

LWVIL 2016 Local League Legislative Interview Feedback Form

Local Leagues: Oak Park-River Forest and La Grange Area

State Senator or Representative: Sen. Kimberly Lightford

District No. 4 Date of Interview: March 14, 2016

League Interview Contact: Diane Moses (LWVOPRF); also attending were Mary Cay Murray (LWVOPRF), Jackie Paine (LWVOPRF), Linda Eastman (LWVLGA), and Laurie Braun (LWVLGA)

Please share your legislator's views on the following issues; responses of any length are welcome.

Fiscal Policy Sen. Lightford supports reinstatement of the 5% income tax level. She would also support a Fair Tax Amendment. She supports SB 2148 (corporate loophole closure); believes it would bring in significant revenue.

Gun Violence Prevention Did not discuss.

Voting Did not discuss.

Education Funding Higher education funding is a major focus for Sen. Lightford. She recently made an impassioned speech regarding the devastating effects of the budget stalemate on higher ed funding and MAP grants. Students will be unable to get degrees if they owe MAP dollars; accreditation is threatened; funds are distributed unfairly among public universities, with Chicago State getting less than others.

Criminal Justice Supports reduced penalties for drug possession. Cites much activity on criminal justice reform, many bills in Black Caucus to address Restorative Justice. Emphasizes educating juveniles in justice system to prevent lifetime of criminalization; working to reduce population of incarcerated juveniles and close some juvenile facilities. Wants to reduce sentences, provide housing and employment for ex-offenders while keeping society safe.

League of Women Voters of Illinois

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Environment Sen. Lightford was unaware of the Clean Power Plan but said she'd look into it. Jackie Paine asked about SB 2965 (prohibiting insecticides that kill bees); Sen. Lightford said she would support it.

Health Care Did not discuss.

Additional comment: Diane Moses asked the Senator about Move to Amend (overturning of Citizens United). Sen. Lightford agreed that unlimited contributions by corporations create an unfair disadvantage, and she said she'd help with this initiative.

Please return by mail, fax or email as soon as possible!

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