

Voter LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK November 2011

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

CALENDAR November 2011

GLENDALE/BURBANK HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday

December 15, 2011 – 6pm

Home of
Rosa & Roger Frommer
1762 Allen Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201
RSVP to to Monica
Marquez (818) 760-3667 or
marquezlwv@earthlink.net

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

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

President's Message

By Joan Hardie

As many of you know, I'm a California transplant, I moved here from the Midwest in 1989. My birthplace is Wisconsin, a place that I'm still very fond of even though I consider California home. I have no immediate family members that still live in Wisconsin, but my best friend lives there and we keep our relationship going via telephone, and biannual vacations where I'm usually the one travelling to Wisconsin. We are both nurses, I work in the hospital at bedside and she is a public health nurse for Dane (Madison) county. Recently we've had a lot to talk about not only because we are both nurses but also with everything that is going on politically there such as, recall elections, FBI investigation of Governor Walker and now the new voter ID

We have all been reading about new Voter ID Laws that are being passed and at face value they may seem harmless enough.

However, what I found was shocking and disheartening. New photo IDs that are required to vote are not nearly as easy or "free" to obtain as the headlines suggest.

law. She called me the other day to chat and tell me how much she loved our organization and mentioned that the Wisconsin League has filed a suit against the state of Wisconsin challenging the Wisconsin Voter ID Law. Although I wasn't aware of the lawsuit, I was not surprised and felt a sense of pride to belong to an organization such as the League that has the wherewithal as well as the strong nonpartisan reputation, to fight the good fight.

After we finished talking, I got off the phone and went to the internet to investigate this new Wisconsin Voter ID Law as well as the lawsuit. We have all been reading about these new

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Education Study

This fall, Glendale/Burbank League members participated in a national study on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. We were fortunate to have the talents of two members of the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education: Joylene Wagner and Nayiri Nahabedian. The group researched the topic, attended panel discussions, and then discussed their thoughts and ideas. Look for a full discussion of our study results in next month's Voter.



Photos: John McPhee

Mary Dickson records the group's thoughts at the Consensus Meeting)



Nayiri Nahabedian explains education equity and funding issues to the group. Consensus 2 10 2011 clockwise from upper right: Dionisia Rodriguez, Nayiri Nahabedian (Presenter), Anna Rundle, Mary Dickson, Renee Leask (from behind), Susan Hallgren (from behind), Chris Carstensen (guest) Laurie Collins, Monica Marquez, Sharon Weisman

League of Women Voters Glendale/Burbank

Holiday Celebration



December 15, 2010

6:00 pm

at the home of

Rosa & Roger Frommer

1762 Allen Avenue

Glendale CA 91201

RSVP by December 10

to Monica Marquez

(818) 760-3667 or

marquezlwv@earthlink.net

briefly Affordable Care Act

By Joan Hardie

As the Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues to be threatened by politicians who want to either repeal or scale the effort back, the law continues to move forward on its proposed deadline.

The Exchange system, which will be individualized by each state, is in the process of being set up. The Exchange system will provide cost certainty to those who will be purchasing insurance via the exchange systems and many supporters feel the Exchange system will offer the foundation of sensible healthcare in this country. The League of Women Voters of the United States submitted comments on the proposed regulations for health insurance exchanges. See: <http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/Testimony/HCSep-tember2011HHSComments.pdf>

Here are the major features of health reform that have taken effect so far:

- New Insurance rules: Insurance companies will be banned from rescinding people's coverage when they get sick, and from imposing yearly and lifetime caps on coverage.
- High-risk Pool: People with preexisting conditions who have been uninsured for at least six months will have access to affordable insurance through a temporary, subsidized high-risk pool. Premiums will be based on the average health status of a standard population. Annual out-of-pocket costs will be capped at \$5,950.00 for individuals and \$11,900 for families.
- Protections for children: Insurers can no longer deny health coverage to children with preexisting conditions or exclude their conditions from coverage.
- Coverage for young adults: Parents may keep their children on their health policies until they turn 26.
- Small Business tax credits: Small businesses (fewer than 25 employees and average wages under \$50,000) that offer health care benefits will be eligible for tax credits of up to 35% of their premium cost of two years.
- Preventive Care: All new group and individual health plans will be required to provide free preventive care for proven preventive services. Medicare also now provides free preventive care.
- Early retirees: temporary reinsurance program will help offset the cost of expensive premiums for employers providing retiree health benefits.
- "Doughnut Hole" rebates: Medicare will provide \$250 rebates to beneficiaries who hit the Part D prescription drug coverage gap known as the "doughnut hole." Medicare beneficiaries in the Part D prescription drug coverage "doughnut hole" will receive 50% discounts on all brand-name drugs. By 2020, the "doughnut hole" coverage gap will be closed.
- Annual review of premium increases: Health insurers will be required to submit justification for premium increases to the federal and relevant state governments before they take effect, and to report the share of premiums spent on non-medical cost.
- Access to care: Funding will be increased by \$11 billion over five years for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps to serve more low-income and uninsured people.
- Pharmaceutical manufacturer fee: an annual, nondeductible fee will be imposed on pharmaceuticals and importers' branded drugs, based on market share.
- New payment and delivery approaches: a new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation will test reforms that reward providers for quality of care rather than volume of services. Medicare will increase payment for primary care physicians by 10 percent for primary care services.
- Premium share spending: Health plans in the large-group market that spend less than 85% of their premiums on medical care, and plans in the small-group and individual markets that spend less than 80% on medical care, will be required to offer rebates to enrollees.

League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank
FY2011 Actual vs Budget

Category Description	FY2011 Actual	FY2011 Budget	Difference Better (Worse)
INCOME			
A. Contribution			
1. Member	\$ 3,149.90	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 999.90
2. Non-Member	30.00	250.00	(220.00)
5. Gwen Cochran Memorial	1,430.00	-	1,430.00
	4,609.90	2,400.00	2,209.90
D. Dues	3,270.00	3,700.00	(430.00)
H. Misc Income			
1. Insurnace Refund	507.85	-	507.85
2. Election Monitor	150.00	50.00	100.00
	657.85	50.00	607.85
Investment Income	443.18	300.00	143.18
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,980.93	\$ 6,450.00	\$ 2,530.93
EXPENSES			
A. Operating			
1. Gen Supplies	\$ 6.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 94.00
2. Telephone	119.94	250.00	130.06
4. Bank/PayPal Charges	84.00	100.00	16.00
5. Postal Box	74.00	200.00	126.00
6. Liability Insurance	144.97	400.00	255.03
8. Website fees	160.00	160.00	-
	588.91	1,210.00	621.09
B. Board & Admin			
1. President	300.00	300.00	-
3. Other	45.00	50.00	5.00
	345.00	350.00	5.00
C. Conventions & Councils			
2. State Convention	1,239.80	1,200.00	(39.80)
4. County Convention	40.00	75.00	35.00
5. Local Annual Meeting	38.54	50.00	11.46
6. Workshops	-	50.00	50.00
	1,318.34	1,375.00	56.66

League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank
FY2011 Actual vs Budget

Category Description	FY2011 Actual	FY2011 Budget	Difference Better (Worse)
D. Per Member Payments			-
1. Natl PMP	1,811.72	1,839.00	27.28
2. State PMP	1,403.00	1,380.00	(23.00)
3. County PMP	93.00	105.00	12.00
	3,307.72	3,324.00	16.28
E. Newsletter			-
1. Printing etc.	86.66	120.00	33.34
2. Postage	23.76	50.00	26.24
	110.42	170.00	59.58
F. Voter Service	75.00	650.00	575.00
H. Community Involvement	42.00	200.00	158.00
I. Misc Expense	111.05	100.00	(11.05)
J. GCC Scholarship	500.00	500.00	-
K. Smart Voter	-	200.00	200.00
M. Holiday Party, Net	(31.00)	100.00	131.00
N. Note Card Sales	(73.50)	-	73.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,293.94	8,179.00	1,885.06
NET INCOME (LOSS)	2,686.99	(1,729.00)	4,415.99

Balance Sheet at June 30, 2011

Checking Account	\$ 2,345.42
Undeposited Checks	-
	2,345.42
Investments, at Cost	7,209.60
	\$ 9,555.02



The League of Women Voters of California urges you to

DECLINE TO SIGN

Petitions are being circulated by groups challenging newly adopted state Senate district maps and an important tax fairness measure.

The purpose of the petitions circulated by a group that calls itself Fairness and Accountability in Redistricting (“FAIR”) is to force a referendum in June 2012 on the state Senate maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, the independent body which draws legislative districts for Congress, the state Senate, state Assembly and Board of Equalization.

This nonpartisan commission drew the new districts using U.S. census data and input from communities across California. They applied ranked criteria from the California constitution to assure population equality, respect for the federal Voting Rights Act, geographic contiguity, and respect for cities, counties and communities of interest, making the districts compact and nested when it was possible. The districts were not drawn to favor or disfavor political parties, candidates or elected officials. Consideration of relationships with political parties, incumbents, and candidates or the addresses of incumbents or candidates was strictly forbidden.

The League of Women Voters supports a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. We support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. We believe the Citizens Redistricting Commission’s maps and processes meet these standards and the criteria in the state Constitution and should be upheld.

Petitions are also being circulated by Amazon.com in a well-financed effort to force a referendum on a new law that would require online retailers to collect sales tax on their sales in California.

The League supports adequate and flexible revenue sources that meet the changing needs for government services. Taxes should come from as broad a base as possible in order to ensure fairness. We believe the new law is both needed and fair, and we oppose the challenge to it.

**We urge you to join with the League and “Decline to Sign”
the petitions that are currently circulating.**

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Voter ID Laws that are being passed, almost entirely in states with Republican Governors, and at face value they may seem harmless enough. However, what I found was shocking and disheartening. These new photo IDs that are required to vote are not nearly as easy or "free" to obtain as the headlines and the voter integrity concerned politicians suggest. What's also puzzling is why politicians would take on something like this, which will be an added

ing mish mash 4 step process that can only be interpreted as an obstacle course for voters in need of the proper ID. Also included in this new law, is student IDs will not be allowed as voter ID, which consists of a potential 300,000 voters in the state of Wisconsin. In a state of five million people, where historically 20% of the registered voters cast votes, that could represent a large chunk of voters.

Proponents argue that we have to protect against voter fraud, but most experts agree that there is a minuscule threat of voter fraud in elections.

expense, when money is tight. Proponents argue that we have to protect against voter fraud, but most experts agree that there is a minuscule threat of voter fraud in elections. In the United States there virtually are no lawsuits claiming voter fraud and not one person is in jail for voter fraud. So where do the voter fraud proponents get their claims, or is their claim of voter fraud really masking their efforts to disenfranchise voters? From what I saw on the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board website for instructions to obtain these not so free voter ID cards was a complicated, confus-

This time next year, we will be having another presidential election. I'm thankful that the state of California has not gone the path of creating a bogus Voter ID law, however we have our challenges. Our challenges here are the sheer number of people and motivating them to vote. In the coming year, our League will be looking for as many opportunities as we can to register, inform and educate citizens to perform one of their basic rights, which is voting.



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

Presidents: Joan Hardie

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.

Welcome New Member

Sandra Russell

Recent membership renewals

Dorie Beaumont
Mike Chapman
Susan Hallgren
Monica Marquez
Leni Richardson
Joylene Wagner

Contributions received

Chris & Tom Carson
Susan Hallgren
Joan Hardie
Vera Naylor
Mary Pallares
Anna Rundle
Cathy Sellitto
Peggy Steppe
Georganne Thomsen
Connie Wilson
Sharon & William Wieseman

MEMBER NEWS



Anna Rundle and **Monica Marquez** have completed registration training from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and are now certified Deputy Registrars.

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
<http://www.LWV.org>

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