



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

DECATUR, ILLINOIS

1995-96

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

President Becky Cain
1730 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 429-1965

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

President Susan Calder
332 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 939-5935

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR

President Kathy Sorensen
289 S. Westlawn Ave.
Decatur, Illinois 62522
(217) 428-6850

LVW DECATUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1991-92

Officers

President	(1994-96)	Kathy Sorensen
Vice-President--Program	(1994-96)	Alice Dakin
Vice-President--Membership	(1994-96)	Bev Hight
Secretary	(1993-95)	Barb Ohlsen
Treasurer/Publications	(1994-96)	Susan Marshall

Elected Board of Directors

(1994-96)	Kathleen Owen
(1994-96)	Alice Dakin
(1995-97)	Phyllis McPherron
(1994-96)	Louise Nolan
(1994-96)	Ann Limerick

Off-Board Committee Chairs

Health Care	Ann Limerick
Tax Reform	Alice Dakin
Nominations Committee	Marjory Sandberg
School Finance	Cindy Reynolds
Children At Risk	Lauri Thornton
Publications	Ileen Moorman

Board Communicator

Lynne Edmondson 604 Wedgewood
Carbondale, Il 62901
618-457-2258

CALENDAR 1995-96

(See *Monthly Voter* for details)

All meetings are held at First United Methodist Church, 201 W. North St., at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- August 19 **Summer Coffee, 9:30 a.m.**
- Sept. 19 **Lunch with Mayor Terry Howley**
Noon, Board Room of Richland Community College
- Sept. 23 **LWV Regional Conference**
10 a.m. to 3 p.m Richland Community College
- Oct. 17 **Decatur School District Strategic Plan**
B.A. Buttz
- Nov. 21 **Breaking the Cycle of Violence**
Fred Spannaus of Dove
- Dec. 12 **Holiday Brunch, Salvation Army Programs**
11 a.m. at Barb Keagle's home, 4539 Palmer Ct.
- Jan. 16 **City Council Study**
Committee presentation and Consensus
- Feb. 20 **International Trade and the U.S. Economy**
Dr. James Watson, noon, Blue Mill Restaurant
- March 19 **China-Continuity and Change**
Dr. Kevin Murphy
- April 16 **Decatur Schools -What is Their Future**
Supt. Kenneth Arndt, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Mill Restaurant
- May 20 **Annual Meeting, time and place to be announced.**

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 1994-95
(Adopted at Annual Meeting, May, 1994)

COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENTS (1973-74)

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

Support 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.

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.

Position resulting from 1977-78 study. An updated study conducted in 1991-93 confirms the above positions. Annual Meeting 1993 (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.

Study (1995-96)

To determine the best way to elect city council members in Decatur. The study will examine the current system of all at-large candidates as well as a system of electing candidates from wards or districts.

STATE PROGRAM 1995-97

I. CHILD WELFARE/JUVENILE JUSTICE

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

II. CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS

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

III. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

IV. GUN CONTROL

Support for handgun and assault weapon control.

V. ELECTION LAWS

Support for improved election laws and procedures and opposition to term limits for members of the General Assembly.

VI. LAND USE

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

VII. 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.

VIII. MENTAL HEALTH

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

IX. SCHOOLS

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

X. STATE FISCAL POLICIES

Support for a diversified and equitable revenue system which relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

XI. COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Support for expanded citizen initiative powers to address county government structure and support for changes in the Illinois County Executive Act.

XII. PESTICIDES

Support for reduction in pesticide use and the use of non-toxic alternatives.

XIII. STATE REDISTRICTING

Support for a redistricting process which is timely, orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

XIV. ACTION FOCUS ON EARLY INTERVENTION FOR AT-RISK-CHILDREN

Scope: Promote public understanding of the need to invest in programs to help families in crisis and support of this item as an Issue of Emphasis at the 1994 LWVUS convention

XV. ACTION FOCUS: STATE TAX REFORM

Scope: Reform the state's tax system, including a campaign for a constitutional amendment for a graduated income tax.

MEMBERSHIP

BATSON, Judith 221 Delmar	62522	422-8319
BECK, Janet 59 Sundale Drive	62521	428-6074
CAMPBELL, Carol 3330 North Taylor	62526	877-1873
CROW, Lucille 76 Colorado Drive	62526	877-2070
DAKIN, Alice 24 1st Drive	62521	428-8104
DANSBY, Eunice 1044 West Tuttle	62522	428-5955
HIGHT, Beverly R.R. 2 Moweaqua	62550	1-768-3555
KAREOTES, Christine 56 Ridgeway Dr.	62521	423-2740
KEAGLE, Barbara 4539 Palmer Ct.	62526	875-3533
KESSINGER, Sally #2 Phillips Dr.	62526	429-1794

LIMERICK, Ann 155 North Summit	62522	428-9077
MARSHALL, Susan 155 South Glencoe	62522	422-0824
McPHERRON, Phyllis 2180 Summit Ct.	62526	428-6466
MOORE, Emmy Lou 2E 717 W. Prairie	62522	429-6435
MOORMAN, Ileen 315 Hackberry Place	62521	423-4613
MONTGOMERY, Elysa 426 Timber Dr.	62521	428-4915
MOORE, Shirley 418 Woodhill Drive	62521	422-2565
OHLSEN, Barbara 135 South Lake Shore Drive	62521	429-1179
OWEN, Kathleen 303 S. Delmar	62522	428-9105
NOLAN, Louise 1311 S. 32nd St.	62521	423-6738
PETERSON, Lorraine 2152 Ravina Pk.	62526	423-3963
RAUFF, Becky 111 Westdale	62522	428-5079
REYNOLDS, Cindy 50 Green Oak Drive	62526	877-0296

SANDBERG, Marjory 525 S. Monroe	62522	423-4688
SLEEPER, Patricia 355 Bayshore	62521	429-6429
SLY, Joanne 1770 Spitler Dr.	62521	428-5016
SMITH, Pauline 717 W. Prairie #1D	62522	422-5506
SPYCHER, Ellen 17 Carroll Dr.	62521	429-3042
SORENSEN, Kathy 289 South Westlawn	62522	428-6850
STALEY, Lee 2940 Oakmont Drive	62521	1-767-2235
THORNTON, Lauri 121 White Pine Circle	62521	428-3543
VERBANAC, Laura 12 Dakota Drive	62526	877-2621
WOYNA, Marian 440 East Grove Road	62521	428-8046

New Addresses of Past Members:

BOWEN, Andrea 432 S. MacArthur Macomb, IL	61455	1-309-833-4608
BROWN, Barbara 1985 N. Clark St Galesburg, IL 61401		1-309-342-3970
DUPREE, Agnita Givens Estates Villa 24E Asheville, N.C. 28803		1-704-277-0835
LILLIE, Nadine 301 N. Mulberry St. Steelville, IL 62288		
MELVILLE, Betty 3583 Queens Hill, St. Louis, MO	63129	1-314-894-7370
MELROSE, Terri 311-13th Ct. Onalaska, WI	54650	1-608-781-0748
MYERSON, Dee 6506 Offshore Drive, Madison, WI	53705	
Protzman, Mildred 29 Kendall Dr. Oberlin, OH	44074	1-216-775-0715

NATIONAL PROGRAM 1994-96

(Adopted at National Convention, June, 1994)

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.

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.

Citizen Rights

Citizen Right to Know/Citizen Participation. 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

Congress. 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.

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.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons.

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.

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.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

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.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the U.S. that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

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

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.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS 1994

Issues for Emphasis are derived from current LWVUS positions, and voted on at the National Convention. In order to make the most of limited League resources at all levels, Issues for Emphasis guide board decisions about allocating money, time and talent to achieve League goals. These issues are:

- Health Care
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk
- Crisis in the Community
- Opening Government to Citizens

MY POLITICAL ADDRESS IS:

Precinct Number _____

Township _____ Supervisor _____

County Board District Number _____

District Board Members: _____

City and County Government

Mayor of Decatur: Terry Howley

City Council:

- Larry Foster
- William Mitchell
- Kent Mittelberg
- Lou Ann Jacobs
- William Oliver
- Michael Carrigan

Macon County Board:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Kim Bauer(R) | Harold Langford(D) |
| Michael Beer (D) | Linda Little (R) |
| Donald Betzer (R) | David Livingston(D) |
| Walt Dannewitz(D) | Joe A. McGlaughlin(D) |
| David M. Drobisch(R) | Robert M. Owen(D) |
| Phillip J. Hogan(R) | Patrick Pownall(R) |
| Mervil G. Jacobs Jr.(R) | R.C. Smith(D) |
| Mary Beth Jesse(D) | John Snyder (D) |
| Carol Marie Jontry(D) | William R. Stoutenborough(R) |
| Charles A. Kuhle(R) | Patrick Tangney(D) |
| | Annie M. Williams(D) |

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. Julie Curry (D)

102nd Illinois Representative

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

Rep. N. Duane Noland (R)

18th Congressional District

(consists of of Austin, part of
Hickory Point, Illini, Niantic)

Rep. Ray LaHood (R)

19th 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, Whitmore, Friends Creek
Maroa, part of Hickory Pt.)

Rep. Glenn Poshard (D)

United States Senators from Illinois: **Senator Carol Mosley Braun**
(D)

Senator Paul Simon (D)

YOUR LEGISLATOR'S ADDRESS IS:

N. Duane Noland (102nd Illinois Representative District)
220 State House or 788 N. Sunnyside Rd. Ste. 1
Springfield, IL 62706 Decatur, IL 62522
782-8176 428-4068

Rep. Julie Curry (101st Illinois Representative District)
Stratton Building or 101 B. Ashland Ave.
Room 2081-M Mt. Zion, IL 62549
Springfield, IL 62706 864-6026

Senator Penny Severns (51st Illinois Senatorial District)
State House, Room 105B or 101 B Ashland Ave.
Springfield, IL 62706 Mt. Zion, IL 62549
782-5284 864-6026

Rep. Ray LaHood (18th Congressional District)
House of Representatives or 100 N.E. Monroe
2112 Rayburn Peoria, IL 61602
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Glenn Poshard (19th Congressional District)
House of Representatives or 363 South Main St., Room 110
107 Cannon HOB Decatur, IL 62523
Washington, D.C. 20515 362-9011
202-225-5201

United States Senators for Illinois

Senator Carol M. Braun or 520 S. 8th St.
708 Hart Bldg. Springfield, IL 62703
Washington, D.C. 20510 217-492-4126
202-224-2854

Senator Paul Simon or Suite 1
462 Dirksen Building 3 West Old State Capital Plaza
Washington, D.C. 20510 Springfield, IL 62701
202-224-2152 217-492-4960

Legislative Status Office - 202-225-1771 - For status of legislation in House and Senate and dates of committee hearings.

