

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

President's
Message

I'm just back from the National Convention in Portland, Oregon. What a lovely city, very walkable. Plus, the rapid transit downtown is free! In addition to attending the convention sessions, I explored the famous Powell's bookstore. It covers an entire city block, with an annex down the street.

Convention is always an exciting endeavor. This year there were over 600 voting delegates in attendance from all over the country. I attended the plenary sessions, where we passed a national budget and various resolutions, as well as breakout sessions on how to encourage young people to register and vote. I also helped with the League Easy Web table. Sponsored by the State League, League Easy Web is a series of templates designed to help Leagues create web sites without using any computer language. We use it on our website. I've put a summary of Convention events in this issue of the Voter.

The most memorable part of the convention for me was a visit to the Multnomah County Registrar Recorder County Clerk. Oregon citizens vote by mail only—no polling places. We saw the procedure they use to send out, receive and process mail in ballots. It's complicated and fascinating, much like the system the City of Burbank uses for its all mail in elections.

Monica Marquez

2008
Calendar
Summer

Saturday
JULY 26

County

Summer League Day

Speaker: Gloria Romero
See flyer on page 5

Saturday
AUGUST 9

Household

**Hazardous Waste
Roundup**

9:30 am to 3 pm

Burbank Fire Training Center
1845 N Ontario St

Bring items that you can't put in the trash—like paint, batteries, computers, motor oil, prescription medicines and pesticides

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 27

**LWV LAC November
Ballot Briefing**

9:30 to 12 noon

Location to be announced.

There are 11 state measures and a possible County measure expected to be on the ballot. Come learn about these ballot measures so that you can participate in our League's Pro and Con speaking program.



Monica Marquez and State Senator Jack Scott

LWV Glendale/Burbank: Annual Meeting

Our League held its annual meeting on May 31, 2008 at the Pickwick Gardens. Our keynote speaker was State Senator Jack Scott, who spoke on California's budget crisis and issues in education. Senator Scott was recently selected to be the next Chancellor of the California community colleges.

A portion of the annual meeting report has been reprinted in this issue.

Annual Meeting Report

VOTER

I have completed my first year as Voter editor. We published 11 issues. Several of our members contributed articles: **Monica Marquez, Joan Hardie, Gwen Cochran, Tom Carson** and **Anna Rundle**. **Chris Carson** provided me with valuable ideas and suggestions for articles. We published some articles written by members of other Leagues. **Carole Dougherty** was responsible for the beautiful layout and graphics of the Voter. **Anna Rundle** ably handled circulation. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Voter this year!

Linda Lammers

COMMUNICATIONS

Our website keeps the community notified about local events. Extensive revisions have been made to the website to encourage membership. A new section was added about League members and how they found the League. In addition, the calendar keeps members apprised of upcoming events.

Monica Marquez

FINANCE

In October, 2007, we sent our annual fundraising letter. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we had very successful results. We continue to operate within our budget. Our League has substantial reserves. As we prepared this year's budget, we gave serious thought as to why we are holding the reserves and whether we

should use them to further the League's activities. This year's budget reflects a decision to conservatively use the reserves in order to further the League's mission.

Vera Naylor, Tom Carson, Monica Marquez

VOTER SERVICE

A core mission of the League of Women Voters is bring people into the political process. One way to do that is to register voters. We participated with the Los Angeles League in World Wrestling Entertainment, "Smack Down Your Vote" at Universal Citiwalk. We also had successful voter registration tables at St. Joseph's Urgent Care, Burbank Adult School, Warner Bros, Providence St. Joseph's Hospital, and the Atwater Village Community Day. **Connie Wilson, Anna Rundle, Gwen Cochran, Joan Hardie, Rosa Frommer, Mary Dickson, Florence Dommies, Mike Chapman** and **Monica Marquez** manned (and womaned) the tables.

On May 3, 2008, **Tom Carson, Mary Dickson** and **Monica Marquez** taped a pro and con presentation on the propositions on the June 3, 2008 ballot. The City of Burbank graciously donated its time and City Council facilities for the taping. The tape has run frequently on Burbank TV 6.

We distributed 1500 Pros and Cons election guides to libraries in Glendale and Burbank.

[Meeting continued on page 3](#)

As we do every year, we made a monetary contribution to SmartVoter.org, the California State League sponsored website that provides nonpartisan information about candidates and ballot measures. Voters enter their zip code at the website, and receive their ballot, along with information provided by the candidates and links to their websites. Participation in SmartVoter is free to all candidates.

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Each year, the State League asks local League members to interview their Legislators on topics of importance. Questions are prepared by the State League. This year, members interviewed **Assemblymember Paul Krekorian** of the 43rd Assembly District, and **State Senator Jack Scott** of Senate District 21.

*Chris Carson, Lila Ramirez, Rosa Frommer,
Monica Marquez*

REPORT ON NATIONAL IMMIGRATION STUDY

The Board of Directors approved participation in the national study of immigration of LWVUS. Our local efforts began with an initial Immigration Study Committee meeting on June 24, 2007. In contrast with our last two studies, which were addressing issues at the local community level, we started out with consensus questions developed by LWVUS, as well as significant resources on the immigration issues which are available on the LWVUS website. The Committee met a number of times over the summer and in the fall to identify avenues of research, to share the results of research and to discuss the consensus questions to achieve a better understanding of the issues involved.

During the entire process, the Committee also engaged in outreach to the members regarding the study. There were a number of articles in successive issues of the Voter to keep members apprised of our progress and inform the members of where to find resources to conduct their own research. Many of our members attended a county League workshop on immigration in Pasadena. And last but not least, various immigration issues were identified and discussed with the membership during an exercise at the League's annual event at Gordon Biersch in August 2007.

Due to the number and complexity of the national consensus questions, the Immigration Study Commit-

tee split up the questions and held the two consensus meetings for our League in October and November, with excellent attendance and participation. The results were presented to the Board of Directors at their January meeting, and then submitted to LWVUS shortly thereafter. The nationwide results of the Immigration Study were approved in March by the LWVUS Board of Directors, and are available on the LWVUS website.

Overall, our committee members did an outstanding job, while thoroughly enjoying their work! They included: **Chris Carson, Gwen Cochran, Dick Domes, Florence Domes, Nancy Burnet Kent, Monica Marquez, Di Rodriguez, Anna Rundle, Georganne Thomsen, and Connie Wilson.** All worked very hard in their research, our committee discussions and making presentations at the consensus meeting. They are all due thanks and commendations for a job very well done!

*Tom Carson, Chair
Immigration Study Committee*

ACTION

Our Democracy Depends on Your Participation!

LWVUS

Our League responded to LWVUS Calls to Action in the areas of D.C. Voting Rights, Civil Liberties, Campaign Finance/Ethics Reform, and Natural Resources. The continued growth of the number of members on the LWVUS E Action list makes this more effective with each year.

LWVC

Redistricting: members gathered signatures for the California Voters FIRST redistricting initiative throughout our communities.

HEALTH CARE: members participated in public events with the It's Our Healthcare coalition to spotlight the need for effective health care reform. We also responded to several LWVC Calls to Action on bills in the legislature in support of SB 840 and opposing bills that would have made it more difficult to achieve universal single payer health care.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: members re-

Meeting continued on page 4

sponded to several LWVC Calls to Action to the legislature and the Governor opposing a bill that removed the authority of local jurisdictions to regulate donations to candidates.

The conversion of LWVC Calls to Action to an E Action list similar to LWVUS will make it much easier for members to respond to LWVC requests.

LWV Glendale/Burbank

SUSTAINABILITY: Our League continued its efforts to encourage the City of Glendale to adopt LEED (Green Building) standards for new construction. **Nancy Kent** maintains a watchful eye on the efforts and works with city staff to accomplish our goals.

ELECTIONS: Our League successfully supported a Glendale ordinance that would require all applications for absentee ballots to go directly to and from the City Clerk to voters. Individual candidates, parties, and other organizations are no longer allowed to send and process such requests to and from voters. This will streamline the voting process, make less work for the City Clerk, and eliminate delays in voters receiving and returning their applications for absentee ballots. It also has the effect of making it less costly for candidates without a great deal of money to more effectively compete in campaigns.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE/ETHICS REFORM: In Glendale, our League is leading the drive to enact contribution limits in City Council races. We held an informative, well attended forum featuring speakers from Burbank, Los Angeles, Glendale, and the Center for Governmental Studies to give perspectives on how limits work in other cities and how they might work in Glendale. In Burbank, we are supporting an ordinance which would require paid lobbyists to register with the City. The local Action campaigns are still a work in progress. We will continue our advocacy this coming year to achieve meaningful reform in both cities.

Our local Action campaigns certainly energized the League. Our President and Board members spent many hours preparing testimony, waiting to speak at public meetings, and effectively representing the League. Many individual members supported the Board's official campaign by speaking as individuals, writing letters to the newspapers, and sending emails to Council members in both cities to make our voice heard.

Chris Carson, Action Director

MEMBERSHIP

Increasing membership continues to be a priority for the League of Women Voters. In 2007, the League of Women Voters of the United States launched its Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI). The focus of the initiative was to recruit new members from the ranks of the recently retired. Five Leagues across the US were chosen to participate. Glendale/Burbank was not among those selected.

However, in 2008, the League of Women Voters of California took up the call to increase membership. Renamed Membership Growth is Key (MGIK), a number of local Leagues were chosen to participate. Glendale/Burbank is one of the participating Leagues. The goal is to increase membership by 5% by November 2008.

A membership committee has been formed. Board members are encouraged to carry membership brochures with them at all times, and to encourage people to join.

An integral part of the program is known as the "ask." There are many people who would be interested in joining the League, but don't really know how to do so. To make finding us easier on the internet, we purchased the domain name <http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>. This is much easier to say and remember than our old name.

In public presentations, the President has incorporated the "ask." In a couple of sentences, She gives information about joining the League and our web address. This is helping us to focus on recruiting members.

The State League assigned us a Membership Advisor to help us focus our efforts. Membership Coordinator Anna Rundle and the President attend monthly meetings by telephone with our Membership Advisor.

Our overall progress to date has been mixed. While we have gained new members, we have lost members as well. We will continue to work toward our goal.

Anna Rundle, Monica Marquez



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization — Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale/Burbank • Long Beach Area
Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance • Whittier

2008 ANNUAL SUMMER LEAGUE DAY POPOVERS IN PASADENA

CALIFORNIA SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
GLORIA ROMERO
SENATE DISTRICT 24



Revolving Door — Our Correction System: Rehabilitation vs. Recidivism

WORKSHOPS
 Presidents – Nancy Mahr
 Jail Study – Jean Thomson
 Voter Service – Frances Talbott-White
 Treasurers – Gwen Cochran

WOMEN'S CITY CLUB
160 NORTH OAKLAND, PASADENA
Parking in rear off N. Madison Avenue,
1-1/2 blocks north of Colorado Blvd.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008
9:30 AM TO 2 PM
SALAD LUNCHEON



Please send form and check payable to LWV/LAC
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League Name _____
Name(s) _____

Deadline is July 16, 2008

Reservations # _____ @\$25.00 Total enclosed \$ _____
(Includes \$5.00 registration fee)

If postmarked after July 16th

Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

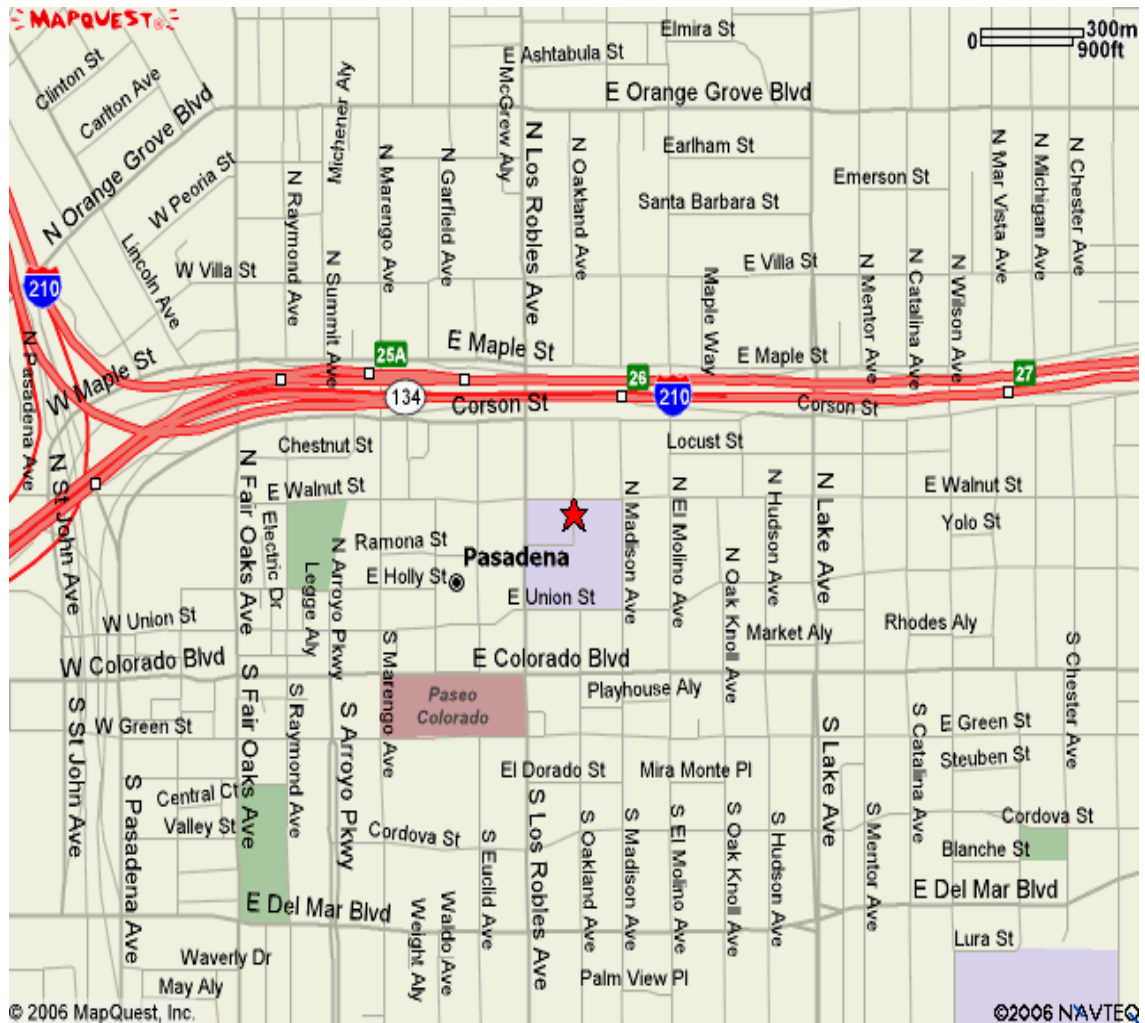
Chicken Salad Luncheon # _____ Vegetarian Luncheon # _____ W/O NUTS or other allergens # _____
(name food)

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A MORNING WORKSHOP

Presidents # _____ Jail Study # _____ Voter Service # _____ Treasurers # _____



Once again, we will be collecting donations of canned goods for the **Los Angeles Regional Foodbank**. The Foodbank can really use money (cash or checks) for the months of June, July and August, usually the slowest months for donations but now the demand has become much greater.



Map for directions to Popovers in Pasadena

Why I Joined the League

by Anna Rundle

When I was getting ready to vote in the first federal election after I was transferred from California to Georgia, I realized that the information that I was used to having about the issues and candidates on the ballot just wasn't there. My neighbors didn't seem to know what I was talking about, so I called my county government office and asked them for help. I was told that the County didn't do that sort of thing, but if anything were available it would be from the League of Women Voters. One call to the number in my local phone book

not only solved my immediate problem, but turned out to be a life-changing event.

Not only have I been a better-informed voter in subsequent elections, but I have learned so much from studies of issues ranging from the format of the United Nations to specifics of local election procedures in the Glendale/Burbank area.

To say nothing of the League friends I have made while registering voters, attending meetings at local, state and national LWV events and just plain having fun. My League friends continue to enrich my life.

A Report from Convention

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the United States Convention took place from June 14-17, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. There were over 600 voting delegates from all over the United States and the District of Columbia.

Among the important accomplishments of the convention was the passage of next year's budget. The members also adopted a Per Member Payment (PMP) of \$28 for fiscal year 2008-2009, and \$29.20 for 2009-2010.

Numerous resolutions were offered at the Convention. Here are some of the important resolutions approved:

- Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.

- Motion to adopt a "Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change" as an amendment to the proposed program.

- Motion to move adoption of the non-recommended study item entitled: "The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President."

- Motion "Be it resolved that within 12 months, LWVUS redesign its fundraising requests so they cannot be misconstrued as membership recruitment or dues notices. Be it further resolved that: LWVUS enlist the help of representative state and local Leagues to review or revise any fundraising or recruiting letters.

- Motion to adopt the LWVUS Board recommended Program to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

Motions defeated included:

- Motion to move for adoption of the Resolution regarding setting of LWVUS action priorities. Be it resolved that: LWVUS shall formulate proposed action priorities, with rationale and pros and cons, which shall be sent to the presidents of state Leagues and ILOs (Inter League Organizations) at least one month

prior to the Convention. At Convention the LWVUS Board shall present its recommendations for action priorities. Convention delegates may propose additions, deletions and modifications to the LWVUS proposed action priorities. The Convention shall adopt action priorities for the biennium by majority vote on each item presented to it. If circumstances emerge requiring a change in action priorities, LWVUS will notify state Leagues and ILOs of the reasons for the change in priorities as soon as reasonably possible."

- Motion to move for adoption of the following resolution: Be it resolved that, the League of Women Voters of the United States establish a Task Force on Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament composed of experts drawn from the membership of the League, in accordance with LWVUS task force guidelines, the purpose of which is to review the adequacy of the League's positions in the current geo-political era, to educate the membership about the issue, and, if necessary, to make recommendation to the 2010 LWVUS Convention..

- Motion to move for adoption, Be it resolved that: LWVUS will use the following criteria for advocacy: support durable privacy protecting paper ballots that are easy to audit and recount; support statistically valid, random audits after every election. Further resolve that LWVUS establish a list-serve on election systems.

Caucuses attended included:

- Massachusetts Healthcare Reform: Miracle or Mirage (the opinion of the presenters was that the reform package has been unsuccessful)

- Vote 18 (a program for high schoolers to encourage them to vote)

- Men and other Minorities in Today's Modern League (a program describing how one League succeeded with a male President)

Speakers included:

- Women as Political Leaders. Barbara Roberts, First Woman Governor of Oregon 1991-1995

- Presentation of Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon, 1994-2002: The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century

Budget “Reform” Lacks Vision

Statement of the League of Women Voters of California

The League of Women Voters of California is disappointed that Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposed revision to the 2008-2009 state budget fails to address the needs of Californians in the present crisis or to lay out a path to a sounder fiscal approach in the future. In addition, the basic premises of our government call for representative government and a balance of power between the legislative and executive branches, and the changes to the budget process proposed by the administration violate those premises.

We understand that painful cuts and some borrowing are likely to be needed this budget year even if new savings or revenues are agreed on, because those savings or revenues might not take effect soon enough to contribute to a balanced budget and avoid a cash flow problem this summer.

However, to simply say that we have no money and that Californians will have to live with budget restrictions in the future, no matter what the consequences are, is short-sighted. We have one of the largest economies in the world, but it can only continue to thrive if we put in the resources necessary to produce a healthier, better educated population and a sound infrastructure. We believe that Californians want a better future for themselves and their children, and that we can come together on a plan to get there.

The Governor says we must live within our means, but he himself cut back our revenue when he eliminated the Vehicle License Fee upon taking office and has since proposed nothing to take its place, even though that cut now represents about a \$6 billion gap in our “means.” At the same time, the proposed budget would impose severe cuts on the poorest and most vulnerable, who do truly have to live within their means. We think California can do better than that.

In 2005 we opposed Proposition 76, which would have given a Governor more power to cut the budget and would have reduced funding for education, and it was soundly defeated by the voters. Now, the administration is attempting to force an even harsher proposal on the legislature by tying it into the proposed budget, even though no legislator has so far been willing to introduce it as a bill. The legislature would be better occupied reversing billions of dollars in tax cuts and tax loopholes it has enacted in recent years.

As the proposal has been described, it would give a Governor unprecedented power to override existing laws and regulations, whether the legislature agreed or not, in order to make whatever budget cuts he or she wanted when estimated expenditures exceed estimated revenues. It would also impose a formula for a “revenue stabilization fund” that would limit the state’s ability to spend available revenues even in years of substantial growth and would probably mean that we would face more years of shortfalls and added budget cuts with no consideration of public needs. Calculations used for the proposed revenue limit and to authorize unilateral spending cuts by the Governor would apparently be based on estimates of projected revenues by the Director of Finance rather than on actual revenue collections.

This proposal would make a shambles of our system of checks and balances, and in the process destroy any vision of a better future for our children.

What You Can Do About the California State Budget

In the May 2008 Revision to the state budget proposal, Governor Schwarzenegger has again proposed a “cuts-only” budget that would be devastating to California’s families and our state’s future. The League of Women Voters of California strongly opposes the “cuts-only” approach to the budget.

The following points will assist you in writing letters to local newspapers, posting comments to blogs, talking to friends, and contacting your elected representatives.

1. Ignoring the concerns of millions of Californians, the Governor’s revised budget simply proposes **more of the same**, making deep cuts to health care, senior and disabled services, schools, and investments in children.

2. The revised budget cuts are **even deeper** than in the Governor’s original proposal in some critical areas, such as health care. If enacted, these cuts would jeopardize the safety and security of California’s children, families, seniors, and the disabled.

Budget continued on page 9

LEED Update: Glendale

ON JULY 1, 2008, all the members of the Glendale City Council directed staff that the Council wants to have sustainable building requirements ASAP—they do not want to wait for the process for updating Glendale’s General Plan to start this.

The City Council gave direction to staff that points toward:

- a LEED Silver requirement for MUNICIPAL buildings
- a LEED Silver requirement (rather than only incentives) for PRIVATE projects

(LEED stands for The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System.)

The issue of whether the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) or city staff will be the ones to verify that LEED has been achieved has not yet been decided.

Glendale/Burbank League member **Nancy Kent** has attended many Glendale City Council meetings to keep apprised of developments on this issue.

3. The proposed cuts will **impact California families in multiple ways**, often compounding problems. Communities will receive cuts to their local schools, hospitals, in-home care programs for seniors, and foster care services for kids. The Governor’s short-term approach will have long-term, negative human and fiscal consequences.

4. The Governor’s budget also includes a **distracting “power-grab” proposal** that already has been overwhelmingly rejected by California’s voters and that doesn’t address the real concerns of California’s families. In fact, it undermines our system of checks and balances by giving the Governor unprecedented power to make cuts without approval from our legislators.

5. Our legislators and our Governor need to find **real solutions** that don’t jeopardize the education of our children, health care for the sick and elderly, or the environment.

6. We believe that California is ready to **invest in our shared future** and seek balanced solutions. We are **working together with all Californians** to hold our Governor and legislators accountable and make that happen.



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 (includes 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: Linda Lammers

Production: Carole Dougherty

Circulation: Anna Rundle

The **League of Women Voters**, a non-partisan 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.

LWV Glendale/Burbank Web Site Has a New Domain Name

Our League web site has a new domain name:

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

Please refer your friends to it for more information about our League.

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

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

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