

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

# President's Message

I WAS SO EAGER to vote on November 4 that I got to the polls at 7:15 am. I was the 38<sup>th</sup> person in line! I don't often wait in long lines. In fact, the last long line I waited in was for Thanksgiving pies at Marie Callendar's last Thanksgiving. I decided that this was more important, although the pie line was good practice.

The mood was upbeat, as strangers exchanged stories about why they were there so early in the morning. Mostly it was to vote before work, and how far they had to drive and how much traffic they expected to encounter when they left. The person in front of me in line was a new citizen and first time voter.

When I finally came to the front of the line, I found friendly and efficient poll workers checking people through quickly. A Spanish speaking bilingual poll worker helped the person in front of me navigate the process.

I had marked my sample ballot the night before, so I was ready to ink-a-vote my way through the long ballot quickly.

When I finished, there was still a line of people waiting. My polling place was at the temple school down the street from my house, and by the time I left, the Rabbi himself was out directing the heavy traffic in the school parking lot.

I spent the evening with my neighbor watching the returns. We ordered a pizza and made a night of it, switching from CNN to Fox to PBS to make sure we covered the gamut and didn't miss anything.

I enjoyed the day and playing my part in the democratic process. I hope you did as well.

Monica Marquez

## Calendar December 2008

Thursday  
December 4  
**Holiday Party**  
See page 2

Saturday  
January 31, 2009  
**County League Day**

Tuesday  
February 24, 2009  
**Burbank Primary Election**  
concludes at 8:00 pm

Saturday  
March 29, 2009  
**LWV Los Angeles County  
Annual Convention**

Tuesday  
April 7, 2009  
**Glendale Election**

Tuesday  
April 14, 2009  
**Burbank General Election**  
concludes at 8:00 pm



The  
League of Women Voters  
Glendale/Burbank  
cordially invites you to a

# *Holiday Party*

Thursday, December 4, 2006  
6:30pm  
Appetizers and Desserts

Rosa and Roger Frommer's home  
1762 Allen Avenue  
Glendale, California

RSVP by November 30  
Vera Naylor  
(818) 768-7663

**Kick off the holiday season**  
with the League  
at Rosa and Roger Frommer's beautiful home.

**There is no charge,  
but please consider bringing  
your favorite dessert to share.**

Appetizers are being prepared by students in  
the Culinary Arts program at  
Burbank High School



# 2008 The Glendale/Burbank League in Action

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*Our League has never been busier than in this election season. We were truly engaged in making democracy work in our communities of Glendale and Burbank with extensive Voter Service work. I want to describe to you what our dedicated members have been up to during the last three months.*

## **WE DISTRIBUTED ELECTION MATERIALS TO VOTERS THROUGHOUT OUR CITIES**

**Pros and Cons** – produced by LWV California which briefly describe the statewide measures and gives arguments for and against.

**Easy Voter Guide** - produced by LWV California for new and busy voters which give brief explanations of statewide ballot measures, presents the candidates for President, and describes how the voting process works

**Election Info** - produced by LWV Los Angeles County, which contained detailed information about the LA County Judicial candidates and brief analysis of Los Angeles County ballot measures.

In order to let our community know of our League's role in providing information to voters, we placed our League's address label on each piece of election material.

**Web based information** – our website linked to Smart Voter and Easy Voter so that voters seeking information on the internet would be able to access the outstanding information provided by the League.

## **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

Saturday, October 4, we taped a Pros and Cons program at the Burbank City Council Chambers for presentation on Burbank TV6. The Burbank television crew, always friendly and accommodating, helped us to make the presentation lively as well as informative.

The Speakers Bureau, which included Tom Carson, Dionisia Rodriguez, Laurie Collins, Joan Hardie, Mary Dickson, Anna Rundle, and me, then began extensive presentations throughout our community:

- Windsor Manor, Glendale
- Los Angeles Armenian Gay & Lesbian Association

- Sparr Heights Community Center, in cooperation with the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women
- California Democratic Club, Glendale
- Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
- American Association of University Women
- Burbank First Methodist Church
- Glendale First Methodist Church
- Burbank Kiwanis
- California Council for the Blind

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

We had two major voter registration events. The first was at the Valley Community Fair on September 28. Among the voters Joann Hardie and I registered, was an 18 year old. This would be his first election. Then, on October 15 and 16, Joan Hardie, Gwen Cochran, Anna Rundle and Inez Truger registered voters at DreamWorks, the movie studio. Movie studios are always great fun, not only because of the free lunch, but because they're so busy. Movie people move frequently, so they need to re-register often. They registered over 50 voters, and gave out forms to 20 more.

## **CANDIDATES' FORUM**

The highlight of our voter service was the Candidates' Forum on October 23. It was held in the Burbank City Council Chambers, with the cooperation of the City of Burbank. All candidates for Congressional Districts 27 and 29 participated in the forum, which was a very lively affair and received extensive coverage in the local press.

I would like to thank Connie Wilson, Burbank Voter Service Chair, for her tireless work behind the scenes pulling together the forum. I would also like to thank all the members of the committee, whose work made the forum possible:

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# Government Integrity Reform Agenda for the 111th Congress

## Statement of Reform Groups Announcing Government Integrity Reform Agenda for the 111th Congress November 6, 2008

*The following statement was issued by the Brennan Center for Justice, the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, the League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.*

**Read the groups' government integrity reform agenda for the 111th Congress below.**

**O**ur organizations worked hard to pass the landmark ethics and lobbying reforms that were enacted in the 110th Congress. At the time, we said that our next major battle would be to reform the way federal campaigns are financed.

A central theme of the 2008 presidential race was the need to fix Washington. President-elect Obama, for example, said during the campaign, "to fix health care we have to fix Washington."

In order to fix Washington, the fundamental problems caused by the undue influence of contributions over government decisions must be effectively addressed. While other issues on our reform agenda are important, the way Washington works is not going to change until we fundamentally change the nation's campaign finance laws.

**In order to accomplish this goal, the overriding priority on our reform agenda for the 111th Congress is to repair the presidential public financing system and to create a new public financing system for congressional races.**

The key role that influence-money played in creating the national financial crisis provides just one more example of the enormous costs to citizens and taxpayers that come from federal candidates being dependent on special interest groups, lobbyists, bundlers and large contributions for their campaign funds.

It is widely acknowledged that the absence of effective regulation and oversight played a major role in the massive financial crisis that has occurred. Campaign contributions to federal officeholders from the financial sector played a major role in thwarting such effective regulation and oversight.

It is no coincidence that during the past decade, the financial sector contributed \$1.5 billion to federal candidates and their parties, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, with 56 percent of the funds going to Republicans and 44 of the funds going to Democrats - a bipartisan approach to influence-seeking.

Our organizations call on President-elect Obama and members of Congress to take action to fundamentally reform the nation's campaign finance laws.

## The Budget Crisis Deepens

As we all sit here transfixed, watching the state budget sink ever deeper into the morass, our faithful readers may well wonder how to make sense of it all. What are the figures? What cuts and revenue increases have been proposed? Where is it all going? Check the LWVC website regularly for late breaking news on what the League is doing <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/budget/index.html>



## LWV Non-Partisan Policy

The League of Women Voters has a special history of maintaining its non-partisan approach. While we encourage our members to run for office, participate in party politics and help with campaigns, the League remains non-partisan by providing no support nor opposition to any candidate for office. Board members have restrictions on what they may do politically. Officers are further restricted to help maintain this reputation and to foster broad dialogue on issues. Policies exist at the local, state and national levels. The LWVGB Board wants you to know that the League at all levels does not and will not support or oppose any candidate.

LWVC CONVENTION 2009  
Long Beach, CA

# Catch the Wave to the Future



Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17



League of Women Voters of California®  
[www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)

save the date

# Stormwater Management and Low Impact Development

Charolette Fox, LWVC Natural Resources Director



*There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it.*

Plato: Dialogue of Critias 360 B.C.E.

The conservation of all natural resources is not a concept of recent origin. From the glassblowers of old who depended on stands of mature hardwood forests to heat their furnaces, to the building and construction industries of today, we are experiencing a renaissance in understanding about the impacts of a denuded landscape. Waters flow faster and untamed through our California watersheds and rain water is channeled down our urban streets when it could be saved and reused. Low Impact Development practices are innovative practices to manage urban stormwater runoff at its source. The issue is one with several considerations: economic, environmental, and social.

On January 8, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new report, “Reducing Stormwater Costs Through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices.”<sup>1</sup> Seventeen case studies from across North America show the economic viability of LID practices.

<sup>1</sup> The full report, including an Executive Summary and a Question and Answer fact sheet, can be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07>.

In explaining the goal of LID, Don Waye of the Nonpoint Source Control Branch of EPA said, “The goal is to mimic the way water moved through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse runoff close to its source. Some common LID practices include rain gardens, grassed swales, cisterns, rain barrels, permeable pavements and green roofs.”

Echoing the sustainable communities concept, new alliances are being formed by county stormwater managers, local water districts, urban planners, and developers to better understand the inter-relatedness of these disciplines. Conservation designs not only address water conservation, but the preservation of open space. Developers can use conservation designs to preserve important features on the site such as wetland and riparian areas, forested tracts, and areas of porous soils by not stripping the topsoil or compacting the subsoil from heavy equipment grading. The social benefit to the community is proximity to open space and the expanded recreational opportunities it affords.

LID is relatively new as a land use and urban planning tool. Two governmental agencies working on a Low Impact Development program are the City of Salinas and the County of San Diego. The program that Salinas adopts could become the model for that region. San Diego County has just completed their program guidelines and released a LID handbook for planners. The handbook is available at <http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/Resource/3~procguid/3~procguid.html>.

Members intrigued by the efforts of Salinas and San Diego may explore these issues using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outreach tools, available online here: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/toolbox/links.htm>.

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## On the Front Line of Democracy 2008 The Glendale/Burbank League in Action

- Rita Zwern, Moderator
- Linda Lammers, Co-Chair
- Gwen Cochran, Questions
- Dionisia Rodriguez, Questions
- Georganne Thomsen, Questions
- Tom Carson, Timekeeper
- Rosa Frommer, Timekeeper
- Mike Chapman, Greeter
- Susan Hallgren, Greeter

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Burbank TV6 crew, who ably taped the forum. As always they went out of their way to work with us and help the League present an outstanding program.

This has been the most exciting election in my memory. Never before have I been more engaged in the process. I have the League to thank for this, for getting me involved with the issues, and giving me an outlet for my election frenzy.

Monica Marquez

# Welcome New Members

**Sarpie & Caro Avanesian**

**Susan Hallgren**

**Lorna Leslie**

**David Ramirez**



## Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. All Citizens of voting age are welcome.  
Associate Membership is open to all others.

YES! I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (please check one or more of the following)

- \$60.00 for a one-year individual membership  
(includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$100.00 for a one-year household membership for  
two members who share the same address  
(includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$30.00 for a one-year student membership

I am unable to join League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my VOTER by email.

My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to League of Women Voters. Mail to  
Vera Naylor, 7714 Via Capri, Burbank CA 91504

**Gifts made payable to "LWV Education Fund" are tax deductible.**

# The Voter

THE VOTER IS PUBLISHED nine times a year by the League of Women Voter of Glendale/Burbank, California.

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Editor: Linda Lammers

Production: Carole Dougherty

Circulation: Anna Rundle

The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education advocacy.

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



**The Annual Fund Drive** continues this month. Our League has never been more engaged in community activities. Join the many members who have already given. Help the League continue its hands on work in the cause of Democracy.

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fax: 818.242.0525  
M-F 8:30-6:30  
Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4



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BURBANK/GLENDALE

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League websites:  
LWV Glendale/Burbank  
<http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>

LWV California  
<http://www.ca.LWV.org>

LWV United States  
<http://www.LWV.org>

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