

**VOTER SERVICE REPORT
LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 18, 2021**

The Program for the Voter Service Committee that was approved at the 2020 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 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

The General Election of 2020 and the Consolidated Elections of 2021 were challenging as they took place during a pandemic with many new requirements imposed on all election authorities by the Illinois June Statue (HB 1863). The committee spent a lot of time learning and educating voters on the different procedures, dates, nomenclature, and websites both of the Clerk, and the Chicago Board of Elections.

- On August 4, 2020, the Voter Service Committee conducted a Town Hall Meeting with Karen Yarborough, Cook County Clerk; Edmund Michalowski, Deputy Clerk of Elections; John Nally, Attorney for Cook County Clerk; and John Mirkovic, Cook County Clerk's office; and the suburban local League Presidents and Voter Service Chairs. The purpose of the meeting was for Leagues to understand plans for the November election and for local Leagues to be able to ask any questions concerning the elections. Questions were asked about Voter Registration, Vote by Mail, Election Day voting, Election Judges, Security, and other questions. We continued to provide useful information to local Leagues and communicated their concerns to the Cook County Clerk.
- We continued until the General Election on November 3 to communicate with Leagues and the Cook County Clerk and Chicago Board of Elections to answer questions of concern to Leagues and citizens.
- On December 15 the Voter Service Committee met with Deputy of Elections Edmund Michalowski, Director of Communications Sally Daly, Legal Counsel James Nally, and Assistant Deputy Director LaTanya Lumpkin to discuss the Illinois June Statue (HB 1863). The purpose was to find out what provisions they thought should be retained, possibly with changes, and become an ongoing part of Illinois Election Laws. We also discussed issues we noted during the election period. On February 11, 2021 the Committee met with the Chicago Board of Elections people: Marisel Hernandez (Chair, CBE,) Charles Holiday, Jr. (Executive Director CBE), Adam Lasker (General Council, CBE), Sandra Aspera (Assistant Director CBE) and Lane Gough (Executive Consultant CBE). We asked the

same questions as were asked of the Cook County Clerk's Office. The answers to all our questions were written up and sent to all local Leagues.

- On April 21, 2021 the LWVCC Voter Service Committee invited the suburban Leagues to participate in a virtual post-election meeting to discuss their experiences in connection with the April Consolidated Elections. We were especially interested to hear about their experiences with virtual candidate forums. 11 suburban leagues participated. Notes were taken during the meeting and sent to all local Leagues.

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 November General Election. This was challenging as WTTW did not allow any in person recordings of candidates. Candidates running for US Senate US Congressional Districts in the WTTW Viewing area, State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Commissioner of the Board of Review and MWRD Commissioners where either allowed to submit a 3-minute video or utilize the one they filmed for the Primary with WTTW. These videos were posted on its website along with the candidate's biographies. To date, the total traffic for the 2020 election was 580,000 as compared to the March Primary with 306,271 pageviews. This continues to be a worthwhile project for voters, WTTW and the League. We hope to continue partnering with WTTW.

Web Site/ Social Media

The LWVCC web site had information and links to useful information regarding the November 2020 election and April 2021 Consolidated Elections. During the November 2020 elections LWVCC posted voting tips on the web site, and tips were also posted weekly on social media.

LWVIL Voters Guide:

The LWVCC Voter Service Committee provided questions for candidates running for Cook County Offices. These questions were posted on the LWVIL Voters Guide and answered by candidates.

Thank You to the Committee:

Thanks to the following committee members for all their hard work:

Carolyn Casentino, Chris Rhys, Diane Edmundson, Georgia Gebhardt, Helene Gabelnick, Pris Mims and Cynthia Schilsky, President, LWVCC.

From Nancy Marcus, Voter Service Chair

