



News and information

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## **LEAGUE WANTS PEORIA AREA TO INVESTIGATE WATER BUY-OUT**

PEORIA — The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria recommends the Peoria City Council explore buying the water company.

“We think water is important,” said out-going LWVGP President Cheryl Budzinski.

After months of study by a specially-formed committee, she said, the Board of Directors of the League approved the water position on March 13. Members agreed unanimously, voting for the water resolution at the group’s annual meeting Thursday May 4, 2017.

The resolution states:

**Water is a necessary resource for human life, not a commodity. The most important attributes of a water utility are: transparency; local control of rates and quality, among other issues; local governance which is co-located with the water supply and service area; public oversight; high quality service; competitive rates.**

**The LWVGP believes financial analysis of public ownership of a water utility is warranted.**

This is the first time the local League has taken a formal position on this issue.

“We want to ensure the Peoria area gets the best bang for its water buck,” said in-coming LWVGP President Farrell Davies. “Water is our most valuable resource. It should be protected and used for the benefit of our community.”

Although current owner Illinois American Water Co. declined to participate, the study committee sought multiple opinions and input from those most affected. A public meeting on the group’s preliminary findings was held last fall. Feedback was incorporated into the final position.

For the full report, see [lwvgp.org](http://lwvgp.org).