

## President's Message

*Chris Carson*

### November 2004 Calendar

On the surface  
—at least—  
the Glendale/Burbank  
League is “resting” in  
November.

The **FUND DRIVE**  
begins.

Thursday  
December 9  
**Wassail Bowl**  
Home of Mary Lou  
Howard

Thursday  
January 20  
**League Salon** returns

Saturday  
January 29  
**LWVLAC League Day**  
on land use  
Location TBA

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE RIDE! Beginning in early August with planning for the special Glendale election forum, continuing through September and early October with frenzied voter registration dates that drew hundreds, answering floods of telephone calls and email messages about registration and voting, distributing thousands of copies of the League Election Guide and Easy Voter to libraries, schools, colleges and community groups, speakers traveling to the far west San Fernando Valley to talk about ballot measures, down to the last frantic days of pulling together a major candidates forum and ending with the Voter Service Co-Chair directing final arrangements for a Mock

Election from her hospital bed, the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank never faltered.

You can read about the details inside. But I would like to state for the record that I have never been

so proud to be a League member as this year. Our members threw themselves into service to our communities as never before. As president, I am awed and humbled by the amount of time and energy our members selflessly contributed to the democratic process. It certainly is an honor to be a part of this League. And it's an example to the wider community of what involvement in government and public affairs can accomplish.

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“Democracy is not a spectator sport.”

# Election Activities in October/November

## Local League Election Activities

VOTER REGISTRATION CONTINUED with dates at Providence-St. Joseph's Urgent Care Center, Warner Brothers Animation, a return to Dream Works and Amblin Productions. Thanks to **Connie Wilson, Gwen Cochran, Adele Coy, Monica Marquez, Tom Carson and Chris Carson.**

A special voter outreach event in cooperation with the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women included voter registration and voting demonstration. We presented a voting demonstration at Woodbury University. A second shipment of election guides were taken to Glendale Community College. Thanks to **Chris Carson and Monica Marquez.**

**Georganne Thomsen and Anna Rundle** filled numerous speaking engagements on the ballot measures throughout Glendale and Burbank as well as the San Fernando Valley west to Santa Clarita.

The League supervised a **Mock Election** for fourth and fifth graders at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School in Burbank.

The League phone rang and rang with questions about voter registration. Thanks to **Anna Rundle, Arline Ames and Chris Carson.** Our website received many inquiries about the upcoming election and appreciative comments about the detailed content we provided. Thanks to **Monica Marquez,** our webmaster.

The LWV Los Angeles County video on the Judicial Candidates was shown on Burbank TV. Thanks to the City of Burbank.

Finally our candidates forum for Congress and State Assembly took place on October 27<sup>th</sup>. This year we invited students from Burbank, John Burroughs and Providence High Schools and a student from Woodbury University to be members of the panels. The students developed questions in their government and political science classes. We received numerous compliments from audience members about involving students in the forum process. Thanks to **Connie Wilson, Rita Zwern, Di Rodriquez, Gwen Cochran, Tom Carson, Dick Dommies and Florence Dommies.**

The Voter Service Co Chairs: **Connie Wilson and Monica Marquez** worked long hours to make our Voter Service efforts the success they were. Despite serious family and personal illness they never faltered.

## LWVUS Election Activities

IN THIS HOTLY CONTESTED ELECTION, the League was active as never before. The **5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day** voter education campaign was a huge success. A quick summary of the campaign's reach: **LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell** traveled to 20 cities in eight states in under two months, promoting the League's message through meetings with the media, voters and election officials. This tour would not have been possible without the help of the state and local Leagues. Ms. Maxwell took part in over 90 interviews about the 5 Things during that tour. Additionally, she was interviewed on all three major national networks, CNN and MSNBC. Over three-quarters of a million copies of the voter card were distributed through the state and local Leagues and partnerships with election reform advocates. On the day before Election Day, the 5 Things card was downloaded from the League's Web site over 40,000 times. **LWVEF Senior Elections Manager Jeanette Senecal** was honored as one of Youth Vote Coalition's "30 Outstanding Young People Under 30" who have succeeded in engaging young people in the electoral process.

## LWVC Election Activities

In August, the State League sponsored a debate between senatorial candidates Barbara Boxer and Bill Jones. This was the only debate between the two candidates. The State League produced ballot measure information—"In Depth" and "Pros & Cons"—which were used by Leagues throughout the state. **Smart Voter**—the election website sponsored by LWVC—once again gave Californians complete election information from polling places to candidates to detailed information on ballot measures.

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# Meet the LWVC Executive Director

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**J**ILL KAISER NEWCOM is delighted to be returning to Sacramento as Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California. Born in Chicago, raised in Atlanta, Jill calls the State of California her true home. She moved to Sacramento in 1997, but left briefly in June 2003 to take a self-guided trip through South America. After a year of learning Spanish, trekking through glorious Andean countryside, and exploring the rich history of this diverse southern continent, Jill is ready to focus her attentions on California issues.

**PRIOR TO HER TOUR** of South America, Jill was executive director of the Arts & Business Council of Sacramento. Enriching quality of life through arts and business partnerships is the mission of the Arts & Business Council. Jill is credited with leading the nonprofit organization through a period of tremendous growth that significantly broadened its mission, added and revitalized programs and established the Arts & Business Council as a key resource for arts-related issues in the Sacramento region.

**JILL ALSO SERVED** as vice president of Community Development at the Sacramento Metro Cham-

ber from 1998 to 2003, where she developed innovative new membership benefits, solidified the Metro Chamber's interest in the arts as a community development tool through the Regional Arts Initiative, and helped to produce such well-known events as Perspectives.

**BEFORE JOINING** the Sacramento Metro Chamber, Jill was a State of California Executive Fellow at the California Arts Council.

**JILL'S FORMAL EDUCATION** will certainly benefit her in her position as League of Women Voters of California Executive Director. She obtained a BA in political economy and philosophy from Newcomb College of Tulane University, one of the few remaining women's coordinate colleges in the United States. During her studies at Tulane University, she was elected president of the Associated Student Body, making her only the third woman in the school's history to hold that position. She also possesses an MSc in public administration and public policy from the London School of Economics & Political Science. She became a Harry S. Truman Scholar, thereby committing herself to a career in the public service, in the spring of 1993.

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## Election Activities

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**THE COUNTY LEAGUE PUBLISHED** Election Guides which included information on the County ballot measure as well as background on the judicial candidates. The League also produced video featuring interviews with the judicial candidates and one minute candidate statements which was shown on government and public access channels throughout Los Angeles County. Due to the tremendous number of requests for voter registration and ballot measure speakers, the County League acted as coordinator for requests so as to extend the reach of the League beyond traditional boundaries.

As you can see, from Glendale/Burbank to the nation's capital League was on the job.

## Smart Growth Forum

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**OUR SMART GROWTH FORUM WAS A ROUSING** success. A room full of interested citizens listened to excellent presentations on all aspects of Smart Growth problems and opportunities in our two cities.

Transportation, traffic, housing, zoning issues, the San Fernando corridor and adaptive reuse were just some of the topics discussed. There was widespread interest in continuing this dialogue and our League will be doing more in the coming months. Thanks to **Terry Bailey** for the magnificent job she did in assembling the speakers, arranging for filming of the forum and generally making it a stellar success.

We had to turn out the lights to get people to go home. More programs are being planned.

# 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. Her request on to California local League presidents. These are some of those observations and other actions Mary has taken

- Desire for a lobbyist devoted to Patriot Act issues
- Mail-in ballot for voting on LWVUS Board
- Membership is overwhelmed with too many issues
- Local leagues could appoint a separate person who would be responsible for tracking LWVUS activities, emails, and alert members when they need action, etc.—President too busy
- Accrue a fund for studies at national level

I have also made sure my State Presidents saw certain national items by emailing them directly: On August 18, I notified them about the establishment of the LibertyList; on Oct. 2 on the action alert on the 9/11 Commission recommendation legislation.

I have been contacted on a few occasions by the Leagues with a specific request which I have helped facilitate with staff including:

- request from LWVC to provide a statement to DOI in response to a request for NEPA scoping comments on extension of oil/gas leases in federal waters off the CA coast

- providing information about asking national for action on the Sudanese situation
- request for ideas for a full-page newspaper ad in Salt Lake City

I have received paper or electronic Voters from the following leagues: Santa Monica, Cupertino-Sunnyvale, Piedmont, Oakland, West Contra Costa County, Diablo Valley, North Coast San Diego County, Torrance, Los Angeles County ILO, Glendale/Burbank, Northern Nevada, Greater Flagstaff, Utah. I also received all of the Board packet information the Presidents of AZ and CA sent to their Boards before their September Board meetings and Minutes of the LWVUT September meeting. I reviewed Voters and the packets and have instituted the practice of sending post cards to directors when I spot something in a report that I want to follow-up on. I hope to do more of this in the future as my system improves and as I get to know the leagues better. As Chair of the Advocacy Committee, I will be bringing to the committee at our Oct. 15 meeting the advocacy-related suggestions I have collected so far.

TO BE CONTINUED



## 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.**

## GOVERNMENT REVIEW PROCESS BEGINS



The opening round of Governor Schwarzenegger's push to "fix" California government got underway with release of the California Performance Review (CPR), a massive report containing more than a thousand recommendations. They range from minor items such as making the state's Web site more user-friendly to a major reorganization of state departments and programs into 11 "mega-agencies."

A commission appointed by the governor has held seven hearings to receive public comment on the report, the last one on September 27. The hearings have been crowded and often contentious, with much of the criticism aimed not only at the proposals but also at the process. Critics noted that the hearings began almost immediately after release of the report and were held over about a six week period, allowing little time for study and comment on the proposals.

The CPR's aim is to make government more efficient and effective, with a heavy emphasis on reducing costs and maximizing revenues without raising taxes. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) says, however, that even if the recommendations were implemented, they would not come close to solving the state's structural deficit, and that the state would "continue to face hard choices regarding program funding levels and taxes in order to balance its future budgets."

Part of the problem is that the report appears to have grossly overestimated savings and revenues and underestimated implementation costs. The CPR claims its proposals would produce savings of \$1 billion in 2004-05 and \$32 billion over the next five years, but the LAO says a "more realistic" assumption would be less than half that. For example, the CPR expects an added \$8.2 billion in federal grants for state programs despite the fact that Washington is drowning in red ink itself and has shown no sign that it would rework federal funding formulas in California's favor.

The CPR projects \$2.7 billion in savings attributed to a proposal to delay enrollment of children in kindergarten by a few months, mainly by reducing the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee. This not only represents a policy decision that may be unpopular, but the savings could be whittled

down by implementation costs, such as funding for more child care slots.

Although the report calls for adopting principles intended to improve the relationship between the state and local governments, some proposals not only run contrary to that goal, but appear to conflict with both present law and Proposition 1A on the November ballot, which is supported by the governor. These include shifting property taxes from some special districts to benefit the state and shifting responsibility for some state highways to local governments without an accompanying source of revenue. This would appear to conflict even with present law on reimbursement for state mandates, let alone the stricter requirements of Prop 1A.

The report also calls for vehicle owners to register their vehicles every two years, instead of each year, and calculates that implementing the change over two years would produce a one-time Vehicle License Fee (VLF) "windfall" to the state of about \$1.3 billion because half the car owners would be paying two year's worth of fees in the first year. This would, however, require a constitutional change, since VLF revenues are guaranteed to be distributed to local government, and would also probably run afoul of Prop 1A.

There are, of course, a number of proposals that are not controversial and might be adopted quickly and others that at least deserve serious consideration. Still others, such as the "mega-agencies reorganization" and the elimination of numerous boards and commissions, raise questions beyond the scope of State and Local Finances, but must be addressed.

Many organizations, including the League, have questioned whether there has been time even for organizations, let alone the general public, to learn about the proposals and comment intelligently on them. We will advocate for a process adequate to address the issues and will be submitting comments to the commission and passing along information to you as the process goes forward.

# 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 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 MEMBERS:

Maria Salazar  
Mr. & Mrs. John Kreider

OUR SYMPATHIES TO  
Inez Truger  
on the death of her husband, Art.

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