

# Voter



**LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK**

**May 2009**

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

## Monica Marquez *President's Message*

I'd like to invite you all to our Annual Meeting. We have an exciting speaker planned—Clark Magnet School Teacher Mr. Nick Doom. Mr. Doom is one of Glendale's excellent High School teachers, and he will speak on the state of Civics Education today.

Mr. Doom is dynamic, engaging and cares deeply about his students. His presentation dovetails with our League's interest in the education of young minds. And we will be introducing our first Glendale Community College League Scholarship winners. I hope you will join us at the Annual Meeting on May 30. See the Flyer in this Voter for details. This is my last President's Message to you. At the Annual Meeting, I will be passing the gavel. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your President for the past four years.

I remember being floored when, as a relatively new member, I received a call from Georganne Thomson asking me to serve as President. What did I know? Still I was excited by the opportunity and said yes. I am very glad I did. Since then I have been proud to represent the League before the Glendale and Burbank City Councils, at Conventions, Leadership Councils, and even at our monthly Board Meetings.

I remember I was so nervous at my first Board Meeting; I wrote out an entire script and read it during the meeting. I'm a bit calmer now, but not all that much. (Some things never change.)

I am deeply indebted to my fellow Board members who helped me as I learned how to be a President. And especially to the sage advice and support I received from Chris Carson, without whose help and wisdom I would not have survived my tenure.

And thanks to all of you for your work for the League. It is because of our members that this League continues to thrive.

This is my last  
President's Message  
to you.  
At the Annual Meeting,  
I will be passing the gavel.  
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## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, May 19  
Special Election**

**May 15/17  
LWVC Biennial Convention,  
Long Beach**

**Saturday,  
May 30  
LWV Glendale/Burbank  
Annual Meeting  
See flyer on page 2**

**Saturday, July 25,  
Popovers in Pasadena**

[www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org)

**Our sincere condolences to Monica Marquez  
on the death of her mother.**

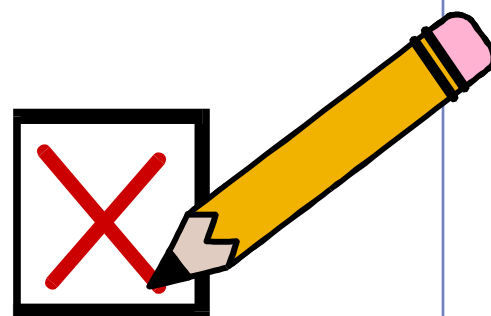


League of Women Voters  
Glendale/Burbank

# 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

## Legislative Constitutional Amendment and State Law

### PROPOSITION 1A: STATE BUDGET. CHANGES CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROCESS. LIMITS STATE SPENDING. INCREASES “RAINY DAY” BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND.

There are two major facets to Proposition 1A: (1) an annual spending limit or “cap”; and (2) the extension of certain tax increases enacted as part of the recent budget plan. Although the proposition was a key element in the recent FY2009 and 2010 budget negotiations, its provisions do not actually impact those budget years.

Currently, 3 percent of estimated General Fund revenues must be transferred each year into a state “rainy day” fund (the “Fund”), to build up a reserve balance equal to the higher of \$8 billion or 5% of General Fund revenues. However, the Governor can stop this transfer in any year by executive order. The Legislature can transfer amounts out of the Fund to use for any purpose.

#### PROPOSAL.

Proposition 1A would extend the tax increases included in the recent budget agreement for one or two additional years after fiscal 2010, including the sales and use tax increase (1%); the vehicle license fee increase (0.5%); and the personal income tax increase (0.25%).

The Governor would be given new authority to reduce certain types of spending during a fiscal year without additional legislative approval.

The new spending cap is achieved through restricting the amount of General Fund revenues available for budgetary expenditures. Available (or “anticipated”) revenues would generally be the amount expected based on a ten-year trend line of actual state revenues, plus any new taxes approved by the legislature or the voters. General Fund revenues above these amounts are to be deposited into the Fund, in addition to the current 3% transfer.

The Fund's new target would be increased to 12.5% of General Fund revenues (currently about \$12 billion). In any year when the state could not fund budgetary expenditures equal to the prior year's expenditures adjusted for changes in population and inflation, normal transfers into the Fund could be reduced and/or amounts could be transferred out of the Fund to make up the difference.

Beginning in fiscal 2010-11, there would be greater restrictions on the use of amounts in the Fund. If Proposition 1B is also approved, beginning in fiscal 2011-12 an amount equal to 1.5% of the state's annual General Fund revenues would be transferred out of the Fund for public education. After these payments were made (or if Proposition 1B does not pass), such amounts would be used to pay for infrastructure or state bond debt.

While the balance of the annual deposits into the Fund would be generally dedicated to savings for future economic downturns, they would also be available to fund infrastructure, debt repayment, or for use in a declared emergency.

#### FISCAL EFFECTS.

The fiscal effects of Proposition 1A are very difficult to project, and are likely to vary significantly from year to year.

Clearly, Proposition 1A would have major effects on the state budget over the next few years, as the tax extensions would increase revenues by roughly \$16 billion from fiscal years 2010-11 through 2012-13, which should make it easier to balance the budgets in those years. Also, the proposition would give the Governor new authority to unilaterally reduce some spending.

If Proposition 1B also passes, the state would be required to divert a total of \$9.3 billion for public education, likely in five or six years.

Beyond these items, Proposition 1A could continue to have a substantial effect on the state's budgeting practices. Generally, the amount of money in the Fund would increase through

- transferring into the Fund all revenues above a decade-long trend;
- restricting the ability of the Governor to stop the annual transfers into the Fund;
- restricting the purposes for which funds can be used;
- and raising the target reserve in the Fund to 12.5 percent of revenues.

These provisions could lead to reduced spending in high revenue years, but allow increased spending in low revenue years, as compared to current law. The mea-



**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!**

**Proposition 1A continued from page 3**

sure could also affect the types of state expenditure; for example, it could increase spending on a variety of one-time activities—such as repaying budgetary borrowing and debt, infrastructure projects, and temporary tax relief, and thereby reduce spending for ongoing expenditures.

**SUPPORTERS SAY**

- By voting Yes on Proposition 1A, we can take a strong step in reforming the budget process to get us off the budget roller coaster.
- Proposition 1A will help stabilize future state spending through an enhanced rainy day Fund so money will be available when the economy falters.
- Proposition 1A will help protect schools, public safety and other vital services through a stable, consistent level of spending.

**OPPOSITIONS SAY**

- Proposition 1A is a blatant attempt to raise Californians' taxes to support the continual overspending by Sacramento politicians.
- Proposition 1A is so badly written that it can require money to be diverted into the rainy day Fund in bad years when revenues are already falling, or force cuts in services even in good years.
- Proposition 1A will make it impossible to address the real world with a changing population.

**What will your legacy be?**

Earlier this year we included the **League of Women Voters** in our estate planning. We made this decision because we believe strongly in the mission and want the League to continue into the future.



Back row: Kyle, Kaiti, Jesse  
Front row: Dylan, Frank, Trudy, Kelsie

**Our gift is in honor of our grandchildren**, to insure they will be informed citizens, are able to enjoy living in a democracy with an open and accessible government, and will benefit from the League's influence on public policy.

Trudy and Frank Jarratt, LWV San Luis Obispo County

**LWV** *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.

 **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

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

PRESIDENT: Monica Marquez  
EDITOR: Chris Carson  
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.

**Welcome  
New Member  
Patricia Scripter**

**In Memoriam  
Ruth Priest**



Linda Lammers' son,  
Chris.

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LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK

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