

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM

THERESA LYONS FLANDERS (LWV of ST. CLAIR COUNTY) DIRECTOR

Theresa Lyons Flanders serves as the compliance officer for digital health/telemedicine and principal of disability resources and access services for OSF Healthcare in Peoria, IL. She holds a Master of Jurisprudence from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, and a Bachelor of Science from Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL. Prior to joining OSF Healthcare, she was a compliance investigation officer and strategy and compliance principal for a major health care system.

Flanders sets the strategic direction for the organizational culture of compliance by blending compliance, ethics, and integrity in evaluating compliance concerns within the organization. Flanders is a sought out speaker for patient privacy and non-discrimination in healthcare services. She's a member of the American Heart Association (AHA) Minority Council Member, American College of Healthcare Executives, It's Not Too Late Scholarship Organization, Health Care Compliance Association (HCCA), Association of Change Management Professionals. (ACMP), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE LWVIL BOARD

Even now, women continue to play an integral part of the suffrage movement. Continuing in the legacy of Mary White Ovington, I wish to inspire women across race and class lines by continuing to be an active and vocal supporter of women rights. I love volunteering with the League of Women Voters because it challenges me. There are a lot of injustices in the world, but none as consequential as not participating in the political process. Leadership in the League allows me to connect with local school districts, local government, and healthcare providers to discuss issues that touch every facet of our lives. I understand the power of a handful who have the ability to change policy and legislation. Realizing politicians cannot be experts on all issues, I enjoy bringing forth different lived experiences and new perspectives into areas of policy-making that directly help women and the community-at-large.

WHAT I HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN LWVIL BOARD MEMBER

First, I wish to bring downstate issues upstate. I wish to engage lawmakers across the state of fair share and opportunity. Other than public universities, community colleges, and prison, southern Illinois gets little economic activity. While Chicagoland seeks space, lower taxes, safe neighborhoods, and reasonable costs of living, southern Illinois counties look for highway money, high-speed internet investments, and funded schools. Living in a post-pandemic world, there is an opportunity to remotely migrate citizens who live in rural areas to urban communities for improved healthcare, education, and entertainment. This kind of engagement – especially politically – is essential for statewide candidates. Attaching more younger and people of color into our political fold will make other areas more viable and hopefully revivable.