

Voter LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK December 2011

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

CALENDAR December 2011

GLENDALE/BURBANK HOLIDAY PARTY

**Thursday
December 15, 2011 – 6pm**

Home of
Rosa & Roger Frommer
1762 Allen Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201

RSVP to to Monica
Marquez (818) 760-3667 or
marquezlww@earthlink.net

CANDLELIGHT TOUR

**Saturday
December 17, 2011
6:30-8:30 pm**

Doctors House Museum
1601 W. Mountain Street
Glendale, CA 91201
\$5 donation requested

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LEAGUE DAY

**Saturday
January 28, 2012
9:30 am – 2:00 pm**

Taix Restaurant
1911 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Topic: Initiative and
Referendum Reform

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

President's Message

By Joan Hardie

The Education study is done! The study experience proved to be thought provoking, and led to interesting discussions due to the wonderful input and participation from our members. The expertise and presentations by several of our members, especially **Joylene Wagner, Susan Hallgren** and **Nayiri Nahabedian**, was especially beneficial. Thanks not only to them but also to everyone who participated.

Now that the consensus is in, the National Committee will review the information from all the Leagues and write our position. In March 2012, upon approval of the new position from the LWVUS Board, our new position on the role of Federal Government in Education will be available.

Which leads me to the next project on our list, another study – Privatization of Public Services. You may be asking yourself, why is the League doing two studies in one year? Are we trying to punish ourselves?

What the League studies is the result of a process called Program Planning. State and local Leagues, as well as inter-league organizations do Program Planning every two years. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study – this is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization. We will be embarking on program planning this month and the deadline to file the Program Planning form is March 1, 2012. At National Convention which is scheduled for June 2012 in Washington DC, the result of the Program Planning will be discussed and voted on by delegates (approximately 1600 League members) that attend Convention.

When I was in Atlanta, Georgia at National convention in 2010, I was one of the 1,600 delegates that voted during the program planning session. Although I did not vote for the Privatization Study, I did vote for the Education Study. I was surprised when the Privatization Study passed, as many of us felt two studies in

President's Message continued on page 7

League of Women Voters Glendale/Burbank



Holiday Celebration

December 15, 2010
6:00 pm
at the home of
Rosa & Roger Frommer
1762 Allen Avenue
Glendale CA 91201

RSVP by December 10
to Monica Marquez
(818) 760-3667 or
marquezlww@earthlink.net

SUPPORT THE SAFE ACT**Signature Gathering Campaign**

Join us in supporting the SAFE California Act, an initiative in circulation to collect the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot. Sign up for email alerts, make a donation, and find more ways to get involved on the campaign site.

This initiative would stop executions and replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative.

Some of the savings created by no longer seeking and imposing death sentences would be used to bolster the capacity of law enforcement to solve the serious crimes of rape and homicide. Visit the [California Taxpayers for Justice](#) campaign site to learn more.

Roll Your Money to LWVGB

A current IRS provision allows those over 70½ years of age to roll over up to \$100,000 of their IRA funds (traditional roll over IRA accounts only) to a qualified charitable organization. Such donated funds are not considered as federal taxable income. (However such tax free donated funds may not be counted as a charitable deduction.) For many people, this will be advantageous tax wise. Also, such funds can be considered a part of your "Required Minimum Distribution."

Our League of Women Voters is such a qualified charitable organization. Your IRA holding organization can provide details on how this donation can be arranged. The donation check should be made out to the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank, P.O. Box 21173, Glendale, CA 91221-5273.

Note that the current IRS provision expires December 31, 2011. It is not yet clear if this will be extended, so please act quickly.

Privatization Study

Coming in hot on the heels of our Education study, the League of Women Voters of the United States is now embarking on a study of privatization of government services. The purpose of this study is:

to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

The timeline for this study is shorter than usual—consensus will be due to the National League in May 2012. We are forming our committee, and welcome all members to become involved.

Background papers will be published here in the Voter. In addition, they are available in the For Members section of the the League of [Women Voters of the United States](#) website:

See more on page 4.

What do we mean by

Privatization

Let's face it. I'm finding the word "privatization" difficult to even spell, let alone understand. But the League of Women Voters of the United States voted to study the issue at its last convention, and I, in my compulsive "I don't want to miss anything" way, offered to chair our local committee.

But as I look at the issue more closely, I see it is an extremely important subject—one that goes to the very heart of our democracy.

What is privatization?

Privatization occurs when a governmental body transfers the providing of service to a private, for-profit entity.

Why is privatization important?

In a word, transparency. In our democracy, public bodies are required to act in the public interest to promote the general welfare, and to conduct the public's business through an open, transparent process. They are accountable to the citizenry. In contrast, private entities exist to enrich the individuals who own it, and the information developed in the course of their business is proprietary to them.

In her background paper on "The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability Within the Context of Privatization," Diane Dilanni asks:

Privatization raises particular issues with respect to transparency. When the provision of government services is transferred into private hands, what becomes of the public's right of access to information regarding the provision of those services? <http://www.lwv.org/content/legal-framework-transparency-and-accountability-within-context-privatization>

How does this apply to the cities of Burbank and Glendale?

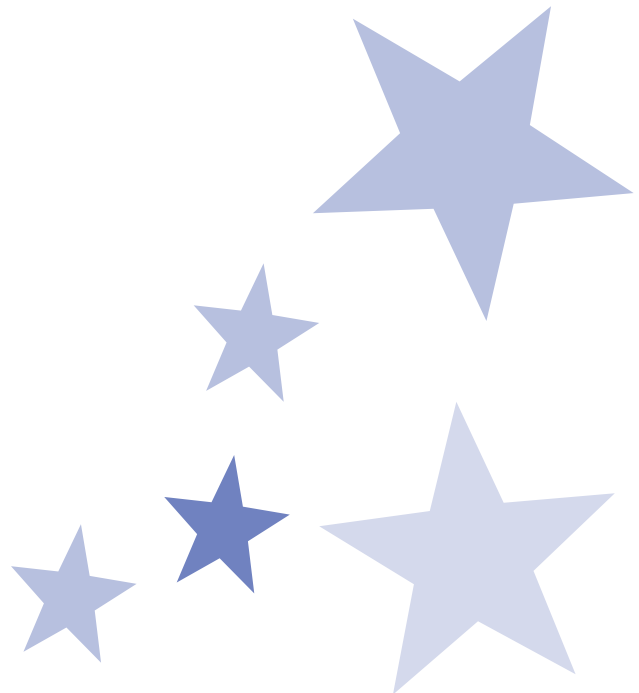
That is an interesting question that our committee will try to resolve. Although there has been little privatization in our cities so far (the Glendale crossing guards have been privatized), as a League we are welcome to consider not just the local implications of privatization, but the state and national implications as well.

Where can I get more information?

Check out the League of Women Voters of the United States website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization"](http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization) <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>

How can I get involved?

All members are welcome to participate in the study. If you'd like to join us, send me an email at marquezlwv@earthlink.net.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization — Beach Cities - Claremont Area - East San Gabriel Valley – Glendale/Burbank
Long Beach Area - Los Angeles Area - Palos Verdes Peninsula - Pasadena Area - Santa Monica - Torrance - Whittier

WINTER LEAGUE DAY

CALIFORNIA'S INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM: ABOLISH, REFORM OR RETAIN AS IS?



BOB STERN, PRESIDENT
CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012

10:30 AM TO 2 PM

TAIX RESTAURANT

1911 W. SUNSET BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

Conveniently located near the Hollywood Freeway and Alva

There is a \$2.50 valet fee so carpooling is recommended.

TEL. 213-484-1265

LUNCHEON - \$25

Questions: call Nancy Mahr at 310-377-0735



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LACounty** by January 14, 2012
Mail to **LWV/LAC Treasurer, 3970 Sepulveda Blvd., Unit 201, Torrance, CA 90505**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Allergies _____

Deadline is January 14, 2012

Reservation(s) # _____ @\$25.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

After Jan. 14, 2012, Reservation(s) # _____ @\$30.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

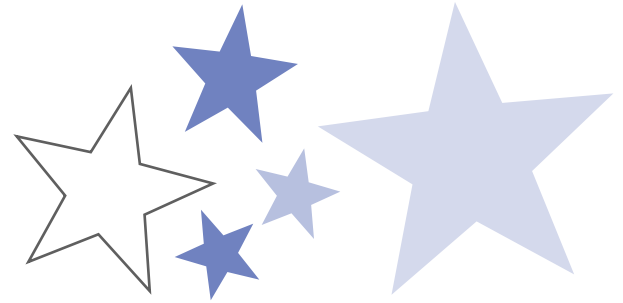


Meet

Jennifer Waggoner

Hometown: San Francisco

Occupation: President, California League of Women Voters



“My name is Jennifer Waggoner.

Californians need fair and balanced information they can trust. They need to know what good government looks like, how to hold government responsible and seek transparency and even be a part of it.”

Jennifer Waggoner is a strong activist for democratic government, and many people say she is a powerhouse. At 38, she is one of the youngest people to be president of the California League of Women Voters (LWVC).

Waggoner is deeply concerned by the fact that Californians are not engaged.

“There are so many barriers to participation,” Waggoner says. “People don’t trust government because they don’t know how it works; and they don’t know how it works because government makes it hard for Californians to engage.”

Her vision for the state is active and informed civic participation by citizens who accept their role in government. “There are lots of forms of civic engagement in addition to voting,” including websites, Skype, and social media marketing.

In the internet age, “people’s expectations are different,” says Waggoner. “They want to participate in ways that are vital, compelling and current. We need to give them the tools and open the process.”

“As a state and particularly as one of the largest economies in the world, we can’t seriously expect to achieve our goals for justice, equality, economic and personal productivity without greater levels of civic engagement. “

Waggoner, a graduate of California’s Claremont-McKenna College said a turning point for her occurred in 2001 when she first voted in San Francisco.

“Dozens of issues were being settled at the ballot box and each had supporters and opponents with strident, contradictory campaign materials. I struggled to find unbiased analysis and, for the first time in my life, I considered not voting because I felt so unprepared.”

It was then that she joined LWVC, “the only consistent source of straightforward election information I could trust.” She became a member of the board in 2007 and president in 2011.

“Participation in government helps us realize our potential as individuals, and the participation of all Californians is how our state will realize its potential,” Waggoner says.

President's Message continued from page 1

one year is too much for local Leagues. However, as it turns out, more Leaguer's felt that with the anti-government sentiment being felt by many citizens that this would be as worthy topic as education so the study passed.

The scope of the study will look at the Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities. It is a much broader topic than the education study. We are in the process of forming our committee and will need a member to Chair the committee. Please let me know if you are interested in being on the Committee and/or interested in

chairing the committee. Also, regarding program planning, let us know if you have a topic that you think would good for a League Study.

Our Holiday party is coming up, Dec. 15, 2011 at the **Frommer's** home. We are so lucky that they offer their beautiful home and they are gracious hosts as well. We always have a lot of fun, and of course there will be a raffle with a wonderful prize or two. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Take Care.



Give a Special Holiday Gift— Membership in the League of Women Voters

Is there someone special that you would love to have as a part of our League? Give the gift of membership for 2012 to support his/her engagement in civic affairs. Just fill out the form below or use <http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org/join.html> our website.



Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. You can do it all online at our [Website](#). Or you can use this form to mail in your application. 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)

- \$70.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$110.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER nine times per year)
- \$35.00 for a one-year student membership.

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

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 PO Box 21010, Glendale, CA 91221

LWV Glendale/Burbank is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. All gifts and membership dues are tax deductible.

Voter

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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.

Thank You

Recent membership renewals

Pat Hawkins
Cathy Sellitto
Connie Wilson



Contributions received

Laurie Collins
Linda Connell &
Philip Mees
Carole Dougherty
Florence & Dick Dommes
Sylvia Sutton

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 WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

P.O. Box 21173
Glendale CA 91221-5273
818 925-4598

League websites:

LWV Glendale/Burbank

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

LWV California

www.ca.LWV.org

LWV United States

<http://www.LWV.org>

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