

September 2005
Calendar

Fund Drive Begins

Thursday
September 15

Local Election Forum

Burbank Library
Buena Vista Branch
401 N Buena Vista
Burbank

See page 2 and 3

Saturday September 24

Speaker Training

See flyer on page 5

Wednesday
October 5

LWVG/B Board Meeting

Sunday
October 23

**Local Elections Systems
Study committee meeting**

Wednesday
November 2

LWVG/B Board Meeting

Tuesday
November 8

Special Election

Saturday
November 19

County League Day

Land Use in Los Angeles
County
Buena Vista Branch Library
Burbank

President's Message

Monica Marquez

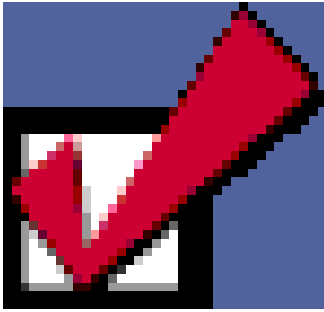
The heat of the summer has been busy for our League. On July 30, the Board had a half day retreat to reflect on our goals and mission for the upcoming year. Management Training Advisor (MTA) Xandra Kayden was the retreat facilitator. We talked about the role of the Board and set forth our goals for the upcoming year. We decided our top goals would be the study of: 1) local election systems; 2) county land use; and 3) civil liberty.

For our top goal, we've set ourselves the task of studying the local election systems of Glendale and Burbank to see if improvements need to be made in the way our local officials are elected.

We kicked off the study with a reception on August 3 at the Gordon Biersch Brewery in Burbank. It was well attended; about 40 people came. We enjoyed the presence of a number of elected officials, including current and past Glendale and Burbank City Clerks, Burbank School Board members, and representatives from Dario Frommer's office and Adam Schiff's office. We were delighted by the large number of those who signed up for the study committee.

We played a game—organized by League member and study co-director Tom Carson—about Choice Voting. We pretended we were to paint a building, and had to choose the color. We were given a choice of four colors to rank from 1 to 4. Then we each went to a corner of the room to stand in favor of our favorite color. Next, those who chose the color with the least votes went to the corner of their second choice of color, and so on. It turns out I chose the least popular color, passionate purple. The winner was lime green. Even though my choice didn't prevail, it was a great exercise demonstrating how such an election system would work. Many thanks go to member Mary Dickson, who organized the event. It was a great success.

continued on page 7



New Local Study: Voting Systems

The League's July kick-off (at the Burbank brewery) of the local Voting System study was a great success and recruited 20 eager volunteers for the study committee!!!! We couldn't ask for a bigger (or better)

committee to examine Glendale and Burbank's local election process and potential changes. We even have the help of Burbank City Clerk Margarita Campos and recently retired Glendale City Clerk Doris Twedt on our committee.

The Thursday, September 15th League forum will feature a panel of four experts talking about the local election processes and potential changes that could encourage greater citizen participation in voting. The moderator and the audience will then ask the panel questions about procedures in the two cities and what changes might be made.

League members will hear additional committee presentations in February and consensus will be assessed at the March League meeting.

The study committee, under the guidance of co-chairs Tom Carson and Georganne Thomsen, organized the end of August and are now doing research into a variety of local election processes. The focus will be a

comparison and evaluation of different voting systems including plurality/majority, semi-proportional and proportional systems that have been used locally in the United States and throughout the world.

Members will discuss criteria for evaluating effective voting methods, including Burbank's local mail-in elections and Glendale's at-large, multi-seat, and multi-candidate local system. The scope will include the two school boards and the Glendale College board as well as the city counsels, clerks and treasurers. In addition the timing of local elections, the possible need for primary or run-off elections, consolidation with county and state elections, and such other issues as local council districts, appointment of city clerk and treasurer, and the election of mayor can also be included in the study, time permitting.

The purpose of the study is to broaden public interest in local elections and encourage greater citizen participation throughout our communities.

MARK THE DATE
Forum on Local Election Processes and Potential Changes

See you at Burbank's new library Community Room

Thursday, September 15,
Buena Vista Library
401 N Buena Vista
Burbank



The League of Women Voters

of Glendale/Burbank

presents

A PUBLIC FORUM

**So How Does My Vote Get Counted?
A Presentation about Electoral Processes
in Glendale and Burbank**

Thursday, September 15, 2005

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Meeting Room, Buena Vista Branch Library,
300 North Buena Vista St., Burbank, 91505

Panelists:

Michael Allen
Professor of Mathematics
Glendale Community College

Margarita Campos
City Clerk, Burbank

Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian
City Clerk, Glendale

Doris Twedt
City Clerk, Retired



Smart Voter on the Airways

LWV CALIFORNIA'S ED FUND has entered into an exciting new partnership with Infinity Radio for the coming election season. In the greater L.A. area, this means that League's award-winning on-line voter service tool (www.smartvoter.org) will be getting numerous 'plugs' every day on KNX-AM 1070 and KFWB-AM 980. With 2 million weekly listeners tuning in to each of these stations, a higher level of voter service will become available to drivers trapped in traffic as well as the multitudes who listen in from home, work, or shopping venues.

Smart Voter will be mentioned in all on-air promotional announcements directing listeners to www.kcbs.com. This newly designed website will feature an array of voter information resources including a prominent link to Smart Voter's personal ballot look-up. Smart Voter's responsibility is simply to keep providing the detailed website content for which it has been recognized since 1997.

Users who enter Smart Voter through the interactive KCBS interface will view our pages inside a frame developed by KCBS with approval by LWVCEF and the statewide Smart Voter team. New elements include a search engine, a polling component, and an audio archive.

Stations in the San Francisco and Fresno media markets (KCBS ALLNEWS 740 and KMJ-AM 580, respectively) are also included in the pilot project.

Listen in!

Frances Talbott-White,
Smart Voter Southern California Liaison

Advocating League

THIS FALL WE HAVE a splendid opportunity to put words into action by taking an active part in advocacy efforts on the ballot issues. How can we do this?

THE LEAGUE STUDIES, discusses and comes to consensus on an exciting and vital issue. The position is approved and members say "Now let's do something with it."

This fall we have a splendid opportunity to put words into action by taking an active part in advocacy efforts on the ballot issues.

How can we do this? Come to the Advocacy training on September 24th. Learn the background of the issues, discuss effective ways to get the League message out, receive material that will make your advocacy painless.

Concerned about the Parental Notification Act? The prescription drug measures? The Live Within Our Means measures? Redistricting? Campaign finance? We have something for you.

Advocacy doesn't necessarily mean standing on street corners or giving a speech – although we won't stop you.

It can also mean an effective letters to the editor plan and working with other groups which share our goals.

This workshop is quick – two hours – and effective. If you're interested check the flyer on Speakers Training and Advocacy, contact Chris Carson carsonlww@earthlink.net for information and car pooling plans. And then our League can sit down and get busy.

LWV Los Angeles County

**Ballot Measures
Speaker Training
and Advocacy
Workshops**

Saturday, September 24, 2005

Registration/Coffee: 9:30 AM

Workshops: 10:00-12:00

Location: Hollenbeck House

573 South Boyle Avenue

Los Angeles, 90033

**For further information, contact Chris Carson,
(818) 840-0417, carsonlwv@earthlink.net**

LWVLA Speaker Training will be on September 29th, 11:30-3:00.

For information, please call Nima at (213) 368-1616.

League Marks 85th Anniversary of 19th Amendment

Statement by Kay J. Maxwell, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States on Women's Equality Day

Washington, D.C. – “American women now comprise more than half of our nation’s voting age population, but the struggle to become full participants in the political, social and cultural life of the country has yet to be fully realized. Dramatic progress has been made. Women have become increasingly visible, and exercise considerable power and influence in a society that for too long has been dismissive of the achievements and contributions that women have made, and continue to make, to the diverse mosaic of American society.

“Over time, there have been many factors that contributed to the progress women have made in the United States. Most social historians will argue that the single most important factor was acquiring and exercising the right to vote. The struggle for equality is an ongoing and often painfully frustrating process, but the right to express oneself through the promise and the power of a single vote is the first step in becoming an active and equal participant in the social life of the country.

“The nonpartisan League of Women Voters was founded shortly before the 19th Amendment was passed on August 26, 1920, to continue the fight to educate women of this new-won right. The League began as a “mighty political experiment” designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. League members were encouraged to educate citizens about, and lobby for reform.

“Unfortunately, despite the efforts of many organizations such as the League, 85 years after passage of the 19th Amendment, the U.S. ranks embarrassingly low among industrialized countries in voter participation rates. If the United States wants to continue as the world’s preeminent democracy and be a positive example to emerging democracies around the globe – this trend must be reversed.

“Women’s Equality Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon the progress made on voting rights in the past 85 years and emphasize the continued need to improve our election process, help voters protect the right to vote and increase citizen participation. Now is the time to send a simple, yet compelling message.

“As League founder Carrie Chapman Catt once said, the vote is “a tool to build a better nation, to provide for the common welfare, and to help humanity upward.” A laudable and achievable goal that can only be accomplished by an informed citizenry who believes in the power of the vote – and is encouraged to exercise that power for the common good of us all.

mon good of us all.

“Today, 85 years later, League members are still pushing for citizen action and involvement in every community nationwide. We will continue to work to make the system better until every voice is heard and every vote is counted.”

[The vote is] a tool
to build a better
nation,
to provide for the
common welfare,
and
to help humanity
upward.

*Carrie Chapman Catt
League founder*

If you missed the Gordon Biersch bash, we have another local election systems study event you might want to attend. The study committee has organized a public Forum on Thursday, September 15, 2005 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Buena Vista Public Library, 401 N. Buena Vista, Burbank. It's a panel discussion featuring current and former Burbank and Glendale City Clerks. Topics include a comparison between Burbank's past and present election processes and overcoming voter apathy. Chris Carson has graciously agreed to serve as Moderator. Each panelist will give a 10 minute talk, followed by questions from the moderator. You can participate by asking questions of the panel. All are welcome. Come and join us for an interesting evening.

Here's another involvement opportunity. You can exercise with the League. We've ordered 2500 copies of the publication Pros and Cons. They need to be distributed throughout Glendale and Burbank in time for the November 8 special election. We need voters service volunteers to help take them around to our local libraries and colleges. If you

want to help distribute them, email me at marquezlwv@earthlink.net.

On the advocacy front, with help from Chris Carson, I sent letters to the governor, Fabian Nunez, Kevin McCarthy, Don Perata and Dick Ackerman about redistricting. We thanked them for their continuing efforts to affect a meaningful redistricting reform, and for not considering mid decade redistricting a necessity.

CATHY SELLITTO
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Business Hospitals Residence
(818) 502-0661



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

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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 **Karen Samski**

CONGRATULATIONS to **Rosa and Roger Frommer** celebrating their 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Arline Ames is RECOVERING in style and has been spotted our and about our cities.

Florence Domes has had a PAINTING SELECTED by the Pasadena Society of Artists to be shown at the Mellon Gallery, celebrating the Society's 70th anniversary. The show runs from September 11 to September 30.

Chris Carson has been APPOINTED to the Burbank Charter Revision Committee

1125 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91205
Brdwy / Chevy Chase Dr.
tel: 818.242.4270
fax: 818.242.0525
M-F 8:30-6:30
Sat. 10-4; Sun. 12-4

249 N. Brand Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91203
Corner of Brand / Calif.
tel: 818.244.4448
fax: 818.244.4795
Open M-Sat.



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League of Women Voters
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>

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

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