

President's Corner



Dear Leaguers,

The holidays are right around the corner so, of course, our attention turns to -- February elections! The primary has been moved up because of the presidential primaries, but there are a number of interesting and important items on local ballots. Our December meeting will feature 3 of these propositions. January will explore another, with a look ahead at November 2008 and the question of a Constitutional Convention.

At our December meeting, Linda Abernathy, the City of Champaign Township Supervisor will speak about an advisory referendum on the Champaign ballot concerning funding for township relief. Also, two members of the Urbana Park District Board will speak about the referendum to raise the tax levy for the Urbana Park District. And finally, Durl Kruse and Al Klein will speak about the ballot initiative to institute instant runoff elections in the City of Urbana.

Instant runoffs, generally, are used in multi-candidate elections so if the candidate you vote for first is at the bottom, your second vote can be counted for another candidate. But the devil is in the details, so this discussion should be very informative of the pros and cons of instant runoff, and of interest not just to Urbana voters but to us all.

See you December 13th at the Urbana City Building.

Trisha

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Primary Election  
February 5, 2008

Be Informed !

Speakers at the December general meeting of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County will discuss three referenda issues that are expected to be on the ballot at the February election.

Linda Abernathy, City of Champaign township supervisor, will discuss the advisory referendum to restore general assistance funding to previous levels in the township.

From the Urbana Park District, Vicki Mayes, Executive Director, and Nancy Delcomyn, Vice-President of the Park Board, will discuss the needs of the Park District and how the funds provided in the tax increase referendum will be used to provide services that have been requested by the public.

Presenting the pros and cons of the City of Urbana instant runoff voting referendum will be Durl Kruse (pro) and Al Klein (con).

The meeting will be held at the Urbana City Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 12:00 noon, with a brown bag at 11:30. The public is invited to attend. Parking is available in the metered spaces in the lots to the north and east of the city building, in the parking garage north of Lincoln Square Village, and along the streets.



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Natural Resources Committee  
East Central Illinois Environmental Alliance

The Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters held a meeting with many interested local environmental groups on October 29, 2007. That group decided to form the *East Central Illinois Environmental Alliance* with the League of Women Voters as convener.

At the present time a number of important decisions regarding land use, water use, and environmental quality are being made in Champaign County. Various local environmental groups are working to influence the outcome of these decisions. This is an initial step in putting a structure in place for communication among these groups. When communication between groups is lacking some issues are not addressed, some groups learn of pertinent issues too late to have effective input, and efforts are often duplicated.

We will have had a second meeting to bring groups together on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 7 p.m., West Lounge, Wesley Methodist Church.

At that meeting Bradley Uken, Manager, Champaign County Farm Bureau, will have given a presentation on the Regional Watershed Planning Committee as it begins a two year study of the Mahomet Aquifer. We will also continue to discuss local issues and ways to facilitate communication among environmental groups on local issues.

Stuart Levy of LWVCC has set up a listserv (email list) on Prairienet for ECILEA. The new listserv is our first step in improving communications. In the future we also plan to have a web site, and to hold quarterly meetings.

Messages emailed to [ecilea-list@lists.prairienet.org](mailto:ecilea-list@lists.prairienet.org) are broadcast to all subscribers to the list. Others can view the messages online.

Subscribe, get list information or read past messages at:  
<https://mail.prairienet.org/mailman/listinfo/ecilea-list>.

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*The following information is copied from the ECILEA-LIST information page:*

<https://mail.prairienet.org/mailman/listinfo/ecilea-list>

ECILEA-LIST, the mailing list for the East-Central Illinois Environmental Alliance, is a place for local environmental organizations and interested individuals to discuss issues and activities that go beyond one organization's scope. If you're trying to find out what's known locally about some issue, if you're trying to get discussion going, if you'd like to let people know of an action or event of general interest, this could be a good place to do it.

ECILEA was formed in Oct 2007 at a meeting called by Carolyn Casady-Trimble of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County's Natural Resources Committee.

- Some ground rules, until we decide to change them:
- Prairienet.org is the list host, and we must follow its policies, including no commercial use (but it's OK to mention prices for non-profit events)
  - List archives are public. Anyone, including web searchers, can read what's written here. We can reconsider this later if desired.
  - Anyone is welcome to join.
  - You may choose to hide your name from other list members. By default, any list member can see who is on the ECILEA list.
  - Anyone, including non-list-members, may post. (We could filter non-members' messages through a moderator if we start getting too much spam.)
  - Some lists separate "announcements" from "discussions". We could do that if need be, but for now we can say both are welcome on this list.

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## Champaign-Urbana Cable TV Franchise Discussions

The Urbana City Council meets on Dec. 10 and the Champaign City Council meets on Dec. 11 in study sessions whose agendas include discussions of C-U Cable TV Franchise Agreements, including proposals concerning Public Access channels.

The Public Access Committee Report of the C-U CATV Commission is available on the City of Urbana Website at [www.ci.urbana.il.us/](http://www.ci.urbana.il.us/). Under "What's New" go to "C-U Cable Franchise Renewal Assessments". The Urbana and the Champaign documents are both available there.

The councils broadcast their meetings live on channel 5 (Champaign) and channel 6 (Urbana). To make comments, attend the study session in your city.