



League of Women Voters

Glendale/Burbank

JANUARY 2005 Calendar

Saturday
January 29 9:30 am
LWVLAC
Land Use League Day
Alhambra
See flyer on page 4

Wednesday
February 2
Candidates Forum
**Burbank City Council &
School Board**
Burbank City Hall
Olive Street

Monday
February 7
Last day to register to vote
in Burbank Primary Election

Tuesday
February 22
**Primary Nominating
Municipal Election**
Burbank

March
Coming Soon
**Glendale City Council
Candidates Forum**

President's Message

Chris Carson

AS we begin a New Year,
it's worth reflecting on the following

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

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to **empower citizens** to shape better communities, worldwide.

We

... **act** after study and member agreement **to achieve solutions** in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels

... **build citizen participation** in the democratic process

... engage communities in **promoting positive solutions** to public policy issues through education and advocacy

We believe in

... **respect** for individuals

... the value of **diversity**

... the **empowerment** of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities

... the power of **collective decision making** for the common good

Mission Statement of the League of Women Voters



League of Women Voters
Los Angeles County

Land Use in Los Angeles County

Saturday, January 29, 2005

Location: Almansor Court Restaurant
700 S. Almansor St., Alhambra

(From the 10 Freeway and exit north on Garfield. Turn right on Valley Blvd. and left on Almansor St. Enter parking lot on your right.
From Pasadena area, take Huntington to Garfield, turn south, cross RR tracks and turn left on to Park, which deadends into the Almansor parking lot.)

Registration: 9:30am, Speakers: 10:00am-12:00pm,
Hands-on Planning Meeting 1:00-2:00pm

Speakers: Lynn Harris, SCAG COMPASS Project Manager
Mark Herwick, Senior Planner, LA County

Cost: \$25, includes morning coffee, lunch (including vegetarian options), for registrations received by January 19th; \$30 for registrations received after January 19th.

RSVP, including checks payable to LWV/LAC, to:
Gwen Cochran, 427 East Walnut Ave. Burbank, 91501

Name(s) _____

League _____ **NO. attending** _____ **Vegetarian** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Updates

November Election Report

STATISTICS, STATISTICS, STATISTICS! That's what the quarterly Community Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) covered. Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), the meeting was attended by numerous League of Women Voter representatives, as well as advocates for minority groups and the disabled. County Clerk Connie McCormack was on hand with lots of interesting statistics. The meeting reviewed the November 2, 2004 election.

Website in great demand

In Los Angeles County, 3,085,582 ballots were cast at 4,602 precincts across the city, an extremely high voter turnout of 79.10%. The RR/CC telephone hotline took 64,508 calls on Election Day. The website was also in great demand, and made it possible for more people to get information than just by phone alone. On Election Day the RR/CC website took 5,999,152 hits from 191,872 visitors. Eighty-one thousand twenty-one visitors looked up their poll location, Forty thousand four hundred

Fund Drive

AS OF DECEMBER 20, we have received a total of \$1,490.52 from the Drive. An additional \$243 was received from the Wassail Bowl Raffle. We thank the following members for their generous contributions. And it's not too late to help the League with your contribution!

Florence & Dick Domes, Monica Marquez, Carole Dougherty, Roberta Kiehl, Georganne Thomsen, Lorene Simon, Celia & James Laichas, Vera Naylor, Anna Rundle, Connie & Alan Wilson, Peggy Steppe, Mary Lou Howard, Gwen Cochran, Chris Carson.

Wassail Bowl

OUR ANNUAL WASSAIL BOWL was a great success. Thanks to **Connie Wilson** who orchestrated the whole event. **Mary Lou Howard** graciously opened her beautiful home to the League. **Dorrie Beaumont** took reservations. **Dion Rodriquez, Anna May Nelson** and **Rosa Frommer** helped with the raffle. The **Van Bloehm Singers** provided the wonderful entertainment. And our vice president **Anna Rundle** acted as mistress of ceremonies.

forty-four looked up a directional map and 29,629 looked up their sample ballot.

Touchscreens lessons

McCormack gave a recap of Touchscreen early voting. Voter turnout for Touchscreen Early Voting for the November 2004 Presidential election was 65,175. A majority of the Touchscreen sites showed a record increase in voter turnout. There were some lessons learned with Touchscreen Early Voting, however. Many of the Early Voting sites have maxed out on the number of Touchscreen units, staffing and the number of voters that can be accommodated. As more voters opt to vote early rather than at the polls, there is a need to reconsider site locations for future Touchscreen Early Voting. One issue is the adequacy of parking at Touchscreen locations. An advocate for the disabled affirmed that her disabled clients were very happy with the use of the Touchscreens, for it offered them the ability to vote without assistance.

NOVEMBER ELECTION REPORT continued on page 5

Continued: A Report from Mary Wilson LWVUS liaison to California Leagues

In July Mary Wilson asked state League presidents how the US board and staff could better serve state and local Leagues. Here is a summary of some of the local and state League activities.

A few highlights from the information I have received so far:

- The leagues have been extremely busy sponsoring candidate forums, producing Voter's Guides, and registering voters
- UT State Board adopted increasing membership, maintaining financial stability, increasing League visibility in the community and within the membership, and having a strong voter service campaign as their major goals for the year
- Like my own state of New Mexico, water issues are of great interest to the Cedar City (Iron County), UT league• AZ leagues have been active with international visitors from Korea, Laos, Malta, South Africa, Denmark and China
- Greater Tucson co-sponsored the AZ Women's Conference in September
- LWVC has adopted positions supporting two propositions on the State November ballot—making access to government information a constitutional right and expanding health care coverage and opposing one on collection of DNA samples from all persons charged with felonies
- Leagues seem to be vigorously holding membership recruitment and new member orientation meetings in an effort to get new and retain current members. After our Oct. Board meeting I am hoping to be able to report to them on LWVUS efforts to help local leagues in this effort
- CA has an updated program planning kit for 05-07 with responses due February 15, 2005
- In response to resolution of their Convention delegates, LWVC is examining their water positions and the current trend toward water utility privatization
- Leagues are working in coalition with other organizations to increase their strength and clout.

MIXED RESULTS ON LOCAL MEASURES



Despite Governor Schwarzenegger's post-election claim that the November results proved that "people don't want to be taxed," a quick survey of local tax and bond measure results around the state presents a mixed picture.

Since Proposition 39 passed in 2000, local school bonds require only 55 percent approval. In November, nearly all of the school bonds on local ballots passed, providing about \$3.6 billion for local schools. A few bond measures for non-school purposes, such as a seismic safety measure for the San Francisco Bay Area BART rail system and a measure to clean up the storm water system in Los Angeles, reached the two-thirds vote needed for passage.

Other local measures did not fare as well, with only about a third approved. Most of these were taxes for special purposes, requiring a two-thirds vote for passage, and many of them garnered a majority vote but fell short of two-thirds. (Tax increases for general purpose spending require only a majority vote.)

A sales tax increase to fund law enforcement fell short in Los Angeles County with 60 percent support, while one in San Francisco to maintain general city programs fell well short of even a majority. New or extended sales taxes for transportation generally did better, passing in a number of counties.

Utility user taxes for general purposes were proposed in a number of cities, and nearly all the new proposals were rejected, although existing taxes were extended in a few cities. Parcel taxes had a similar success rate, with about a third of the proposed measures winning. Hotel and motel occupancy taxes, which are paid by out-of-towners, were considerably more popular with local voters; roughly half of those measures passed.

Differing local situations make it chancy to draw overall conclusions from these results. However, voters seem to prefer taxes for designated purposes rather than those for which spending will be determined by their elected representatives.

Looking at the overall picture of state and local tax measures, one might speculate that most voters were willing to support taxes they didn't expect to pay, such as the state tax on the highest income taxpayers for mental health services and the local hotel taxes, but not the state phone tax for emergency medical service or local utility taxes they were certain to pay.

Resources for Liberty Issues

Civil Liberty

The US Constitution and The Federalist Papers

David Cole, *Enemy Aliens*

David Cole, *Terrorism and the Constitution: Sacrificing Civil Liberties in the Name of National Security*

Katherine B. Darmer, et al, *Civil Liberties vs. National Security in a Post 9/11 World*

Herbert Foerstel, *Refuge of a Scoundrel: the Patriot Act in Libraries*

Nat Hentoff, *The War on the Bill of Rights and the Gathering Resistance*

Alfred H. Kelly, ed, *Foundations of Freedom in the American Constitution* (out of print representation of the League's Freedom Agenda, occasionally available at www.amazon.com)

Kate Martin and Joe Onek, "Enemy Combatants," *The Constitution and the Administration's "War on Terror,"* American Constitution Society for Law and Policy

C. William Michaels, *No Greater Threat: America after September 11 and the Rise of a National Security State*

Richard C. Leone and Greg Anrig, *The War on Our Freedoms: Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism*

Geoffrey R. Stone, *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism*

Reports of the American Library Association:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issues/issuesadvocacy.htm>

Reports of the American Civil Liberties Union:

<http://www.aclu.org/NationalSecurity/NationalSecurityMain.cfm>

<http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFreeMain.cfm>

Reports of The First Amendment Center

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org>

Reports of Human Rights Watch

www.hrw.org

Reports of the Liberty and Security Initiative at the Constitution Project:

<http://www.constitutionproject.org/ls/>

Ann Fagan Ginger, ed., "Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11,"

Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute

Department of Justice:

http://www.usdoj.gov/01whatsnew/safer_america/war_on_terror.html

<http://www.usdoj.gov/civilliberties.htm>

Homeland Security

Graham Allison, *Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe*

Matthew Brzezinski, *Fortress America: On the Frontlines of Homeland Security—and inside Look at the Coming Surveillance State*

Gavin de Becker, *Fear Less: Real Truth About Risk, Safety, and Security in a Time of Terrorism*

Stephen E. Flynn, *America the Vulnerable: How Our Government Is Failing to Protect Us from Terrorism*

Bruce Schneier, *Beyond Fear: Thinking Sensibly about Security in an Uncertain World*

Internet compilation by the twURled World at

<http://www.twurled-world.com/Infowar/Update3/cover.htm>

U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century, also known as the Hart Rudman Commission:

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/ssi/hartrud.pdf>

Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/index.jsp>

Research and Technology:

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/theme_home5.jsp

Government Accounting Office Report on Preparedness of Urban Hospitals

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03924.pdf>

National Center for Disease Control home page on Preparedness and Response

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>

Middle East History and Terrorism

History

The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States
Anonymous (Michael Scheuer), *Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror*

Paul Berman, *Terror and Liberalism*

Yossef Bodansky, *The High Cost of Peace: How Washington's Middle East Policy Lest America Vulnerable to Terrorism*

Efraim Karsh & Inari Karsh, *Empires of the Sand: The Struggle for Mastery in the Middle East: 1789-1923*

Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*

Bernard Lewis, *From Babel to Dragomans: Interpreting the Middle East., The Crisis of Islam, What Went Wrong?*

Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac, *Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia*

Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror*

Ahmed Rashid, *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*

Andrew Wheatcroft, *Infidels: A History of Conflict between Christendom and Islam*

Terrorism

Anonymous (Rita Katz), *Terrorist Hunter*

Richard A. Clarke, *Against All Enemies*

Alan M. Dershowitz, *Why Terrorism Works*

Mark A. Gabriel, *Islam and Terrorism*

Rohnan Gunaratna, *Inside Al Qaeda*

Brian Michael Jenkins, *Countering Al Qaeda: An*

Appreciation of the Situation and Suggestions for Strategy

Maria Ressa, *Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia*

Jessica Stern, *Terror in the Name of God*

Bilingual assistance complaints aired

Despite the overall positive report of the how things went on Election Day, some members of the meeting aired complaints about the voting process on Election Day, including a lack of bilingual voter materials, lack of bilingual poll workers and poorly trained poll workers at some locations.

Inactive lists kept for two election cycles

The next topic was Voter File Clean Up. Los Angeles County does not purge its voter rolls. Voters who haven't voted in two presidential election cycles become inactive and no longer receive sample ballots. However, the inactive people are listed in the same rolls as active voters, so if they come to the polls on Election Day, the poll worker can find their names without looking on a separate list.

The meeting then covered the Student and College Poll worker Program. One hundred eighty-eight high schools and 25 colleges participated. Three thousand two hundred high school poll workers served in the 2004 Presidential election, up from 1600 in the Primary Election. One thousand four

hundred forty cCollege students served in November 2004, up from 308 in the primary.

Help America Vote program

A representative from the "Girls Today Women Tomorrow (GTWT)" program gave an account of its Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Poll worker Grant Program. Together with The Los Angeles Conservation Corps, they implemented a nonpartisan college poll worker outreach and recruitment initiative under the Help America Vote College Program. GTWT recruited 152 college poll workers in Los Angeles County. More than 75% of the recruits were bilingual Spanish speaking individuals—in short supply throughout the county. More than 95% of these individuals took part in training and worked at the polls on November 2.

Voter Service

Ballots Cast: 3,085,582 (79.1%)

Absentee Votes: 701, 106

Provisional Votes: 204, 578

Inmate Votes: 16

Monica Marquez, LWV Glendale/Burbank Voter Service



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 (include 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.

A YEAR LATER: HOW IS CALIFORNIA DOING?

One year ago, when Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected, he promised to fix the state's budget mess. And, certainly there are positive signs.

The governor appears to be working hard to bring fiscal gains to our state. He has been to Washington, touting his ability to be the "Collectinator." (Success, however, has been minimal.) He has promoted our products and services in Japan. And, Californians say that our state is headed in the right direction—the first time in five years we have said that.

What are the key indicators that show California's economic climate improving?

Economists give Schwarzenegger credit for creating a better business climate—one not so frightening, as one economist stated. And, Wall Street's view of the Golden State has improved which brings down the cost of borrowing money for our state.

However, California still has the lowest credit rating of any state in the country. Standard & Poors says the rating is due to "the need to bring spending and revenues into balance." Californians passed two bond measures in the last election; we do not yet know the rate at which the bonds will be sold. The state debt has risen from \$36.6 billion in November 2003 to \$53.9 billion one year later.

Although eschewing most tax measures, voters in November agreed to a tax surcharge for those earning more than \$1 million a year to pay for mental health services. The impact of this tax increase on the state budget is not known. Those who opposed the measure said that it would make some high-income earners leave the state, reducing the income tax revenue available for future budgets. Others counter that argument by looking to the early 1990s, when California had higher rates on the top income tax brackets and the number of millionaires increased.

The state's continued use of property tax funds intended for cities and counties to relieve its budgetary problems has been a sore point with local governments for more than a decade. The passage of Proposition 1A allows the state to take

an additional \$1.3 billion per year this fiscal year and next, but after that the state will be prevented from taking additional property taxes unless they are repaid with interest. This will certainly create additional pressure on the state's budget.

How well are other indicators of the state's economic climate doing? Unemployment is down. But, the prison population—a large drain on the state budget—is up.

School districts are in increasing trouble. In each of the past six years the number of California school districts not able to meet their budget has grown—from one to nine. Those with a qualified budget (districts that say they may not be able to meet their budget over the coming three years) have increased from 14 to 35. According to many, these numbers will go up this year, too. Also, fees for classes at all UC and CSU campuses have increased by at least 14 percent in the last year. Community college fees have gone up by 44 percent.

The Legislative Analyst has indicated that there is a structural deficit of about \$8 billion a year within the state budget that must be fixed. She says it will worsen if lawmakers and the governor don't deal with it this coming fiscal year.

Continuing to rely on one-time fixes, bonds and other borrowing mechanisms creates its own problems. It appears new taxes will need to be raised or further cuts to health, education, transportation, social programs, and other state programs will occur. But, the governor said that he will not raise taxes and has chosen Tom Campbell—a man with similar views—as his new Director of Finance.

The governor may have been right when he stated, "The people do not like to be taxed." The November election results were mixed. Will further service and program cuts be the answer to our budget ills? Or, at what point will the people agree to more taxes for governmental services to meet citizen needs?



The Voter

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

President: 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

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Margarita Campos, Burbank City Clerk. She has received the International Institute of Municipal Clerks designation of Certified Municipal Clerk

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO
Mary and Fred Baldino
on the death of their daughter, Linda

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Glendale, CA 91205
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tel: 818.242.4270
fax: 818.242.0525
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Sat. 10-4; Sun. 12-4

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<http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>

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

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

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