

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton has established a new Communications Committee to review and undertake ways of communicating with the membership. In the meantime, you are receiving this "interim" VOTER to keep you up-to-date on what's happening.

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## This week

### **Wednesday, September 16:**

LWV Book Club discussion on "The Glass Castle" by Jeanette Walls at 7:00 p.m. at Nancy Bielawski's home.

### **Thursday, September 17:**

Program on "The Politician and the Reptile," addressing redistricting reform and the Independent Map Amendment project at the Wheaton Park District Community Center with speakers Dr. Shannon Burns, Illinois State Representative Mike Fortner, and Paula Lawson, former President of LWVIL and current Issues Specialist for Campaign Finance Reform and Redistricting. [Join us at 7:00 p.m.](#) for special

## Thank you

### **Thank you to our 2014-15 sponsors:**

Armbrust Plumbing  
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begin at 7:30 p.m.

## Coming Up

### DISCUSSIONS OVER DRINKS

Our Tuesday October 13, Discussion over Drinks will be on the topic “Independent Map Amendment, Will the Third Time be the Charm” at 6:00 p.m. at Cooper’s Corner on Roosevelt Road in Winfield. Our speaker will be Dr. Shawn Healy from the McCormick Foundation’s Democracy School program. Shawn is recognized as one of the authorities on the benefits of a “fair map” system and the results when other states have instituted such plans. He is a speaker who is in wide demand to discuss many of the challenges in getting people to vote. He spoke on a panel at the state league in June on the topic of why people don’t vote.

Shawn will trace the past events, challenges, how those challenges have been handled and will explain the Importance to us of why this issue needs to be placed on a ballot for a public vote. Copies of the petitions will be available that evening or for you to take home and circulate.

Come, [invite others who might be interested in this topic](#), and see your league friends and meet new ones. This event is free of charge, there is a cash bar, and the league board is sponsoring some light appetizers. This is another way your League is helping educate the community about issues that will affect this state for years to come. Don’t miss it!

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and all our League  
members who made  
donations this past  
year!

## News you need to know

### **WE WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!**

The Wheaton LWV is conducting a membership survey. Survey results will help us plan programs and activities that suit your interests and needs. Your input is important and we hope you will take a few minutes to tell us what you want from the LWV by responding to the survey. Watch your email: the survey will be emailed to you in October and will take less than five minutes to complete. Once the survey results are tabulated, you will receive a copy of the final report. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

### **WHEATON LIBRARY DISPLAY**

Our league is featured in a display case at the Wheaton Public Library through the month of September. The Display includes an antique voter machine, photos of league activities, celebrates 60 years since the inception of our local league chapter, and also recognizes 95 years since the national league was formed and the voting rights for women legislation was passed. The display is on the main floor lobby, directly between the checkout desk and the reference desk. [Please thank the library staff](#) for allowing the membership committee to put it there.

### **NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT STUDY**

We have an opportunity to participate in a Constitutional Amendment Study which was adopted at the June 2014 Convention in Dallas. The impetus for the study actually came with the Supreme Court ruling on Citizens United in 2010. LWVUS, which had filed an amicus brief in the case and also testified before Congress after the ruling, responded with a motion at the 2012 Convention to the affect that "LWVUS will advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the

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expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.”

This study is also about the possibility of an amendment convention to be attended by state delegates who would propose one or more constitutional amendments to the US Constitution. Once 2/3 (34) states make such a proposal, Congress must call for a convention. The last time there was a national convention was in 1787 when the US Constitution was proposed. At this point in time (August 2015), there are either 32 or 34 states that have proposed an amendment convention. The correct number depends on how the count is made. FYI, Illinois is one of those states that has proposed such a convention.

All members interested in participating in this important study, please contact Di Niesman. The consensus results are due on December 1, 2015.

Note: A second study from LWVUS on Campaign Finance Reform positions will begin in December, 2015, with consensus results due on February 1, 2016. If you cannot participate in the Constitutional Amendment study, you will have another opportunity to join a study group at the end of the year.

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

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