

# Voter



LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK

January 2011

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

## A New League Year

**T**his time every year, we all make New Year's resolutions. We're going to eat healthy food, exercise every day, be nice to our fellow humans, read worthy books and generally be perfect. This lasts about two weeks—which is probably a good thing for the people who have to live around us. But the inspiration to 'do something' to improve ourselves and our communities is a good thing and worth pursuing. So we're launching a new feature in the Voter: every month we'll suggest some steps you as a League member, can take, right there in your own home, and occasionally outside in the community, to be a 'better League member' and, in the process, help create a better community to live in.

Local elections are upon us. This month, the League will present a candidates forum for City Council and School Board. **ALL OF OUR MEMBERS IN BOTH CITIES – YES BOTH CITIES! – CAN HELP OUT. HOW?**

**WATCH A MEETING** of the Burbank City Council, School Board, and one of the Boards or Commissions. It can be live or a past meeting—go to [Burbank TV](#) Ask yourself what the policy questions are; what concerns you. If you live in Glendale, compare the discussions to those going on in Glendale. And then **SEND US A QUESTION** for the forum at [LWVGB Email](#)

Burbank members, what concerns you? Glendale members, what would you like the two cities to work on? We'll put your questions into the mix for the candidates. And we'll be back in March to do the same for the Glendale forums.

**VOLUNTEER** to help out at the forum on Wednesday, January 19. **INVITE A FRIEND** to come with you and submit a question. And then **ASK THEM TO JOIN** the League and be a part this project. Or watch the forum live on Burbank TV

**COME** to the Los Angeles County League's program on Saturday, January 29th. The subject will be the California Budget Process and the speaker is Jean Ross, Executive

Director of the California Budget Project. This will be an exciting day because she is one of the 'the' experts on the issue and a dynamic speaker. (Details in this month's Voter)

**BECOME A MEMBER** of the statewide Observer Corps to **MONITOR** the new redistricting process. **TAKE THE FREE WEBINAR TRAINING** on January 12 and find out how you can participate right there at home. Sign up today

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ONLINE TRAINING** offered by League. **SIGN UP** for a free webinar on communications training; How to Make the Ask.

However – we want you to know that we're not just telling you about how you can change. Beginning this month, the Voter team announces a great new addition to our newsletter. **NOW YOU CAN CLICK DIRECTLY ON THE LINKS IN THE VOTER PDF AND GO RIGHT TO THE WEBSITES.** Nothing could be easier. Sign up for online training, read articles, register for programs. It's all part of our ongoing work to make your League experience better every day. And let us know what you think. Email your comments and questions to us.

What You Can Do in January

# CALENDAR

## January 2011

### PLEASE JOIN US

**January 12, 2011**

**7 pm**

**OBSERVER CORPS**

**WEBINAR TRAINING**

**Sign up link in Voter**

**January 19, 2011**

**7 pm**

**LEAGUE FORUM FOR  
BURBANK CITY COUNCIL AND  
SCHOOL BOARD**

**Burbank City Hall**

**275 East Olive Avenue**

**Burbank**

**January 29, 2011**

**9:30 am - 2 pm**

**LEAGUE DAY:**

**THE CALIFORNIA  
BUDGET PROCESS**

**Speaker Jean Ross, ED**

**California Budget Project**

**Flyer on page 3 to sign up**

**Rio Hondo Country Club**

**Whittier**

**February 22, 2011**

**BURBANK PRIMARY  
ELECTION**

**April 5, 2011**

**GLENDALE GENERAL  
ELECTION**



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

# CO-President's Message

*Chris Carson*

**I**t's an exciting time to be a League member. Decades of work on redistricting reform have finally culminated in the selection of the Citizen's Redistricting Commission. They will begin work early this month and very soon will be out in communities around the state listening to what you have to say about the kind of districts you want. And local jurisdictions will be redrawing lines as well; in fact right here in Los Angeles County. It's an unparalleled opportunity for members to participate and observe the processes. The ever deepening state budget crisis will be the topic for a stimulating League Day this month. Join us and inform yourself while having a great time with friends.

**L**ocal elections will be taking place in both our cities beginning this month. What better way to serve the community than to be a part of the League forums that give citizens an opportunity to listen to the candidates. And as we begin the local election cycle, let's all be aware of the League's commitment to non-partisanship and civil discourse. As we all know, the League does not support or oppose candidates or parties. Board members are held to very high standards. The presidents and voter service project managers cannot endorse candidates, attend campaign functions or in any indicate their opinions of the candidates. Those who work on the forum cannot endorse candidates. We go a step further by having members who don't live in the city having the election work on the forums. And as the campaigns get underway, remember the League's commitment to civil discourse. As you watch the forums and monitor the campaign rhetoric ask yourself a few questions: do campaign mailing pieces, emails, handouts contain personal attacks, scare tactics, claims that can't be verified? Who sent the material; the candidates or an official committee, or a committee with a fictitious name? Are phone calls about candidates positive, or do they attack other candidate? And watch for last minute hit pieces that don't allow time for a response.

**A**nd above all, urge the candidates you support to avoid negative campaigns and focus on positive steps they want to take to improve our communities.



# Can California's Budget Be Balanced?

## League of Women Voters/Los Angeles County

**Saturday, January 29, 2011**

**9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

### Rio Hondo Event Center

10627 Old River School Road, Downey, 902541, (562) 806-5020  
Close to the 710, 105, and 5 freeways, between Firestone and Florence  
and near Paramount Blvd. in Downey



Guest Speaker

**Jean Ross**

Executive Director  
California Budget Project

Take part in the ***Budget Game***  
with County Board members  
**Sally Seven and Jack Sullivan**

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

League Name \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline is January 15, 2010**

Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$25.00 Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***If postmarked January 16th or later—***

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

Chicken Luncheon # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Luncheon # \_\_\_\_\_ W/O NUTS or other allergens # \_\_\_\_\_  
(name food)

# Online Training for Members

**FREE**

LWVC invites you to **join the Observer Corps and Media Watch teams** to help make this goal a reality. It's easy. Just [sign up for the Observer and Media Watch Report Webinar training](#) that will be held on January 12, 2011. The League's Observer Corps and Media Watch project is monitoring the process of the commission selection and will continue reporting on the commission's work during the mapping process in 2011. We're also monitoring the press coverage of this major government reform throughout the state. Once the maps are drawn, we'll issue a report card to California voters on how the process worked.

After you've taken the simple training, you can attend a public hearing in your region, or watch the hearings live via the Internet or on delayed broadcast video, and then file a report on CAvotes.org. Or keep an eye on the media coverage of the ongoing commission work and file a report on CAvotes.org. If your League is jumping into the exciting world of local redistricting, you will certainly want to take the training and use it to monitor the redistricting process in your community. This is a great way for members to get involved in a project that doesn't demand a large time commitment and will make a real difference to California's future.

As part of the League of Women Voters' member training effort, LWVC is offering members a free webinar **Making The Ask Webinar: January 25 and February 4.**

During this private webinar for LWV California members, learn how to communicate in person and online in comfortable ways that motivate people to follow through, whether you are asking someone to join, donate, or vote. We'll work through practical, hands-on

examples using real League scripts for voter service and advocacy, emails, flyers, and more.

[Tuesday January 25 from 10 to 11am registration](#)

[Friday February 4 from 3 to 4pm registration](#)

Educate Yourself on Policy Issues – And Use Our Nifty New Feature “Clickable Links”



# Where Do I Begin? State Budget Crisis

By Chris Carson

**I**t's a mess. But there are some very good – readable – sources that you can explore to get started. First, the League's very own [Easy Voter Guide Fast Facts on the State Budget](#). This is a great place to start demystifying the process. [The California Budget Project](#) has tons of good information that is impeccably researched and written in clear coherent prose – not techno jargon. (And remember that Jean Ross of [CBP](#) will be speaking at the League Day on January 29th.) [Next 10](#) has wonderful material on the budget as well as other areas of

importance to our state. Both of these organizations are longtime League partners in bringing citizens good information about budget policy issues. And of course, there is the [California Legislative Analyst's Office](#) which offers the best, most in-depth, non-partisan information around. Sooner or later, everyone who really wants to 'know' about policy issues, particularly the budget, finds this site and reads the material regularly.

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## New EdSource Report Details Public Schools Crisis

**C**alifornia school districts are being expected to “do more with less.” They face critical and competing pressures to improve academic achievement while remaining fiscally solvent in a time of increasing budgetary pressures.

This report examines the financial circumstances of California's school districts and the actions they have been taking to cope with these competing demands. It looks at the various forces that govern both the revenues they receive and the expenditures they make, and the added pressures they face due to the insolvency of California's state budget and the fact that the 2010-11 budget was the latest in the state's history.

The report also discusses new federal and state initiatives designed to improve student outcomes as well as policy actions that may add to districts' workload.

**Note:** As a result of the late budget, EdSource's usual summary of the current year budget for K–12 education is not included in this report. Watch for an EdSource Budget Brief in January that describes those decisions in detail.

### INSIDE THIS REPORT:

- California's school districts face competing priorities
- The state has delayed large payments to local school agencies
- Districts have limited options for coping with reduced funds
- Districts are making cutbacks but having mixed success in keeping them “away from the classroom”
- Federal stimulus dollars have helped, but many districts still face severe funding difficulties
- Obama administration programs represent seed money for reforms it hopes will be game-changing
- Policymakers' actions will add to districts' workload
- “Doing more with less” is a daunting challenge for California schools

To read the full report visit [EdSource](#).

# Federal Health Care Reform What Does It Mean?

By Helen Hutchison

Everyone is unhappy about health care, particularly health care costs, but not everyone realizes that a national health care reform bill is law, or what is in it. Research shows that many Americans don't even know that a reform bill has passed. Start by informing yourself about what is—and is not—in the bill, and then make it a point to talk to your friends and neighbors.

## Some of what is included in the landmark Affordable Care Act:

- a guarantee that insurance companies can no longer discriminate based on pre-existing conditions
- an end to lifetime caps
- a requirement that insurance companies can no longer drop people when they get sick.

## In addition, the bill:

- gives tax credits to small businesses for providing coverage for employees
- requires insurers to cover preventive care at no cost.

## There is misinformation being circulated about the bill's effects on Medicare. Don't let the naysayers scare seniors!

- Medicare is actually being improved and strengthened.
- The Affordable Care Act attacks waste and fraud.
- The bill adds benefits for those on Medicare:
- helps seniors stay in their homes
- bans discrimination based on pre-existing conditions
- provides preventive care with no co-pays.

Yes, there are taxes—but only for those with incomes over \$200,000-\$250,000. These taxes will provide for the largest investment in the health care workforce ever made. There is a huge need for primary health care providers, and the Affordable Care Act will help fill the gap by investing in education and training, and providing incentives for these desperately needed caregivers.

Finally, for those who advocate repealing the act: this is an even more costly choice than enacting it! Repealing the act would cost an estimated \$455 billion.

## What about California?

California is on the forefront of federal health care reform. This fall, the governor signed two bills creating the California Health Benefit Exchange. There are a number of challenges on the road to an operational exchange by 2014; the League will be active both in advocacy and community education. If you are interested in working on this issue, contact [Helen Hutchison](#).



Sign up for action alerts on the [LWVC Web site](#). Go to [lwvc.org](#) and click on "Sign up for E-News" at the upper left. On the sign-up page, choose "Action Alerts."

Do you want to know more? Here are sites where you can find good information:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/introduction/index.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/healthcare-overview>

[www.chcf.org/health-policy-office](http://www.chcf.org/health-policy-office)



## What will your legacy be?

As a leader in your community, you know what you want to accomplish for yourself, for your family, and for your community. Consider making the League of Women Voters\* part of your overall estate plan next time you speak with your attorney or financial professional, so that your hard work will carry on.

**Nonpartisan  
Grassroots  
Unbiased  
Trustworthy**



You know why you can rely upon the League of Women Voters. The League relies upon you, too.

**PLEASE DONATE NOW**

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## 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.

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

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

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

# Voter

The Voter is published nine times a year by the  
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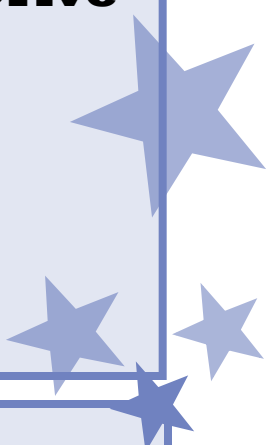
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education advocacy.

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.

## More Contributors to Our Fund Drive

Susan Hallgren  
Janet Peterson  
Di Rodriguez  
Anna Rundle  
Sylvia Sutton



## Welcome Renewing Member

Peggy Steppe

### LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

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

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