



League of Women Voters

Glendale/Burbank

President's Message

Monica Marquez

November 2005

Calendar

Tuesday

November 8

Special Election

Wednesday

November 9

Local Elections Study Committee Meeting

Saturday

November 19

Preparing for Smart Growth

Buena Vista Branch Library

Burbank

300 N Buena Vista

Burbank

10 am to noon

(See flyer on page 2)

Thursday

November 24

Happy Thanksgiving

Tuesday

December 13

Gala Holiday Dinner

6:30 pm

Los Angeles Equestrian Center

(See flyer on page 3)

THE LEAGUE'S commitment to voters service was never more in evidence this month as we presented Pro and Con presentations for the November 8 Special Election to the cities of Glendale and Burbank. Our first task was a television presentation taped at the Burbank City Council chamber facilities. Six League members, **Tom Carson, Gwen Cochran, Mary Dickson, Adrine Galystan, Anna Rundle and Georganne Thomsen** divvied up the propositions between them. They gave a summary of their proposition, breaking down the confusing language into understandable English, then gave the supporters' and opponents' arguments. Thanks to the Burbank television facilities people, the Pros and Cons program has been running continuously on Burbank Channel 6 and Glendale Channel 16 at all hours of the day and night.

In addition to the taped presentation, League members have been giving live Pro and Con presentations to various groups around Glendale and Burbank. I had the opportunity to attend one of the presentations in at a church in Glendale. Our hosts were warm

and gracious and the audience was attentive. I gave an introduction of the about the League and introduced our speakers. After the presentation, the audience asked thoughtful questions about the propositions. I was very impressed with our speakers, the audience members and the fact that the League was providing an important service to the community.

Our League has also been active in its advocacy role for the November 8 Special Election. With the help of Action Director Chris Carson, I sent out letters opposing Propositions 76 (state spending and school fund limits) and 77 (redistricting). Our letter opposing Proposition 77 was published in both the Burbank Leader and the Glendale News Press.

Our schedule after the election remains full. On December 8, we plan to present a candidates' forum for the January 24, 2006 Burbank Special City Council election. It takes many hands to put on a candidates' forum. If you'd like to help, please contact me at (818) 760-3667.

Finally, for those of you with internet access, be sure to check out our website at <http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>.



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County League is an inter-League organization with participants from the following Leagues: Beach Cities, Beverly Hills, Claremont, Downey, East San Gabriel Valley, Glendale/Burbank, Long Beach Area, Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Pasadena Area, Santa Monica, Torrance, and Whittier.

Various Views and Visions Development in the Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County



Saturday, November 19, 2005

10 AM to 12:30

**Buena Vista Library Community Room
300 North Buena Vista Street, Burbank**

Panelists

Jan de Leeuw, Distinguished Professor and Chair, UCLA Department of Statistics
Representing the Condor Group of the Sierra Club

Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director, Hills for Everyone, Chino-Puente Hills

Planner, Los Angeles County Regional Planning

Developer, Unincorporated Area of Los Angeles County

\$5.00 Reservation Fee

Refreshments by Glendale/Burbank League

Make check payable to **LWV/LAC**

Mail to **LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501**

Name(s): _____

League: _____

No. Reservations @\$5.00 Total Reservation Fees\$ _____



The League of Women Voters Glendale/Burbank
cordially invites you to a

Holiday Cocktail Mixer

Tuesday, December 13, 2005
6:30 in the evening

Equestrian Center
480 Riverside Drive
Burbank California 91506

RSVP by November 29
Rosa Frommer
(818) 243-5675

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Creamy Horseradish Sauce, Caramelized Red Onions and Dijon Mustard
accompanied by
Vegetable Melange
Garlic and Herb Mashed Potatoes
Assorted Dinner Rolls
served with Fresh Creamery Butter

DESSERT

an Assortment of Miniature Cookies
Chocolate Decadence Bars
Fresh Fruit Tartlets

Menu

Yes! I am coming to the Glendale/Burbank League's Holiday Cocktail Mixer at the Equestrian Center on December 13. \$20.00 per person includes music, wine and dessert.

Member and Guest Name(s) _____

Member Address _____ Use back if necessary

Phone: _____

Total Number of Reservations _____ Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Send your check made out to the League of Women Voters, Glendale Burbank to:
Rosa Frommer 1762 Allen Avenue Glendale CA 91201

Please reply quickly as the number of spaces is limited. Reservations will be held at the door.
Information: (818) 243-5675

Local Study

OUR LOCAL STUDY of electoral processes and systems in Glendale and Burbank is moving ahead very strongly. As a result of the League's event at Gordon Biersch in early August, we developed strong interest in the study, and ended up with 23 people signing up to participate, both members and non-members.

Our first Committee meeting was on August 30th. This was primarily an organizational meeting, discussing the basic framework of how a study is conducted and the timeline for the work of the study. After discussion, the Committee preliminarily adopted the following issues to be addressed during the course of the study:

—Year of election: should our municipal elections be stand-alone (in odd years) or consolidated with state or federal elections (even years)?

—Day of election: Should municipal elections be held on Tuesday only or possibly on Saturday or Sunday?

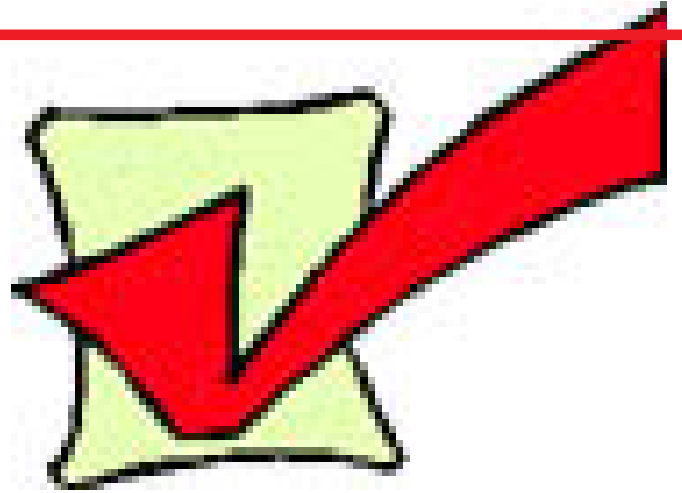
—Method: Should voting in municipal elections be conducted in precincts or through all mail-in elections?

—Elected officials: Should the city treasurer and/or the city clerk be elected or appointed? Should there be an elected mayor?

—Offices: Should council and school board members be elected by district or at-large? Should there be any change in the number of council or board members?

—Threshold: Should candidates for office be elected by majority?

—Primary and runoff versus instant runoff or choice voting: If candidates must achieve a majority, should this be achieved through a primary and then a runoff



election, or through an instant runoff voting process?

—Campaign financing: Should there be public campaign financing? If not, should there be limits to political contributions?

Our next meeting will be on November 9. Please join us.

On September 15th, the Committee sponsored a public forum at the Buena Vista Branch of the Burbank Public Library about various aspects of the electoral processes of Glendale and Burbank.

Our second Committee meeting was on October 23rd. Participants reported on the progress they had made on several of the foregoing issues. For each of the issues, we also discussed other possible avenues of research, including what other local or state Leagues have done in this area, which is quite considerable.

Our next Committee meeting will be on November 9th, and this meeting will include discussions with **Margarita Campos**, the Burbank City Clerk, and **Doris Twedt**, recently retired Glendale City Clerk, about the practical aspects of certain of the issues under consideration.

Tom Carson
Co-Chair



Part I: The Los Angeles River Plan

Land Use Planning—Preserving the Future

The Los Angeles River and Griffith Park are a vital part of our communities. Their health impacts the health of our cities. In the next few years, important plans for both the River and the Park will be developed. Our League, and its members, are actively monitoring and participating in the planning process. We are also working with LWV Los Angeles. Over the next few months we will be presenting articles and news about the planning processes. We hope you will get involved as individuals as well.

The Los Angeles River flows 51 miles through Southern California. Thirty-two of those miles run through Los Angeles, from Canoga Park in the northwest

San Fernando Valley, along the borders of Burbank and Glendale, all the way down to the border with Vernon at the southern end of downtown.

It used to be that the only time I thought about the LA River was when it rained. I'd drive over it and marvel at how high the water could go without spilling over the cement banks.

But more and more, people are thinking about the LA River. Does it have to be a cement storm drain, filled with shopping carts, plastic bags and trash?

Los Angeles City Councilman Ed Reyes doesn't think so. Since 2002, he has led efforts to establish the Los Angeles City Council Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River. The Ad Hoc River Committee has sponsored an initiative called the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. The plan's goals are broad:

- ESTABLISH ENVIRONMENTALLY sensitive urban design guidelines, land use guidelines, and development guidelines for the River zone that will create economic development opportunities to enhance and improve River-adjacent communities by providing open space, housing, retail spaces such as restaurants and cafes, educational facilities, and places for other public institutions.

- IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, enhance water quality, improve water resources, and improve the ecological functioning of the River.

- PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS to the river.

- PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT RECREATION SPACE and

Los Angeles River continued on page 6

open space, new trails, and improve natural habitats to support wildlife.

•**PRESERVE AND ENHANCE** the flood control features of the River.

•**FOSTER A GROWTH** in community awareness of the Los Angeles River, and pride in the Los Angeles River.

To get the public thinking along those lines, the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan sponsored a number of community workshops. I attended the first workshop, on October 15, 2005.

It wasn't a traditional public hearing. Instead, it took place in a gymnasium.

The gym was divided into several different areas. The first was a giant Thomas Guide-like map of the river, showing the communities through which the river runs. Attendees were provided with sticky notes to provide their thoughts and paste them onto the giant map. Some wanted bike paths, others were interested more in trees and wildlife.

The next stations were series of displays of riverfront projects in other cities, showing what could be done—like parks (that close to accommodate flooding), more watershed areas, restaurants and condos, and wildlife habitat.

Then we were given “riverbucks,” which looked suspiciously like monopoly money. We each got 100 dollars in river bucks, in ten dollar denominations, for us to spend in ten priority buckets. The ten priorities were:

1. improve water quality
2. manage the watershed
3. protect and enhance wildlife habitat
4. protect neighborhoods
5. enhance communities
6. connect people to parks and open space
7. provide spaces for sports and active play
8. provide spaces for other leisure activities
9. provide for water access
10. parks that also accommodate flooding

Being the enthusiastic League member that I am, I considered each option and voted carefully.

This is by no means a quick fix. The Revitalization planning process alone will take 18 months. By the end of the planning process, however, the Committee hopes to develop a 20 year blueprint for the development and management of the Los Angeles River.

by Monica Marquez.

More Land Use Planning News

PLANS FOR MAJOR redevelopment in **Griffith Park** are now being considered. Included in the proposals for the park are a hotel and a cable car. The Board is closely monitoring the plans and will speak to a number of proposals at upcoming hearings. We urge all our members to watch the news and be prepared to speak to these plans as individuals.

LA COUNTY LAND USE—DO YOU HAVE A CLUE?

Do you know where your County residential property taxes go?

Do you know who is watching over the quality of the water you drink?

Do you know what the MTA is planning in the next ten years?

Do you know what the proposed development at Tejon Ranch in north LA County will do to traffic on the I 5?

Do you know who is doing what – if anything – about land use planning in La Crescenta, Tujunga and large portions of the Verdugo Mountains?

If not, then join us on Saturday, November 19th - Preparing for Smart Growth in Land Use in the Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County will fill you in. Join your fellow League members at the Buena Vista Branch of the Burbank Library for a morning of eye opening information. See the flyer for details.

Local League Election Activities

Education: taped a Pro & Con forum for Burbank TV 6 which was broadcast in both cities until the election. Our speakers bureau gave presentations to groups throughout our communities. Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides were distributed to the central libraries and community groups. Thanks to our speakers **Adrine Galystan, Mary Dickson, Gwen Cochran, Anna Rundle, Georganne Thomsen and Tom Carson.**

Advocacy: we spoke to the Glendale Business and Professional Women, sent official letters of advocacy to local newspapers and wrote individual letters.

Extensive election information was featured on our website along with links to Smart Voter and the State League website.

WE WANT TO THANK our advertisers for their support. Please mention the League when you use their services.



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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.

The Voter

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.



It's Not Too Late. . .

to contribute to our Fund Drive. Please remember the League in your year-end giving.

Thanks to more Contributors:

Rosa Frommer	Lois Leek
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M. Marquez	Florence Dommes
Gwen Cochran	Cathy Sellitto
Peggy Steppe	Sylvia Sutton
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Burbank/Glendale

VOTER

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

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

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<http://www.LWV.org>

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