

**LWV WILMETTE CURRENT PROGRAM  
2008-2009**

**PROGRAM:  
STUDY/CONSENSUS/POSITION/ACTION**

Our PROGRAM consists of those local, township, county, state and national governmental issues that League members choose, in accordance with League bylaws, for study and action.

After the PROGRAM is adopted at an annual meeting or convention, the process of STUDY begins. Members research the issue to ascertain all facts, alternatives and consequences related to it.

CONSENSUS, or substantial agreement, is reached among our members after study and discussion.

We then formulate a League POSITION on the issue; a formalized statement of the issue based on our membership CONSENSUS.

ACTION on current program positions and on League principles may be directed toward any branch of government. ACTION may include informing members, lobbying, monitoring and/or litigation, with members' participation.

For a summary of local, township, county, state and National POSITIONS, see Appendix A.

The League of Women Voters – US board is responsible for determining how League positions apply to policy issues at the national level and local Leagues do so at the local level. Once the League's stance on an issue has been determined, the organization speaks with one voice. Individual League members are, of course, free to express differing views, so long as they do not speak in the name of the League.

**LWV Wilmette PROGRAM 2008-2009**

For the upcoming year, the Wilmette League plans to focus on the issue of School Funding in the state of Illinois. The LWV-IL supports a public school system that is equitable both in quality for the student and financing for the taxpayer. The current system of taxation fails to meet these criteria and fails to provide adequate revenues for education.

The state League supports tax reform to address the need for equitable, sustainable and consistent revenue to fund schools. The League supports a progressive income tax, a broad based sales tax and the use of the property tax for ONLY PARTIALLY funding education.

**Website: [www.lwvwilmette.org](http://www.lwvwilmette.org)**

**LAKE MICHIGAN INTER-LEAGUE  
ORGANIZATION  
2008 PROGRAM**

**AREAS OF EMPHASIS 2008**

- I. As a member of the Healing our Waters Coalition we will work on the Great Lakes Restoration Priorities Initiative established at the Great Lakes Restoration Conference 2006.  
The Coalition Goals are:
  - To restore Great Lakes Water Quality
  - Prevent and Control Non-native Aquatic Invasive Species
  - Clean-up Concentrated Toxic Pollution
- II. We will support the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes and work to implement the recommendations in their Report.
- III. We will work to pass the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act now in the United State Congress. (Congress recently passed an important piece of the Restoration effort, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, at double its previously authorized level - \$80 million over 5 years)
- IV. We will support efforts to reduce the use of pesticides and promote the use of nontoxic alternatives.
- V. We will advocate for the ratification of The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement signed by all the Great Lakes Governors on December 13, 2005.
- VI. We will monitor the process of the Review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

**Website: [www.lmilo.org](http://www.lmilo.org)**

**LWV OF ILLINOIS  
2008-2009 PROGRAMS**

**ACTION FOCI and STUDIES**

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK:** Assess and strengthen citizen participation in the state legislative process, which will include but not be limited to, efforts to pass the *Show Us Amendment*.

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK:** Efforts to increase voter education and reduce barriers to the electoral process. The action item will strengthen our judicial system by promoting the creation of an Illinois Judicial Evaluation Commission to provide voters with impartial evaluation of judicial candidates.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**FUNDING:** Promote efforts to provide stable, reliable and adequate revenues for public education and other social services.

**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:**

Investigate the need for a State Constitutional Convention. The Constitution of the State of Illinois requires that the question of a need for a constitutional convention be submitted to the voters every twenty years, if not sooner. The question was submitted to the voters in 2008 and was defeated.

**Website: [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org)**

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS U.S. ISSUES AND PROJECTS

### ISSUES

#### Representative Government

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

#### International Relations

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

#### Natural Resources

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

#### Social Policy

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

### ISSUE PRIORITIES

Campaign Finance Reform  
Civil Liberties  
DC Voting Rights  
Election Administration  
Ethics and Lobby Reform  
Global Climate Change  
Health Care Reform  
Tax Policy

### PROJECTS

#### Civil Liberties & Homeland Security

Since September 11, 2001, the LWVUS has worked to engage our Leagues and the public in addressing civil liberties and security concerns. We are committed to the notion that informed discussions nationwide promote an understanding of the issues and what the U.S. needs to do to protect civil liberties as well as what it can and cannot do to assure security at home and abroad.

#### Global Democracy

The Global Democracy Program is the League's integrated program for activists and nongovernmental organizations worldwide. Working with groups abroad to increase their voice in demanding transparency, accountability, and good government in their societies, Global

Democracy assists in expanding community influence in public policy-making processes while building leadership skills through interactive, hands-on training and exchange programs.

#### Openness in Government

The League of Women Voters is committed to openness in government. Finding information about how the government is serving the public has always been somewhat difficult. But in the post 9/11 age, these challenges are even greater. In the name of homeland security, "sunshine" laws and the opportunities for citizens to gain access to information have been constricted.

#### Redistricting Reform

Redistricting reform is an issue that goes to the heart of our democratic system of government. Representative democracy depends on the voters freely choosing their elected officials. When, instead, officials choose their voters, our system cannot work for long.

#### Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary By Defending the U.S. Constitution

In 2004, The League of Women Voter's Education Fund (LWVEF) joined forces with the Open Society Institute (OSI) to launch Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary, a program to increase citizen understanding of the importance of our nation's system of separation of powers and highlight the vital need for protecting a vibrant and independent judiciary.

#### Voter Information

Elected officials make decisions about things that are important to you, including your job, your health care, your environment and your security. Voting is your chance to choose the decision makers and tell them what you want. Make your voice heard on Election Day!

**Website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)**

**MEETING SCHEDULE OF SELECTED  
WILMETTE GOVERNMENT BOARDS**

All local governmental board meeting are open to the public and held at the Village Hall unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates and places are subject to change. Telephone or check the website if in doubt. Some meeting are televised and shown on WCTV, Channel 6.

**Village Hall: Phone 847-251-2700**  
**Website: [www.wilmette.com](http://www.wilmette.com)**  
**Email: [Wilmette@wilmette.com](mailto:Wilmette@wilmette.com)**

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meeting are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Room.

**THE LISTENING POST**

June through October, *The Listening Post* takes place every Saturday at the French Market in downtown Wilmette, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. November through April, *The Listening Post* is held at the Community Recreation Center, 300 Glenview Rd. on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. til noon.

BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETING DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE CHAIR.

For location and any changes in date or time, please check the Village website: [WWW.WILMETTE.COM](http://WWW.WILMETTE.COM) or call the Village at 847-251-2700.

**APPEARANCE REVIEW COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP**

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

**FINE ARTS COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Meetings are held quarterly on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**HOUSING COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 a.m.

**COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**PLAN COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL ZONING COMMITTEE**

This committee is appointed by the Board of Trustees to hear requests for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, including rezoning. Hearings are scheduled when requests are received.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**YOUTH COMMISSION**

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting dates and places are subject to change. Telephone or check the website:

**Village Hall: Phone 847-251-2700**  
**Website: [www.wilmette.com](http://www.wilmette.com)**

**MEETING SCHEDULE OF  
WILMETTE SCHOOL BOARDS**

**District 37: Avoca Elementary**

Board Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the last Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted on the website (see below) at 6:30 p.m. in the Marie Murphy School Community Room, 2921 Illinois Road during the school year and in the Marie Murphy School Library over the summer months.

Committee of the Whole meetings are held the first Monday of the month.

**Website: [www.avoca37.org](http://www.avoca37.org)**

**District 39: Wilmette Elementary**

Meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road. For dates, please check the website (below) or call 847-256-2450.

**Website: [www.wilmette39.org](http://www.wilmette39.org)**

**District 203: New Trier High School**

Meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Northfield Campus, Building C unless otherwise noted on the New Trier website. For the dates, please check the website.

**Website: [www.newtrier.k12.il.us](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us)**

**ILLINOIS ELECTION CALENDAR  
2009-2010**

Consolidated Primary Election  
Tuesday, February 24, 2009  
Consolidated Election  
Tuesday, April 7, 2009  
Gubernatorial Primary Election  
Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
Gubernatorial General Election  
Tuesday, November 2, 2010

**TO BE NOMINATED/ELECTED in the  
Consolidated Primary Election on Tuesday,  
February 24, 2009 and the Consolidated  
Election on Tuesday, April 7, 2009:**

**Municipal:**

Mayor or President  
Treasurer  
Clerk  
Alderman or Trustees

**Townships:**

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Assessor, Multi-township Assessor  
Highway Commissioner  
Collector (if elected)  
Trustees

**Nonpartisan offices to be elected April 7, 2009:**

Park District Commissioners  
Public Library District Trustees  
Township and Municipal Library Trustees  
Regional Board of Schools Trustees  
School District Board Members, School Directors

For a complete list, see The State Board of  
Elections Illinois website:

[www.elections.il.votinginformation/welcome](http://www.elections.il.votinginformation/welcome)

**VOTING INFORMATION**

You are qualified to vote if you:

- Are 18 years of age by election day
- Are a U.S. citizen
- Have resided in your precinct at least 30 days before election day
- Are properly registered at the time of the election

These are the qualifications to vote in General, Primary, Municipal, Township, School Library and Park District elections. For further information about registration and absentee ballots, call the Wilmette Village Clerk at the Village Hall, 847 853-7511; The State Board of Elections 312 814-6440 or log on to [www.elections.state.il.us/](http://www.elections.state.il.us/)

To verify that you are a registered voter and to determine your precinct and the address of your polling place, call Cook County Voter Registration at 312 603-0906 or log on to the website: [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com), which also lists the candidates on your ballot in the next election.

To register to vote, you will need two pieces of identification, one of which has your current address (although neither need be a picture ID).

Examples include Illinois driver's license, Illinois State ID, social security card, utility bill in your name, valid U.S.A. passport, employee or student I.D. card, credit card, birth certificate or mail postmarked to you.

**Voter registration is an important goal of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette. If you would like to become a deputy registrar, please contact the Voter Service Chair (see page 2).**

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### **U. S. Senator Richard J. Durbin (D)**

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892  
Chicago IL 60604  
Tel 312 353-4952  
Fax 312 353-0150

309 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington DC 20510  
Tel 202 224-2152  
Fax 202 228-0400

Email: To send an email, go to the website:  
Website: [www.durbin.senate.gov](http://www.durbin.senate.gov)

### **U. S. Senator**

Senator Obama has resigned his position (he is the President Elect). The Illinois governor will appoint his successor, reportedly by the end of 2008.

### **U. S. Representative Mark S. Kirk (R) 10<sup>th</sup> District**

707 Skokie Blvd., Suite 350  
Northbrook IL 60062  
Tel 847 940-0202  
Fax 847 940-7143

1030 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington DC 20515  
Tel 202 225-4835  
Fax 202 225-0837  
Email: [rep.kirk@mail.house.gov](mailto:rep.kirk@mail.house.gov)  
Website: [www.house.gov/kirk](http://www.house.gov/kirk)

### **U. S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D) 9<sup>th</sup> District**

820 Davis St., Suite 105  
Evanston IL 60201  
Tel 847 328-3409  
Fax 847 328-3425

1027 Longworth House Office Bldg  
Washington DC 20515  
Tel 202 225-2111  
Fax 202 226-6890  
Email: To send an email, go to the website:  
Website: [www.house.gov/schakowsky](http://www.house.gov/schakowsky)

### **Governor of Illinois Rod R. Blagojevich**

207 State House  
Springfield IL 62706  
217 782-0244 or 312 814-2121  
Email: To send an email, go to the website  
Website: [www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov)

### **State Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D) 9<sup>th</sup> District**

820 Davis Street, Suite 102  
Evanston IL 60201  
Tel 847 492-1200  
Fax 847 492-1202

218-A State Capitol Bldg.  
Springfield IL 62706  
Tel 217 782-2119  
Fax 217 782-0715  
Email: [senator@jschoenberg.org](mailto:senator@jschoenberg.org)  
Website: [www.jschoenberg.org](http://www.jschoenberg.org)

### **State Representative Elizabeth Coulson (R) 17<sup>th</sup> District**

3801 West Lake Ave.  
Glenview IL 60026  
Tel 847 724-3233  
Fax 847 724-8682

220-N Stratton Bldg.  
Springfield IL 62706  
Tel 217 782-4194  
Email: [coulson@earthlink.net](mailto:coulson@earthlink.net)  
Website: [www.repbethcoulson.org](http://www.repbethcoulson.org)

### **State Representative Julie Hamos (D) 18<sup>th</sup> District**

820 Davis Street, Suite 103  
Evanston IL 60201  
Tel 847 424-9898  
Fax 847 424-9828

256-W Stratton Bldg  
Springfield IL 62706  
Tel: 217 782-8052  
Fax 217 557-7204  
email: [julie@juliehamos.org](mailto:julie@juliehamos.org)  
website: [www.juliehamos.org](http://www.juliehamos.org)

### **Cook County Bd Commissioner Larry Suffredin (D) 13<sup>th</sup> District**

820 Davis St., Suite 104  
Evanston IL 60201  
Tel 847 864-1209  
Fax 847 864-1445  
Email: [lsuffredin@cookcountygov.com](mailto:lsuffredin@cookcountygov.com)  
Website: [www.suffredin.org](http://www.suffredin.org)

118 N. Clark St., Room 567  
Chicago IL 60202  
Tel 312 603-6383  
Fax 312 603-3622

### **Wilmette Village President Chris Canning**

Village Hall  
1200 Wilmette Ave.  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
Tel 847 853-7509 (Village Manager's Office)  
Fax 847 853-7700  
Website: www.wilmette.com

### **OBTAINING INFORMATION ON LEGISLATION**

For current information on status of legislation in Springfield:

Speakers' bill status service: 800 252-6300.  
(Know the number of the bill before you call.)  
Bill status website: www.ILGA.gov

For current information on national legislation:  
LWVUS League Action Line &  
Legislative priorities 202 429-1965  
ext 328

### **EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION ON LEGISLATION**

U. S. President Tel 202 456-1111  
(White House switchboard will take your message)

FAX 202 456-2461  
www.whitehouse.gov

Governor of Illinois

Tel 312 814-2121 (Chicago)  
FAX 312 814-5512 (Chicago)  
FAX 217 524-4049 (Springfield)  
e-mail governor@state.il.us

### **HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS**

1. Check the listings above for phone or FAX numbers, street or email addresses. Your message will get the most prompt attention from your federal legislators if you FAX it to their offices in Washington, E. C. For state legislators, the fastest method is email.
2. By U.S. Mail, FAX or email: Write or type letters using your own stationery. Letters are more effective than postcards. See below for proper forms of address, salutations and closes to use.
3. For any contact: Be sure to identify yourself by name and address. He or she likes to know you are a constituent.
4. Describe the bill by number or identify it by popular name.
5. Use you own words, giving reasons why you are for or against the legislation.
6. Be brief and courteous.

### **HOW TO ADDRESS PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

#### **President**

Envelope The President  
The White House  
Washington DC 20550  
Salutation My dear Mr. President  
Close Most respectfully yours,

#### **Governor**

Envelope The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
The Executive Mansion  
Springfield IL 62706  
Salutation Dear Governor  
Close Yours very truly

#### **U.S. or State Senator**

Envelope The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
(Appropriate address)  
Salutation Dear Senator  
Close Yours very truly,

#### **Congressman/State Representative**

Envelope The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
(Appropriate address)  
Salutation Dear (Mr./Mrs./Ms)  
Close Yours very truly,