

# League of Women Voters® of Indiana



## Celebrating the League's Birthday and Presidents' Day

*Celebrating our Past, Recognizing our Present,  
Looking to our Future*

**February 14, 2021**

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# Agenda

*\*all times listed EST/CST*

1:20/12:20

*Slide show while participants join*

1:33/12:33

*Welcome: Barb Schilling introduces Amy Miller to welcome attendees*

1:40/12:40

*Linda Hanson introduces Melissa Gentry for her presentation: Mapping Indiana Suffragists to be followed by Q&A*

2:20/1:20

*Short Break and slide show while everyone finds a beverage for toasting!*

2:25/1:25

*Toasts:*

*Gail Pebworth: Happy Birthday, LWV!*

*Judy Bradford: In appreciation, Past State Presidents  
and Past and Present Local League Presidents*

2:45/1:45

*Linda Hanson introduces Ruth Greenwood for her presentation:  
Redistricting, Partisan Gerrymandering, and Proportional Representation  
to be followed by Q&A*

3:30/2:30

*Linda Hanson—LWVIN Programming and Advocacy Updates  
Barb Schilling—Thanks, and adjourn until Convention!*

## Speakers

To celebrate our past, **Melissa Gentry** will present ***Mapping Indiana Suffragists***

Melissa Gentry is the Map Collection Supervisor at the Ball State University Libraries' GIS Research and Map Collection.



Ms. Gentry's multimedia story-maps depict some of the people and places connected to the history of women's suffrage. Complete with ups, downs, sometimes dramatic and "less than ladylike" but always colorful individuals and events, her talk incorporates historic photographs, correspondence, diaries, club minutes, oral histories, movies, newspapers, music, and artwork from the collections of Ball State University. With these sources, she introduces national and Hoosier women suffragists like

Ida Husted Harper, Madam CJ Walker, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott while highlighting Hoosier cities connected to the local and national suffrage movements.

<https://magazine.bsu.edu/2020/09/22/suffrage-expert-maps-a-womans-place-in-historic-movement/>

<https://www.chautauquawawasee.org/melissa-gentry-mapping-indiana-womens-suffrage-movement/>

To help us look to our future, **Ruth Greenwood will speak on *Redistricting, Partisan Gerrymandering, and Ranked Choice Voting*.**

Ruth Greenwood is Co-Director, Voting Rights and Redistricting for the Campaign Legal Center (CLC: Advancing Democracy Through Law).



She is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has been working in voting rights for over ten years. She litigates a variety of redistricting cases, with a particular focus on ending partisan gerrymandering and promoting minority representation. Ruth litigated two partisan gerrymandering cases from the trial level to the Supreme Court of the United States (*Whitford v. Gill* and *LWVNC v. Rucho*), and has advised dozens of states on how to draft and implement independent redistricting commissions.

Ruth was previously the Lead Counsel for Voting Rights at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and prior to that a Redistricting Fellow with the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute. She received her Masters in Law from Columbia Law School in 2009 and

her undergraduate law and science degrees from the University of Sydney in 2005 and 2003. Ruth is a lecturer on law at Harvard Law School.

<https://campaignlegal.org/staff/ruth-greenwood>

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/meet-the-australian-lawyer-trying-to-fix-the-us-electoral-system-a-vote-at-a-time-20180113-h0hwz5.html>

<https://www.law.columbia.edu/news/archive/keeping-democracy-within-lines>

<https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ijlse/vol5/iss1/9/>

## LWVIN Board List

NAME	LOCAL LWV
Linda Hanson Co-President, Redistricting Reform	Muncie-Delaware County
Barb Schilling Co-President, 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair	Calumet Area
Sue Webster 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Development & Fundraising Chair	Porter County
Kelly Sanford 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	South Bend
Tom Gardiner Treasurer, Club Express	Muncie-Delaware County
Karen Martoglio Secretary, New Leagues	Greencastle
Tracy Heaton de Martinez Director, DEI Chair	Indianapolis
Judy Kapoun Director, Gun Safety Advocate	Muncie-Delaware County
Kimber Sorenson-Brugh Director, Membership	South Bend Area
Meg Connolly Director, Redistricting Reform	Southwestern
Amy Smith Director, VOTE 411	Greencastle
Peggy Thompson- Rutledge Director, Membership	MAL
Patrice Waidner Director, Voter Services	Hamilton County

## LWVIN Past Presidents

YEARS	NAME	LOCAL LWV
1920-22	Helen Beardsley	Elkhart
1922-23	Katherine Greenough	Indianapolis
1923-23	Alice Foster Mullins	Fort Wayne
1924-25	Corinna Barnes	Indianapolis
1925-26	Mrs. B.B. White	Terre Haute
1926-28	Mrs. Frank Streighthoff	Indianapolis
1928-29	Katherine Greenough	Indianapolis
1929-34	Leora Teetor	Hagerstown
1934-38	Kate Campbell	Indianapolis
1938-42	Irene Merrell	Indianapolis
1942-46	Carolyn Goodwin Harvey	Indianapolis
1946-50	Mary Fuller	Indianapolis
1950-52	Virginia Brannon Manning	Marion
1952-54	Mrs. Austin Clifford	Bloomington
1954-59	Willie Campbell	Indianapolis
1959-61	Louise Montgomery	Indianapolis
1961-62	Mary McKinzie	Indianapolis
1962-63	Fern Weber	Lafayette
1963-65	Louise Montgomery	Indianapolis
1965-67	Millie Pilot	Hammond
1967-69	Millie Richey	Indianapolis
1969-73	Judith Head	Columbus
1973-75	Barbara Zimmer	Indianapolis
1975-77	Ginny Webb	Lafayette
1977-79	Becky Meier	Bluffton
1979-82	Bobby Jaffe	Gary
1982-83	Fran Shoup	Hamilton County
1983-85	Nancy Smith	Indianapolis
1985-88	Dinah Farrington	Hendricks County
1988-91	Pat Carey	Indianapolis
1991-95	Melissa Durr	Muncie
1995-97	Paulette Vandegriff	MAL
1997-99	Dalyte Hartsough	Hamilton County
1999-01	Harriet Wilkins	Indianapolis
2001-03	Paulette Vandegriff & Harriet Wilkins	MAL & Indianapolis
2003-05	Edith Dallinger	Montgomery County
2005-05	Peggy Evans	Terre Haute
2006-09	Joanne Evers	Greater Lafayette

2009-13	Karen Kay Leonard	Indianapolis
2013-14	Susanne Gaudin	Brown County
2014-15	Amy Olson Miller	Indianapolis
2015-17	Erin Kelley & Lisa Plencner	Indianapolis & South Bend Area
2017-19	Oscar Anderson & Patsy Hoyer	Montgomery County & Greater Lafayette
2019	Oscar Anderson & Linda Hanson	Montgomery County & Muncie-Delaware County
2020	Linda Hanson & Barb Schilling	Muncie-Delaware County & Calumet Area



## Attendee List

First Name	Last Name
Louise	Anderson
Joyce	Ballinger
Nancy	Barber
Teresa	Basey
Rima	Binder
AMY	BLACK
Laura	Blackthorn
Kathi	Bondi
Pat	Boy
Judy	Bradford
Nancy	Carlson
Cheryl	Chapman
Lois	Clark
Margaret	Connolly
Linda	Conyers
Marian	Cooley
Diane	Crabtree
Dolly	Craft
Marcia	Daehler
Mary	Dawald
Melissa	Dees
Linda	DeHahn
Albertine	Dent
Lisa	Dick
Barbara	Domer
Catherine	Duchovic
tom	duffy
Jo Ann	Engquist
Sue	Errington
Margaret	Evans
PAULA	EVANS
Joanne	Evers
Lauren	Feeec
Sue	Fettchenhauer
SUSAN	FISCHBACH
Nancy	Fitzgerald-Bellovary
Shari	Frank
Jean	Gadziola

Melissa	Gentry
Donna	Giroux
Sabrina	Glidden
Susan	Glowacz
Mary Jo	Gorman
Ruth	Greenwood
Luan	Greubel
Linda	Hanson
pat	harris
janet	harvey
Tracy	Heaton de Martinez
Cynthia	Heckman-Davis
Marti	Heline
Nancy	Hensel
GlendaRae	Hernandez
Kathryn	Hillman
Helen	Hudson
Penny	Hughes
LaQuita	Hughes
Stacey	Ingram
Linda	Johnsen
betsy	kachmar
Judith	Kapoun
Joan	Karp
Paula	Keller
Vivienne	Khokhar
Iris	Kiesling
Nancy	Kohn
judith	kratzner
Lynda	Krueger
Carol	Laursen
April	Lidinsky
Kristina	Lindborg
Pam	Locker
Nancy	Machnikowski
Jane	Malless
Karen	Martoglio
Karen	Martoglio
Mary	McAfee
Nancy	McCammon-Hansen
Kourtney	McCauliff

Alice	McColgin
Amy	Miller
Molly B	Moon
Regina	Moore
Sheila	Niezgodski
Cheryl	Nix
Sharon	Parker
Gail	Pebworth
Veronica	Pejril
Margaret	Perdue
Cindy	Peters
Lisa	Plencner
Clare	Pokorny
Cathy	Potter
Nancy	Reiter
Deb	Rotman
Regina	Ruddell
Julia	Ryan-Perkins
Kelly	Sanford
Bonnie	Schaaf
Heidi	Schaefer
Barbara	Schilling
Susie	Schoeff
Andrew and Sharon	Seager
Amy	Smith
Liz	Solberg
Adelia	Sorge
Phyllis	Sovola
Paula	Spart
Ellyn	Stecker
Jo	Sullivan
Deb	Switzer
Peggy	Thompson-Rutledge
Andrea	Tobochnik
jill	Tulchinsky
Una	Turley
Paulette	Vandegriff
Patrice	Waidner
Nancy	Walter
Jorgena	Watson
Ginny	Webb

Susan  
Terri  
Susan  
Harriet  
Janie

Webster  
Weems  
Wilder  
Wilkins  
Young

## Upcoming Events

### Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission Public Hearings

Hearings will be held virtually for each of the nine U.S. Congressional districts:

Register for the public hearings in advance at [Want Fair Redistricting?](#)

Feb. 24, 7 – 9 p.m. Congressional District 7

March 3, 7 – 9 p.m. Congressional District 5

March 6, 2 – 4 p.m. Central Time, Congressional District 1

March 10, 7 – 9 p.m. Congressional District 9

March 13, 3 – 5 p.m. Congressional District 3

March 16, 7 – 9 p.m., Congressional District 6

March 18, 6 – 8 p.m. Central Time, Congressional District 8

March 23, 7 – 9 p.m. Congressional District 4

March 30, 7 – 9 p.m. Congressional District 2

**May 1                      LWVIN State Convention, virtual**

**June 24-27              2021 National Council, virtual**

## Sunshine Week: Putting Public Access & Open Door Laws to the Test- Again

*"Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people,  
who have a right and a desire to know."  
John Adams*

Transparency in government is essential to an informed public and an informed public is crucial to a healthy democracy. Our elected and appointed officials have a duty to operate out in the open and we as citizens have a responsibility to stay informed.

Indiana's Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act is vital legislation that not only instructs elected and appointed officials what they can and cannot do but also spells out the rights that citizens have to help them stay engaged in our participatory democracy.

Sunshine Week was established in March 2005 as a national initiative led by the American Society of News Editors to educate the public about the importance of open meetings laws, open records, and government accountability.

**In honor of Sunshine Week, local leagues can educate their members about the process of requesting public records. They can also educate elected and appointed officials about the public's right to access public records by making requests for documents during the week of March 15th.**

Under Indiana State Code, a public record is any writing, paper, report, study, map, photograph, book, card, tape recording, or other material that is created, received, retained, maintained, or filed by or with a public agency and which is generated on paper, paper substitutes, photographic media, chemically based media, magnetic or machine readable media, electronically stored data, or any other material, regardless of form or characteristics.

When requesting a public record, it is recommended that an individual call the public agency to determine how they want the request to be made. Some agencies have forms available or will want all requests to be made by email. If a request is made in person or by phone the public agency must respond to the request within 24 hours after any employee of the agency receives the request. If a request is mailed, faxed or emailed, a public agency must respond within 7 calendar days of the receipt of that request. The law only requires a response that the request has been received and not the actual production of the requested document. The requested item must be produced in a reasonable period of time.

If a request is denied the denial must include a statement of the specific statutory reason and the name and title of the person responsible for the denial.

Requested public documents may be viewed at the office of the agency at no charge and photos may be taken of the documents (there are a few exceptions to this rule). A public agency can charge a reasonable fee for paper copies. Generally speaking black and white copies should be no more than 10 cents per page and 25 cents for color copies.

The PDF of the Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act can be found at:

[http://www.in.gov/pac/files/PAC Handbook update draft 7 17 2013 \(changes accepted\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/pac/files/PAC_Handbook_update_draft_7_17_2013_(changes_accepted).pdf)



14 February 2021

## Redistricting Reform/Fair Maps Report Linda Hanson

LWVIN is part of both the LWVUS initiative **People Powered Fair Maps** and the **All IN for Democracy** bold project to model redistricting to benefit voters rather than political parties.

We received two Fair Maps grants from LWVUS for 2020-2021 that are allowing local leagues as well as the state league to conduct both **education** and **lobbying** tasks. We can't do the latter if we don't do the former. The **Fair Maps grants** can be used for both. Thirteen grants have been awarded to local leagues predominantly for education as they reach out to their local communities.

LWVIN has sponsored a **virtual film series** as part of our larger effort this legislative session to focus on Indiana's redistricting process--and to push for greater transparency. Collaborative efforts by the League, Common Cause, and 22 other non-partisan organizations in our All IN 4 Democracy coalition have not budged the state legislature on redistricting reform since the legislative study committee's recommendation was submitted in October 2016. So, we are expanding our efforts to influence the legislature.

The series of documentaries was designed to engage participants in the issues impacted by redistricting—to educate and encourage advocacy for Fair Maps. Our panelists helped to highlight the broad impact of gerrymandering as the ultimate voter suppression tool: **Hal Turner** (Board of Elections, Monroe County) and **Olisa Humes** (President of NAACP chapter, Columbus, IN); **Sheila Kennedy** (Retired Professor of Law and Policy, School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI), **Paul Helmke** (former Ft. Wayne Mayor, now Director of the Civic Leaders Center at IU), and **Peggy Welch** (IN State Rep. gerrymandered out of district in 2011); and **Jesse Kharbanda** (Exec. Director, Hoosier Environmental Council), **Jennifer McCormick** (Former and last elected IN State Superintendent of Public Instruction), and **Robert Millman** (Film maker, *Line in the Street*).



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There were 493 individual registrants for the series on zoom; of those, 205 attended *Suppressed*, 252 attended *UnCivil War*, and 185 attended *Line in the Street*. The programs were also livestreamed on our Facebook event. The first two films, *Suppressed* and *UnCivil War*, highlight voter suppression and efforts to use redistricting to gain and keep political power. The third, *Line in the Street*, looks to possibilities for fair maps and fair voter representation. We hope the film series will encourage participants to attend the Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) public hearings, to spread the word to friends and neighbors, and become more involved in advocating for Fair Maps for Indiana.





Our **influence campaign** (Lobbying) is heavily tied to our All IN 4 Democracy coalition's **Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)**.

All IN for Democracy, the coalition built in 2015 from our earlier IN Coalition for Redistricting Reform, is redoubling efforts in the next few months to provide opportunities for citizens' voices to be heard. The coalition has created a citizens' commission to draw district maps and model how this process could be done to the benefit of all voters in Indiana. All-IN solicited applications for the **Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)** and received nearly 300 for the nine-member commission.

From the many outstanding applicants, about 35 were interviewed for three Republican, three Democrat, and three Neither-R-nor-D positions as well as for alternates and technical and legal support teams. The nine commission members are listed below.

**Republican members:**

- Clara Glaspie of Indianapolis is a longtime Republican activist who was the first Black woman to participate in the Richard G. Lugar Excellence for Women Leadership series.
- Leigh Morris of LaPorte is the former Mayor of LaPorte and retired as the CEO of the community hospital there.
- Marilyn Moran-Townsend of Ft. Wayne is the CEO of CVC Communication and a co-founder of AVOW, Advancing Voices of Women, a group to support and empower women as civic leaders.

**Democrat members:**

- Missie Summers-Kempf of Portage is active in a number of groups organized around racial justice and environmental issues in Northwest Indiana.
- Xavier Ramirez of Carmel is a student at Indiana University who works with the Civic Leader Learning Center as a student advisory board member.
- Ranjan Rohatgi of South Bend is Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saint Mary's College where he developed a class called "Mathematics of Voting."

**Neither Republican nor Democrat members:**

- Christopher Brandon Harris of Hammond is a project manager for a commercial construction general contractor and participates in the Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation.
- Sonia Leerkamp of Ninevah is the former Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney who serves on the board of the Brown County League of Women Voters.
- Charles Taylor of Muncie is a Professor of Political Science at Ball State University who has moderated numerous political forums and is committed to civic education.

The Commission will be holding **virtual public hearings** in late February and March to gather public input from all nine congressional districts about the criteria that should inform reapportionment. ALL-IN will also sponsor a **map drawing contest** and encourage citizens to draw and submit their maps using criteria identified during the public hearings. **Winning maps and the Commission's report of criteria citizens consider important for drawing fair maps will be delivered to the legislature (and made public) before the legislature meets to draw their maps this summer. Through that entire process but particularly during the legislature's special session to redraw the Indiana district maps, we will be reaching out to all those who have participated in any of our redistricting educational programs to inundate legislators with demands for transparency and Fair Maps.**

**Voter Service Coordinating Committee  
Patrice Waidner, Jorgena Watson, Ken Jones**

**2-13-21 Report to LWVIN Board**

**Legislation Bill Watch**

Provided all members with:

- \* A complete Legislative Messaging Plan containing Senate Elections and House Elections and Apportionment Committee Members and suggestions as to how and to whom to advocate.
- \* A flow chart of how a bill becomes law.
- \* Weekly notification for all upcoming Committee meetings have been provided to the VSCC members. The notifications contain what bills will be discussed, current LWVIN stance, links to the full bills and direct link to the video watch capability.
- \* Specific advocacy messaging templates. We hope these templates are utilized by the local leagues after enhancing with a local focus. This is especially important for those local leagues with constituents of Committee member Legislators.

All Senate and House Elections Committee meetings have been observed. Ongoing updates have been provided and continue to be honed for effectiveness for use by the local leagues.

**The 2020 General Election data** continues to be collected. Current completed Counties number 13 and 32 requests are outstanding.

Data is being accumulated in excel worksheets which will provide trend information. An aspect we can clearly see is that there is a high rate of around 30% of voters who use straight party ticket voting. This data then relates to our legislation advocacy support of eliminating straight party voting. Which relates to the Elections Committee discussion of how confusing the ballot is regarding straight party voting and down ballot candidate impact. We can determine a good view of trends when we have a more complete collection of counties.

## LWVIN WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVOCACY UPDATE 2/12/2021

The Indiana League continues to be a member of the Indiana Reproductive Roundtable, HAPA (Health Advocacy & Privacy Alliance) and the Indiana Equality Pay\$ Coalition.

**As the reproductive rights/equal pay advocate I am following 24 bills**, covering equal pay, abortion restrictions, health care for incarcerated women, sexual education, pregnancy & childbirth accommodation, paid family & medical leave, doula services, birth control coverage, maternal mortality, postpartum Medicaid coverage, and the child & dependent tax credit. **All of these bills are still sitting in committee, with these three exceptions:**

- **SB 399 (Abortion)**, which states that if the U. S. Supreme Court overrules Roe v. Wade or otherwise opens the door for outlawing abortion, the General Assembly would be mandated to convene a special session to consider legislation to restrict or outlaw abortion. Senator Liz Brown, the primary sponsor of SB 399, is the committee chair of Judiciary where the bill currently sits, so it is likely this bill will receive a hearing.
- **SB 10 (State Maternal Mortality Review Committee)** has passed the Senate. Unfortunately Liz Brown added this amendment before passage: "Requires the committee to: (1) determine whether an abortion was performed on the individual and whether the abortion contributed to the maternal mortality; and (2) include the findings in the committee's annual report." So this bill does NOT look like one we can support.
- **HB 1309 (Pregnancy accommodation)** has been reported favorably by the Employment, Labor & Pensions Committee. It "allows an employee to request an accommodation for the employee's pregnancy. Requires an employer to respond to an employee's request for an accommodation within a reasonable time frame." It DOES NOT require an employer to grant any accommodations and is NOT the pregnancy accommodation bill that progressive groups in the state were backing.

Here is a list of all the bills of interest in this session and the committees to which they were assigned. **The Senate deadline for bills to pass out of committee is February 18th and the House is the 16th.** If these bills do not receive a committee hearing by these dates, they will be dead this session. **The bills in red would further limit reproductive choice.**

### **COURTS & CRIMINAL CODE (HOUSE) Chairperson Republican Wendy McNamara**

HB 1349: Health care for incarcerated women

HB 1430: Protections for pregnant inmates

**HB 1439: Coerced abortions, protection of a fetus, and wrongful death or injury of a child**

### **EDUCATION (HOUSE) Chairperson Republican Robert Behning**

HB 1366: Comprehensive sexual health education

**EMPLOYMENT, LABOR & PENSIONS (HOUSE) Chairperson Republican Heath VanNatter**

HB 1011: Equal pay; wage disclosure protection  
HB 1136: Paid family and medical leave program  
HB 1192: Wage range inquiries  
HB 1245: Pregnancy and childbirth discrimination  
HB 1309: Pregnancy accommodation  
HB1358: Pregnancy and childbirth accommodation

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE (HOUSE) Chairperson Republican Martin Carbaugh**

HB 1350: Coverage for doula services  
HB 1525: Assigned assured plan for birth control coverage

**HEALTH & PROVIDER SERVICES (SENATE) Chairperson Republican Ed Charbonneau**

**SB 10: Statewide maternal mortality review committee**

**INSURANCE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (SENATE) Chairperson Republican Andy Zay**

SB 298: Doula services

**JUDICIARY (HOUSE AND SENATE) House Chairperson Republican Jerry Torr and Senate Chairperson Republican Liz Brown**

**HB 1310: Abortion**

**HB 1539: Protection of life**

**HB 1557 Abortion**

**SB 399: Abortion**

**PENSIONS & LABOR (SENATE) Chairperson Republican Phillip Boots**

SB 313: Paid family and medical leave program  
SB 314: Wage history  
SB 246: Pregnancy and childbirth accommodations

**PUBLIC HEALTH (SENATE) Chairperson Republican Brad Barrett**

HB 1155: Postpartum Medicaid coverage.  
**HB 1577: Telemedicine and abortion related services**

**TAX & FISCAL POLICY (SENATE) Chairperson Republican Travis Holdman**

SB 355: Child and dependent care tax credit

Pam Locker

LWVIN Women's Health Advocate

We start with overwhelming sadness at the loss of Co-Chair Jeanette Neagu. She was a bedrock for environmental stewardship and advocacy for decades in countless ways including her contributions as a past LWVIN board member right up to multiple recent emails, the last one just four days before her passing. Jeanette will certainly be missed.

Moving on as she would want us to, and with thanks to the Hoosier Environmental Council for their weekly updates, we have noted below the current status of environmentally related bills of most concern in the 2021 Indiana General Assembly (**red – oppose; green – support**). Only one bill that we support (**SB 373**) is moving; others are expected to die with no committee hearing in the chamber of origin. Many that we oppose are moving; see specific updates.

## **WETLANDS**

### **- SB 389 eliminates state protection of isolated wetlands.**

Passed out of the Senate; awaits House action.

Elaboration: 85% of Indiana's wetlands have already been destroyed. Of those remaining, 80-90% are isolated state regulated wetlands according to state government testimony. Both IDEM (IN Dept. of Environmental Management) and DNR (IN Dept. of Natural Resources) testified against the bill in the Senate committee hearing and the Governor has expressed some concerns. LWVIN submitted written testimony in opposition.

## **ENERGY**

### **- HB 1191 strips local government of the right to prohibit unhealthy energy resources and an amendment also makes it much harder for state funded universities to move forward with sustainable energy projects.**

Passed out of the House (along party lines with one R opposed); awaits Senate action.

**NET METERING** - These bills would make rooftop solar more affordable by extending net metering...

- **SB 249** for two years

- **SB 420** for five years

- **HB 1394** adds additional provisions for schools and local units of government.

Elaboration: In 2017, Indiana signed into law a controversial bill, SEA 309, that phased out "net metering," a program that provides solar owners a fair rate - a retail rate - for any solar electricity that they produce that is not used on-site. This helps make rooftop solar more affordable. In passing this law, Indiana became one of the first states in the U.S. to phase out net metering.

## **HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS (HOA)**

- **HB 1560** HOAs would not be allowed to restrict solar installations.

*(con't. on p. 2)*

## COAL ASH

- **HB 1469** protects our rivers and drinking water from coal ash and also increases safe recycling of coal ash; creates jobs in coal ash cleanup and recycling; improves safety during coal ash cleanup for workers and the community.

- **SB 367** similar to HB 1469 and would also reduce the ratepayer impacts from coal ash cleanup.

## CLIMATE

- **SB 373 promotes climate-friendly forestry and farming.**

Unanimous committee approval and will soon be up for a final Senate vote.

Elaboration: It encourages farmers and woodland owners to participate in carbon markets and benefit from their stewardship practices which will improve carbon sequestration. It also expands revenue options for two popular and successful state conservation programs, the President Harrison Conservation Trust and Clean Water Indiana. LWVIN submitted supportive testimony.

## FACTORY FARMS (CAFO's)

- **SB 411 eliminates** otherwise available **court remedies for protecting private property rights from damages caused by pollution from factory farms and other heavy industries** (e.g. smelters, refineries, landfills, coal mines) as long as the offending operation is in compliance with environmental regulations.

No hearing yet scheduled in the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee.

- **HB 1380** is similar to SB 411.

No hearing yet scheduled in the House Environmental Affairs Committee.

- **Senate Joint Resolution 14** – a dangerous “Right to Harm” constitutional amendment

No information posted.

Elaboration: It would amend Indiana's Constitution to create a new, fundamental right to “engage in diverse farming and ranching practices” such that “any law” that abridges the “right of farmers to employ or refuse to employ effective agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices,” i.e., factory farming, would be deemed unconstitutional.

- **HB 1472 requires responsible siting of factory farms.**

Elaboration: This bipartisan legislation would amend the RTFA (Right to Farm Act) to require responsible siting of factory farms and restore the legal rights of neighbors to protect their homes and families.

## FLOODWAY PROTECTION

- **HB 1436 undermines DNR's ability to protect floodways.**

Passed unanimously by House Judiciary Committee; awaiting full House action.

Elaboration: This bill is a bad idea for several reasons: (1) it would impose unnecessary financial burdens on already strapped administrative agencies; (2) it would deter IDEM and DNR from pursuing necessary enforcement actions or denying permits to avoid the financial risk of having to pay the other side's attorney fees; (3) it would place an undue burden on DNR to gather the requisite information and evidence necessary to make a decision on a proposed floodway project (instead of the applicant); and (4) it would force the DNR to issue floodway permits for ill-conceived projects that it would otherwise deny if it had the time and resources to gather the necessary evidence to support its decision.

Liz Solberg, Kristina Lindborg, Lisa Harris, Co-Chairs  
LWVIN Natural Resources Advocacy Coordination