

**VOTER SERVICE REPORT  
LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 18,2020**

The Program for the Voter Service Committee that was approved at the 2019 Annual Meeting for this fiscal year is:

1. The Elections: An appropriate follow-up to improve the election process
2. Educating citizens on sources of voting information through the LWVCC website at [www.lwvcookcounty.org](http://www.lwvcookcounty.org) and other means.

The following illustrates the steps the Committee took to carry out this Program.

**THE ELECTIONS: AN APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP TO IMPROVE THE ELECTION PROCESS**

**Meeting with Edmund Michalowski, Deputy Clerk of Election for Cook County on October 15, 2019**

The LWVCC Voter Service Committee met with the Deputy Clerk Michalowski and Rahul K. Patel, Elections Information Security Officer of Cook County Clerk (who also is shared with the Chicago Board of Elections). We discussed security issues. We learned that in Illinois each election authority (such as Cook County Clerk and the Chicago Board of Elections) controls its own voter information, which is then provided to the State Election Authority. If a State's records are hacked, that should not affect the voter rolls with each election authority. We also learned that the County has three computer modules:

1. Voter Registration, which also includes Candidate Services to deal with candidate's filings, objections to those filings and final decisions.
2. E-Pollbook, which has the information for registered voters. This is also used to activate the touch screen for voting.
3. Dominion voting equipment which is composed of the ballot marking device (touchscreen) and the scanner. The touch screen will now print out an actual ballot that will be put into the scanner by the voter. Voters who choose to use paper ballots will also put them into the same scanner. The scanner, in addition to tabulating the votes for each office on the ballot, will also take a digital image of each ballot.

We then met with Rob Dean of the Elections Department of Cook County who demonstrated the voting machines.

**Election Judge Survey Project for the March 17, 2020 Primary**

The LWVCC asked all local Leagues to participate in an election Judge Survey Project for the March 17 Primary Election. The purpose of the project was to learn from election judges how well the new election equipment worked, as well as the election judges' thoughts on the adequacy of Election Judge training. This information was to be used to provide feedback to the Cook County Clerk and the Chicago Board of Elections. Each League was provided with a short

survey for their members to take to their precincts, or to as many precincts as possible in their League area. They were also provided with information as to how to obtain Poll Watching Credentials. We were pleased that 10 Leagues out of 13 Leagues agreed to participate. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 health scare and our concern for the well-being of our member volunteers, we had to cancel this project.

LWVCC did send out to League members a request to let us know about their experience as voters or election judges on March 17. They had a variety of experiences ranging from positive (almost normal) to very negative (problems with equipment and lack of sanitizing supplies to protect the judges and voters). We heard from 23 people in 6 Leagues in suburban Cook County where the election is run by the Cook County Clerk's office. There were responses from 16 LWV Chicago members. Chicago is under the authority of the Chicago Board of Elections. Both used the new equipment.

### **EDUCATING CITIZENS ON SOURCES OF VOTING INFORMATION THROUGH THE LWVCC WEBSITE AT WWW.LWVCOOKCOUNTY.ORG AND OTHER MEANS**

#### **WTTW Video Voter Guide**

Once again, we partnered with WTTW to create the WTTW Video Voters Guide for the March 2020 Primary Election. Candidates running for US Senate (Republicans), US Congressional Districts in the WTTW Viewing area, State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Commissioner of the Board of Review and MWRD did a 3-minute video for WTTW which was posted on their website along with their biographies. To date traffic totals for the 2020 Voter launch date (February 14) through the end of the election week (March 20—election was March 17) **total pageview: 306,271**. This is in comparison to the November 2018 General Election total number of page views was 115,263.

A WTTW viewer submitted a comment to WTTW's on the Video Voters Guide stating the following: "Thank you so much for your Voting Guide to the 2020 Elections (Primaries). I hope that you continue to offer this for the November election and all future elections! I like to do research on all candidates before casting my ballot and I often find it difficult and time consuming to research all the candidates. But your guide provided just the right amount of information and a way to find all the information in one place. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!"

Thank you to those that volunteered to make this project a success.

#### **Web Site**

In addition, the LWVCC web site had information and links to other useful information regarding the November 2020 elections.

#### **Partnering with ABC 7 Chicago to Produce Candidate Debates for both the Republican and Democratic Candidates Running for Cook County State's Attorney**

LWVCC partnered with ABC 7 Chicago, and Univision Chicago to produce Candidate Debates for both Republican and Democratic candidates running for Cook County State's Attorney. The Republican Debate was held on Thursday February 27 at 7pm: streaming live on ABC 7.2, abc7chicago.com, abc7FaceBook, and ABC 7 News App, and Univision News App. It aired on TV on Sunday March 1. Univision aired this debate on Saturday, February 29. The Democrats' Debate was held on Friday February 28, streaming live on all of the above channels and airing on TV on Sunday March 1. Univision aired the debate on Sunday, March 1 as well.

The LWVCC provided volunteers to assist with the debates. Thank you to those who volunteered.

### **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:**

We will continue to work with Deputy Michalowski to review election concerns and voter registration. We hope to work again with WTTW to produce a Video Voters Guide for the November 2020 General Election. In addition, we will be open to co-sponsoring candidate debates.

We will be considering whether to do an Election Judge survey for the November election.

New this year: we hope to work with the LWVIL to consider increasing the use of Vote by Mail as a viable option to voting in person.