

Voter



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK**

September 2010

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

CALENDAR

PLEASE JOIN US

**LWV SUMMER SOCIAL
Annual Beer Bash
Gordon Biersch Brewery
145 S. San Fernando Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91502
September 16, 2010
See flyer on page 3**



<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

CO-President's Message

Chris Carson

To everything there is a season... and so it is in the League. As summer wanes, we enter into one of our most important seasons – elections. This fall we'll be engaged in the time-honored mission of the League to register, inform, and empower voters as they begin to make their choices. We'll be doing what we always do; conduct registration drives, speaking on the ballot measures, conducting candidate forms. But it's not the same old, same old. We're reaching out to new community groups, targeting our registration drives, and constantly seeking to improve our forums. We'll be using print, TV, and web-based delivery systems. And we'll be offering new and more training for our members who want to get involved. You'll read more about this in our Voter. So if you've ever thought about spending a couple of hours registering voters, helping with a candidates forum, or learning how to speak on the ballot measures, now's the time.

I'd like to volunteer; so what can I do? And how do I do it?

Election season is a great time to give a few hours to the League and your community. Whether it's registering voters, speaking to community groups on ballot measures, or working on the candidates forum team, there is no more rewarding League experience than what we call Voter Service. But sometimes people wonder if they 'know enough' to do a good job, or aren't sure exactly what the job entails. The League doesn't throw you in at the deep end. We have great new training programs to help you find out what sort of Voter Service activity suits you and how to do it right.

VOTER REGISTRATION

National Webinar

Friday, September 17, 2 PM (ET):

Provide Voters Service Best Practices While You Build the League

Nonpartisan, balanced and proud of it! If you are interested in learning or participating in a refresher which will share best practices in Voters Service work done with respect to League principles, please join us. If you also want ideas on how to run successful voters service events while building the League, this webinar will help you maximize these opportunities to grow the League as you help your community. Whether you've never done any Voter Service before or have been at it for years, you can learn new ways to do the League's work. Join us in participating in this webinar. If you need assistance in registering, contact Chris Carson at carsonlww@att.net.

And if you're interested in giving a few hours to do voter registration, email Chris Carson carsonlww@att.net to let us know. We'll put your name on the list and contact you with opportunities. There's bound to be a time/date that fits your schedule.

SPEAKING TRAINING

Every election season our League gives Pro/Con presentations on the ballot measures to community groups and on government TV. This is a great way to inform voters and develop personal skills in speaking. And it's easy. The League provides good information in an easy to use format. And this fall we are offering a short course on public speaking and presenting ballot measures. If you've ever wanted to improve your speaking skills but thought you didn't have the time to take a long class, here's your chance to learn basic techniques in a friendly atmosphere. And once you've 'graduated' don't worry about speaking alone. We always have 'teams' do the presentations so you'll be with an experienced speaker and do the 'simple' measures at first. For information contact Tom Carson at tpcarson@yahoo.com.

CANDIDATES FORUM

This is fun and rewarding -a few hours of your time before the forum to help develop questions and put together the game plan, a couple of hours the evening of the forum collecting or sorting questions. It's a great way to get your feel wet with Voter Service, learn a lot, and have a good time. If you'd like to help out, contact Monica [Marquez marquenzlww@earthlink.net](mailto:marquezlww@earthlink.net)

And join us at Gordon Biersch on Thursday, September 16 to get all the details



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK

Fall Social



September 16, 2010

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant
145 South San Fernando Boulevard
Burbank, California 91502

ENJOY BEER, WINE
THE COMPANY OF LEAGUE MEMBERS,
AND COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES!

FIND OUT WHAT'S COMING
THIS BUSY ELECTION SEASON!

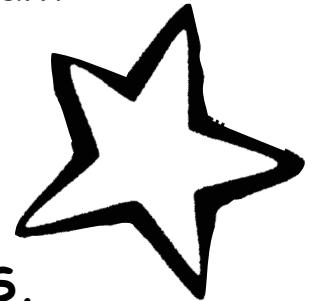
GET INVOLVED!



Current members are encouraged to invite new members.

RSVP by September 13 to
Monica Marquez
818 760-3667

or on our website:
www.lwvglendaleburbank.org



What is Happening Now

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The National Convention in Atlanta this past June had many highlights, but what I most looked forward to was hearing from Kathleen Sibelius, the Health Human Services Secretary. I had to wait until Tuesday morning, the last day of the convention to hear her and it wasn't under the most desirable circumstances. The audience, needless to say, was getting restless after 5 days of convention. I listened carefully though and I want to share some of what I heard.

First of all she described some of the Affordable Care Acts (ACA) most important features such as the increased access to affordable insurance for Americans, holding insurance companies accountable with tough new consumer protections and putting an end to insurance companies horrible cancellation policies. She described the tough fight of getting this passed and she thanked us for our support during the healthcare reform debate and she credited us with some of the success that the legislature passed. She also asked for the Leagues help. With the confusion and bitterness that many Americans have over the ACA, she asked for our continued support to act as a resource to our members and community. She compared the passage of the 19th amendment with passage of healthcare reform in that even though it was a fight and took a lot of work to pass these landmark pieces of legislation, this is just the first step in fulfilling some big promises.

Motivated by my experience in Atlanta and to serve my League better as a resource, I attended some very good seminars related to the ACA's impact. The first seminar was at the Pat Brown Institute this past July. It was a panel discussion and was very well attended. The title of the seminar was "Healthy Los Angeles: The Local Impact of National Reform" and here are some of the highlights.

In Los Angeles County there are 2.4 million uninsured. In 2014, when the health care exchanges go into effect as well as the individual mandate, it is estimated that 1.9 million will be added into the health care system. The good news is that many more people will be insured. The bad news is that not everyone is covered. The undocumented fall into this category and so far the ACA does not have provisions for the undocumented. It is estimated that there are 500,000 – 600,000 undocumented

persons in LA County, which the panel described as a "soft" number.

(FYI, the fine for individuals who do not purchase health insurance will be \$95.00 in 2014, \$395.00 in 2015, \$695.00 in 2016 or 1% of income in 2014, 2% in 2015 and 2.5% in 2016 and thereafter).

We also learned at this forum that there are two important vacancies at the DHS that need to be filled immediately in order to prepare for the changes that this health care reform is bringing. That fact along with the sheer number of people, almost 2 million in LA County alone added into the health care system, got my heart racing.

Will we have enough doctors, nurses, facilities, physical therapists, phlebotomists, and x-ray machines to accommodate all these people?

This past week I attended a second forum on healthcare reform and its impact on California small businesses. The forum was held at Woodbury University and with the help of our League the City of Burbank organized a useful forum. This forum will eventually be available on the City of Burbank's website. The forum had two groups presenting, Small Business Majority and Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP). Here are some of the highlights.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RECOMMENDS

November 2, 2010 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts

OPPOSE

The League **opposes** Proposition 20, which we believe is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards

OPPOSE

The LWVC vigorously **opposes** this Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Proposition 23 would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters. That has happened only three times in the last four decades! This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs. We must promote California's role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.

PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act

SUPPORT

Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion in revenue to the state, while benefiting only two percent of California's businesses. There is no requirement that they actually result in the creation of private-sector jobs. Proposition 24 will make big multi-state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years. The League **supports** repealing these tax cuts because this budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts with no demonstrated value to the economy.

PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget

SUPPORT

The LWVC **supports** this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process. Under Proposition 25, legislators will forfeit salary if they fail to meet the deadline for passing a budget. Budgets that are late and full of gimmicks harm all Californians, damage our economy, and hurt the state's credit rating.

League Recommends continued from page 5**PROP 26 “Polluter Protection”****OPPOSE**

Proposition 26 would redefine regulatory fees imposed on companies for harm done to the environment or public health as taxes. Since taxes, unlike fees, require a two-thirds vote for approval, it would be much harder for state and local governments to seek such payments from those making harmful products or creating public nuisances. The likely result is that the fiscal burden of the harm to the environment or public health will fall on the public rather than the businesses involved. The League **opposes** Proposition 26 because we believe that decisions on all revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting**STRONG OPPOSE**

This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office. **Vote NO** to keep the power with voters and the voter-approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT**PROP 18 Water Bond Measure****REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT**

On August 10, the Legislature and the Governor moved Proposition 18 from the November 2010 ballot to the November 2012 ballot.

PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana**NO POSITION**

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 19, the LWVC is **taking no stand** on this measure.

PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs**NEUTRAL**

Proposition 21 establishes a new earmarked fee. The League does not generally support earmarks but is **neutral** on this measure because there is little left that can be done to raise money for the state parks, which provide a valuable recreation and natural preservation resource for the state.

PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds**NEUTRAL**

This measure would provide some stability in funding for local government. However, it would freeze in place the current dysfunctional system of funding local governments in California. The League will remain **neutral** on Proposition 22.

August 24, 2010

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 2!

What's in the New Law for Small Business

- Provides immediate tax credits for most small businesses
- Provides immediate access to a preexisting condition insurance plan for the self-employed
- Establishes a competitive marketplace for small businesses and the self-employed (The Healthcare Exchange System)
- Provides subsidies for many small business workers and self-employed entrepreneurs
- Eliminates preexisting condition exclusions
- Begins systemic cost containment
- No more job lock connecting access to healthcare to employment status

Both forms I attended had so much information that it would be unreasonable to include everything. Instead I will list some useful websites for you to peruse on your own. Healthcare will likely remain a topic of interest and our League is planning a members meeting in November. The focus will be on the ACA, and a date, time and place will be determined soon. Please let us know via our website if there is a particular area of interest you want to hear about in relationship to the ACA and we will arrange an appropriate speaker.

RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
www.healthcare.gov
www.smallbusinessmajority.org
www.itup.org



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

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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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