

## September 2006 Calendar

Thursday  
Sept 21  
7:00 pm

**Campaign Finance**  
discussion/study, Starbucks  
Western Ave./Glenoaks  
Blvd.

Saturday  
Sept. 30  
**Speaker Training**  
10:00 am  
Hollenbeck House  
Los Angeles

October is a month devoted  
to the state/federal  
elections.  
Stay tuned for information  
about Pro/Con forums,  
candidate forums and other  
events.

Tuesday  
November 7  
**Election Day**

## President's Message

LAST WEEK, the Glendale/Burbank League threw a party. (There's no reason why we can't have a little fun in the pursuit of democracy.) It was our second such party, held at Gordon Biersch Brewery in Burbank. But in between the appetizers and beer, we had a serious purpose—campaign finance reform.

This year, our League will study the issue of campaign finance reform in Glendale and Burbank. Are our city council members being unduly influenced by special interests? What is a special interest, anyway? At the party, Tom Carson organized a game to put a spotlight on the definition of special interests. We broke into two groups. One tackled the Burbank Airport, the other, the Americana at Brand project in Glendale. We made a list of which parties were interested in the projects, and then tried to define who among them were "special interests" that must be stopped. Neither group was able to come to a specific definition of what was a "special" interest—it seemed that ALL interests were special interests.

The point of the exercise was to show how difficult it is to write legislation on campaign finance reform that prevents undue influence on legislators, but permits appropriate influence.

We also enjoyed a speaker on Proposition 89, the Clean Money initiative, which will appear on the November ballot. Robin Gilbert, from the Clean Money Campaign, spoke about the proposition. Propo-

sition 89 provides for public financing of elections, and the California League of Women Voters supports it. (We will have more on Prop. 89 and the other propositions in the next issue of the Voter.)

If you are interested in joining the campaign finance reform study, we need your talents! Con-

tact me at [marquezlvw@earthlink.net](mailto:marquezlvw@earthlink.net), or by phone at (818) 760-3667.

A special thank you goes to Mary Dickson for organizing and underwriting the Gordon Biersch party. Thanks, Mary!

Monica Marquez

**This year,  
our League  
will study the  
issue of  
campaign  
finance  
reform in  
Glendale and  
Burbank.**

# Special LWVUS Convention Report

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**I** AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, the members of the League, for allowing me to represent you at the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was an extraordinary experience, both professionally and personally.

**FROM PLENARY SESSIONS** to workshops and caucuses, the convention went from 7:30 in the morning to well over 10 at night. League members have a lot of stamina! There were nearly a thousand delegates from all over the country, including a delegation from Hawaii.

From the plenary sessions, there is much to report. The convention approved the following motions.

**FIRST**, the national League voted to conduct a three year study of immigration policies. This timely and controversial topic will take two years to study, and then another year for consensus.

**SECOND**, the convention voted to concur in the League of Women Voters of Illinois death penalty provision. The new LWVUS position will now read "The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty."

**THE THIRD** vote had to do with voter verified paper trials for electronic voting machines. At the last convention, the US adopted a position favoring secure, accurate, recountable and accessible voting systems. The position did not specifically address whether the voting machines had to provide the voter with a paper receipt. This has been the source of much controversy within the League over the past two years. So, at the convention, a motion was made to interpret the position to support only voting systems that are designed so that they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record. The motion carried.

**IN THE FOURTH VOTE**, the convention approved a motion to elevate the restoration of our System of Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers to a top priority by specifically adding it to our Democracy Agenda for advocacy and education, and to denounce the erosion of our systems of checks and balances and separation of powers and the resulting damage to our constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties.

**FINALLY**, the convention voted to support the concept of internet neutrality by calling upon Congress to protect equal access to the Internet.

**IN ADDITION** to the plenary sessions, I also attended workshops on fundraising and increasing membership, two important items on our Glendale/Burbank agenda. You'll be hearing more about these items in upcoming issues of the Voter.

**OUTSIDE THE CONVENTION HALL** was a large and bustling wares market, where Leagues from around the country were selling League paraphernalia, such as T-Shirts, mugs, pins, pens and stationery. I also volunteered for a couple of hours at the League Easy Web table. League Easy Web (LEW) is a method for creating League web sites that does not require any knowledge of computer programming. We use it here in Glendale/Burbank (where I am the webmaster), along with scores of other Leagues in California. The creators of LEW are trying to extend the system to Leagues outside of California, so they set up a table in the well-traveled area outside the convention hall. I helped man the table for a couple of hours, answering questions, and telling about my experiences with LEW.

We enjoyed a large banquet on the third night of the convention. Garrison Keillor was the speaker, and he regaled with crowd with tales of growing up in Minnesota, and told a story of how when he was a young kid, he won an essay contest sponsored by none other than the League of Women Voters.

**AFTER THE CONVENTION** was over, I made a side trip to Mall of America, the largest enclosed mall in the world. I took Minneapolis' light rail, which was clean, smooth and inexpensive. Being the Valley Girl that I am, the Mall did not disappoint.

The convention was an exciting and worthwhile experience, and I truly appreciated the opportunity to go and represent Glendale and Burbank.

Monica Marquez



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF GLENDALE/BURBANK

# September Meeting

## Join us at Starbucks

corner of Western/Glenoaks

in Glendale

Thursday, September 21

7:00 p.m.

## Local Campaign Study

Continuing discussion on  
balancing competing interests and  
influences and  
various methods of controlling  
costs

# LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

*for*

LOS ANGELES & VENTURA COUNTIES & SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY LEAGUES  
& ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO ATTEND!

**HOSTED BY LWV BEVERLY HILLS**

Get charged for the coming League year!  
This workshop offers something of value for everyone: longtime members, new members, board officer & directors, program chairs.

## **WHEN??**

Saturday, October 28, 9:30 a.m to 3 p.m.

## **WHERE??**

McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant

Two Rodeo (northeast corner of Wilshire Blvd. & Rodeo Dr.)

*Driving directions & parking hints on the reverse.*

## **HOW MUCH??**

\$25—covering morning coffee & nibbles, handouts for each workshop, and your choice of three salad lunches to be decided that morning. Sorry, no option for brown bag.

## **THE AGENDA**

- 9:30-9:45—Registration, coffee, resource table shopping
- 9:45-10:00—Welcome—Dorothy Kaufman, President, LWVBH
- 10:00-11:00—*League 101, Everything You Want to Know About League,*  
LWVC President Jackie Jacobberger
- 11:00-12:00—*How to Run a Local Election,*  
LWVC Education Fund Director Robbie Davis
- 12:00-1:00—Lunch & Table Topics
- 1:00-1:45—*Recruiting & Keeping Your Members All Year Long,*  
MTA Program Coordinator for California South, Lois Chaney
- 1:45-2:30—*Raising League Visibility in Your Community,*  
LWVC Presenter TBA
- 2:30-3:00 Wrap-Up & Evaluations



Check(s) payable to LWVC

Registration due by October 23

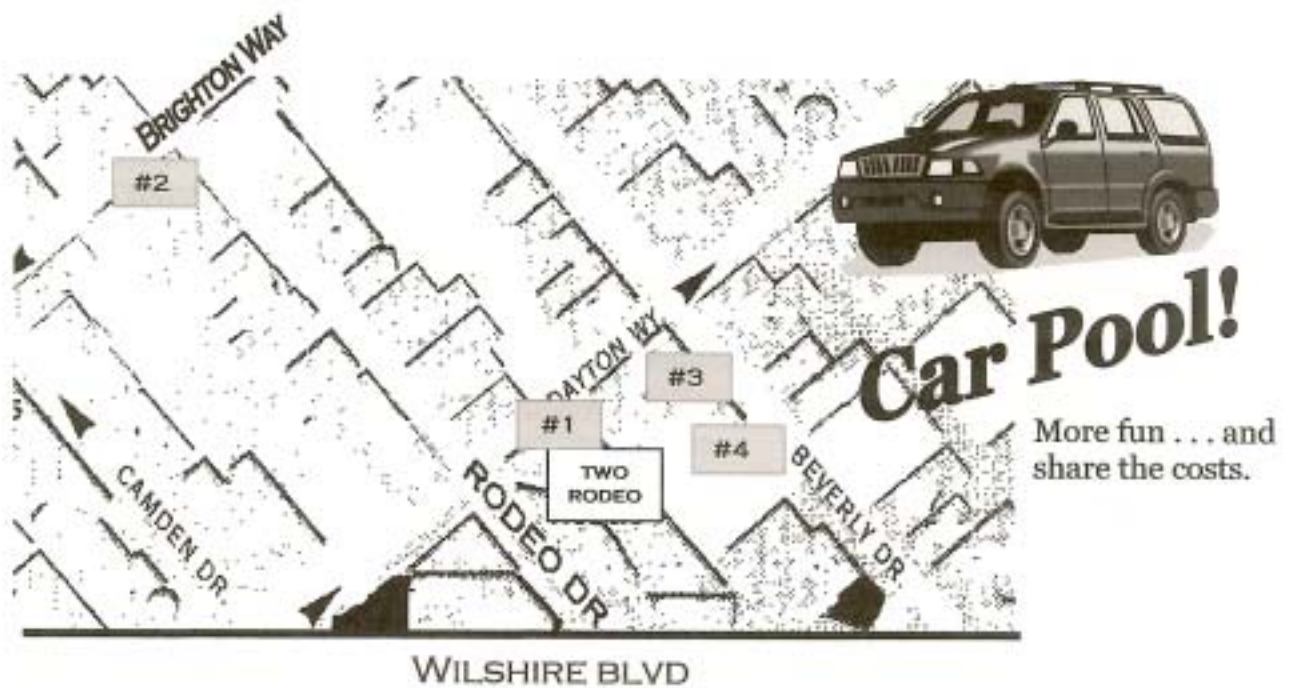
Mail registration & check(s) to:  
Judy Borash, LWV Beverly Hills  
9611 Highridge Dr.  
Beverly Hills CA 90210

Questions: Call Judy: 310-275-6343

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
League





### GETTING THERE

If using the San Diego Freeway, exit Wilshire East. **DO NOT TAKE SANTA MONICA BLVD** due to construction between the 405 & Beverly Hills.

From the Ventura Freeway, the Coldwater Canyon exit will get you right into Beverly Hills.

### PARKING

Ouch!! We're in heavy duty real estate here, folks, & nothing is free. But here are the options: priciest to best value:

- #1 From Wilshire, n. on Rodeo Dr, turn r. on Dayton. Valet parking for Two Rodeo is underground. \$15 maximum.
- #2 North on Rodeo Dr to Brighton (street above Dayton). Turn left (one-way street). Parking on south side at 9510 Brighton. \$13.50 maximum.
- #3 North on Rodeo Dr to Dayton, turn right (one-way). Dayton to Beverly Dr. Turn r. Parking is past two buildings on the right. \$10 maximum.
- #4 As for #3 but continue past Hugo Boss to 265 N Beverly Dr. \$8 maximum.

*With gratitude to LWVBH for research on parking.*

*Problems on the day: Call McCormick & Schmick's 310-859-0434*

**MCCORMICK  
& SCHMICK'S**

# Voting Rights

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## IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Voting Rights Act was renewed and signed by the President. This is a major victory for the principles for which the League was founded. Thanks to all League members who lobbied their representatives in support.

LWVUS President Mary Wilson testified before a Congressional Committee, opposing plans to require that eligible voters show photo identification at the polling place and present documentary proof of citizenship in the voter registration process.

“Some have suggested that illegal voting by non-citizens is a significant problem in federal elections. We in the League of Women Voters do not share that view,” Wilson said. “Any proposal that restricts voter registration or raises barriers to voting in order to deal with the supposed problem of non-citizen voting is a fear-based approach instead of a fact-based solution,” stated Wilson.

“In modern society it is easy to assume that everyone has appropriate ID or can prove their citizenship. But it is more difficult than one might think. The costs of obtaining proof of citizenship and photo ID would clearly discourage voter participation,” Wilson said.

LWVUS is supporting voting rights for the District of

Columbia. Citizens of the District of Columbia have no representation in the U.S. Senate and only a nonvoting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. A basic principle of democracy is at stake. U.S. citizens living in the capital of the free world deserve to have full voting representation in the bodies that make their laws, tax them and call them to war.

A bill to change this is moving through Congress. Please be alert to respond to Calls to Action.

## IN CALIFORNIA –

HAVA calls for the implementation of state-wide databases of registered voters. California has developed its database, but problems have arisen with regulations governing the voter validation criteria. LWVC, along with its voting rights partners, is monitoring the situation closely to see what corrections to the criteria might be needed to assure that citizens are not removed from the voting rolls by accident or mistake.

As a part of this effort, LWVC is undertaking a survey of how these criteria worked in the June election. We are asking Leagues across California to help us gather the data from county registrars.

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## 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 (include a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$30.00 for a one-year student membership

Name/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 League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. **Gifts made payable to “LWV Education Fund” are tax deductible.**

# please take note

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## Smart Voter Open for Primary Winners and Runoff Candidates

Primary winners and runoff candidates, anxious to get their message out to the public, have been starting or updating their Smart Voter candidate Web pages. These candidate pages are posted on <http://smartvoter.org> and are available to the public. Look for proposition and local contest coverage in late August.

## Student Voting Project

In April LWVC President Jackie Jacobberger participated in a meeting of an advisory committee for formation of a Student Voting Project, being co-sponsored by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson and State Superintendent of Instruction Jack O'Connell. The purpose is to establish student participation in elections through a series of programs and activities, in a partnership with county election officials, school superintendents, students, teachers, the business community, and community-based organizations such as the League. The goal is to have a different civics-related activity each month of the school year.

Plans are now coming together for the coming school year, and this will kick off with Constitution Day activities in September. You will soon receive a letter about this and local Leagues are encouraged to do whatever they can to promote participation in your local communities.

## \$\$\$\$ for the League

Do you shop online? If so, there is a painless way to have fun and earn money for our Education Fund. **iGive is a website that acts as a portal to hundreds of online merchants. A percentage of your sale is donated to our League's Education Fund each time you shop.** The companies that participate in the program include Lands' End, Coldwater Creek, Dell, Vitamin Shoppe, Pet Co, to name just a few. You go to the website, <http://www.igive.com/html/intro.cfm>, and register, designating LWV Glendale/Burbank Ed Fund as your cause. Then every time you shop, you go first to the iGive site, login, and then transfer to your chosen online merchant. Checks are sent directly to our Treasurer for deposit into our Ed Fund account.

What difference can a couple of dollars a purchase make? Those couple of dollars add up over time. They go to purchase Pros/Cons, the DVD of the LWV Los Angeles County judicial candidates which we give to the local cable stations, special informational registration materials which we distribute to new voters, to name just three things. So – if you love to shop online and love the League, this is a win/win situation. I've been doing this for over a year and it works. Sign up at iGive and help the League while you shop.

## Health Care Update

### Healthcare—SB 840

**LEAGUES ACROSS THE STATE** have joined forces with an SB 840 sponsor, Health Care for All-California, and other coalition members to push the health insurance reform bill to the Governor's desk for passage this year. The landmark bill would reform California's health care financing system by providing affordable insurance for every Californian. The new insurance system would replace hundreds of private insurers who waste billions of health care dollars each year. Monies that health care consumers usually pay to these private insurers and government funding that already exists would be funneled into the new state insurance program. In turn, the new state insurance fund would pay for comprehensive benefits that still would be provided by California's private health care providers.

HCA has set up the OneCareNow Campaign to coordinate the statewide effort to pass SB 840. The campaign has two strategies: a massive petition drive and the 365-days city campaign. League members can download the petitions from the campaign web site: [OneCareNow.org](http://OneCareNow.org). The petition drive will be an ongoing effort until a single payer insurance system is passed in California. Kits for tabling at public events are available from local HCA chapters.

The 365-days city campaign will begin in August and culminate with a huge rally at the state capitol in August 2007. Coalition members are organizing various events for different cities that will be held in a different city each day for 365 days. The last city campaign before the Sacramento rally will be a major event held in the state's largest city, Los Angeles.

The OneCareNow Campaign is raising money to supply activists with the tools they need for campaign work. To this end, they are sponsoring a search engine that funds the campaign \$ 0.03 each time it is used. If 10,000 activists were to use the engine twice a day for a year, \$219,000 would be raised. League members are urged to use the search engine that is Yahoo-enhanced and to ask their friends and families to do the same. One can sign on to the Prodege search engine and add it to his or her favorites list by going to [www.hca.prodege.com](http://www.hca.prodege.com).

For more information, please contact Barbara Storey, program director for health care, at 619-231-8231 or [bs\\_lwv004@cox.net](mailto:bs_lwv004@cox.net).

*by Chris Carson*

# The Voter

THE VOTER IS PUBLISHED nine times a year by the League of Women Voter of Glendale/Burbank, California.

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The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, Seand 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  
MEMBERS –  
Laurie Collins and  
Lana Lott



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Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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## VOTER

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League websites:  
LWV Glendale/Burbank  
<http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>

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

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

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