

# Voter LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK March 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 March

### March is Women's History Month

And this year, we're celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage in California. Did you know that the measure which gave women the right to vote in California elections passed by 240 votes? That's right. 240 men made the difference. Read about the work of a suffrage organizer and how she felt as the votes came in—you can find it on [cavotes.org](http://cavotes.org).

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### Forum Questions

It's not too late to send us questions for the Glendale City Council candidates forum. [Email](#) them to us by Friday, March 4

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### State Budget Crisis

The state budget crisis continues. Amidst all the rhetoric, you can find good information on the Legislative Analyst [website](#). Of particular interest is the series titled The 2011-12 Budget which reviews such areas as School Finance and Local Redevelopment Agencies.

And if you think you have the answer to California's budget woes, we dare you to visit the Next Ten [website](#) and play the online California Budget Challenge Game. Let us know how you fared. We'll publish member solutions in coming VOTERS.

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### Local Finance Woes

Of course, cities have their budget woes as well. For good information check out The California Local Government Finance Almanac [website](#). Sponsored by the California League of Cities, this is 'the' place to go to find data, statistics, analyses, and articles on California city and county finance

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### Traffic Gridlock

Traffic gridlock confronts everyone in our two communities every day. Aside from just complaining, what can be done? The Public Policy Institute of California has just issued a new report, [Driving Change: Reducing Vehicle Miles Driven in California](#). Can Californians cut down on their driving? Encouraging job growth near transit stations will help. So will pursuing policies that raise the cost of driving. This report examines California's progress in these and other areas, finding both opportunities and challenges ahead.

## CALENDAR

### March 2011

**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**

**CANDIDATE FORUM**

**Council Chambers**

**Glendale City Hall**

**613 E Broadway**

**Glendale**

**Thursday**

**March 17**

**12 Noon**

**LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE**

**Marie Callender's**

**707 N Pacific Ave**

**Glendale**

**RSVP [Email](#) or**

**call (818) 925-4598.**

**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

*Chris Carson*

In January, we told you that the Board is committed to making changes to improve our League. Some of those changes are administrative. We're working to cut costs and improve our ability to serve you, our members. But there are other changes, we'll give them the fancy title of pilot projects, which we are implementing in the hopes of making our League a better, more engaging 'place' for our members. The Big News is Lunch With the League. We know that some of our members can't come to evening meetings or have other commitments at night. So by offering a day alternative, we hope to engage more members in the life of our League and extend the circle of friendship even further.

Starting on **Thursday, March 17th**, we will hold noon lunch meetings on the **3rd Thursday of each month** for most months through November. We'll meet at Marie Callender's, 707 N. Pacific Avenue in Glendale at noon and adjourn promptly at 1:30 pm. Each lunch will be hosted by a Board member. We'll discuss whatever topic or project our League is involved with – everything from local campaign finance reform to voter registration for the Presidential elections next year. And of course, there will be lots of good conversation and fellowship. You'll find the details and where to RSVP in the flyer. So celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the League in style. Join us for Lunch With the League! Of course our evening member meetings will continue as well.

And speaking of those administrative changes: in late January we changed the website to allow people to join the League, or renew membership, online. In the few weeks it's been active, three new members have joined us using the new feature. We've also replaced the existing League phone which cost us \$360 a year with a free phone service provided by Google. This phone number is now connected to Joan Hardie's home phone so that it goes directly to voice mail. As soon as the message is received, an email is sent to Joan reproducing the message in print. This email also contains a link so that Joan can listen to the actual voice mail message if she wishes to. Of course this service can be switched to the phone number of any member willing to handle the messages. Over all this not only saves the League money but dramatically reduces the amount of time League volunteers need to spend handling the messages. We're saving our members time and money and improving our service to the community.



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK



Presents

## **LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE**

Thursday, March 17, 2011

League Lunch Meeting

Noon - 1:30 pm

Marie Callender's

707 N Pacific Avenue

Glendale



The kick off for **Lunch with the League** starts on St Patrick's Day.

Over the next four months until November, we'll discuss whatever topic or project our League is involved with – everything from local campaign finance reform to voter registration for the Presidential elections next year.

And of course, there will be lots of good conversation and fellowship.



Please RSVP by March 15

[Email](#)

or call (818) 925-4598

## For California

# The Price of Repealing the Affordable Care Act

**A**s a result of the Affordable Care Act, families will soon be free from the constant worry that they will not be able to get health care when they need it the most. But repealing the law would strip Americans of this new freedom and take us back to the days when big insurance companies had the power to decide what care residents of California could receive—allowing them to once again deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions, cancel coverage when people get sick, and place limits on the amount of care people can get, even if they need it. What's more, without the law, insurance companies could overcharge for insurance just to boost their profits, or use fine print to deny medical treatments that are covered under people's policies.

In addition, repealing the law would add at least a trillion dollars to the deficit, which America cannot afford, nor do we want to pass that debt to our children and grandchildren.

At a time when California residents will soon be finally free from worrying that affordable coverage will not be available to them and their families when they need it the most, repealing the Affordable Care Act would be devastating. California residents, providers, small businesses and other employers would be denied critical new benefits of the law, from protections against insurance industry abuses to new coverage options and millions of dollars in support so states like California can deliver quality, affordable health care options to all of its residents.

WITHOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT:  
**Critical Consumer Protections Would Be Lost:**

**196,000 young adults would lose their insurance coverage** through their parents' health plans, sometimes just after they finish school and as they are looking for a job. Families across California would lose the peace of mind the Affordable Care Act provides by making sure that young adults can stay on their parents plan to age 26 if they do not have coverage of their own.

**More than 18.8 million residents of California** with private insurance coverage would suddenly find themselves vulnerable again to having lifetime limits placed on how much insurance companies will spend on their health care.

## Affordable Care Act continued from page 4

Insurance companies would once again be allowed cut off someone's coverage unexpectedly when they are in an accident or become sick because of a simple mistake on an application. This would leave **2,705,000 people in California at risk of losing their insurance** at the moment they need it most, as one of the worst abuses of the insurance industry would become legal again.

**More than 18.8 million residents of California** would not know if they are receiving value for their health insurance premium dollars, as insurers in state would no longer be required to spend at least 80 to 85 percent of premium dollars on health care rather than CEO salaries, bonuses, and corporate profits.

New insurance plans would **no longer be required to cover recommended preventive services, like mammograms and flu shots, without cost sharing**, nor would they have to guarantee enrollees the right to choose any available primary care provider in the network or see an OB-GYN without a referral.

**Nearly 4.5 million seniors in California who have Medicare coverage** would be forced to pay a co-pay to receive important preventive services, like mammograms and colonoscopies.

Medicare would no longer pay for an annual check-up visit, so nearly **4.5 million seniors in California** who have Medicare coverage would have to pay extra if they want to stay healthy by getting check-ups regularly.

### **269,623 on Medicare Would See Significantly Higher Prescription Drug Costs:**

In California, 269,623 Medicare beneficiaries received a one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate to help pay for prescription drugs in the "donut hole" coverage gap in 2010. Medicare beneficiaries who fall into the "donut hole" in 2011 will be eligible for 50 percent discounts on covered brand

name prescription drugs. Without the law, the burden of high prescription drug costs would hurt millions of Medicare beneficiaries across the country.

**California Would Not Receive Additional Resources to [Crack Down on Unreasonable Insurance Premium Increases](#):** States would not have new resources to review proposed health insurance premium increases and hold insurance companies accountable for unjustified premiums increases.

California Would Not Receive Additional Funds to Plan for a [Health Insurance Exchange](#): States would not have new resources to build a new, competitive, private health insurance marketplace for consumers that provide lower costs, one-stop insurance shopping, and greater benefits and protections.

**California Would Not Receive Additional Funds to Support a [Consumer Assistance Program](#):** States would not have new resources to help protect consumers from some of the worst insurance industry practices.

**440 Employers Would Not Be Receiving Help** from the [Early Retiree Reinsurance Program](#): Businesses, schools and other educational institutions, unions, State and local governments, and non-profits would not be receiving much-needed financial relief to help early retirees and their families continue to have quality, affordable health coverage. Find a list of organizations in your state that would not have been accepted into this program [here](#).

A federal government Website managed by the [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. - Washington, D.C.  
20201



## Our Members at Work in our Community

Our League members ride bikes. Some are dedicated cyclists, using their bikes for exercise, to get to the bus, League meetings and all around town. But at least one of our members goes beyond riding to helping others ride as well. **Patrick Dickson** is a member of Burbank Bike Angels, a group dedicating to repairing and reconditioning old bikes for kids so they can ride a bike instead of being driven by car. We spotted the Burbank Bike Angels in a You Tube video, showing their members delivering reconditioned bikes for the holiday season [Burbank Bike Angels](#).

## California State Budget: Painful Reality

Read the League's response to the Governor's budget proposal. If you want to stay up to date on the budget, including League action, join the [LWVC Budget Reform listserv](#). We talk about how we can be active as League members, both locally and statewide. Join the discussion, and invite your fellow League members to join also.

## LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2011

The LWVUS Board adopted the following LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2011 at its meeting last weekend: Clean Air Defense; Health Care Defense; Money in Elections (campaign finance reform); and Voter Registration and Election Administration.

The Legislative Watch List\* is as follows: CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women); Climate Change; Ethics; Immigration; and Safe Drilling and Mining ("Fracking").

*\*The Watch List means that if an opportunity arises on these issues and does not interfere with action on an advocacy priority, the LWVUS may take action if it appears we can make an impact.*

## WELCOME New Member

**Jaimi Zwerling**

## WELCOME Returning Members

**Janet Peterson**

**Anna Rundle**

**Linda Connell & Philip Mees**

**Mary and Patrick Dickson**

**Sarah Ramsawack**



## 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

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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.

## LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

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

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

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

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