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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Lives Matter

June 17, 2020—Roselle, Illinois—The League of Women Voters' mission of empowering voters and defending democracy is fundamentally tied to the Black Lives Matter movement—and it's also morally imperative.

In the aftermath of the 2014 murder of Michael Brown, Governor Rauner made Illinois one of only three states to sign into law wide-ranging law enforcement rules by early 2016. These included use of police body cameras, bias-free policing, and more data collection on arrest. We look to the Illinois State Legislature and Governor Pritzker to further refine and augment this legislation in response to the senseless murder of George Floyd and so many others.

Now more than ever, it's clear that our work to inform voters and hold the government accountable on the local and state level is where potential for positive change lies. As we have seen throughout the month of June, states are still holding important primaries, delayed due to COVID-19. Voters need to know where candidates stand on the issues of racial injustice and how their votes will directly impact their communities--in the near and the long term. We must also remain dedicated to our advocacy work that is focused on dismantling racism within our electoral system. This includes: People Powered Fair Maps, voting rights restoration for formerly incarcerated people, combating unfair voter purging, and fighting voter ID laws, and polling place closures.

The League of Women Voters of Roselle/Bloomingtondale is listening to our members and to civil rights leaders who demand justice and basic human rights for the Black community. Racism has been built into our social structures over hundreds of years; there is a lot to learn for those of us humble enough to listen and there is important work to be done. This year, the League of Women Voters Roselle/Bloomingtondale is participating in a statewide Criminal Justice Study to update the League of Women Voters of Illinois' position to better address current issues, such as racism, which will enable the League to lobby more effectively to overhaul a dysfunctional justice system. And, our organization holds moderated candidate forums in advance of every contested election so voters in the Northwest suburbs can ask the tough questions to ensure the very best leaders are seated in positions of authority.

We pledge to use our talents, drive, and mission to help amplify all our voices to drive the much needed changes we have prioritized as a League and we need as a nation. We cannot do this without your participation. Help us be League: Help us learn, help us listen, help us in the fight against racism and a flawed criminal justice system. Help make it clear that LWV stands behind Black Lives, because Black Lives Matter.

About the League of Women Voters® of Roselle/Bloomingtondale

Formed in 2012, the League of Women Voters of Roselle/Bloomingtondale provides information on topics that impact our local, state and federal government. The League works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Celebrating 100 years of experience and having grown to more than 800 local and state affiliations, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations. The League does not support, endorse or oppose political candidates. Membership in the League is open to men and women age 16 and over.

For more information about the League's events and monthly meetings, or to become a member of the League of Women Voters of Roselle/Bloomingtondale, please visit www.lwvrb.org or contact Roberta Borrino at 630-283-2894. And don't forget to 'like' the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lwvrb. For more information on the League of Women Voters of the United States, visit www.lwv.org, or the League of Women Voters of Illinois, visit www.lwvil.org.