

Voter

**LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK**
October 2011

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

CALENDAR October 2011

EDUCATION STUDY

CONSENSUS MEETINGS

Sunday October 2,

Saturday October 15

More information:

pages 2-5.

Flyer: page 6

Wednesday, October 5

ZOCOLO PUBLIC SQUARE

THE INITIATIVE AT 100:

CAN DIRECT DEMOCRACY BE

SAVED?

Moderated by

Trudy Schafer,

Senior Director for

Program,

League of Women Voters of

California

For information and

reservations visit

Zocolo's website:

[http://zocalopublicsquare.org/
upcoming.php?event_id=491](http://zocalopublicsquare.org/upcoming.php?event_id=491)

President's Message

By Joan Hardie

Greetings, I hope everyone is enjoying the fall season. Our League has been busy with the education study and keeping up with redistricting. I feel grateful that our League is blessed with active and capable members who help us navigate these important issues and projects. As busy as we are, I can't help but look ahead to next year when the election season will be gaining momentum.

The upcoming elections will offer some challenges that our League is uniquely qualified to assist with. First, a reminder about what happened in the June 2010 election, voters passed Proposition 14, which means there will be open primaries. This Proposition will change how the ballot looks as well as some changes to the voter registration process. Another challenge to the upcoming election season will be that our local governments are broke and monies available for voter out reach programs such as, Get Out the Vote have been significantly decreased. Finally, with changes to the districts as proposed by the Redistricting Commission (assuming the new maps will go into effect despite legal challenges) there could be voter confusion regarding ballots. With all these changes to the ballots and decreased funds available to do voter out reach, there will be a great need for organizations like ours to assist with voter registration.

The League offers opportunities, such as webinars and workshops; to learn about the voter registration process and I encourage our members to take advantage of these. Participating in voter registration and education is a fun and fulfilling League activity.

The month of October is also the month our fundraising letter goes out.

Contributions from our members enable us to be active and visible in our communities. Remember contributions to the League are tax deductible! See you at one of the consensus meetings. Thank you. Joan Hardie

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

Education Study

By Monica Marquez

Our study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education is moving into the consensus phase. During consensus, our members discuss the issues under study to determine if we can reach a consensus of opinion. The LWVUS Education Study Committee has prepared the Consensus Questions for us to discuss.

We welcome the presence of all our members at one or both of our Consensus Meetings. Even if you have not had an opportunity to review the articles or attend any meetings, please do not let that stand in the way. We will give presentations at the meetings for members to draw on to guide the discussion and pave the way for discussion.

Because of the large number of questions (15 plus subparts!) and the limited duration of the Consensus Meetings (2 hours each), we will need to keep our discussion focused. We will allot a specific amount of time to each question so that we do not run out of time to consider each issue. As League members, our passions and opinions will surely become impassioned, so we've asked our discussion leader to respectfully steer our discussion back on topic immediately if it starts to veer.

CONSENSUS MEETING #1

Sunday, October 2, 2011 – 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Glendale Fire Station Community Room
421 Oak Street, 2nd Floor
Glendale, CA 91204
(parking available in Glendale Galleria lot across the street)

We will cover the following topics:

HISTORY OF THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Because education has long been considered a local issue, over the years different states have developed different standards as to what actually constitutes an education. Educational standards and expectations of students differ from state to state.

A group of state governors and educators have developed a set of Common Core Standards. Currently, states can choose to adopt them—48 states have done so already Texas and Alaska are the only states who have not adopted them—

but they are not mandatory. Our discussion will explore our opinions about those standards.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS: Currently, standardized testing is within the province of the states. As we think about nationwide Common Core Standards, we must also consider how to measure whether students are learning the required materials. We will discuss whether national testing should be mandated, and, if so, who should develop those tests. Also, what should happen when students do not meet the minimum requirements?

CONSENSUS MEETING #2

Saturday, October 15, 2011 – 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
McCambridge Park Recreation Center, Room 2
1515 N. Glenoaks
Burbank, CA 91504

HISTORY OF THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION:

If we have many returning members from the prior consensus, we will dispense with a second discussion on this.

FUNDING AND EQUITY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION:

This longstanding debate in American public education dates back to at least the late 1800s, when the Supreme Court ruled that separate, but equal accommodations for blacks and whites was constitutional. This decision was overturned in the 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. We will discuss the concept of "equity," and what it means for individual students in public schools—does it address the quality of education, facilities, food, even safe housing? How far does that concept go?

Federal funding for public education has been available for decades. Traditionally, that funding has been based on need. Now, however, competitive grants are being proposed so that states or school districts must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for funding. We will examine our thoughts on this issue.

FEDERAL MANDATES: We will discuss whether federal mandates, funded and unfunded, are appropriate.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: Finally, we will turn our attention to early childhood education, defined here as birth to 5 years. Should there be federal funding for education for this group, and who should receive it?

PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is
Much too small too small about right too large much too large
2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)
 - a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 - b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 - c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 - d. To monitor state efforts for funding.
 - e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.
3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.
Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)
 - a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top.
 - b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 - c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.
5. Should there be a **national assessment aligned** with the common cores standards?
Yes No

If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)

 - a. Voluntary
 - b. Mandated
 - c. Mandated, if fully funded

If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

 - a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
 - b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
 - c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically.

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)
 - a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - d. No national curriculum.

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)
 - a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
 - a. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
 - b. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - c. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):
 - a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels.
 - b. Reward schools that achieve high scores.
 - c. Rank teachers based on student test score data.
 - d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores.
 - e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

FUNDING AND EQUITY

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)
 - a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements.
 - b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants.
 - c. Competitive grants only.
 - d. No federal funding.

11. If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then: (choose one)
 - a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)
- high quality teaching/learning
 - adequate and current learning materials
 - clean and well maintained physical facilities
 - food and health care
 - safe and secure neighborhoods
 - secure housing
13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered “categorical” rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs:
- Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?
- Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.
- Strongly Agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly Disagree
 - This funding should be extended to:
All children only those with special needs special needs first



Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. You can do it all online at our [Website](#).
Or you can use this form to mail in your application. 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)

- \$70.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$110.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER nine times per year)
- \$35.00 for a one-year student membership.

I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ _____

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 PO Box 21010, Glendale, CA 91221

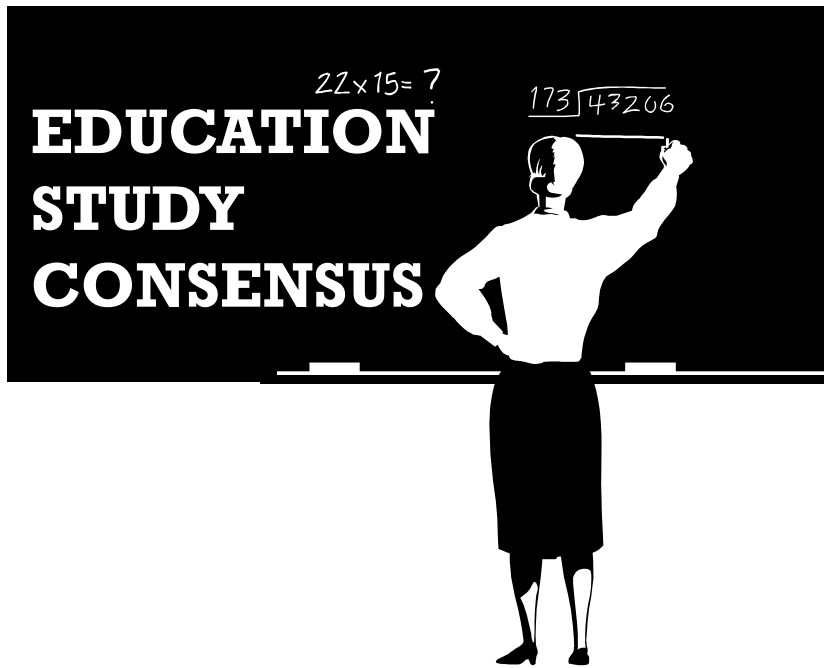
LWV Glendale/Burbank is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. All gifts and membership dues are tax deductible.



MEMBER NEWS

CHRIS CARSON, LWVC Redistricting Program Director and Trudy Schaffer, LWVC Senior Director for Program published a commentary on the redistricting process in the online *Journal of California Politics and Policy*, published by UC Berkeley

MIKE CHAPMAN was elected Chair of the Burbank Library Board of Trustees.



Important policy issues, thoughtful discussion, civil discourse—this is why you joined the League

First Consensus Meeting

Sunday October 2

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Glendale Fire Station 21

Community Room

421 Oak St.

Glendale

Second Consensus Meeting

Saturday, October 15

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

McCambridge Park Recreation Center

Room 2

1515 N. Glenoaks Blvd.

Burbank



The League of Women Voters of California urges you to

DECLINE TO SIGN

Petitions are being circulated by groups challenging newly adopted state Senate district maps and an important tax fairness measure.

The purpose of the petitions circulated by a group that calls itself Fairness and Accountability in Redistricting (“FAIR”) is to force a referendum in June 2012 on the state Senate maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, the independent body which draws legislative districts for Congress, the state Senate, state Assembly and Board of Equalization.

This nonpartisan commission drew the new districts using U.S. census data and input from communities across California. They applied ranked criteria from the California constitution to assure population equality, respect for the federal Voting Rights Act, geographic contiguity, and respect for cities, counties and communities of interest, making the districts compact and nested when it was possible. The districts were not drawn to favor or disfavor political parties, candidates or elected officials. Consideration of relationships with political parties, incumbents, and candidates or the addresses of incumbents or candidates was strictly forbidden.

The League of Women Voters supports a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. We support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. We believe the Citizens Redistricting Commission’s maps and processes meet these standards and the criteria in the state Constitution and should be upheld.

Petitions are also being circulated by Amazon.com in a well-financed effort to force a referendum on a new law that would require online retailers to collect sales tax on their sales in California.

The League supports adequate and flexible revenue sources that meet the changing needs for government services. Taxes should come from as broad a base as possible in order to ensure fairness. We believe the new law is both needed and fair, and we oppose the challenge to it.

**We urge you to join with the League and “Decline to Sign”
the petitions that are currently circulating.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA
1107 9th St., Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
916.442.7215 * 916.442.7362 fax * 888.870.VOTE (8683) toll-free
lwvc@lwvc.org * www.lwvc.org

Voter

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank, California
Presidents: Joan Hardie
Editor: Chris Carson
Production: Carole Dougherty
Circulation: Anna Rundle

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation 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.



OCTOBER 21, 2011 EDUCATION FORUM PARTICIPANTS:
Joylene Wagner, GUSD school board member and moderator; Parbi Boodaghian, Clark Magnet High School student; Eva Lueck, chief business and financial officer, GUSD; Anoush Djr bashian, Clark Magnet High School student; Nayiri Nahabedian, GUSD school board member and moderator; Christine Statton, assistant superintendent, Administrative Services, BUSD; Monica Marquez, LWVG/B Education Study coordinator; Dr. John Garcia, deputy superintendent, GUSD; Lori Adams, math teacher and president of Burbank Teacher's Association; Dr. Richard Sheehan, superintendent, GUSD; Dr. Katherine Thorossian, assistant superintendent, GUSD; and Joan Hardie, LWVG/B president

PHOTO: John McPhee

LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

P.O. Box 21173
Glendale CA 91221-5273
818 925-4598

League websites:
LWV Glendale/Burbank
www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

LWV California
www.ca.LWV.org

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

Printed courtesy of MAIL BOXES ETC

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

MAIL BOXES ETC.
A UPS® Company

Laurel Pavone
Notary Public

WBE centers are independently owned and operated franchises.