

Voter



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK**

January 2010

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

Co-President's Message

Chris Carson

A New Year—A New Decade for the League

Another year—another decade—gone. A new year—and full speed ahead into the League's 10th decade. What an amazing thought! When the women who had fought for seventy years to get the vote founded the League, did they envision that 90 years later that organization would be in the thick of the fight to pass major legislation on two of the most pressing issues of our time? I'm betting they did. They were women who dreamed very big; nothing was too much for them to tackle. And the League has been tackling the Big Stuff ever since. Then as now, our strength has always been in our members. Each of us shares the common dream of an educated citizenry learning about the public policy issues that challenge our democracy and making informed choices about how to solve them. And then focusing that concern for democracy into positive actions to make our democracy better—every day, every year. At every level of government, our members continue to involve themselves in their communities to effect change. So as we all contemplate a New Year and New Decade, what small actions can each of us as League members take to continue the work begun 90 years ago?

Inform ourselves about the policy issues that challenge us. Get the facts; research differing opinions; don't rely on 30 second sound bites; don't listen to hysteria and hate.

Visit our websites—<http://www.lwv.org>; <http://ca.lwv.org>; <http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>. Investigate League studies and positions on issues. Find out what the League is working on.

Choose an issue to follow and work on. Sign up for e news and advocacy alerts. With a click of your mouse, a phone call, a fax, or a short letter you can speak out for real reform.

Volunteer with our League to register voters, distribute election information, donate a couple of hours at a candidates forum; or help us contact community groups to speak on ballot measures.

Attend two League meetings devoted to policy issues.

Donate money to our League.

And invite a friend to join you and the League in Making Democracy Work!

JOIN US

Thursday

January 21, 2010

6:00 pm

The Healthcare Debate

Holiday Inn

150 E. Angeleno

Burbank, CA 91502

Carousel Restaurant

Saturday

February 13, 2010

11:30 am

90th/70th

Birthday Celebration

Los Angeles River

Center and Gardens

570 W. Avenue 26

Los Angeles, CA 90065

<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>



LWV/LA County

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - An Inter-League Organization

Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area • Los Angeles
Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance • Whittier

2010 WINTER LEAGUE DAY

GANGS AROUND THE CORNER A Look at Street Gangs

Keynote Speaker - LAPD's new Chief of Police, Charles Beck

Panelists include: Captain Pietrantonio, Supervisor of "Operation Safe Streets" LA Sheriff's Department, Scott Gold, staff writer Los Angeles Times (series on "Promises & Perils of South LA"), along with community activists.

**UTLA BUILDING
3303 WILSHIRE BLVD.
2ND FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA**

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 30, 2010
9:30 AM TO 2 PM
BUFFET LUNCHEON**



Carpooling recommended – Parking: UTLA Bldg. is at Wilshire & Berendo, accessed off Berendo. The cost is \$5.00/day if you arrive before 10 AM. or, approx. \$13.00/day after 10 AM. Special needs parking is under and through the building for those with displayed DMV placards. (Bring your vehicle close to the chain link gate). Elevators from both parking locations are available to enter the building. **Alternate parking** is located in an open lot on Berendo across Wilshire on east side of street for \$7.50/day. **The Red Line** stops just 1-1/2 blocks from the building at the Vermont station.



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LA County**.
Mail to **LWV/LA County Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Deadline is January 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @\$25.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

If postmarked after January 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____



From left, Chris Carson, League of Women Voters of California moderates a panel discussion. Seated, from left, Larry Salinas, Vice Chairman of Modesto Citizen's Redistricting Commission, Leland Saito, San Diego Redistricting Commission, Arturo Vargas, Los Angeles Redistricting Commission, and Steve Lynn, Chair of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

California Conference on Redistricting Co-President Chris Carson Leads a Panel Discussion

On December 15, the Redistricting California Conference took place at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. California Common Cause was the moving force behind the conference, which was funded by the James Irvine Foundation. Glendale/Burbank League Members and Board Members Laurie Collins and Monica Marquez attended on behalf of the League.

The conference was designed to provide information about the redistricting process, and to give information to those who want to apply to the Redistricting Commission. Attendees came from all over California, including San Diego, 29 Palms and Merced. Many were interested in applying for the Commission.

The opening panel discussed redistricting basics, including how it works, the basic terminology and the data that are used to create districts. Then it was on to specifics. The next panel covered the application process for the Citizens Redistricting Commission, including the roles of the California State Auditor, the Legislature and the Secretary of State in the selection process.

Our own Chris Carson moderated the luncheon panel discussion, which included four men who have served on other redistricting commissions. Panelists included Steve Lynn, Chair of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, Arturo Vargas, who served on the Los Angeles Redistricting Commission, Leland Saito,

who served on the San Diego Redistricting Commission, and Larry Salinas, Vice-Chairman of Modesto's Citizen's Districting Commission.

The panelists discussed their personal experiences as commissioners. As commissioners, they traveled up and down their districts, hearing testimony from citizens about how the lines should be drawn. Steve Lynn, Chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, spoke thoughtfully about the time commitment involved. He has served for eight years on the Commission, in addition to his full time employment. He tallied up his service and said it has come to a total of 3800 hours so far. That's almost three years of full time work on top of his regular employment, and that, although rewarding, given the opportunity he might not do it again. The other agreed that, although time consuming, it was a very rewarding process that they would do again if they had a chance.

OUR LEAGUE Celebrates TWO Important Anniversaries

League of Women Voters of the United States Celebrates its 90th Birthday

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan political organization that works to improve our system of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy, is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2010. Not coincidentally, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2010, as well.

"The women who started the movement to give women the right to vote really didn't know where it would end, how it would end, or when it would end," said League of Women Voters president, Mary G. Wilson. "And yet they persevered. They persevered in a time when it wasn't fashionable for women to speak out on any issue—let alone try to get some rights for themselves. They worked against all odds—and succeeded."

In 1920, after a 72 year struggle, passage of the 19th amendment appeared to be imminent, and members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters, the organization to educate the newly franchised women to effectively use the vote.

In 1920, LWV founder Carrie Chapman Catt urged the new organization to "finish the fight" and to work to end all discrimination against women. Initially, the LWV was primarily concerned with the status and rights of women and women's issues, but interests were gradually expanded to include issues affecting men as well as women. Today, the LWV works to effect change on a wide variety of issues in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

Many men supported the suffragists in the early days of the fight to pass the 19th Amendment, and men continued to be supportive of the LWV over the years. In 1973, the LWV invited men to join the organization, and their numbers continue to increase.

The LWV is organized on three levels – national, state, and local. The national organization has headquarters in Washington D.C. Fifty state Leagues are mostly headquartered in state capitols. The League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank is one of more than 800 local Leagues in cities and towns all over the United States.

The non-partisan LWV never supports or opposes candidates or parties, but the LWV is political and takes stands on issues. These stands are based on positions which are the result of intensive study, discussion of the pros and cons, and, eventually, member consensus, all at the grass-roots level. These positions and are the basis for advocacy of the government at the national, state, and local levels.

As the organization celebrates its 90th anniversary, it has much to look back upon, but the work is not yet complete and there is much to look forward to. The LWV continues to work towards meaningful citizen participation in the government processes. "For nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative," said Ms. Wilson. "Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago."

All are welcome to join the LWV and become part of our respected and effective organization. The League is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank Celebrates its 70th Birthday

The Glendale/Burbank League is also celebrating this year. 2010 marks our 70th year of service to the communities of Glendale and Burbank.

We will celebrate our Birthdays with a very special luncheon on Saturday, February 13, 2010 starting at 11:30 am. It will take place at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens (the former site of the Lawry's California Center) at 570 W. Avenue, Los Angeles. We have invited noted attorney Andrea Ordin as our speaker. Currently senior counsel in the Los Angeles office of Morgan, Lewis

& Bockius LLP and Vice President of the Los Angeles Police Commission, Ordin will become the first women to attain the position of Los Angeles County Counsel in February 2010.

Please mark your calendars for this important event. As of this printing, we are still working on the details of the luncheon. We want to share this occasion not only with our members, but with other members of the community as well. We will send out written invitations, with pricing information and RSVP forms, shortly.

RECENT

Voter Registration Changes

Thea Brodtkin, League of Women Voters of California

17-Year-Olds Can Register to Vote

An important voting rights bill was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in October. AB 30 permits 17-year-olds who meet the voter eligibility requirements to submit voter registration affidavits. There is no longer a requirement that they turn 18 before the next election in order to register to vote. The registrant must still be 18 on or before the election in order to vote, but now anyone who is 17 has the right to register.

AB 30 was strongly supported by the League because it will encourage registration and voting by young people. It capitalizes on the timing of high school government classes and will encourage high school voter registration drives.

If a student registers to vote at 17, and then changes his/her address (collegebound, etc.), it is still necessary to apply for a mail-in ballot or to re-register in the county/state of new residence.

Online Voter Registration

The State Voter Registration form is no longer posted on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.ca.gov. In the past, you could fill out the form online and have the Secretary of State send you the form to be signed and mailed. This program was discontinued in 2009.

Current state law and regulations prevent a state or local election official from accepting a state voter registration form printed from a website. Therefore the Secretary of State no longer makes the state form available on the Internet and discourages others from making it available on their websites.

The Secretary of State's website now allows voters to fill out the National Mail Voter Registration form, but the registrant must print the form, sign it, and then send it to his or her county election office.

For voter registration drives, the best practice is to use the postage-free, preaddressed printed California voter registration forms available from your county election office or at post offices, libraries, and other locations.

Confusion may also arise because the National Mail Voter Registration form found on the Secretary of State's website does not ask registrants where they were born. The federal National Voting Rights Act (NVRA) requires state and local election officials to accept the national form, even though under California law a registrant is required to provide his/her state of birth or country of birth if outside the U.S. This is another reason to use the California voter registration forms when registering voters!

MAPPING

California's Future

by Chris Carson

You can participate in a once-in-a-decade opportunity to map California's future!

For decades, the state legislature designed the districts from which we elect our representatives to the legislature and congress. The result? A series of gerrymanders that protected parties and incumbents while ignoring community interests. For example, in 2001 the Berryessa area of northeast San Jose, an area with a large concentration of Asian American voters, was divided into four Assembly districts, effectively leaving the community without the opportunity to elect their own representatives. Organizations like the League of Women Voters are determined that in 2011, the district maps will be drawn to keep communities like Berryessa intact and hold politicians accountable.

In 2008 the people of California put a stop to this kind of disregard for the voters and their communities by passing Proposition 11—The Voters First Act. Now the responsibility for drawing new district maps for the state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization will go to 14 voters chosen to serve on California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission. With a state as big and diverse as California, who draws the lines—and how those lines are drawn—will truly shape the future of our state. The commission gives this power to real people—political candidates, lobbyists and big political donors can't serve.

The commission will be made up of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four members from neither party, so every view will be heard. You may be one of the right people to do this job—or you may know someone who is. How do you get involved or encourage others to? It's easy to apply—go to <http://www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov> for details. Applications will be accepted online between December 15, 2009 and February 12, 2010. You'll also find much more information at www.commoncause.org/redistrictingCA.

Now's your chance! Step forward and be a part of historic change in California!

YOU

can participate in a once-in-a-decade opportunity to map California's future! Now's your chance! Step forward and be a part of historic change in California!

Nonpartisan
Grassroots
Unbiased
Trustworthy

You know why you can rely upon the League of Women Voters. The League relies upon you, too.

PLEASE DONATE NOW

LWV GLENDALE/BURBANK is pleased to announce notecards designed especially for us are now available.

Local artist Robin Palanker features five local women. All proceeds benefit LWV Glendale/Burbank

Set includes 10 cards, on 80 lb. paper two each of 5 figures LWVG/B logo on the back

\$13.00 per set, 2 sets for \$25.00 includes tax and handling

The supply is limited. To order, send the tearoff with your check.



PLEASE mail check payable to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK,
PO Box 21010, Glendale CA 91221-5110

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ sets of notecards.



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.

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 the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ _____

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

Voter

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank, California

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Production: Carole Dougherty
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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.



What will your legacy be?

As a leader in your community, you know what you want to accomplish for yourself, for your family, and for your community. Consider making the League of Women Voters* part of your overall estate plan next time you speak with your attorney or financial professional, so that your hard work will carry on.

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

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

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