

Voter



**LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK**

April 2009

Monica Marquez

President's Message

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Where is the League headed in Glendale and Burbank? What would you like the League to be doing? And most importantly, what would *you* like to be doing with the League? That's the question we will explore at our Planning Meeting on Wednesday, April 22 at the Community Room, Glendale Fire Station 21, across from the Galleria at 7:00 pm.

The League studies issues that affect our community. After careful study and discussion we then come to a consensus on the issue, and use that as a basis for local action. Are there issues you would like to study as part of our League?

We have local positions on Education, Housing and Redevelopment, Local Government, Zoning, Land Use, Child Care and Libraries. Do any of those topics pique your interest? At the planning meeting, we'll go over those positions and decide if we need to update them.

We will also discuss whether we want to embark on a new study.

Do you have any ideas on hot topics in Glendale and Burbank that merit the League's attention? Parks and open space? Traffic and transit? What about the state of civics education in our schools? How are our young people being prepared to become full members of our democracy?

Maybe you think our League needs to take more action in our communities. Where would you like to help us take Action? Perhaps you think we should spend more time on Voter Service. Beyond the business as usual Candidates' Forums and Pros and Cons presentations, what new directions will you help us move toward?

We are looking forward to a lively meeting as we forge the League's future. Please join us.

CALENDAR

**Tuesday, April 7
Election for Glendale City Council,
School Board,
Community College Board
Polls close at 8pm**

**Tuesday, April 14
Burbank All Mail in
Run-off Election for
City Council and School Board
Ends at 7:00pm.
All ballots must be returned to
the City Clerk by that time.**

**Wednesday, April 22 7:00 pm
LWV Glendale/Burbank
Local Planning Meeting,
Community Room of
Glendale Fire Station 21,
421 Oak Street,
parking in Galleria across the street**

**May 15/19
LWVC Biennial Convention,
Long Beach**

**Tuesday May 19,
Statewide Special Election**

**Saturday May 30,
LWV Glendale/Burbank Annual
Meeting (see flyer on page 2)**

www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org

**PLEASE NOTE:
The April 22
Planning Meeting
takes place on a
Wednesday night—
which is a change
from our
regular meeting day.**

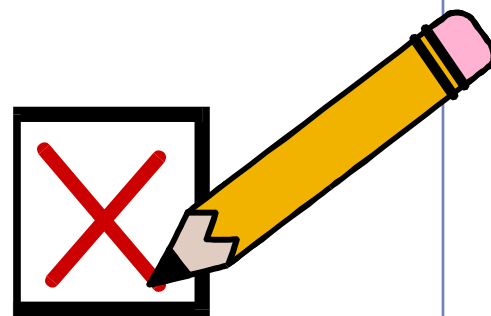


**League of Women Voters
Glendale/Burbank**

ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday
May 30, 2009
10 am-2 pm**

**De Bell Clubhouse Grill
1500 Walnut Avenue
Burbank CA**



Speaker: Nick Doom
Government Teacher at Clark Magnet School, Glendale

Topic: Civics Education Today

**Cost: \$20 per person includes morning coffee,
lunch, tax and gratuity**

**Registration Deadline:
May 23, 2009**

PARKING:
Park on the street
or in the lot across the street

Yes! I am coming to the Annual Meeting on May 30.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$20 per person) for _____ person (s)

My entree preference is

- Chinese Chicken Salad Club Sandwich (turkey, bacon, lettuce)
 Veggie Club Sandwich (cheese, avocado, etc.) Fish & Chips

Name(s) _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Phone: _____

Send form and
check payable to
LWV/GB
Mail to : Vera Naylor
7714 Via Capri
Burbank CA 91504
818 768-7663

LWVUS' Letter to the Senate on Health Care Reform

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. As Congress begins to consider health care reform legislation, the League of Women Voters urges you to consider the following issues.

First, health care reform legislation must guarantee quality, affordable health care to all U.S. residents. The League of Women Voters believes that it is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. The legislation must include a benefits package that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care, acute care, long-term care, and mental health care. In addition, any health care package must include prescription drug coverage and allow for pre-existing conditions.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety in the health care system. The League believes that Congress has taken a key step in that direction in the recently-passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by providing funding for development of an integrated information technology infrastructure for the health industry. And, it is critical to build on this infrastructure by establishing a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families.

As an organization dedicated to the citizen's right to know, the League of Women Voters believes it is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done to control costs, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

The League of Women Voters believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care.

To achieve this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. The 150,000 members and supporters of the League of Women Voters are ready to work with you to reach this goal.

And we are not alone. According to The Washington Post, a recent study reported in The New England Journal of Medicine found that 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system in this country needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul. The League of Women Voters wants to ensure that the concerns of these citizens are heard as you work to shape tomorrow's health care system.



PROP 1A Restrictions on State Budget Process OPPOSE

Prop 1A is touted by its proponents as the way to bring stability to the state budget process. However, it would actually make it more difficult for future Governors and Legislatures to enact budgets that meet California’s needs and address state priorities. It would amend the state Constitution to dictate restrictions on the use of funds put into the reserve and limit how “unanticipated” revenues can be used in good years. It could lock in a reduced level of public services by not taking proper account of the state’s changing demographics and actual growth in costs. Prop 1A would also give future Governors new power to make budget cuts without legislative oversight. The League would support real budget reform, but we regretfully conclude that this measure would only make things worse. Most of its provisions would not take effect for two years; we should spend that time working out real reform.

PROP 1B Education Funding, Payment Plan NEUTRAL

This measure requires the state to make \$9.3 billion in supplemental payments to K-14 education over approximately five to six years beginning in 2011-12. This funding is intended to address uncertainty about what the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee requires. The League supports full funding of public education and believes that making up for the devastating cuts of recent years must be a priority. Prop 1B is not needed, however, and even if passed by the voters, it would take effect only if Prop 1A is also passed. The legislature has the power to restore funding to education in a more straightforward way that is not tied to Prop 1A.

PROP 1C Lottery-Based Borrowing OPPOSE

This measure makes changes in state lottery operations intended to increase its profitability and allows the state to issue \$5 billion in bonds that are “securitized” by future lottery profits. The lottery would no longer be a source of revenue for education, and the state General Fund would be required to make up for the loss to education of lottery funds. League positions on long-term financing anticipate the use of bonds for capital improvements, not borrowing, and call for prudent consideration of debt levels within the budget. In light of California’s poor credit rating and the state of the economy, these bonds would be sold at very unfavorable interest rates, if indeed they can be sold at all. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office says that in the long term, lottery profits probably would not cover the higher payments to education required by Prop 1C.

PROP 1D Diverting Children’s Services Funding OPPOSE

This proposition would redirect tobacco tax funds reserved for First 5 early childhood programs to the state General Fund. \$680 million would be diverted in 2009-10 and \$268 million a year for the following four years. These meaningful health and early education programs were established by the Children and Families Act, Proposition 10 of 1998, and they are an investment in the long-term success and well-being of our children. We oppose this stopgap measure.

PROP 1E Diverting Mental Health Services Funding OPPOSE

For the next two years, Proposition 1E would redirect about \$230 million a year from the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 of 2004) to the state General Fund to replace state funding for an existing screening, diagnosis and treatment program. California voters supported Proposition 63 to provide community mental health treatment, prevention, and early intervention services that have been sorely needed for many years. Like Prop 1D, this is a short-sighted measure and would set a precedent for the taking of more funds in the future.

PROP 1F Elected Officials’ Salaries NO STAND

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 1F, “Elected Officials’ Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years,” the LWVC is taking no stand on this measure.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON MAY 19!

A Personal View by Laurie Collins

How the League Prepares to Advocate

A few years back I was ever so gently convinced by Rosa Frommer to join the Glendale Burbank League of Women Voters and I am ever so grateful. I could describe my experience with the League to date in a chapter but the following may work as well: "civic involvement, thoughtful issue analysis, collegial debate." (My apologies to those who pen haikus).

On March 6 of this year, I had the good fortune to witness League "civic involvement, thoughtful issue analysis, collegial debate" first hand. Chris Carson nominated me to be the campaign finance consultant for the State League and I was invited to spend a day in Sacramento to interview the Legislative Advocate for CALPRIG, the Chief Consultant for the Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee, and the Principal Consultant for the Pro Tem of the Senate. Clearly the League garners tremendous respect in Sacramento. In the company of Chris Carson I had the privilege of meeting LWVC President Janis Hirohama, our LWVC Advocate Trudy Schafer, LWVC Board members Charlotte Fox, Julie Rajan, Joanne Leavitt; incoming Board member Xandra Kayden; League consultants Anne

Henderson, Joanne Leavitt and Suzanne Phinney; and LWVC staffer Maggie Young,

Where does the haiku come into play? I was on the scene when the State League's Legislation Committee debated the pros and cons of the May 19 ballot measures. The Committee's debate over whether or not to recommend to the State League Board to endorse each May ballot measure was intelligent, guided by wisdom and experience, collegial and respectful.

I shared the flight back to Burbank with Xandra Kayden, who at the Sacramento Airport ran into a friend named Peter Manzo. Peter is the Director of the United Way of Los Angeles County.

A few days later Peter sent me an e-mail with the subject line: The Girl Effect and a link to a video HYPERLINK "<http://www.girleffect.org/#/home/>" <http://www.girleffect.org/#/home/> . Peter is convinced that the best way to change the world for the better is to educate girls. I watched the video and could not help but think about my day in Sacramento with the educated women who make up the League.



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 _____

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

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

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

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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.

Watch Your Mail

Watch your mail for next year's budget. The Board is also proposing amendments to our Bylaws to bring them up to date with the times. We're proposing amendments to the Bylaws to conform to the LWVUS Bylaws, and to allow for electronic communication. We'll send those, too, so you can look them over. We'll take a vote on the Budget and the Bylaws at the Annual Meeting on May 30.

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

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