

Voter

**LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK**
January 2012

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

CALENDAR January 2012

MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

3:00 PM

EMAIL marquezlwv@earthlink.net

for location

**Topic: membership retention
and brochures**

GLENDALE WATER & POWER COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Pacific Edison Community Center
501 S. Pacific Ave.
Glendale, CA 91204

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LEAGUE DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012

9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Taix Restaurant
1911 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

**Topic: Initiative and
Referendum Reform**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA (LWVC) SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Neighborhood Congregational
Church

340 St. Anne's Drive
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

**Topic: Open primaries,
budget, water**

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

President's Message

By Joan Hardie

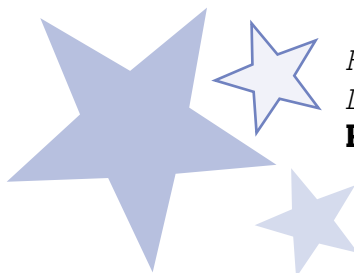
HAPPY NEW YEAR! Here we are in 2012, yet another election year. For several reasons, I'm looking forward to this election year because I think it is going to be especially interesting. What's going to make this year interesting?

REDISTRICTING—it will be gratifying to see the new maps being put to work.

OPEN PRIMARY—Voters approved an open primary. It may not be as gratifying as the redistricting maps, but because of the confusion it will undoubtedly create, it should be interesting.

SUPREME COURT CASES—The Supreme Court will decide cases on immigration and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Court will rule prior to the November election, which will effect how our political leaders will be able to lead.

No matter which way the Supreme Court rules it will be controversial and will add a lot of drama to the election season. This drama along with new maps and a new ballot, I confidently predict, as I'm sure you have too, will make the elections in this coming year very interesting.



*For ways to be more involved in the
League in 2012, go to the continued
President's Message on page 2*

President's Message continued from page 1

The election year brings opportunities for involvement in some of the League's most appreciated efforts. If you haven't made your New Year's resolution list yet or want to make room for more, here is a list of ways to become more involved or more informed:

Ensure all eligible voters are registered to vote and can exercise their right to vote

Sign up to help with the Candidate forums and Pro/Con Presentations on the Ballot measures

Visit the informative websites that the League offers such as CAvotes.org, SmartVoter.org, LWVC.org.

Engage in the League's Initiative and Referendum Study

Support efforts of those Leagues in states where they are challenging Voter ID Laws (Wisconsin and Florida)

Attend the candidate forums, or Pro/Con Presentations or Workshops

Tell a friend about the League and ask them to join

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and happy New Year!

Join us at the
**Glendale Water & Power
 community meeting on
 January 17, 2012**

**For more
 information on Glendale's
 water rate increase visit:
[Notice ProposedRate Restructuring IncreaseWaterRates.pdf](#)**



Photos Top, Florence and Dick Dommes.
 Bottom, Rita Zwern and host Roger Fromer

Glendale/Burbank League's Holiday Party Enjoyed by All

It was a lovely beginning
 to the holiday season.

Once again the Glendale/Burbank League members enjoyed an evening at the home of Rosa and Roger Frommer. Tasty hors d'oeuvres prepared by students in the Culinary Arts Class at Burbank High School overflowed on the festive walnut table. Members and their guests ate, drank and chatted. Sometimes the conversation was a matter of catching up on friends' activities. Member Patrick Atwater talked about his new book *A California Dreamer* (See page 8)

The Privatization Study is underway. The Consensus Questions are now available on the [LWVUS website](#). Our responses to the Consensus Questions are due May 1, 2012, so we are laboring under a short time frame. As part of our League's research, we are looking forward to speaking with local officials in Glendale and Burbank about what services have been privatized in our two cities. We will also seek to speak with those personally affected by privatization, including former city employees.

-EDITOR

PRIVATIZATION: The Public Policy Debate

By Nora Leach

The purpose of this article is to provide a description of the evolution of the public policy known as "Privatization." Privatization is a movement to deregulate private industry and transfer many government services, assets and functions to the private sector.

CLAIMS AND CONCERNS

Those promoting privatization claim that: the private sector can provide increased efficiency, better quality and more innovation in services than the government; a smaller government will reduce costs to the taxpayer; and less regulation will provide a better environment for business, thus creating more jobs.

Those concerned about privatization suggest the following:

PROFITS: The mandate to make a profit will endanger public safety and reduce services available to the general public.

COSTS: There will be increased costs to consumers.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Private companies will lack transparency, adequate oversight and accountability.

CORRUPTION: There will be increased corruption between government and for-profit, private companies.

NATIONAL DEFENSE: Privatizing sectors such as ports, utilities and defense can result in foreign control and will put the country at risk in the event of war.

INEQUALITY: The scale of privatized programs will result in chronic high unemployment, low wages and abusive labor practices, leading to growing inequality between the wealthy and poor.

Larger than the United States

The privatization movement is an international movement. Outside the United States, prominent divestitures of government assets have included Russia's natural gas (Gazprom), Bolivia's municipal water system in Cochabamba and the United Kingdom's British Rail. Inside the United States, privatization has taken the form

of deregulation, e.g., the deregulation of the financial services industry; redistribution of the taxes "burden," e.g., efforts to reduce individual taxes on capital gains and inheritances, and reductions of corporate taxes; and privatization, the shifting of government programs to the private sector, e.g., the prisons and highways.

HISTORY

In the 1970s, disillusioned with the Progressive Era vision, leadership in the increasingly global private sector became more active, asserting that burgeoning tax rates and government regulations of industry were inhibiting free trade. Efforts were launched to dismantle many Progressive programs such as restrictions on financial lending, elimination of worker's compensation, elimination of control over food and environmental safety, and a revamping of the tax system by eliminating progressive taxes and replacing it with a flat tax.

COMPETING THEORIES

MILTON FRIEDMAN: The intellectual inspiration behind the public policies to privatize in the United States has come from the Public Choice and Property Rights schools of thought. Prominent leaders advocating these theories include Milton Friedman, the Chicago School of Economics, and **FREDRICK VON HAYEK** whose book, *Road to Serfdom*, warned of the growing welfare state. The basic assumptions include: Democratic political systems have inherent tendencies toward government growth and excessive budgets.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

WINTER LEAGUE DAY

CALIFORNIA'S INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM: ABOLISH, REFORM OR RETAIN AS IS?



**BOB STERN, PRESIDENT
CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012

10:30 AM TO 2 PM

TAIX RESTAURANT

1911 W. SUNSET BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

Conveniently located near the Hollywood Freeway and Alva

There is a \$2.50 valet fee so carpooling is recommended.

TEL. 213-484-1265

LUNCHEON - \$25

Questions: call Nancy Mahr at 310-377-0735



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LACounty** by January 14, 2012

Mail to **LWV/LAC Treasurer, 3970 Sepulveda Blvd., Unit 201, Torrance, CA 90505**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Allergies _____

Deadline is January 14, 2012

Reservation(s) # _____ @\$25.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

After Jan. 14, 2012, Reservation(s) # _____ @\$30.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Meet Alec – who doesn't want people to vote

By Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS President

ALEC isn't a guy. ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, is a factory for anti-voter legislation, funded by "For-Profit_Corporations" power barons Kraft Foods, McDonalds, Pfizer and the Koch brothers.

They are the driving force behind the recent flood of discriminatory voter ID laws, like the one in Texas, where a state-issued concealed handgun permit is an acceptable form of identification—but a state-issued student ID from a university is not.

The League is working tirelessly to fight back against these voter suppression schemes that could [disenfranchise up to 5 million Americans](#) in next year's elections.

Voter impersonation is not the epidemic that these special interest groups would have you believe. Here are the facts:

5 MYTHS ABOUT VOTER IMPERSONATION

MYTH: Voter impersonation is a widespread problem.

FACT: Between 2002 and 2007, after undertaking a massive investigation into voting irregularities, [the U.S. Justice Department did not prosecute a single individual for impersonating another voter at the polls](#).

MYTH: Third party registration drives contribute to voter impersonation.

FACT: [Since 2008, only 31 cases of suspected voter impersonation have been reported to Florida authorities](#). But due to a restrictive new law there, the League has been forced to suspend its Florida voter registration activities for the first time in 72 years.

MYTH: Everyone either has an ID or can easily obtain one.

FACT: 11 percent of eligible voters or about 21 million people, don't have updated, state-issued photo IDs. Furthermore, most states require producing a passport or birth certificate to get one.

This presents a tremendous burden for people who work multiple jobs, lack transportation, have disabilities, live outside the state they were born, are poor or elderly.

MYTH: Election Day registration invites voter impersonation.

FACT: [An investigation by the Secretary of State in Maine – which was the first state to adopt Election Day registration – did not find evidence of voting irregularities due to same day registration](#).

MYTH: Early voting increases voter impersonation.

FACT: Incidents of impersonation in early voting are just as rare as they are in Election Day balloting. [A CBS News report on 17 early voting states revealed no widespread signs of irregularities in the 2008 election](#).

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) Southern Regional Meeting



Hosted by:
The Leagues of Women Voters
Orange County Inter- League Organization (ILO)

- Date and Time:** Saturday, February 4, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Location:** Neighborhood Congregational Church
340 St. Anne's Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- Price:** \$25/person; \$30/per person after January 28, 2012
\$15/person if you bring your own lunch

Topics Include:

- **The Rules Have Changed: The 2012 Elections**
Preparing for California's 2012 Elections and Anticipating a Flood of Ballot Measures
- **Water: Which Way Do We Swim?**
- **The California State Budget – It's Broken**
What the League and the Public Can Do to Fix the Problem
- **The "Observer Corps" – A Winner for the Public and for the League**

Please register and pay by credit card at the LWVC website www.lwvc.org, by January 28, or write a check payable to LWVC and mail with the form below to: Diane Thomas, 2506 Calle Jade, San Clemente, CA 92673. Questions? Contact Bea Field at 949-276-7555 or bfield@cox.net.

I will attend and buy lunch. \$25/person or \$30/person after January 28.

I prefer: *Chicken Tostada* *Vegetarian Tostada*

I will attend and bring lunch. \$15/person.

My check payable to LWVC is enclosed for \$_____.

Name _____ League _____

Phone _____ Email _____

PRIVATIZATION continued from page 3

Expenditure growth is due to self-interested coalitions of voters, politicians, and bureaucrats. Public enterprises necessarily perform less efficiently than private enterprises.

The more individuals stand to gain from tending to their property, the better it will be tended.

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES: The dominant economic theory after WWII was that of John Maynard Keynes. Keynes believed that to break a depression, the government needed to stimulate demand. It was necessary to get money into the hands of consumers to jumpstart growth. Businesses would not borrow and build if no demand was in sight, no matter how low the interest rates might go. Keynesian theories were later refuted by economist Milton Friedman and this dispute is at the core of the ongoing debate regarding how to break the current recession/depression.

PRIVATIZATION IN PRACTICE

The key strategies as to how to downsize government and transfer programs to the private sector are described as:

PRIVATIZATION BY ATTRITION Cessation of public programs and disengagement of government from specific kinds of responsibilities. Example might be the U.S. postal system.

TRANSFER OF ASSETS Direct sale or lease of public land, infrastructure, and enterprises. Examples might be federal and state parks, state-owned liquor stores and the proposed privatization of public libraries.

CONTRACTING OUT (PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS) OR VOUCHERS Instead of directly producing some service, the government may finance private services, for example through contracting out or vouchers. Examples might be charter schools, prisons.

DEREGULATION OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVITIES PREVIOUSLY TREATED AS PUBLIC MONOPOLIES. Examples might be utilities, water, waste management, air traffic control and ports.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The public agenda of privatization requires a close examination of the proper relationship between government, business and civil society. What should the role of government be in protecting the environment, helping the poor, defending the nation, providing justice, ensuring democracy, protecting public health, ensuring public safety, providing education, promoting a thriving economy, and ensuring safe work environments and a living wage? Our country must seek a pragmatic balance between social and economic returns.

©2011 [League of Women Voters: Privatization Study](#)



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.

Voter

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

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Editor: Monica Marquez
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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.

Calbuzz review of member Patrick Atwater's book:

A California Dreamer

"In search of solutions to its chronic dysfunctions, Atwater takes a stroll through the state's history, crafting a nice, well-paced narrative that explores the political, economic and psychological underpinnings of the California Dream – and the harsh hard times that keep smashing up against it... makes the best and most extended case for a constitutional convention that we've seen." www.patrickatwater.com



Laurel Pavone
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LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

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

LWV California
www.ca.LWV.org

LWV United States
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