



November 22, 2022

Dear Lake Forest Caucus Executive Committee:

The Lake Forest Caucus and League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area have had a mutually respectful and productive relationship for decades. We recognize the effort that the Caucus Committee members put forth interviewing candidates, discussing their merits, and deciding upon their recommended slate. However, we are very concerned about what happened at your recent annual meeting, held November 9 at Gorton Center.

On that day general members voted by a significant majority to not support the Caucus Committee's recommended mayoral candidate. The Caucus Committee stated afterward that this vote was nonbinding and still planned to endorse that mayoral candidate.

There is no indication in your bylaws that general member votes are nonbinding. In fact, Section 2.01 clearly states that the general membership is eligible to attend and vote at public meetings, and the last sentence of Section 3.05 states that action will be taken on majority votes at public meetings.

Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. Based on your bylaws, and your invitation to members to attend your annual meeting, we believe your general membership had a reasonable expectation that their vote would be counted. Rejecting your membership's majority vote violates your bylaws and undermines the democratic process. League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area does not condone this decision.

Sincerely,

Beverly Adamczyk, Lynette Foss, and Emily Watts

Leadership, League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

CC: Illinois State Board of Elections

Enc: addendum

## **Letter Addendum, Copied and Pasted from Current Lake Forest Caucus Bylaws:**

Section 1.03 Purpose. The purpose of the Caucus shall be to serve the community by promoting civic engagement in the City of Lake Forest and, through the Caucus Committee, representing the community effectively in identifying, evaluating, and recommending qualified individuals to serve the community in elected or appointed volunteer positions, including candidates for...

Section 2.01 Caucus Membership. The general membership of the Caucus comprises all active registered voters residing in, and eligible to vote in municipal elections of, the City of Lake Forest. The general membership of the Caucus is eligible to attend, and vote on matters presented for Caucus approval at, all public meetings of the Caucus.

Section 3.05 Voting at Public Meetings. All voting by the Caucus membership concerning candidates for elected positions shall be by written ballot and the results shall be verified by at least two members of the Caucus Committee. Except as otherwise required by these Bylaws (e.g., Section 9.02 addressing Bylaw amendments), a majority vote of those members present at a duly convened meeting shall be required to take action on any matter presented for a vote.