



# League of Women Voters of McDonough County

**2008-2009**

## **HANDBOOK**

[www.lwvmc.org](http://www.lwvmc.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.**

### **HISTORY**

From its founding in Chicago in 1920, at the close of the struggle for women's suffrage, the League of Women Voters has been about educating the electorate.

The League of Women Voters of Macomb was officially established in 1966. Ruthann Burton served as the first president. In the early 1970s the name was changed to the more inclusive League of Women Voters of McDonough County. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League may join local League and is automatically a member of the state and the national League of Women Voters.

### **DIVERSITY POLICY**

The League of Women Voters of McDonough County, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVMC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The LWVMC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary : responsible and representative decision-making. The LWVMC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

The LWVMC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America and actively seeks to be inclusive in its board membership, and programs.

**2002 HANDBOOK**

[www.macomb.com/~mcleague](http://www.macomb.com/~mcleague)

e-mail [lwv@macomb.com](mailto:lwv@macomb.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the League of Women Voters. If you are a new member, please take time to read this handbook and use it to contact your local, state, and national league office holders and elected public servants, and to help you understand how our policies and programs can enable you to be a more civically engaged citizen.

If you know anyone who has expressed an interest in joining the League of Women Voters of McDonough County, contact Janna Deitz at 837-2614 or [ji-deitz@wiu.edu](mailto:ji-deitz@wiu.edu).

Dues are \$50.00 per person, \$75.00 per household, and \$25.00\* per student. We also have supporting (\$55.00 - \$79.00), sustaining (\$80.00 - \$99.00), and advocating (\$100.00 +) memberships. We ask all members to pay or commit to pay annual dues on or before October 1 of each year. Our *Handbook* is updated annually and distributed to all members. As a League member you will:

- Stay informed about the issues that concern you most, including those that directly affect our community.
- Make your views heard by adding your voice.
- Sharpen your skills and learn new ones as you study and act on important public policy issues.
- Receive League publications, including the *National Voter*, the *Illinois Voter*, and our local *Bulletin*.

As an active member of the League, your membership gives us the political clout we need to continue to build “A Voice for Citizens and a Force for Change.” Your dues give you membership in the League at all three levels — local, state and national. Thank you for all your support!

## ADVERTISERS

We welcome advertisers for our *Handbook* and *Bulletin*. Cost is \$40.00 for one year - \$75.00 for two years. We ask that advertisers share a business card or logo that we can reproduce in our *Handbook* and our monthly *Bulletin*. We encourage our membership to patronize our advertisers. Contact Mary Kubasak at 837-3649 if you would like to become an advertiser. Financial assistance is available.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

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### LWVIL MEMBER SERVICE COMMITTEE

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MCDONOUGH COUNTY

President Sharon Keeling (E 09)  
Vice-president Jana Haworth (E 10)  
Secretary Jean Wolf (E 09)  
Treasurer Nancy Smith (E 10)

### BOARD of DIRECTORS [(E)lected / (A)ppointed + year term expires]

Rose DeCounter (E 09) Virginia Leonard Ewing (E 09)  
Jana Deitz (E 09) Sandra Nelson (A 09)  
Gretchen DeJaynes (E 09) Melanie Rawlins (A 09)  
Sally Egler (E 10) Gordana Rezab (E 10)  
Mary Ellen Graff (A 09) Lynne Ruben (E 10)  
Mary Kubasak (A 09) Bill Thompson (A 09)

### 2008 – 2009 LWVMC Chairs and Committee Members

#### Budget

Chair: Nancy Smith  
Members:

#### By-laws

Co-chairs: Melanie Rawlins & Jean Wolf

#### Fundraising

Chair: Mary Kubasak  
Members: Sharon Keeling, Janna Deitz, Penny Yunker, & Sara Boeckelman

#### 2008-2009 Handbook

Chair: Melanie Rawlins

#### Membership

Co-Chairs: Danna Deitz & Virginia Leonard Ewing  
Members: Rose DeCounter & Wanda Black

Nominating

Chair: Sally Egler  
Members: Janine Cavicchia & \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Election Issues

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Members: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Program

Committee of the Whole - Board of Directors

Public Relations/Publicity

Chair: Lynne Ruben

Social

Chair: Janna Haworth  
Members: Sally Egler & Melanie Rawlins

Voter Services

Chair: Rose DeCounter  
Members: Lynne Ruben, Sally Egler, Nancy Smith, & Janna Haworth

Web Mistress

Lynne Ruben

**2008-2009 LWVMC CALENDAR** 9/8/08

(See monthly *Bulletin* and listserv for details.)

**May**

8 Board Meeting

**June**

5 Board Meeting  
13-17 National Convention, Portland OR

**July**

10 Board Meeting  
16 Summer Luncheon  
23 Deputy Registrar Training

**August**

14 Board Meeting  
20 WIU New Faculty Orientation  
26 Women's Equality Day

**September**

6 Central Illinois Workshop, Macomb IL  
11 Board Meeting  
17 Constitution Day: American Democracy Project/  
Constitutional Convention  
18 General Meeting 7:00 pm: Fall Kick-off & New Member Orientation

**October**

*Voter Education Month*  
9 Board Meeting and WIU Take Back the Night  
23 Candidate Forum

**November**

4 Election Day  
20 Board Meeting

**December**

11 Board Meeting; Holiday Party / Silent Auction  
15 Bill of Rights Day

**January**

*Go Observe Government Month*  
15 Board Meeting  
19 General Meeting 7 pm: Primary 2009

**February**

12 Board Meeting  
14 *League of Women Voters* Birthday  
18 President's Day  
19 General Meeting 7 pm: National Popular Vote Compact

**March**

*Women's History Month*  
12 Board Meeting  
27-30 Sunshine Week  
TBA Candidate Forum

**April**

9 Board Meeting  
TBA **Annual Meeting**  
22 Earth Day

**LWVMC MEMBERSHIP**

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**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS...**

- Acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.
- Builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- Engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

**The League of Women Voters believes in these Principles:**

- Respect for individuals.
- The value of diversity.
- The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.
- The power of collective decision making for the common good.
- Representative government and the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- A democratic government depends upon informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's

- right-to-know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, through open meetings and public records accessible.
- Every citizen's right to vote should be protected; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- Efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- Responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; 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 general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- Cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and 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”*

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 at the Annual Meeting of the local league, and through delegates on the state and national program at conventions.

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

**LOCAL PROGRAM 2008 – 2009**

**Macomb Water**

Continue support for an adequate water supply for Macomb with updates as new engineering reports are made.

**Transportation**

Continue to support the feasibility and financing of public transportation in McDonough County.

### **Waste Management**

Monitor solid waste disposal in any landfill in or affecting McDonough County Resource and Waste Management Council.

### **Rental Inspection**

Support the implementation of the current Macomb ordinance on inspection of rental Properties and monitor the need for change of said ordinance.

### **Primary Election Issues**

Study the location and accessibility of polling places and precinct boundaries in Macomb and McDonough County, as well as any other local primary election related issues.

## **STATE PROGRAM 2007-2009**

Adopted at State Convention, June 2007  
For a fuller discussion see *Positions In Brief*

### **GOVERNMENT POSITIONS**

**Constitutional Implementation and Amendments:** Support for League positions to implement, amend and uphold the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

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

**Criminal Justice:** Support of improved criminal justice procedures and alternatives to incarceration. Support for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

**State Election Laws:** Support of improved election laws and procedures and opposition to term limits for members of the Illinois General Assembly.

**Gun Violence Prevention:** Support of controls to stop proliferation of private ownership of handguns and their irresponsible use.

**Schools:** Support for a public school system that is equitable both in quality for the student and financing for the taxpayer. Support for local charter schools with progress monitored by ISBE.

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

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

### **NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS**

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

**Large-Scale Livestock Facilities:** Support for strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels.

**Pesticides:** Support for reduction in pesticide use and the promotion of non-tox alternatives.

### **SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS**

**Children's Services:** Support of improved state and local services by Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

**Immigration:** Support of State and local community efforts to provide orientat and counseling services for all immigrants.

**Income Assistance:** Support for income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families.

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

### **ACTION FOCI and STUDIES**

**Making Democracy Work:** Assess and strengthen citizen participation in the state legislative process including effort to pass the *Show Us Amendment*.

**Making Democracy Work:** Efforts to increase voter education and reduce barriers to the electoral process.

**Public Education and Social Services Funding:** Promote efforts to provide stable, reliable and adequate revenues for public education and social services.

**State Constitutional Convention:** Investigate the need for a State Constitutional Convention. Question was submitted to voters in 1988, and it must be submitted to the voters every 20 years.

## **NATIONAL PROGRAM 2008 - 2010**

(Adopted at National Convention, June 2008)

For a fuller discussion see *Impact on Issues*

### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

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

#### **Voting Rights**

Citizen's Right to Vote: Protect the right of every citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation: Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting 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.

#### **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 within the framework set by the Constitution.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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

#### **United Nations**

Support a strong effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

#### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers and expand international trade and that advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

### **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

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

#### **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.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

#### **Natural Resources**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

#### **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.

Air Quality: Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy: Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use: Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources: Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management: Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues: Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

#### **Public Participation**

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

#### **Agriculture Policy**

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

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

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

**Equality of Opportunity**

Equal Rights: Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment, Housing: Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

**Fiscal Policy**

Tax 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.

Federal Deficit: Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements: Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

**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.

**Immigration Policy**

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

**Meeting Basic Human Needs**

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

Income Assistance: Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services: Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply: Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

**Child Care**

Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality childcare 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.

**Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

**Gun Control**

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

**Urban Policy**

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

**Death Penalty**

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

<b>SCHEDULE OF ELECTIONS</b>	
Polls open - 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM	
• In even-numbered years	FIRST TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY <b>General Primary Election</b>
	FIRST TUESDAY AFTER FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER <b>General Election</b>
• In odd-numbered years	LAST TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY <b>Consolidated Primary Election</b>
	FIRST TUESDAY IN APRIL <b>Consolidated Election</b>

**MACOMB CITY GOVERNMENT** (year term ends)

<b>Mayor:</b>	Mick Wisslead (11)	833-2558
<b>Administrator:</b>	Dean Torreson (11)	837-0501
<b>City Clerk:</b>	Melanie Falk (09)	833-2575
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ronald Ward (11)	298-1811

**City Council:** (Denotes ward # + year term ends)

Richard Vick (1 09)	Edward Lavin (2 11)
Louis Gilbert (3 09)	Mike Inman (4 11)
Dave Dorsett (5 11)	Tim Lobdell (6 09)
Ken Zahnle (7 09)	
Aldermen-at-large: Chris Senn (11) and Dennis Moon (09)	

<b>County Clerk:</b>	Gretchen DeJaynes	833-2474
Voter Registration Office		833-4649

**COUNTY BOARD**

Office 837-2308 (Beth Crossett)  
(Denotes year term ends)

**District 1** – Emmet Twp and Macomb City 1, 2, 3, 4:

Larry Aurelio (08)	Joe Kersting (10)	Linda A. Jani (08)
Earl W. Godt II (08)	Alice Henry (10)	Paul Trimmer (08)
Gary Sherer (08)		

**District 2** - Macomb City 5,6,7, Blandinsville, Bushnell 1,2, Hire, Macomb Twp., Mound, New Salem, Prairie City, Sciota, Walnut Grove:

John Bricker (08) David Cortellyou (10) Clarke Kelso (08)  
John Lawson (08) Bob Mahr (10) Rod McGrew (10)  
Scott Schwerer, Chr. (10)

**District 3** - Macomb City 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Bethel, Chalmers, Colchester, Eldorado, Industry, Lamoine, Scotland, and Tennessee:

Leroy Brown (10) Tony Coniglio (08) Glen E. Foster, V. Chr. (08)  
Lee Trotter (10) Bill Carle (10) 2 yr. unexpired term (08)  
W. Earl Sims (08)

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