

April 2007 Calendar

Tuesday, April 3

Glendale Municipal Election

Thursday, April 5

Cesar Chavez Day

Pacific Edison Auditorium

6 pm

Sponsored by the

City of Glendale

Tuesday, April 10

Burbank General Municipal Election

Tuesday, April 17

Days of Remembrance

Holocaust Program

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

111 S. Sixth Street

Burbank

7:45pm

Sponsored by

Burbank Human Relations Council

Thursday, April 19

Dinner with the League

Friday-Sunday, May 18-20

LWVC Biennial Convention

Bakersfield

July 21, Saturday

Popovers in Pasadena

Celebrate Earth Day

Enjoy a great meal
and discuss the League's current and
future environmental projects

Thursday, April 19
6:30 pm

Pasta Pomodoro
Burbank Town Center
201 East Magnolia Boulevard
Burbank, California 91501



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 5, 2007

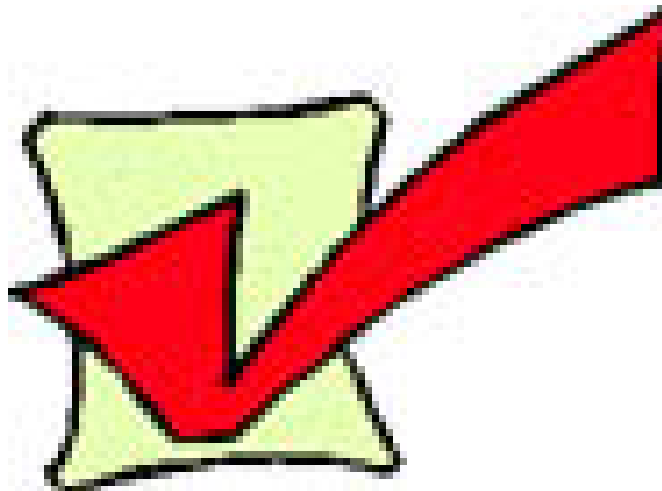
Tam O'Shanter Inn
2980 Los Feliz Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90039

Speaker: Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian
Glendale City Clerk

Registration: 11:30 am

Lunch: Noon

Choice of three entrees includes vegetarian option



\$25 per person

Send reservations to:

Vera Naylor

77 Via Capri

Burbank CA 91504

Deadline: Monday, April 30

.....

Yes! Count me in. Please make _____ reservations for me @

\$25.00 each. Enclosed is \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Campaign Finance Reform

The League at all levels continues to push for meaningful reform. We present news from this front.

LWWUS statement on the new federal public financing legislation

Path-Breaking Senate Public Financing Legislation Introduced

League President Calls Durbin-Specter Bill “An Essential Step Forward”

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today praised the introduction of the bipartisan Fair Elections Now Act by Senators Dick Durbin (D IL) and Arlen Specter (R PA). The legislation would improve the federal election process by allowing qualified candidates to receive campaign funds from the Senate Fair Elections Fund instead of relying upon money from private interests.

“The dollar sign has too tight a hold over our democracy,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “Americans deserve a fair and healthy election system — one in which candidates are more concerned with the issues than their daily fundraising reports. Public financing for Senate elections would help put the voters’ concerns back at the center of Senate elections.”

“The bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Durbin and Specter provides an essential step forward in taking narrow special interest money out of our elections and providing candidates a fair and level playing field in running for office. The League

encourages all Senators to support this legislation and make a real commitment to changing the way federal elections are run,” concluded Wilson.

The Fair Elections Now would provide candidates for the U.S. Senate the option to forego private funding of their election campaigns by choosing to participate in the public financing system. Candidates would qualify for the system by raising specified sums in small contributions in order to demonstrate their viability. Qualifying candidates would then receive monies from the Senate Fair Elections Fund for campaigning in the primary and general elections. The system would also provide candidates with vouchers for purchasing broadcast airtime.

The League of Women Voters has been a leader in seeking campaign finance reform at the state, local and federal levels for more than three decades. Earlier this month, the League and other groups sent a letter to presidential candidates, asking them to commit using the presidential public financing system for the 2008 general election.

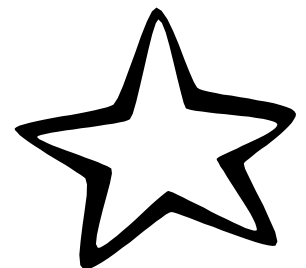
LWV California

THE LEAGUE CO-SPONSORED two conferences on implementing public campaign financing reform at the local level. Both conferences, in Pasadena and San Jose were sold out as citizens and elected officials gathered to get practical advice on how to achieve reform. Six members of our League attended in Pasadena.



LWV Glendale/Burbank

THE CONSENSUS MEETING of the Local Campaign Finance Study was held on March 22. Members engaged in lively discussion and formulated responses to the questions. The results will be reviewed by the Board and a position written and approved at the April Board meeting. Action can then be taken as appropriate. Members will ratify the position at the Annual Meeting; another reason to attend!



U.S. Election Assistance Commission Research Finds Polling-Place ID Laws Reduce Minority Voter Turnout

Advocates express deep concern over the report's findings

Washington D.C. - Advocates expressed deep concern today over new data that suggests Latinos, Asian Americans, and African Americans are less likely to vote as a result of increasingly restrictive voter identification (ID) requirements. These findings are the result of preliminary research presented to the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

Researchers found that in the 2004 election, all voters, in states requiring voters to present documentation establishing their identity at the polls, were 2.7 percent less likely to vote than voters in states where no documentation was required. Latinos were 10 percent less likely to vote, Asian-Americans 8.5 percent less likely to vote and African Americans 5.7 percent less likely to vote.

“The study confirms that voter ID requirements keep more minority than white voters away from the polls,” said Maxine Nelson, President of **Project Vote**, a national nonpartisan organization that supports voter registration and voter education programs “When you think about the many close races in the past two elections cycles, this documented disparity raises profound questions about the legitimacy of our democratic system.”

“The biggest threat to the integrity of our electoral process is laws that prevent rather than encourage American citizens from casting a ballot,” said Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of the **National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund**, a national leadership organization dedicated to facilitating the full participation of Latinos in the American political process. “As the research suggests, restrictive voter identification laws are a potential threat to participatory democracy in the United States,” concluded Vargas.

“This data should serve as a wake-up call to those who didn’t think that restrictive ID provisions would harm voter participation and turnout,” said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the **League of Women Voters**.

“This is one more confirmation that ID requirements have harmful effects. We must recognize that not everyone has ID with their current name and address

and we must assure that no segment of voters is disenfranchised because of ID requirements,” she said. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has worked for more than 87 years to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

“The small sample of Asian Americans is disconcerting,” said **Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)** staff attorney Glenn D. Magpantay. In 2004, AALDEF conducted a multilingual exit poll of almost 11,000 Asian American voters in eight states, the largest nonpartisan survey of its kind in the nation. AALDEF found that 66 percent of Asian American voters who did not have to show identification were required to provide identification.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) required states to institute voter ID requirements in federal elections for certain first-time voters who register by mail. Since 2004, several states have adopted stricter ID requirements that go far beyond HAVA’s mandates. These requirements not only place considerable burdens on the voters examined in the research, but on the elderly, persons with disabilities, students, and rural and low-income voters. While proponents of restrictive voter ID requirements argue that they are needed to combat voter fraud, there is no evidence that the type of fraud that these requirements address – voters who misrepresent their identity – is anything but an anomaly.

The US Election Assistance Commission contracted with the Eagleton Institute of Politics to study the impact of ID requirements on voting. Researchers used Current Population Survey (CPS) data from November 2004 to compare turnout data from states where voters had to present a document with their name and current address to states where voters only had to give their names. They then created a statistical model to isolate the effect of ID requirements from other factors affecting turnout. They presented their preliminary findings at an EAC hearing on February 8, 2007. The EAC is expected to release a complete report on voter ID later this year.

Going Green

Those who attended last year's Annual Meeting will remember the outstanding presentation on plans for the LA River Revitalization project. Out of that program came a river walk for members. The final plans are now up on the web. <http://www.lariverrmp.org/>. Check out the amazing dream. Should Glendale and Burbank be joining this?

"Getting Down to Facts"

You may have read about it in the papers. A major study on school funding and governance issues was released on March 14th. The League of Women Voters of California was a major participant in the study. You can download the research summaries — prepared by EdSource under the editorial direction of the "Getting Down To Facts" project directors — for free from California School Finance: <http://www.californiaschoolfinance.org/tabid/69/default.aspx>

LWVC Adopts Legislative Priorities

*Adopted by the LWVC Board of Directors
on March 11, 2007*

1. Priority Issues (*all of equal importance*)

REDISTRICTING REFORM

- Support redistricting by an independent commission using fair criteria and an open, transparent process

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE CALIFORNIA

- Support responsible expenditures for sustainable infrastructure improvement and development

HEALTH CARE

- Support a universal single payer health care system
- Support expanded health care coverage that promotes progress toward a single payer system.



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
(include a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$30.00 for a one-year student membership

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

Name/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
Vera Naylor, 7714 Via Capri, Burbank CA 91504

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

The Voter

THE VOTER IS PUBLISHED nine times a year by the League of Women Voter of Glendale/Burbank, California.

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Circulation: Anna Rundle

The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens 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.



CONGRATULATIONS to Burbank City Clerk and League Member MARGARITA CAMPOS, named WOMAN OF THE YEAR by Congressman Adam Schiff for her outstanding work.

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VOTER
a publication of the

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League websites:
LWV Glendale/Burbank
<http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>

LWV California
<http://www.ca.LWV.org>

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

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