

October 2006 Calendar

PRO/CON FORUMS

September 28
Glendale Community College 12-1pm

October 11
Glendale Commission on the Status of Women
6pm-8pm

October 14
Glendale Chapter for the California Council of the Blind 11:30 am – 1pm

October 16
Delta Kappa Gamma
7pm

October 25
Breakfast Club

LEAGUE TRAINING

October 28
LWVC Regional Training Workshops (see flyer)

ELECTION DATES

October 23
Last Day to Register for November 7 Election

November 7
Election Day

Visit the League websites for Election/ Voting/ Polling Place Information

<http://www.smartvoter.org/>

<http://ca.lwv.org/>

<http://www.easyvoter.org/california/california/index.html>

Local Study

OUR LOCAL STUDY OF CAMPAIGN finance at the municipal level has begun. In the League's gathering in August at Gordon Biersch, everyone participated in an exercise to focus on what constitutes a "special interest," a key concept in any discussion of campaign finance. On September 20th, we held a meeting for members who had signed up for the local study committee to discuss an overall process and timeline for our local study.

The initial step in our study will be to research the role of campaign finance in recent elections in our two communities. Burbank has existing laws limiting contributions in its municipal elections, while Glendale does not. It will be interesting to see what effects on campaign practices may have occurred as a result of this difference. But in any event, the committee will have to understand the current campaign finance practices which exist in our communities before we can begin to identify whether there are issues or conditions which the members might conclude should

be addressed by changes of various kinds.

Within the field of campaign finance reform, there are a number of frequently discussed reform elements: disclosure of campaign contributions; limits on the dollar amount of campaign contributions to individual candidates or propositions; partial public financing of candidate campaign expenditures through a matching process; and full public financing of candidate campaign expenditures. Any or all of these may be considered by the committee after it is more fully informed on the condition of campaign finance in local elections. We will research the experience of other political communities who have enacted or are considering one or more of these reform elements.

We would still like to have more of our members join us for this very interesting local study. If you would like to participate, please contact the committee chair, Tom Carson, at 818-840-0417 or tpcarson@earthlink.net.

League Denounces Passage of Voter ID Legislation H.R. 4844 is a Means to Discriminate Against Voters

Washington, D.C. – National League President Mary G. Wilson today strongly denounced yesterday's House passage of the so-called "Federal Election Integrity Act" (H.R. 4844). The legislation requires eligible citizens to present government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008 and proof of citizenship by 2010.

"This is a truly sad day for our nation. The House of Representatives voted in favor of legislation that masquerades as protection against voter identity fraud. In reality, this bill is a means to discriminate against legal, eligible voters," said Wilson.

"Any proposal that restricts voter registration or raises barriers to voting is a fear-based approach instead of a fact-based solution," Wilson stated.

"Some would have you believe that this legislation cures voter identity fraud," continued Wilson. "But there remains a lack of evidence of instances in which voters misrepresent their identity at the polls."

"It sounds good to stand on the floor of Congress and demand equality and fairness in elections, but when one takes a closer look behind the political

smokescreen, it is clear that this bill's restrictions will disproportionately impact those who are least likely to have a current photo ID: the elderly, young people, people of color, rural voters and others," said 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," Wilson said. "The costs in time and money of obtaining proof of citizenship and photo ID would clearly discourage voter participation."

"The League hopes members of the Senate will do the right thing for all voters by voting against this legislation and a return to the dark days of exclusion, which relied on such measures as literacy tests and poll taxes," Wilson stated. The League sent two letters to members of Congress over the past few months strongly urging them to oppose H.R. 4844.

"Congress should not be playing politics with our right to vote. The League and our members in communities nationwide will work to keep this bill from passing the Senate and becoming the law of the land," concluded Wilson.

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



249 N. Brand Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91203
Corner of Brand/Calif.
tel: 818.244.4448
fax: 818.244.4795
M-F 8:30-6, Sat. 10-4
1125 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91205
Btwn Chevy Chase/Adams
tel: 818.242.4270
fax: 818.242.0525
M-F 8:30-6:30
Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4



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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS

NOVEMBER 7, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION

YES ON PROPOSITION 1B

Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006.

Proposition 1B is part of the bond package developed to help rebuild California's infrastructure. It will raise \$19.9 billion for transportation improvements that reduce congestion on roads and highways, expand public transportation and improve air quality.

YES ON PROPOSITION 1C

Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.

Proposition 1C will fund housing programs that assist the most vulnerable Californians and provide affordable homes for working families. It will help cities and counties finance infrastructure, parks, and environmental cleanup to support infill development.

YES ON PROPOSITION 1D

Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.

A quality education is the best investment in our children's future. California has not kept up with the need for school modernization and new school construction. Proposition 1D funds will reduce overcrowding, build vocational education facilities, and provide for our growing community college population.

YES ON PROPOSITION 1E

Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.

This bond measure will provide funds for flood protection, levee repairs and improvements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and storm water management. The League supports Proposition 1E to protect our existing water supply infrastructure and prevent pollution in our streams and the ocean.

YES ON PROPOSITION 84

Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds.

This initiative continues the League's past support of efforts to insure that California has adequate water supplies. Proposition 84 will fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, protection of rivers, lakes and streams, forest and wildlife conservation, coastal protection, and state parks.

NO ON PROPOSITION 85

Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, but good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put the health and safety of teenagers at risk. Proposition 85 isn't really about parental rights; it's about the political agenda of abortion opponents.

↑ YES ON PROPOSITION 86

Tax on Cigarettes.

Proposition 86 increases the state tax on cigarettes by \$2.60 per pack. The estimated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue will fund children’s health coverage, emergency care services, nursing education, tobacco-use prevention and control programs, and research, prevention and treatment of serious health conditions including cancers, heart disease, stroke, asthma, and obesity. Proposition 86 will cut tobacco use drastically and keep hundreds of thousands of kids from starting to smoke. It will save billions of dollars in health care costs.

↓ NO ON PROPOSITION 88

Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax.

This measure would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to help fund several K-12 education programs. While the League supports access to quality education for all, this measure contradicts good government finance principles of equity and adequacy. It proposes to earmark funds via a constitutional amendment without providing sufficient funding to even bring education spending up to the national average. It would also involve the state for the first time in taxing property—a precedent we do not support.

↑ YES ON PROPOSITION 89

Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits.

Proposition 89, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, will limit influence by special interests and level the playing field so elections are decided by ideas, not by money. Candidates who demonstrate broad-based support and agree to limit their spending will receive public campaign financing. This measure also imposes sensible new limits on campaign contributions and bans contributions by lobbyists and state contractors. Funding will be provided by an increase of 0.2 percent in the corporate income tax rate. With Proposition 89 we can clean up the system and make politicians accountable to voters, not to big money donors.

↓ NO ON PROPOSITION 90

Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property.

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 90 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would make it difficult for government to protect the environment, regulate growth and development, or enact new consumer protection laws. This “Taxpayer Trap” would drive up the cost of infrastructure projects our communities need. It is poorly worded and would likely result in costly litigation.

The League has no position on Proposition 83 (Sex Offenders. Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring) and will be neutral on Proposition 1A (Transportation Funding Protection) and Proposition 87 (Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil Producers).

9/12/2006



VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 7!

The State Budget Outlook . . . Is the Glass Half Full or Half Empty?



Everyone agrees that state revenues are up substantially, and that this year's budget will not require the kind of painful slashing of programs and massive borrowing that took place during the last few years. On the other hand, few would claim that there are no remaining problems or hard choices to be made. A recent report from the California Budget Project (CPB) also asks whether the Governor's proposed budget will prepare California for the future.

The proposed budget assumes that combined revenues from 2004-05 and 2005-06 will be \$5.5 billion higher than expected, and that the trend will continue in 2006-07. Corporate taxes have been significantly higher, and personal income and sales tax revenues have also been up somewhat. The budget proposes increased spending for schools, a rollback of college fees and funding of after-school programs mandated by Proposition 49. It also would repay \$920 million on some loans from transportation funds and add an additional payment of \$460 million to the money owing this year for repayment of the deficit financing bonds.

There are, however, several threats to the revenue projections that could jeopardize these proposals. One is uncertainty about the final results of revenues collected from a tax amnesty program under which some companies chose not to participate in the program but nevertheless paid "protective claim" payments to cover the possibility that they might later be assessed high penalties. It is expected that a large portion of those payments will eventually have to be refunded.

There are also several court actions that could cause budget problems. They include one in which a court has blocked issuance of a bond to cover some of the state's pension obligations, another in which a court has ruled that a contested increase in a cost-of-living adjustment should be paid, and the recent court-ordered takeover of administration of the state prison medical system, which is likely to raise its costs considerably.

The proposed budget does not take into account reductions in money that will be coming to California as a result of the domestic spending reductions in the federal budget, most of which will affect low-income people. It also does not include funding for any possible increases to salaries or benefits for state workers although most of the state employees' collective bargaining agreements will

soon be up for negotiation.

The Governor's budget contains some cuts that are likely to get a chilly reception from the Legislature. It significantly reduces spending for both child care and employment services in the CalWORKs program, and would not pass along a federally-funded cost-of-living adjustment for the aged and disabled in the SSI/SSP program.

The CBP report suggests that California's demographic trends are on a collision course with our system of finance. The state continues to grow at a rapid pace, with the population likely to increase by about 10 million people by 2020, and it is expected to be a more challenging population with greater needs for services. The number of people over 65 is expected to increase by about 71 percent, straining such programs as Medi-Cal and other supportive services. In the next few years 61 percent of our school-age population is expected to be Latino or black, with a significant portion English language learners, groups that will need better educational resources if they are to flourish.

At the same time, the gap not only between the rich and the poor but also between upper and middle income families is growing. The median income has edged down, and the percentage of families below the poverty level has moved up. Our economy is also losing jobs in sectors of the economy with higher average pay, and expanding in sectors with lower average pay.

California's revenue structure is ill-equipped to meet these demographic and economic challenges. Tax cuts enacted between 1993 and 2005, including reduction in the Vehicle License Fee, a corporate tax rate reduction, and an array of other tax breaks and credits, will reduce current revenues by about \$9.9 billion. The phase-out of the federal estate tax in 2006-07 will cost the state about another \$1.1 billion. California's structural deficit—the gap between income, given our revenue structure, and spending to maintain services at their current level—is expected to remain, even if there are no major setbacks to the economy as a whole.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the Budget Project answers its own question by concluding that the Governor's proposed budget fails to address the challenges raised by demographic and economic changes and does not begin to prepare for California for the future.

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.

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 (indlude 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.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BURBANK/GLENDALE

VOTER

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

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

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