

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

President's Message

I VOTED BY ABSENTEE BALLOT in the February election. I thought I was going to be out of town on February 5, so I ordered an absentee ballot for the first time. After some thought, and soliciting opinions from others I respect, I voted my choices right here at my desk, with my cat taking a nap nearby.

I think I prefer going to the polls to vote. I like the feeling of going to the polls. I'm always slightly nervous that something will go wrong, like there won't be parking or that my name won't be in the book, but that's never actually happened. I like the feeling of actively participating, of marking the ballot, and getting my little "I voted" sticker at the end.

Of course, I realize it's not how you vote that counts, but that you vote. And the League's work educating and encouraging voters is fundamental. Our League did its part to help the voters of Glendale and Burbank in the February election. On January 19th, **Dionisia Rodriguez, Joan Hardie, Anna Rundle, Tom Carson** and I taped a pro con forum on the ballot measures at the City Council Chambers in Burbank. Anna, Di and Tom also did a live pro con presentation at a local church. Many thanks to them for a job well done.

Monica Marquez

Thursday February 21 Celebrate the League's 88th Birthday

6:30 pm

Monte Carlo Deli
3103 W Magnolia
Burbank

RSVP Monica
818 760-3667

mmarquez47@earthlink.net

February 2008 Calendar

Tuesday
February 5
Election Day

Saturday
February 16
**California Voters First
Workshop-
Redistricting Initiative**
See pages 3 and 4

Thursday
February 21
**Celebrate the
League's 88th Birthday**
6:30 pm
Monte Carlo Deli
3103 W Magnolia
Burbank
RSVP Monica 818 760-3667
mmarquez47@earthlink.net

Saturday & Sunday
February 23-24
Voter Registration Drive
Citiwalk with the WWE
Call Monica 818 760-3667
mmarquez47@earthlink.net
See page 8

LWV-US Immigration Study Completed! By Tom Carson

THE IMMIGRATION STUDY COMMITTEE has completed its work. We held the two consensus meetings for our League in October and November, with excellent attendance—thanks to all who participated. The results were presented to the Board of Directors at their January meeting, and then submitted to LWVUS. The nationwide results of the Immigration Study should be available after the March meeting of the LWVUS Board of Directors.

Our committee members did an outstanding job! They included: **Chris Carson, Gwen Cochran, Dick Domes, Florence Domes, Nancy Burnet Kent, Monica Marquez, Di Rodriguez, Anna Rundle, Georganne Thomsen, and Connie Wilson.** All worked very hard in their research, our committee discussions and making presentations at the consensus meeting. They are all due thanks and commendations for a job very well done!

OUR LEAGUE PRESIDENT IN THE NEWS

PRESIDENT MONICA MARQUEZ was quoted in the January 20, 2008 edition of the *Glendale News-Press* regarding our League's support of campaign contribution limits in Glendale. Monica has appeared at a number of recent Glendale City Council meetings to speak in favor of campaign contribution limits, as well as restricting candidate access to absentee ballot applications.

California's Fiscal Outlook:

Legislative Analyst's Office Projections 2007-08 through 2012-13

Summary - November 14, 2007 (Reprinted with permission from LAO)

Deterioration of the 2007–08 Budget

AT THE TIME the *2007–08 Budget Act* was enacted in August 2007, the budget plan focused on closing the gap between General Fund revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year and maintaining a \$4.1 billion reserve. Since that time, the 2007–08 budget situation has deteriorated by almost \$6 billion. Under our forecast, absent corrective action, the state would end the current fiscal year with a \$1.9 billion deficit. The state's dimming fiscal outlook is due to:

- Continued softness in the state's economy lowering the forecast of revenues.
- Lower property taxes, driving state General Fund spending on K–14 education upwards.
- A likely delay in the sale of EdFund and a reduction in anticipated revenues.
- Delayed implementation of new tribal gambling compacts.
- A court-ordered payment to the state's teacher retirement system.

State Also Faces \$8 Billion Shortfall in 2008–09

In addition to a negative carry-in balance from 2007–08, we project the state will face an \$8 billion operating shortfall in 2008–09. Revenues are projected to grow by 4.6 percent, hampered by the ongoing effects of the weakened economy. On the expenditure side, spending is projected to grow by 7 percent—reflecting

both cost increases in most state programs and the end of many 2007–08 one-time budget solutions.

Multibillion Dollar Shortfalls Through 2012–13

Like in 2008–09, we project state costs will exceed revenues by \$8 billion in 2009–10. After that, the shortfall will drop to the range of \$3 billion each year. The primary factor responsible for this drop between 2009–10 and 2010–11 is that \$11.3 billion in previously issued deficit-financing borrowing would be fully paid off in the spring of 2010. This will free up over \$3 billion in annual debt service payments beginning in 2010–11.

LAO Bottom Line

In order to balance the 2008–09 budget, the state will have to adopt nearly \$10 billion in solutions. Addressing the state's current budget problem is even more urgent because we forecast a *continuing* gap between revenues and expenditures. A plan to permanently address the state's fiscal troubles must involve a substantial portion of ongoing solutions. This is not only because of the persistent operating deficits projected throughout the forecast, but also because of the downside risks inherent with the economy, General Fund revenue volatility, and a wide range of budgetary uncertainties. Making tough choices now will allow the state to move closer to putting its fiscal woes in the past.



CALIFORNIA VOTERS FIRST



Fair Independent Redistricting Standards Today

CALIFORNIA VOTERS FIRST WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 16 @ 10:30am-12:30pm

Location: LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
350 S. Bixel St. | Los Angeles, CA 90017

California Voters FIRST invites you to join us for a Voters FIRST Workshop!

The Voters FIRST Act will create a truly independent and open citizen's commission to draw legislative districts, putting an end to political gerrymandering and instead put cities and communities FIRST!

Get involved with the campaign

Help inform your neighborhood

Help gather signatures to get redistricting reform on the ballot

Tell other organizations

ONLINE RSVP: <http://www.commoncause.org/CA/Feb16Workshop>.

RSVP Contact: LaToya Jarrett. Phone: 213-252-4552

email: ljarrett@commoncause.org for further information.

Refreshments will be provided.



November 2008 Redistricting Initiative

I. Overview: 14-Person Redistricting Commission (5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 other) that would reconfigure California State Senate, California State Assembly and California Board of Equalization districts, using strict constitutional criteria.

II. Mapping criteria (in ranked order)

- a. Districts shall comply with the US Constitution, including equal population requirements.
- b. Districts shall comply with the Voting Rights Act.
- c. Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
- d. The geographic integrity of any city, county, or city and county, neighborhoods, or communities of interest shall be respected. Communities of interest shall not be defined as relations with incumbents, candidates, or parties.
- e. Districts shall be compact.
- f. To the extent possible, after the above criteria have been satisfied, districts shall be nested. Incumbent residences may not be considered; districts may not be drawn to protect incumbents.

III. Public Input

- a. The Commission shall establish and work through an open hearing process that subject to public notice and promoted through a thorough outreach program to solicit broad public participation.
- b. The Commission shall display draft maps for public comment to achieve wide public access.
- c. Public comment shall be taken for a minimum of 14 days from the date of public display.

IV. Transparency

- a. The Commission shall comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- b. The Commission shall provide a minimum of 14 days public notice for meetings (3 days for emergency meetings).
- c. All records related to and data considered by the Commission will be made broadly available, in multiple formats.
- d. Restrictions on ex parte communications
- e. The Commission shall issue a report explaining the basis upon which it made mapping decisions and include definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing the maps. Regarding the activities of the Redistricting Commission:

V. Adoption of a Plan

- a. 9 members shall represent a quorum.
- b. 9 votes shall be required for any official action.
- c. 9 votes (3 D, 3 R, and 3 other) are required to adopt a plan.
- d. The Commission shall complete redistricting by a date-certain—September 30, XXII.
- e. The final redistricting plan shall be subject to referendum.

VI. How is the Commission Chosen?

Step 1: The Applicant Review Panel narrows the pool to 60 persons.

- The State Auditor creates a public and transparent application process.
- The State Auditor establishes an Applicant Review Panel for the purpose of screening applicants, comprised of three randomly selected qualified independent state auditors (*1 D/1R/1other*)
- The Applicant Review Panel selects 60 of the most qualified applicants (*20R/20D/20 other*) on the basis of relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and diversity.
- The Applicant Review Panel presents the pool of 60 nominees to the four leaders of the CA State Legislature.

Step 2: The four Legislative Leaders have the option of striking applicant names from the pool of 60.

- The Legislative Leaders may strike up to two applicants from each subpool of 20 (a total of 8 possible strikes per pool). The pools may be reduced to *12 D/12 R/12 other*.

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The League of Women Voters Through the Decades!

Compiled by Kay J. Maxwell

This is the second in a series on the history of the League of Women Voters.

The 1920s:

Organization:

Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA. State Leagues were the keystone of the League's structure, and had the responsibility for organizing local Leagues. By 1924, the National League was organized in 346 of 433 congressional districts. Twenty-three state Leagues and 15 city Leagues maintained regular business headquarters, nearly all with one or more paid staff. A convention, held annually at first and then later biennially, of the state League representatives selected a program that for many years was national, state and local all in one. Local Leagues were not represented at the conventions and the state League delegates also chose the national officers and directors:

to the latter the Leagues looked for leadership which molded them together into one effective organization. The National Board continued the practice of extensive field work which had been so successful in the suffrage movement. Its members carried the enthusiasm and inspiration for the whole League to the remotest and smallest towns. The League had from the beginning the dual advantages of grassroots and central thinking, planning and leadership. That the League structure ran somewhat parallel to the structure of our federal system was an additional advantage because it provided experience which made our form of government more understandable.

(25 Years of a Great Idea, 1950)

During its first two decades, the League concentrated on study and getting needed legislation passed. All League program at the national, state and local levels was proposed by national Board program departments and standing committees and then authorized by the national convention. The national Board

furnished study materials for all national and some state items. This led to national Board and staff expertise and legislative successes that overshadowed the goal of political education of the public at large. The structure that developed in the departments and committees of the National League tended to build up special interests and specialists in subject matter. But there was a sense that another facet of League purpose—development of the well rounded, effective individual—suffered by comparison.

Issues:

League President Maud Wood Park called the first League program adopted in 1920 a kettle of eels. And no wonder! It contained some 69 items grouped in broad subject areas: child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public health and morals, and independent citizenship for

League President Maud Wood Park called the first League program adopted in 1920 a kettle of eels.

married women! The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.

The League also set up classes to train volunteer teachers for citizenship schools. And the League organized institutes to study defects in our system of government, initiated "Know Your Town" surveys, candidate questionnaires and meetings, and nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns activities. In 1928 the League sponsored "Meet the Candidates," the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum. Voters service efforts remain a hallmark of the League's services to the electorate today and laid the foundation for the efforts that make up the League's education program - from candidate debates and candidate questionnaires produced by Leagues throughout the country, to the myriad projects funded through the League of Women Voters Education Fund, which was founded in 1957. (For more information, see the section titled, League of Women Voters Education Fund and Overseas Education Fund.)

DECADES continued on page 6

The 1930s:

Organization:

The depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far-reaching change to the League. Membership fell from 100,000 in 1924 to 44,000 in 1934. The National League's budget was cut in half, necessitating a major reduction in staff and services to Leagues. Perhaps the most important change was that because of gas rationing, League members started meeting in small groups in their neighborhoods to discuss fundamental issues. These issues included the threat to democracy itself and the importance of the informed individual to the success of democracy. Grassroots activity thus was firmly institutionalized as a way of assessing concerns, studying and strategizing.

Issues:

League members worked successfully for enactment of the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts, as well as the Tennessee Valley Authority. In 1934, when federal and state government agencies were hiring thousands of employees to administer the new social and economic laws, the League launched a nationwide campaign in support of the merit system for selecting government personnel. In those years the League was the only national organization acting consistently for the merit system. And due, at least in part, to League efforts, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 removed hundreds of federal jobs from the spoils system and placed them under Civil Service.

The 1940s:

Organization:

The 1944 convention made major changes in the basic structure of the League, proclaiming it an association of members, rather than a federation of state leagues, and abolishing the department system of managing the various facets of the League program. At the 1946 convention, the name was changed to the League of Women Voters of the United States, and the national program was considerably shortened.

This action was based on the League's conviction that if the League was to help democracy succeed by increasing intelligent citizen participation in government, it must choose a restricted program which was suitable to widespread member participation and leave enough time and energy to take such a program to greater numbers.

(25 Years of a Great Idea, 1950.)

Members joined the League of Women Voters of the United States by enrolling in local Leagues in their communities. The local League became the basis of organization and representation in the League, while power was vested in the members. It is in and through the local League that members determine, directly and indirectly, what the League does and how it does it. Members influence League decisions either personally or through representatives at state and national levels by electing leaders, determining how money will be spent through adoption of budgets, choosing program, participating in the member agreement process and by deciding the bylaws.

At the same time, a continuing strong role for state Leagues was delineated. They were given responsibility for organizing and developing local Leagues and for promoting finance programs in the local Leagues to further the work of the Leagues as a whole, including transmission of funds adequate to support the national budget.

Later structural changes included the establishment of several Leagues at colleges, between 1948 and 1956, and of the unit system in 1948, which encouraged the development of small neighborhood-based discussion groups to further the opportunity for member input and participation.

The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO)

Issues:

During the post World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); it still maintains official observer status today and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The League also supported the creation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as NATO, economic aid to less developed countries and the Marshall Plan.

The Overseas Education Fund was established in 1947. (For more detail, see the section titled League of Women Voters Education Fund and Overseas Education Fund.)

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Step 3: The 8 Commissioners are named through random drawing; 6 Commissioners are selected by the 8.

- The State Auditor randomly draws 8 names from the remaining pool of applicants (3D/3R/12 other).
- The 8 Commissioners then review the names remaining in the pool and choose 6 Commissioners (2D/2R/2O). They will select to complement the balance of skills and diversity.

Eligibility

- a. California voter registered with the same affiliation for the past 5 years or more.
- b. Must have voted in two of the last three statewide general elections.

Disqualifications and other restrictions

- a. For the preceding 10 years, neither a commission member, nor a member of his or her immediate family, may have done any of the following:
 - Been appointed to, elected to, or have been a candidate for federal or state public office.
- b. For the preceding 4 years, neither a commission member, nor a member of his or her immediate family, may have done any of the following:
 - Served as an officer of a political party, or as an officer, paid staff, or paid consultant of a candidate's campaign committee.
 - Served as an elected or appointed member of a political party central committee.
 - Been a registered federal, state or local lobbyist.
 - Served as paid staff for the state legislature, Board of Equalization or Congress or any individual legislator, Board of Equalization member or member of Congress.
 - Given \$2,000 or more to a candidate for state legislature, Board of Equalization or Congress.
- c. Staff and consultants to, persons under a contract with, or immediate family relationship with the Governor, a member of the Legislature, a member of Congress, or a member of the State Board of Equalization, are not eligible to serve as members of the commission.
- d. Commissioners are not permitted to hold public office in California, serve as paid staff for the Legislature or any individual legislator or to register as a federal, state or local lobbyist during their terms on the Commission or for 5 years thereafter.



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

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

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

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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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.

VOTER REGISTRATION

THE LEAGUE and the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) are having a voter registration drive at Universal Citiwalk on Saturday, February 23 and Sunday, February 24.

We need League members to register voters. It will be a great time, as there is lots of activity at Citiwalk. [See Calendar.](#)

249 N. Brand Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91203
Corner of Brand/Calif.
tel: 818.244.4448
fax: 818.244.4795
M-F 8:30-6, Sat. 10-4
1125 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91205
Btwn Chevy Chase/Adams
tel: 818.242.4270
fax: 818.242.0525
M-F 8:30-6:30
Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BURBANK/GLENDALE

VOTER

7714 Via Capri
Burbank CA 91504
(818) 247-2407

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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