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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VØTERS

DECATUR, ILLINOIS

1990-91

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

President

Susan E. Lederman 1730 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 429-1965

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

President

Eleanor Revell 332 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 939-5935

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR

President

Agnita Wright Dupree 2445 Thunderbird Drive Decatur, Ilinois 62526 (217) 877-2914

LVW DECATUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1989-90

Officers	1991-92	
President	(1989-91)	Agnita Dupree
Vice-PresidentProgram	K Solum (1989-91)	Mildred Protzman
Vice-PresidentMembers	ship & Bell (1990-92)	Andrea Bowen -
Secretary L. Crone	(1989-91)	June Redpath
Treasurer/Publications	?, marchel (1990-92)	Barbara Brown
Pution also	- B. Brown	

Elected Board of Directors	1991-93	
Action/Legislation marion Wound Finance By-Laws Jonaine Polerso	(1989-91)	Laura Verbanac -
Pinance By-Laws Jonaine Felerso	(1989-91)	Lucille Crow =
Editor Newsletter	(1989-91)	Lauri Thornton
Voter Service - agrita Dupree		Siobhan DiZio
Child Care - Marjone Sendling	(1990-92)	Kathleen Owen =
Forraine Peter	LOK	

Off-Board Committee Chairs

Mental Health Health Core Environmental Concerns

County Government

Reproductive Choice

Nominating Countle

Ann Limerick Susan Marshall Barbara Ohlsen Pat McVay

Board Communicator

Sandra Volk

504 W. Vermont
Urbana, Illinois 61801

- 367-7664

CALENDAR 1990-91 (See Monthly Voter for details)

September 8	Voters Service Saturday, Normal II. General Membership Meeting; Hunger
	7:30 P.M. First United Methodist Church.
18	Board Meeting
22	National Voter Registration Saturday
October 6	County Government Saturday Unitarian Fellowship, Decatur.
19	General Membership Meeting, Topic: The Middle East Dinner 6:00pm, Aloha Restaurant.
16	Board Meeting
1.8	County Officers Candidates Meeting
23-25	Rummage Sale, Jasper Street Firehouse
25	State Legislature Candidates Meeting
November 6 1 3 2 0 2 2	Election Day General Membership Meeting, Topic: The Environment Board Meeting Thanksgiving Day
December 11	Holiday Brunch
January 8	General Membership Meeting, Topic: Mental Health Board Meeting
February 12	General Membership Meeting, Topic: County Government Concurrence Board Meeting
√?	Program Planning Coffee
March 12 19	General Membership Meeting, Topic: Child Care Board Meeting
April 9	General Membership Meeting, Topic: Financing and Delivery of Health Care Board Meeting
23-24	Legislative Workshops, Springfield, Il.
May 14 17-19 21	Annual Meeting LVW of Il. Convention, Lisle, Il. Board Meeting

PURPOSE AND POLITICAL POLICY

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Any person who subscribes to the Purpose and Policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and the active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that the development of international organizations and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

PROGRAM

Program in the League of Women Voters means government issues which members have chosen to study and on which they may act after thorough study and discussion and after consensus of the membership is reached.

Program selection at all three levels (local, state, and national) begins with suggestions by individual members. From these suggestions the appropriate board prepares a proposed program on which members vote--personally on local program at the Annual Meeting of their league, and through delegates on state and national program at conventions.

The League of Women Voters believes that citizen participation in government is basic to the democratic process and it is therefore the cornerstone of the League's political purpose. The League acts in the public interest on political issues. We also act to enlarge citizen participation; to open up electoral and other government processes; to make facts on issues on the political process more accessible; to protect the right of every citizen to vote; and to protect the individual liberties established under the Constitution.

We take legislative, litigative and administrative action at all levels of government. We also act directly in the community.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs, and performance must meet these criteria:

- · Competent personnel with clear responsibilities,
- · Coordination among agencies and levels of government,
- · Adequate financing,
- · Effective enforcement, and
- · Well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 1990-91 (Adopted at Annual Meeting, May, 1990)

COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP COVERNMENTS (1973-74)

<u>Support</u> for elimination of townships in Macon County with their functions transferred to general purpose governments, such as the county or municipalities.

<u>Support</u> for Home Rule for the county with establishment of an elected county executive. (If necessary, we would support appointment of an administrator by the County Board until an executive can be elected.

Support for elimination of as elected those at the county level which do not set policy, such as Auditor, Recorder of Deeds, and Coroner.

DECATUR'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Water--Quality and Quantity. (1980-82) Decatur's future growth depends on an adequate water supply which meets recommended quality standards. The economic, aesthetic and environmental impact should be a consideration. Conservation by all water users should be a priority.

DECATUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Position resulting from 1976-77 study (needs and goals of District 61 educationally, to include areas of responsibility of the school board and administration): The school district needs to make a continuing effort to determine the desires of the public concerning its schools. The Board of Education should present a "state of the schools" message at the end of each school year, and also describe plans for the next school year. The school district should continue to place a high priority on meeting the needs of individuals. The school district should increase its efforts to implement its goal of communication with the public.

<u>Position</u> resulting from 1977-78 study (of the financial resources and condition of District 61): When it is determined that the projected revenues will not be sufficient to maintain and/or improve program, the Board of Education of Decatur Public Schools should ask the voters to increase one or more of the tax rates making up the "operating tax rate" for state funding.

Referenda should be submitted before a crisis situation exists, that is before cuts have to be made or a deficit exists in fund balances.

An increase in the tax rate would be justified to maintain and/or improve programs if: Decatur's operating tax rate was less than districts of similar size, or Decatur's operating tax rate was less than needed to get maximum state funds.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Position resulting from 1977-78 re-study of council-manager form of city government and a study of the Home Rule option in city government: After studying the several possible alternative forms of city government, consensus is that the council-manager form of government is the best for the City of Decatur. It provides the professionalism and administrative capabilities not as likely to be found under the other forms. Decatur is in many ways similar to a big business: It needs to be governed in an economic and efficient way. By separating the policy making body, the elected council, from the administrative body, the appointed manager and staff, council-manager government provides balance between leadership and management.

Home Rule power of the City of Decatur, granted by the 1970 Constitution of Illinois, has not been misused. The Council has been cautious in use of the Home Rule power, and careful to seek the community's specific needs. The Home Rule power should be retained in order that the local citizens can find the solutions to their own local problems, and not be dependent on the Illinois legislative action.

STATE PROGRAM 1989-1991 (Adopted at State Convention, June, 1989)

CHILD WELFARE/JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support of improved services of Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS

Support for League positions to implement, amend and uphold the 1970 Constitution.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Support of improved criminal justice procedures in Illinois and alternatives to incarceration.

ELECTION LAWS

Support of improved election laws and procedures.

LAND USE

Support for a state land use policy that addresses the problem of conflicting uses for the land resources of Illinois.

MARITAL LAW

Support for laws which recognize marriage as an economic partnership and for a divorce process which is fair and equitable to all parties with regard to property division, maintenance, custody, and child support.

MENTAL HEALTH

Support for comprehensive and coordinated services for mentally ill adults and children in both state facilities and community-based programs.

SCHOOLS

Support of a public school system that is equitable both in quality for the student and financing for the taxpayer.

Support for expanded citizen initialization poruer to address country gordennet structure a

STATE FISCAL POLICIES

Support for a diversified and equitable revenue system that provides adequate support for the state and local governments, schools, and human services, and furthers League environmental and land use goals.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BASED ON LWVUS NATIONAL RESOURCES POSITIONS.

<u>Scope</u>: Examine the feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and environmental impact of alternative methods of disposal of municipal solid waste including source reduction, recycling, incineration and landfills.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT: A STUDY WITH CONCURRENCE ON SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE STRUCTURE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Scope: Examine the county executive form of government and the right of citizens to initiate changes in the structure of their county government. The concurrence will be based on positions reached by the Lake County, DuPage County, and Peoria Leagues.

ACTION FOCUS ON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Scope: Promote community understanding of the needs of the mentally ill and assist in developing adequate services to meet their needs.

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and support for changes in the Ill. Country Executing Act.

Action Focus on Faint Adequate School Funding.

Action Focus on Children at Risk

MEMBERSHIP

BAKER, Bonnie Jeanne 1703 South Country Club Road	62521	875-0033
BATSON, Judith 221 Delmar	62522	422-8319
BECK, Janet 59 Sundale Drive	62521	428-6074
BECK, Katherine J. 180 Dipper Lane, Apt. 3	62522	429-5170
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10		

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2E, 717 E. Prairie	62522	429-6435
MOORE, Shirley		
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Woodmin 2000	02521	422-2303
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OHLSEN, Barbara	(2521	400 1170
135 South Lake Shore Drive	62521	429-1179
OWEN, Kathleen		
197 N. Woodlawn	62522	428-9105
OWINGS, Christine Smith		
R.1, Box 59, Warrensburg	62573	1-672-3729
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PROTZMAN, Mildred raine - a	6252	6
45 Allen Bend Drive	62521	422-9116
REDPATH, June		
1030 West Wood Street	62522	423-5321
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REYNOLDS, Cynthia Circly		
606 Crestline Drive	62526	877-0296
Sandberg Mario Ca	02320	877-0290
The Company	ural 62522	423-4688
SMITH, Fauline		
510 Sound Seiget	62522	422-5506
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		914/
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WOYNA, Marian 440 East Grove Road	62521	428-8046
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San Antonio, TX	78240	
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NATIONAL PROGRAM 1990-92

(Adopted at National Convention, June, 1990)

GOVERNMENT Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making.

Citizen Rights

<u>Citizen Right to Know/Citizen Participation</u>. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

<u>Congress</u>. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches with the framework set by the Constitution.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and representation in both Houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat

corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Election of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

Federal Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Fiscal Policy

Support adequate and flexible funding of the federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax; promote responsible deficit policies; support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Voting Rights

Protect the right of every citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations, fostering long-term development, negotiating arms control measures and encouraging the successful resolution of conflicts through nonmilitary means.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

Trade

Support systematic reduction of tariff and nontariff trade barriers and support broad long-range presidential authority to negotiate trade agreements.

United Nations

Support measures to strengthen the United Nations, in recognition of the need for cooperation among nations in an interdependent world.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet the long-term social and economic needs of developing countries and that minimize U.S.-Soviet competition.

NATURAL RESOURCES Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

SOCIAL POLICY Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all and combat discrimination and poverty.

Equality of Opportunity

Support equal access to education employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Child Care

Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

Transportation

Promote energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems that improve the well-being of cities and other communities and afford better access to housing and jobs.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

HEALTH CARE STUDY

Focus: Evaluate public and private mechanisms for delivery of and financing of health care in the United States.

<u>Scope</u>: Examine the current status of and evaluate public and private alternatives for the delivery and financing of health care in the United States, including coverage, cost, funding, "rationing," strengths and weaknesses.

GUN CONTROL CONCURRENCE

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The

League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background check, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on "Saturday Night Specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS

- --Right of Privacy in Reproductive Choices
- --Recycling, Waste Reduction and Pollution Control
- --Increasing Citizen Participation in the Electoral Process
- --Child Care
- --Federal Deficit and Budget

MY POLITICAL ADDRESS IS:

Precinct Number	
Township	Supervisor
County Board District Number	
District Board Members:	

City and County Government

Mayor of Decatur: Gary K. Anderson

City Council:

Erik Brechnitz Stephen John William Mitchell

Kent Mittelberg Randy Van alstine.

Shirley Moore William Oliver

Macon County Board:

Donald Betzer
Mary L. Brown

Mary L. Brown
Donald Dipper (Chair)
David Drobisch
M.D. Pierce
Georgia Richard
Phillip Shambaugh

Cary Peters

Norman Hawbaker R.C. Smith

Phillip Hogan W.R. Stoutenborough

Mervil Jacobs Larry Turner
Harold Langford Ralph Wilcox
Robert Matheson David Wilhour
Lenford O'Neal Annie Williams

State and Federal Representatives

51st Illinois Senatorial District (consists of Representative Districts 101 and 102)

Senator Penny Severns (D)

101st Illinois Representative
District (consists of Macon County
Townships of Decatur, Long Creek,
Mount Zion, Oakley and Whitmore)

Rep. John F. Dunn (D)

District (consists of Macon County
Townships of Austin, Blue Mound,
Friends Creek, Harristown, Hickory
Point, Illini, Maroa, Milam, Niantic,
Pleasant View, South Macon, and
South Wheatland)

Rep. N. Duane Noland (R)

18th Congressional District
(consists of Macon County Townships
of Austin, Friends Creek, Harristown,
Hickory Point, Illini, Maroa, Niantic,
and Whitmore)

Rep. Robert H. Michel (R)

20th Congressional District
(consists of the Macon County Townships of Decatur, Blue Mound, Long Creek, Milam, Mt. Zion, Oakley, Pleasant View, South Macon, and South Wheatland)

Rep.

Rep. Richard J. Durbin (D)

United States Senators from Illinois:

Senator Alan J. Dixon (D) Senator Paul Simon (D)

YOUR LEGISLATOR'S ADDRESS IS:

N. Duane Noland Stratton Building Room 2015 Springfield, IL 62706 or 3180 North Woodford
Decatur, IL 62526

Rep. John F. Dunn Stratton Building Room 2081-M Springfield, IL 62706 (101st Illinois Representative District)
or 352 Millikin Court
Decatur, IL 62523

Senator Penny Severns State House, Room 105B Springfield, IL 62706 or 119 West William, Suite 201 Decatur, IL 62523

Rep. Robert H. Michel House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 or 100 N.E. Monroe, Room 107 Peoria, IL 61602

Rep. Richard J. Durbin House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 or 363 South Main St., Room 110
Decatur, IL 62523

United States Senators for Illinois

or

Senator Alan J. Dixon
The Hart Building, Room 3126 or
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sixth and Monroe Sts., Room 117 Springfield, IL 62701

Senator Paul Simon 462 Dirksen Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Suite 1
3 West Old State Capital Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

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