

# Voter LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK February 2011

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

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## What You Can Do in February

### **Burbank members**

Of course you're going to return your ballot by February 22nd. But email your friends and neighbors and urge them to vote. Send a quick email blast to your 'network': Celebrate a hundred years of democracy in Burbank. Vote! Return your ballot before February 22nd. Haven't made up your mind about the candidates? Watch the League's forum and taped candidates statements on [Burbank TV 6](#). Make an informed decision. And VOTE!

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### **Glendale members**

Send us questions for Glendale Board of Education forum on March 3rd and the Glendale City Council forum on March 7th—by [email](#) or on the League phone (818)925-4598. Urge your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Check out Bond Measure S at [Glendale Unified School District](#) website. Click on On-Going Updates.

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### **Become an Armchair Activist**

Have you signed up to get Action alerts from LWVUS and LWVC? This is a great way to participate in the League's work to achieve sound public policy. With a click of your mouse, you can add your voice to the tens of thousands of League members in California – and the nation. It's easy to do and be assured that your Inbox won't be flooded with constant Alerts. The League carefully selects a limited number of bills to work on and you only get these Alerts at critical moments. So how do you do this?

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### **For LWVUS**

Go to the website and [register or log in](#). Once you do that, click on the Take Action tab. On that page, click on the arrow next to "Stay Informed" on the left side of the page, and that will get you to the sign-up for Action Alerts

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### **For LWVC**

Go to the League [website](#), click on "Sign Up for E-News" on the left and that will get you to the Action sign-up.

**Don't miss out on the chance to be a part of the League's work. Join today!**

# CALENDAR

## January 2011

**Tuesday**

**February 22, 2011**

### **BURBANK CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

All mail-in ballots must be returned before 8:00 pm. Don't wait till the last minute!

**Thursday**

**February 17**

### **MEMBERS MEETING CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

Panera

Glendale

(See flyer and article) on page 3

**Thursday**

**March 3**

**7:00 pm**

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE FORUM Glendale Board of Education Facility, 223 N. Jackson St. Glendale, CA 91206**

**Monday**

**March 7**

**7:00 pm**

### **GLENDALE CITY COUNCIL FORUM Council Chambers Glendale City Hall 613 E Broadway Glendale**

**Tuesday**

**April 5, 2011**

### **GLENDALE ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD**

**Tuesday**

**April 12, 2011**

### **BURBANK GENERAL ELECTION**

[www.lwvglendaleburbank.org](http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org)

# CO-President's Message

*Joan Hardie*

**O**n January 19th, we presented a candidate forum for the Burbank City Council and Board of Education upcoming election.

We had a great turnout of volunteers from both cities to assist us and the forum was a success. We had great coverage in the Burbank Leader and local blogs. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time.

Next up is our forum for Glendale City Council on March 7th, 2011. We'll have a meeting to organize for the forum and we hope you'll volunteer. This is a great way to get involved.

Our general member will be on Thursday, February 17th. We'll be discussing Campaign Finance in our two cities. Be sure to read the article which gives background on the current ordinances, links to the ordinances, and suggestions about other laws and practices that we might consider. It's sure to be lively! So meet us at Panera for dinner, conversation and the great policy education you joined the League to experience.

A special thanks to **Sharon Weisman** who gave the League a wonderful endorsement during the Oral Communications portion of Jan. 4th, 2011 Glendale City Council meeting. In light of the recent Glendale NewsPress/LA Times coverage of ADI, a low income housing construction company, and its campaign contribution policies as well as other concerns, oral communications became more lively and heated than usual. Sharon took the opportunity to remind the citizens of Glendale that if they wanted to become a part of an organization that dedicates itself to being civil, informed and engaged that the LWV is such an organization. She even had a Voter that she waved in the air and could be seen by the TV cameras. We really appreciate her thinking of the League and not only portraying the League in such a positive way but also asking for people to join. Thank you, Sharon.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK  
Presents

# Campaign Finance Reform in Our Cities

## The Next Phase



**What's the \$ituation?  
Where Do We Go From Here?**



**Thursday,  
February 17th  
6:30 pm at  
Panera Bread  
300 N Brand Blvd,  
Glendale, CA**

**RSVP to Joan Hardie by  
email  
or  
(818)925-4598**

# Our Communities and Campaign Finance

By Laurie Collins and Mary Dickson

*The League of Women Voters at all levels is deeply concerned about the role of money and influence in our elections. As part of our ongoing involvement in advocating for good campaign finance laws at the local level, we are convening a members meeting to discuss the current situation in Glendale and Burbank and what we might do to improve our laws. Read this article; follow the links to read the city ordinances. Print the article and bring it with you. It's going to be a stimulating evening.*

**R**ecent News Press and L.A. Times articles have raised the ugly specter of “pay to play” in the approval of funding for a low income housing project by the Glendale City Council. Whether the allegations are true or not, the mantra of campaign finance reform is that the appearance of corruption is as damaging as actual corruption.

In 2008, the Glendale City Council adopted its first ever [campaign finance ordinance](#).

The League was instrumental in making the case for reform. Securing adoption of the ordinance required some compromise – compromise that is central to the current pay to play allegations.

The 2008 ordinance, as amended in 2009 to allow Council members to raise funds after the election for any office related purpose, provides that a candidate during a single election cycle (September 1 of the year preceding the April election to August 31 of the election year) may not accept contributions totaling more than \$1,000 from any person.

The 2008 ordinance also provides that no person who contracts with the City of Glendale shall make a contribution to an individual holding a city elective office (namely those who prevail on election day and will be asked to vote for or against the award of the contract) where the contract has a value of \$25,000 or more in a fiscal year of the City.

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**Campaign finance continued on page 5**

## Campaign finance continued from page 4

The advocates for reform wanted the prohibition to include sub-contractors but the Council rejected that proposal.

Thus a contractor cannot make a contribution, but a sub-contractor, or enough sub-contractors to contribute between \$20,000 and \$36,000 to each of four candidates as is the case in the current controversy, can.

Burbank also has a campaign finance ordinance: See Chapter 3 (Elections) Article 25 Campaign Reform Act. (§2-3-2501 et seq.) in the [Burbank Municipal Code](#).

It's been around longer, and in contrast to the Glendale ordinance, Burbank's campaign reform act limits contributions to \$250 for each election cycle (extending from 6 months prior to the election until June 30 immediately following the election).

Burbank also attempts to regulate "aggregation" to prevent a single donor from avoiding the disclosure requirements and the contribution limits by funneling donations through related parties, such as minor children and related business entities. But, Burbank does not expressly limit contributions by parties doing business with the City, nor does it consider contracting parties, such as contractors and subcontractors to be related for this purpose. In Burbank, any contribution of \$50 or more requires reporting with the City Clerk, and reports are required to be filed in a timely manner prior to the election. Thus, diligent residents could review the contributions to candidates but it may be difficult to know if the persons listed are representing the interests of a party hoping to conduct business with the City. Thus, while disclosure is helpful, the Burbank ordinance does not seem to address "pay to play" concerns.

Our local League is proposing discussion of possible amendments to the ordinances for our February membership meeting. In addition to discussing "pay to play" in Glendale, we will also be considering adding sub-contractors to the provision prohibiting contribu-

tions when a City contract is in the works, and imposing similar restrictions in Burbank, the possible benefits of establishing an ethics committee to provide oversight to Council actions and requiring lobbyists to register with the cities. Join us on February 17th to begin the process.

**In Glendale  
a contractor  
cannot make a  
contribution,  
but a  
sub-contractor,  
or enough  
sub-contractors  
[can] contribute  
between  
\$20,000 and \$36,000  
to each of  
four candidates.**

**In Burbank  
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with the city**

# Budget Crisis California

Our Education Fund site also has great information on the budget crisis. Get background and links to more information. And to read the League of Women Voters of California's statement on the Governor's proposed budget visit our General Fund [website](#)

## Moving Ahead with Technology

# Redistricting California

California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission began meeting January 12, 2011. All of the work of the commission will be done in public view. You can attend meetings or watch meetings of the commission streamed live on the internet. LWVC will be following the work of the commission and updating the public on opportunities to testify before the commission about redistricting in their communities. The Citizens Redistricting Commission passed a motion to hold meetings February 9 - 28 in Claremont, California. Why not plan on attending one of the hearings?

Get all the background information you need to be informed at the LWVC Education Fund [website](#). We have assembled a wealth of resources that will educate you about all aspects of redistricting in California – federal, state and local. Follow the Commission live or watch a recording of the hearings at your leisure on the official Commission [website](#). See reform in action.

Last month we launched our newest Voter feature; clickable links in the PDF document so you can access information in an instant. This month we announce that our website now has PayPal. With this feature you can renew your membership and donate to the League online. Of course new members can join online and our new member Patrick Atwater is our first "PayPal member".

# Welcome New Members

## Patrick Atwater

**P**atrick is a fourth generation Californian native and passionate about government reform in our state. Growing up in La Crescenta, his Mom teaches at Verdugo Woodlands and he is a proud graduate of Crescenta Valley High School. From there he went to Claremont McKenna College, where he graduated cum laude with a dual major in Mathematics and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). He has worked in public policy at the local, state, and federal level, and was the Elections and Demographics Research Manager at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government. Currently Patrick is a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs and has been placed at the California Participation Project, Shawn Nelson's Supervisor campaign, the Southern California Association of Governments, and SEIU Local 721. He is the author of the forthcoming book

[\*A New California Dream\*](#)

## Nayiri Nahabedian

**N**ayiri moved to Glendale as a teenager from the Boston area, and graduated from Glendale High School. She attended Glendale Community College and graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in social welfare from the School of Public Policy and Social Research. After graduation, she worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services as a children's social worker. For five years, she worked in the central and south Los Angeles areas where she helped families recover from physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, and drug addiction. Since 2000, she has been a faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles School of Social Work.

She cofounded many community programs and organizations, including the Generation Next Mentorship Program, focused on providing mentorship to at-risk youth in Glendale middle schools. She is currently an elected Board Member of the Glendale Unified School District.



## 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)

\$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.

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

**Gifts made payable to the "LWV Education Fund" are tax deductible.**

# Voter

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank, California

Co-Presidents: Chris Carson  
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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.

## Welcome Returning Members

Lisa Allen  
Virginia Campbell  
Wendy & Phil Kazanjian  
Nancy Burnet Kent  
Renee Leask  
Lila & Rich Ramirez

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Glendale, CA 91203  
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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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## LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

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League websites:  
LWV Glendale/Burbank  
[www.lwvglendaleburbank.org](http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org)

LWV California  
[www.ca.LWV.org](http://www.ca.LWV.org)

LWV United States  
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