



**League of Women Voters of Chicago**  
**Chicago City Council and Action Briefing, September 10, 2016**

### LWV Action

Action is League lingo for Lobbying. Leagues at all levels, National, State, County, City and ILOs, ask members to reach out to government officials in support of or opposition to a bill, a proposed regulation, or funding.

Two things must exist:

- 1) There must be a proposed government action and
  - 2) There must be a League position existing at the same level of government or higher.
- For example, the Chicago League could lobby the City Council about recycling based on a National League Natural Resources position.

The League of Women Voters encourages all members to speak out in favor of or opposition to legislative and executive action at all levels of government. Requests for action are sent to members by email.

**LWVUS** The web site is **lww.org**. On the first screen, select *Get Involved*. **Action Alerts.** Members of the Grassroots Lobby Corps and local and state League presidents receive alerts by email at critical times in the legislative process. An alert not only asks Leagues and League members to take action on a key issue, but also provides substantive and political background information. A quick and easy system for sending an email directly to Members of Congress, or writing a letter to the editor also is provided.

**Legislative Action Center on the Web.** Current Action Alerts, Legislative Updates and other advocacy tools are posted on the LWVUS website at [www.lww.org](http://www.lww.org).

LWVUS (National) Positions are compiled in *Impact on Issues*, which is available on the National League's website. Go to [lww.org](http://lww.org) and select "Our Work" in the top band. On the next screen, on the lower left, select site map. Next, select *Impact on Issues*. The current text is available there. The text of positions and the League's actions in support of positions are detailed. The positions are grouped under Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

**LWV-Illinois**        The web site is **lwvil.org**

The Illinois League sends *Time for Action* alerts. Like the National, a member can check the website or sign-up for TFAs. Go to lwvil.org. From the ribbon, select Take Action. TFAs are listed. Members can sign-up to receive TFAs.

LWVIL positions of are located on the website. Select Issues from the ribbon and the drop down menu shows the same topics as LWVUS. Select a topic, such as Social Policy and specifics, such as education and employment appear. If there is a National position on the topic, it is listed followed by the Illinois League position.

**LWVChicago**        The website is **lwwchicago.org**

The Chicago League sends requests for action by e-mail. LWV-Chicago positions are compiled in *Where We Stand*. **lwwchicago.org**. On the left, select “Action and Advocacy”.

Chicago League positions deal specifically with Chicago City Government and the other Chicago taxing bodies, schools, library.

**Caution** – Members should write on their own behalf. They are free to use the information that a League provides. Members should not say they are writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters. Only the League’s board and officers can write on behalf of the organization.

## **Glossary**

ILO: Inter-League Organization. An ILO is an organization of several Leagues that share common interests and that have the same relationship to the government that unifies them. LWVCookCounty is an ILO of this type.

A second form of ILO is an organization of Leagues around a specific issue. For example, the League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) is an umbrella League whose member Leagues are from the four states surrounding Lake Michigan and the local Leagues whose boundaries touch the Lake Michigan shore.