are now approved.

7. Should Illinois Law facilitate absentee voting?

Yes.

8. Should an application be necessary before receiving an absentee ballot?

Yes.

9. Should Illinois law dispense with notarization requirement for an application for an absentee ballot? For the ballot envelope? Is signature comparison a satisfactory means of protecting against fraud?

Yes to all questions.

10. Should Illinois voters be able to apply for absentee ballots without specifying their reasons for doing so?

Yes.

11. Should the sick and handicapped be required to submit a doctor's statement for absentee ballot application?

No.

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### Additional questions for election laws consensus

Should the school board elections be under the authority and supervision of the new Illinois Board of Election Commissioners?

Should judges at school board elections have a binder with which to verify voter registration?

Yes.

Note: Voter registration arouses little concern here because there has been little difficulty related to it. Our present county clerk and his father who preceded him in the office have served to the satisfaction of both parties.

COMMITTEE: J. Beck

M. JAME NIPPERR

DER MEYERSON

CATHY SOLOMON

SUE WIALTER

FRAN ROBERTS

From.

#### STATEMENT OF POSITION ON ELECTION LAWS

In order to unify the administration of election procedures throughout the state, the League of Women Voters of Illinois believes that a State Board of Elections should be established to supervise and coordinate the election process and enforce the election laws.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois favors a State Board of Elections:

- -- appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the legislature;
- -- with a membership in the range of 6-12 with provision for a tie-breaking element, to include representatives of the major political parties and the general public. No political party is to have a majority of the Board. Terms of 4 to 6 years, and staggered. The League is not opposed to compensation, beyond expenses, reflecting the scope of the job;

-- whose jurisdiction covers both statewide and local elections;

- -- that has the power to:
  - 1. be responsible for all national, state, local (county, municipal, township, special district) and school elections within Illinois, including referenda;
  - 2. supervise procedures for registration of Illinois voters;
  - 3. supervise procedures for nomination of candidates within Illinois;
  - 4. codify the election laws:
  - 5. continually study and recommend improvements in election laws;
  - 6. interpret and compel compliance to the election laws, with access to the Attorney General and the courts of Illinois; in this regard may receive complaints, initiate investigations, and have the power of subpoena and writ of mandamus;
  - 7. hold hearings in connection with election procedures with the power of subpoena;
  - 8. prosecute violations of election laws.
- -- that has the responsibility of:
  - 1. educational programs for election officials;
  - 2. preparation and conduct of uniform training courses and examinations for precinct officials;
  - stipulation of uniform specification of form for all supplies required by state election laws;
  - 4. receiving election reports of local election officials;
  - 5. preserving election records;
  - 6. receiving filings for office of statewide candidates;
  - 7. canvassing of state elections;
  - 8. certification of state candidates;
  - 9. receiving reports of state candidate finances;
  - 10. annual reports to the general assembly, the governor, and the general public;
  - 11. printing of state election laws;
  - 12. publication of statistical data regarding state and local elections, elected officials, and registration;
  - 13. publication of information for citizen use on voting, absentee voting, registration, becoming a candidate, etc.;
  - 14. publication of rules and manuals for precinct officials, party watchers, and precinct law enforcers;
  - 15. setting of salaries for judges of election;

- 16. methods of disciplining election judges;
- 17. appropriate delegation of authority with appropriate supervision. It should be within the prerogative of the State Board of Elections to determine where the filings for office of local candidates and reports of local candidate finances shall be received, and who shall certify local candidates and canvass local elections.
- -- appointment of an administrative director by the State Board of Elections to serve at their pleasure. The propose be solves eds driv soursvog eds vd beseloges --
- -- the delegation of administrative authority below the state level to be at the county level in the hands of a single appointed official.
- -- the right of the individual citizen to file complaints and writ of mandamus in order to force compliance to election laws.

1. be responsible for all national state local (county, municipal, township, special district) and # ## # | tections within Illinois,

Consensus Questions on Administration of Elections

### POWERS OF STATE ELECTION AUTHORITY

In order to coordinate and unify the administration of election procedures in Illinois, a state election authority should: be responsible for all national, state, local, and school elections within Illinois. supervise procedures for registration of Illinois voters. supervise procedures for nomination of candidates within Illinois. codify the election laws. continually study and recommend improvements in election laws. compel compliance to election laws; have the power of \_\_\_ writ of mandamus: subpoena; have the power to receive complaints; initiate investigation. together with \_\_\_\_Attorney General: \_\_\_\_Circuit Courts \_\_ Supreme Court; \_\_other (specify). interpret the election laws. together with \_\_\_\_Attorney General: \_\_\_\_Circuit Court: \_\_\_\_\_ Supreme Court: \_\_\_\_other (specify). Hold hearings in connection with election procedures; have power of subpoena. prosecute violations of election laws - elaboration than the courts other (specify) If another agency or official should have any of the powers listed above. please indicate: The individual citizen, in order to force compliance to election laws,

should have the right to file complaints \_\_\_\_ writ od mandamus\_\_\_\_\_.

other\_\_\_(specify).

# DUTIES OF A STATE ELECTION AUTHORITY

A state election authority should be responsible for:
educational programs for election officials.
preparation and conduct of uniform training courses and examinations for precinct officials.
stipulation of uniform specification of form for all supplies required by state election laws. (For example, candidate petitions, application for registration, record forms, etc.)
receiving election reports of local election officials
preserving election records.
receiving filings for office of statewide chadidates,loeal candidates.
venvassing of vetate elections, local elections,
vertification of state candidates, local candidates.
receiving reports ofstate candidate finances,local candidate finances.
annual reports to thegeneral assembly,governor,
printing of state election laws.
publication of statistical data regarding elections, registration, elected officials, state, local.
publication of information for citizen use on voting, absentee voting, registration, becoming a candidate, etc.
publication of rules and manuals for precinct officials, party watchers, precinct law enforcers.
appropriate delegation of authority with appropriate supervision.
setting of salaries for judges of election.
methods of disciplining of election judges.
other (specify).

If another agency or official should have any of the duties listed above, please indicate.

# STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The following criteria should be used in setting up a State Board of Elections:
XSize: odd number:even number.
Term:length of term (years);staggered:concurrent.
Jurisdiction:statewide elections:local elections.
Composition: partisan; V bipartisan; nonpartisan; combination; other (specify), opinion avendy divided.
Qualifications: education: experience; other (specify). (Comment, if able to, on the kind of education and experience,)
Compensation: salary for full time attention; salary for part time attention; salary commensurate with that of other state officials; expenses only, no salary.
Taking into consideration the above criteria, a state Board of Elections should be:elected orappointed.
If elected, the state Board of Elections:
should consist of officials elected specifically as members of that board.
should be made up of other elected officials serving on the board as part of their duties.
should be a combination of the above.
If appointed, the members of the state Board of Elections should be appointed by:    With approach by me legislative Department:
APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF A STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
The administrative director of a State Board of Elections should be appointed by:    State Board of Elections:   Executive Department:   Nominating Commission:   other (specify).
Tenure: at the pleasure of the State Board of Elections:  Executive Department: Legislative Department: Judicial Dept.  other (specify). specific number of years. With reappointment  Qualifications: education: experience: other (Specify). a
Qualifications:education:experience:other (Specify). a

# ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTION LANS BELOW THE STATE LEVEL

	If there is delegation of authority below the state level in the administration of election laws, the administration should be created on the following basis:
	multi-county; county; township; municipal: other (specify).
	The following duties should be delegated to local administration:  Registration  Library of the term  Computing returns  Researches results.
K	that form should the structure of the local administration take:
7	Board of Meetions; elected; appointed
	single official;elected;appointed
	Comment (if you are able) on the oriteria and manner of selection to be used in the election or appointment of a local Board of Elections or single official. (See state Board of Elections.)