

PROCLAMATION

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of the United States (“League”) was formed on February 14, 1920, at the Congress Hotel in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 1924, during a meeting at the Oak Park Arms, the Oak Park Civic League changed its name to the League of Women Voters of Oak Park, becoming a local chapter of the League of Women Voters of the United States; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park was incorporated on May 13, 1924, and held its first meeting on October 9, 1924, with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of women’s voices in furthering better government; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park became the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest on May 21, 1947; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest is one of more than 40 local Leagues in the state of Illinois and more than 700 local, county, and state Leagues in the United States; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that encourages all people to be informed and active participants in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest welcomes the participation of men and women from Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park and other surrounding communities in its efforts to improve government at local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest has, during the past 100 years, made significant contributions to good government in Oak Park, including its support of a full-time public health department, the adoption of the Village Manager form of government, campaign to change Illinois law to allow women to serve on juries, the adoption of permanent voter registration, and the adoption of civil service hiring practices; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest continues to promote good government by conducting voter registration drives, holding candidate forums, observing and reporting on government meetings, researching and making public findings on policy issues, and supporting the adoption of sustainable, environmentally-friendly regulations; and

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary on October 20, 2024, with a gala celebration to be held at the Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park.

NOW THEREFORE, the Oak Park Village Board recognizes and celebrates a century of activism by the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest, and their commitment to making democracy work; and

FURTHERMORE, we remind our citizens that democracy depends on their participation in the electoral process, not only by educating themselves on the issues, the candidates, and their party platforms but also and most importantly, through voting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Oak Park Village Board, hereby proclaim October 9, 2024, as a day to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest, and encourage all citizens to support its vision of a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

DATED this 16th day of September, 2024.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk