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# League of Women Voters

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## Glendale/Burbank

### FEBRUARY 2005 Calendar

Wednesday, February 2, 7pm  
**Burbank Council &  
School Board Forum**  
Burbank City Hall  
275 E Olive Avenue  
Burbank

Wednesday, February 9, 9:45am  
**Gearing Up to  
Pass Universal Health Care**  
See flyer on page 2

Thursday, March 10, 7pm  
**Glendale City Clerk &  
Treasurer Forum**  
Glendale City Hall  
613 E Broadway  
Glendale

Thursday, March 17  
**EdSource Conference**  
See article on page 3

Thursday, March 17, 7pm  
**Glendale City Council Forum**  
Glendale City Hall  
613 E Broadway  
Glendale

Saturday, March 19,  
**LWVLAC Annual Convention**  
Long Beach  
See flyer on page 4

Wednesday, March 30, 7pm  
**Burbank Run-Off Forum**  
Burbank City Hall  
275 E Olive Avenue

## President's Message

*Chris Carson*

**A** In my darker moments, I tend to believe that we've reached the point where we'll vote continuously.

Having barely finished the fall Presidential elections, here we go again—another frenzied season of campaigns. We have entered the cycle of municipal elections for Burbank and Glendale. And for the League, that means forums. This year represents an bonanza—of sorts. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we'll present a candidates forum for the Burbank primary election, City Council and School Board. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a forum for Glendale City Clerk and Treasurer. Following that, a forum for Glendale City Council on March 17<sup>th</sup> and finishing up with a forum for the Burbank Run Off election on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, we will be filming an informal interview program on the proposed revisions to the Glendale City Charter with Chair Eileen Givens. And then we'll all collapse.

Seriously, this is a massive

undertaking and represents an enormous commitment of time and talent on the part of many League members. Although we often joke that we should seek counseling to stop our addiction to this behavior, we all know how vitally important these forums are to the citizens of our two cities. Candidates have the opportunity to speak to the issues and voters can listen and make judgments in an impartial, non-threatening atmosphere that places premium value on civility and reasoned debate. The League's hard won reputation for objectivity and professionalism makes our forums unique. And the dedication of League members who give of themselves is truly inspiring. Keep an eye on our website for the latest election information and look for us on Burbank and Glendale Government TV.

You can't miss us; we'll be everywhere!



You are invited to a special presentation  
of the credible Lewin Study research findings on the

# Health Care for All Californians Act

February 9, 2005  
1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church of Long Beach,  
241 Cedar, and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Long Beach 90802  
Time: 9:45 AM-Noon

Parking at City Lot on Broadway and Cedar

Please come and hear about the astounding findings showing  
how California can provide an affordable, high quality health  
care plan with permanence and security in coverage to all.

**Cosponsors:**

1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church of Long Beach  
American Association of University Women of California  
Gray Panthers of Long Beach  
Health Care Council of Orange County  
Health Care for All South Bay/Long Beach  
League of Women Voters of Long Beach  
National Council of Jewish Women of Long Beach  
South Coast Interfaith Council  
South County Labor, AFL-CIO

**Information:**

choff74523@aol.com  
310 377 7668

# Updates

## Spring EdSource Forum March 17 and 18

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE the instruction and opportunities that high schools provide their students? And how do we make them relevant in today's knowledge economy?

At the 28th Annual EdSource Forum, "Shaking Up the Status Quo: The Movement to Transform High School," a group of outstanding speakers will examine the multiple challenges involved in changing the status quo in California's public high schools. Don't miss this significant and timely event! Join EdSource on Thursday, March 17 in Manhattan Beach, or Friday, March 18 in Santa Clara. For more information, go to EdSource's web site at <http://www.edsource.org/forum05info.cfm>.

Since LWVC is an EdSource subscriber, LWVC members are eligible for an early bird registration rate of \$50 until Feb. 18. After that date, registration is \$60 for EdSource subscribers. To register, go to <https://www.edsource.org/order/confregform.cfm?issubscriber=1>

## LWVC Redistricting News

REDISTRICTING was made an LWVC action priority at the January 9 state board meeting. We sent a letter to the Governor stating the League's position on the issue on January 13; that letter is posted at the LWVC Web site at [http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/letter\\_to\\_gov\\_jan2005.pdf](http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/letter_to_gov_jan2005.pdf).

Similar letters were sent to members of the Legislature.

The LWVC is working with the California Voter Empowerment Circle and some partners to develop analyses of the several redistricting proposals. As soon as any analyses are ready for the public, we will place links to them at the LWVC Web site, <http://lwvc.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>.

The LWVC will be following up on our letters with whatever lobbying seems appropriate. We will be studying the proposals to determine whether there are any we can support.

For more information, contact LWVC Program Director/Advocate Trudy Schafer at 916-442-9210 or [tschafer@lwvc.org](mailto:tschafer@lwvc.org).

## LWVLAC Convention Coming Up

THE 43RD ANNUAL CONVENTION of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Community Hospital of Long Beach, 1720 Termino Ave., Long Beach from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The invited speaker will be Fourth District County Supervisor Don Knabe addressing Health Care and other urgent issues facing Los Angeles County residents.

Registration and brunch for League delegates and observers will commence at 9 a.m. in the hospital auditorium. President Margo Reeg will call the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The business of the day includes adoption of the County League budget, election of officers and board reports.

League members throughout Los Angeles County will be welcomed by Long Beach Area President Lois Ledger. Reservations for the convention and brunch are \$15 each, with deadline of March 10, 2005 and \$20 for late reservations from March 11th to 16th. Food Bank contributions will be collected at the door.

Directions to the hospital from the 405 Freeway: exit Lakewood south, turn right on to Pacific Coast Highway, go up hill a short distance and make left turn on Termino and another left turn into hospital parking entrance.



# League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

## 43rd Annual Convention

Speaker: Don Knabe

*Fourth District County Supervisor*

Topic: **Health Care**

and other urgent issues  
facing Los Angeles County residents

Saturday March 19, 2005 9am to 1pm

### Community Hospital of Long Beach

1720 Termino Avenue  
Long Beach, California

**Directions:** From 405 freeway:  
Exit Lakewood south  
Right onto Pacific Coast Highway  
Left on Termino (a short distance up hill)  
Left into hospital parking entrance

Reservations for convention and brunch **by March 10:** \$15.00 per each  
Reservations **from March 11 to March 16:** \$20 per each

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Send form and check payable to LWVLAC to:  
Gwen Cochran, 427 E Walnut Burbank CA 91501

Reservation Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

League: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate/Visitor \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

# Palestinian Elections – A Closer View

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JENNIFER COLLINS-FOLEY, an executive staff member of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorders office until she moved back to the Washington, D. C. area with her husband and family, recently returned from observing the elections in Palestine. She traveled as part of a group, as the “election procedures” expert, and shared some of her experiences with a group of us during a recent return to the RR/CC office in Norwalk.

## **Elections two months after Arafat’s death**

The observers were in Palestine for about a week in December 2004 making preliminary contacts and arrangements. They returned in January 2005 for the actual elections. As a long-time election official herself, Jennifer reflected the hands-on concerns of one who understands elections at the nitty-gritty level of being sure supplies are available and workers are trained when people show up at the polls. She noted that elections were held only two months after President Arafat’s death, a rush situation in places where elections are commonplace and societies peaceful, a greater challenge in Palestine.

## **Political and civil databases used**

Fortunately, registrations had recently been conducted in 24 Palestinian cities in September-October, so these registrations were extended and expanded. In addition to the political database generated from this process, there was a civil database based on other records. Initially, the plan was to have separate polling places for the separate lists, but a couple of days before the election took place, authorities decided to merge the two databases and allow interchangeable voting at all polling places. Jennifer likened it to merging active and inactive rolls for Los Angeles County.

## **Equipment: state of the art**

Jennifer had pictures of the District Election Commission offices, beautiful buildings, classic architecture, furnished inside with ergonomically designed chairs that were in notable contrast to the chairs in the RR/CC conference room in which we were meeting. In Palestine, boxes of tissues with the Election Commission imprint were every-

where, as were cookies—Palestinian staffs found it hard to believe such enhancements were not part of Jennifer’s normal working environment.

Although unemployment varied from 40% to 60% depending on the specific area of Palestine, the supplies and training supporting the election were state-of-the-art, having been provided by various European countries: ballot boxes from Norway, consultants from the Netherlands, etc. Jennifer reported that their procedures and training were top notch. UN trainers provided excellent role-playing exercises for the elections workers.

## **Fear of fraud**

Absentee voting was not allowed as part of the Palestinian election because of fear of fraud. The thumb of each voter was marked with indelible ink to make voting more than once impossible. This precaution carried a danger of another kind in that some groups advocated boycotting the election, and the ink lasted at least five days.

## **Lack of absentee voting posed problems**

The lack of absentee voting was a serious obstacle for those who had to pass through several check-points between a residence and a work place. To facilitate voting, Israeli staffing was removed from at least some of the check points, but the mounds of dirt put in place to impede transit were left in place. For the visiting group to pass through the VIP check point on their way to some of the northern Palestinian villages took more than an hour. In Gaza, the head of the District Election Commission was locked up at his home by the Israelis shortly before the election; Jennifer noted what an impact that would have in Norwalk were Conny McCormack [LA County Registrar-Recorder] to be so restricted. Also, supplies had to come through Israel, and delivery promises were not reliable.

## **Sense of danger prevailed**

Jennifer noted the brutalization that was apparent on both sides, and the sense of danger that prevailed. At one point the group had to retreat back into the Election Commission building as Israeli

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS continued on page7

# “Keeping the Lights On” LWVC Energy Conference

## January 21, 2005

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EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED to know about California’s electricity future and then some was presented at the conference “Keeping the Lights on” organized by the League of Women Voters of California Energy study committee and cosponsored by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Energy Commission (CEC) and Town Hall Los Angeles.

To set the focus for the day, Bob Therkelsen, Executive Director of the California Energy Commission provided an overview of California’s Electricity System. Electricity is an unusual commodity because it must be delivered instantaneously in response to demand; it is not storable; it follows the laws of physics not economics; it is essential to the health, welfare, and economic functioning of society; and it depends on a complex integrated system of generation and delivery controlled by many governmental and private agencies and corporations.

Although Californian’s use of electricity per person is significantly less than that of people in other Western states and has remained at a relatively stable level for the last 20 years, the demand for electricity in the state continues to grow at about 2% per year due to increases in population and commercial/industrial/service expansion. However, peak demand for electricity during the hot summer months exceeds the generation and transmission capacity of power sources in California or contracted/controlled out-of-state generators. Consequently, California is dependent on purchasing electricity at the last minute on the “spot market” from sources in the Southwestern states or the Pacific Northwest. In extreme situations the state must impose on its emergency interruption contracts in order to cut demand. Those large users generally have generators which they can turn on to keep their operations going. But they often add to air pollution. In the last two years the energy related agencies including the CPUC and the CEC cooperated to create the Energy Action Plan (EAP). The agencies have conducted evaluations

of energy supply, transmission and demand, and have issued Energy Policy Status Reports in 2002 and 2004 and are finishing the 3rd report for 2004. They have set energy priorities for the state including an “energy loading order” to meet energy demands. These priorities have been endorsed by former Governor Davis and by Governor Schwarzenegger.

- 1 Promoting Energy Efficiency
- 2 Developing Renewable Energy Sources
- 3 Expanding Energy Generation Capacity
- 4 Expanding Transmission Capacity

Among the problems facing California’s electricity system in the future, according to Therkelsen, are growing demand for power not only in California but in the 14-state western region from which California purchases electricity. In addition, California depends more heavily on natural gas to fuel its power plants than eastern states. Supplies of natural gas, primarily from Texas, have been interrupted and prices have escalated. People are resisting the siting of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals along the coast due to safety concerns. Plus, the state has a newly adopted law requiring the reduction of greenhouse gases. (The two largest sources of greenhouse gases are power plants and motor vehicles.)

Generation capacity is another issue as older power plants are retired and delays are encountered in constructing state-of-the-art clean generators. Finally, the bottlenecks in the transmission system which prevent additional megawatts of electricity from being sent from generators in or out of state to areas of peak demand need to be relieved either by building additional transmission lines or additional generation capacity in heavy use areas. Environmental requirements for reducing air emissions and environmental justice concerns regarding location of power plants enter into these

helicopters flew overhead, firing into a Palestinian compound. She wondered what she, with three children and a husband she loved at home, was doing in such a place—and then she realized she would be leaving, and thought about those who could not. She also reported a conversation she overheard as she stood in the midst of a third-world Palestinian village: two men were discussing the change from 150 channels to 250 channels on Jerusalem television.

Jennifer had recently completed a procedural election guide for use in Tajikistan, one of the former SSRs, and noted that it had to be an ethical guide, not just a procedural one. For example, under Soviet rule, part of the responsibility of the election workers had been to assure a high turnout. Consequently, poll workers felt it their duty to vote for people unable to make it in on election day. Jennifer’s guide made it clear that, under the Tajikistan national rules, the responsibility of the election workers was to assure an accurate, reliable vote, and that the turnout was the responsibility of the voter.

decisions, as well as who is responsible for paying for the construction.

What can the League do? First and foremost we need to be leaders in conservation and encourage others to conserve also. By installing low energy fluorescent light bulbs throughout our homes, replacing aging appliances with efficient “Energy Star” models, turning off appliances rather than leaving them in stand-by mode, using appliances in the morning or at night to avoid peak load hours, and by reducing use of air conditioning in the summer we can reduce the demand on our electricity system relatively painlessly. Additional measures include installing more insulation in our homes and replacing windows with double-paned models. Those with means and dedication may want to install solar panel shingles to generate their own electricity during the day. Compared to the general population, League people already demonstrate a higher level of adoption of these simple practices. In the longer term, each of us will save resources as well as money.



## Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. All Citizens of voting age are welcome.

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)
- I am unable to join League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Gifts made payable to “LWV Education Fund” are tax deductible.**

# The Voter

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

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Editor: Chris Carson

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The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education advocacy.

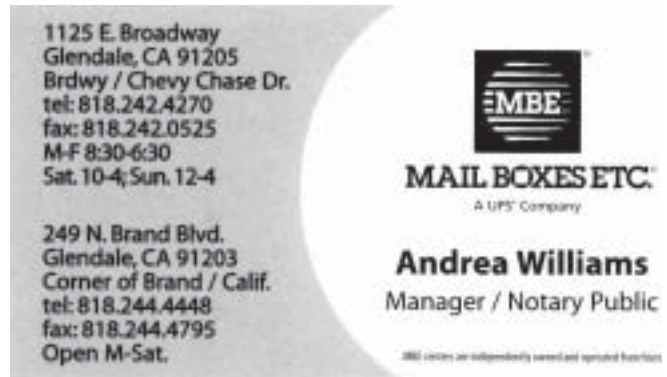
The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

# Member News

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Linda Lammers

*The League of Women Voters Glendale/Burbank thank MailBoxes Etc. for printing our Voter without charge*



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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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