

Voter

**LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK**
September 2011

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

CALENDAR September 2011

**Wednesday,
September 21
7:00 pm
PUBLIC FORUM ON THE
FEDERAL IMPACTS ON
EDUCATION
(see flyer on page 5)**

**Sunday
October 2
3:00pm to 5:00 pm
CONSENSUS MEETING ON
THE FEDERAL IMPACTS ON
EDUCATION STUDY - No. 1**

**Sunday
October 15
2:00 to 4:00 pm
second CONSENSUS MEETING
ON THE FEDERAL IMPACTS
ON EDUCATION STUDY - No. 2**

President's Message

By Joan Hardie

As summer comes to a close, I ask myself, where did the summer go? Although the weather will continue to be too warm for me, I'm reminded that summer is almost over by the shorter days. As I lament over the fleeting summer, I do feel that the summer was productive in both a personal way as well as with my involvement with League.

With regards to the League, I want you to know our local chapter has been active in several ways. The League's national education study, The Federal Government's Role in Education, is in full swing. A nice sized committee has formed and the study process is falling into place. The guidance from National for this study has been superb in that the Leaders' Guide has provided outstanding articles;

power points and consensus questions that have attracted interested members and provided guidelines that will help us in reaching our consensus. Please see the announcements in the Voter regarding upcoming related events to the Education Study.

Another way the League has been active this summer is in the area of campaign finance reform. This came as a sur-

President's Message
Continued from page 1

The League maintains the money provided to council members by office holder's accounts is not best practice and makes city council members dependent on the money.

prise when we saw that the City of Glendale was proposing changes to the campaign finance ordinance that the League was mainly responsible for happening in the first place, back in 2008. We did make attempts to meet with City Attorney Scott Howard to voice our concerns over some of the changes, however after many rescheduling requests on his part, we got the message that he was not interested in meeting with us – or perhaps maybe he was really busy. To voice our concern to the changes to the campaign finance ordinance, we dutifully showed up at the city council meetings and stated our particular problems with campaign finance ordinance changes. The main problem the League has with the update to ordinance has to do with the creation of the office holder's accounts. The League's view on this is that office holder's accounts are not the norm for city's the size of Glendale, (Burbank does not have office holder's accounts), and as we all recently learned

from a News-Press article, our Glendale city council members are compensated well above the average. The League maintains the view that the money provided to council members by office holder's accounts is not best practice and makes city council members dependent on the money (and where it comes from) and not the people who elected them. Unfortunately, the ordinance passed and the city council members now allow themselves to have office holder's accounts and can raise as much as \$10,000.00/year that they are in office. We will continue to watch this issue and continue to voice our concerns. A special thanks to our members who showed up at city council and showed support for the League's position.

I hope to see you at one of Education events this fall, please help us spread the word about the study and I encourage you to invite friends and family who are interested. Many Thanks, Joan



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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Education Study Begins

By Monica Marquez

When I learned that the League of Women Voters of the United States had approved a study on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, my initial response was somewhere between indifference and a yawn. With no children of my own, I felt I had no horse in this race. I accepted the position as Chair of the Study Committee because no one else had volunteered.

But as we progress in this study, I have noticed that any discussion of education evokes a visceral response. Perhaps because we have all survived it, with both its benefits and its scars, opinions about right and wrong ways to accomplish it are immediate, passionate and deeply held.

Of course, as League members, we can all agree that an educated citizenry is vital to the survival of democracy. But is everyone inside our borders entitled to an education? For free? And how do we get there? Who decides what, in fact, constitutes "education?" If we accept the premise that our educational system is now lacking, how do we get it back? Or was it ever all right in the first place? And who pays for it?

Those ideas immediately jump to mind when the topic is broached, and most in the discussion have compelling stories of the difficulties and inequalities encountered in the process of education—of their own, of their friends and schoolmates, and of those they have known and read about.

But as compelling as those individual stories may be, the League study must be more narrowly tailored, not only because such a broad philosophical discussion would make consensus virtually impossible, but because we simply don't have that much time. So, the League of Women Voters of the United States has fashioned a study with a laser focus: What should be the federal government's role in public education?

The League has provided a number of background articles for the study which contain a lot of data, some of which have been published in earlier issues of the Voter. They are a bit dense, but beneath the statistics and dry analysis are the life stories of people who have been cheated out of what should have been their due, and how those who came after have tried to right those wrongs.

I believe that no matter how hard we try to be unbiased, our personal experience informs our opinions. (In fact, that is why our legal system consists of 12 jurors per trial—not one.) And since education is a deeply personal experience that took place mostly during the most vulnerable years of our lives, it is simply impossible to be objective. But as League members we have made a commitment to researching the issues with open minds. I invite you to join us as we proceed.

We need volunteers to publicize our program at meetings of the Glendale and Burbank City Councils, and the Glendale Board of Education and Burbank School Board. We need staffing for our public panel discussion on September 21, and we welcome all members to participate in our Consensus Meetings on October 2 and 15. For more information or to sign up, please contact Monica Marquez at <http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org/contact.html>.

1

COME to the

STUDY

on the

FEDERAL IMPACTS ON EDUCATION

This Public meeting for Education Study will take place on
Wednesday,
September 21
7pm

Glendale Board of Education Meeting Room.
223 N. Jackson Street,
Glendale 91206

Joylene Wagner, moderator
President,
Glendale Board of Education

INVITE your friends

2

COME to the

CONSENSUS MEETINGS

to help shape the League's action on this vital issue

Consensus Meeting #1

Sunday
October 2, 2011
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Glendale Fire Station 21
Community Room
421 Oak St.
Glendale, CA 91204

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Consensus Meeting #2

Saturday
October 15, 2011
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

McCambridge Park Recreation Center
Room 2
1515 N. Glenoaks Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91504



Consensus Questions—

WHAT IN FACT ARE WE STUDYING?

As you may already know, the purpose of a League study is to examine an issue and see if there's a consensus. If consensus is reached, the League may use the position developed from that consensus to advocate for changes in public policy.

To ensure that the consensus does not consist of apples and oranges, the National Education Study Committee has provided specific questions for Local Leagues to answer. Our study must be tailored to those issues and those issues alone.

There are 15 questions for consensus, which cover the following general areas:

- The federal government's role in public education generally;
- A program called Common Core sets forth standards for education. Currently, adoption of Common Core standards is voluntary, but some federal funding is available only to states that adhere to them. Should it stay that way?
- Should there be a national assessments? If so, how should that data be used?
- Equity in education—what does it mean and how should funds to get there be distributed?
- Early childhood education (birth to 5)—what, if any, role should the federal government play?



THE STUDY TIMELINE

There will be three meetings to enable members to participate fully in the study discussion and consensus.

On Wednesday, September 21 we will have a panel discussion moderated by LWV GB Member and Glendale Board of Education President **Joylene Wagner** at 7pm in the Glendale Board of Education Meeting Room...223 N. Jackson Street, Glendale 91206.

In October we will have two consensus meetings:

Consensus Meeting #1

Sunday,

October 2, 2011 - 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Glendale Fire Station 21 Community Room

421 Oak St. Glendale, CA 91204

Consensus Meeting #2

Saturday,

October 15, 2011 – 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

McCambridge Park Recreation Center Room 2

1515 N. Glenoaks Blvd.

Burbank, CA 91504

MEMBER NEWS



Florence Dommes exhibited her water color "Copenhagen" at the Women Painters West exhibit in July.

Joan Hardie spent much of her summer studying for a certification exam. As a nurse in a critical unit, finding ways to stay fresh and current is always a good idea, so she decided to challenge herself by taking the CCRN (Critical Care Registered Nurse) Exam. She is relieved - and we are delighted but not surprised - that she passed.

Congratulations to our talented members!



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

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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
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LWV California
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LWV United States
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