

January 2007
Calendar

Saturday
January 27
**Judicial Independence
Forum**

See flyer on page 3
and more on page 8

Sunday
February 11
Last day to Register to Vote
Burbank Primary Election

Tuesday
February 27
Burbank Election
Ballots due to City Clerk by
7:00pm

President's Message

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are well on your well to a happy and healthy New Year. January is shaping up to be a busy League month, and we need your support.

On Thursday, January 25 at 7 pm, we will hold a Candidates' Forum for the Burbank City Council and School Board. It will be held in the Burbank City Council Chambers and broadcast live on Burbank's Channel 6. Rita Zwern will be our Moderator. Please mark your calendars, and come see it live or on television. The League prides itself on its forums—we invite all the candidates, and conduct the forums fairly and with dignity. We hope to inform the voters of Burbank about the issues and the candidates.

Just two days later, on Saturday, January 27, is another, even more special, event. It is a forum on

Judicial Independence, which is being co-sponsored with the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Jean Thomson from the Los Angeles League has taken the lead in

organizing the event, which will feature a Justice from the California State Supreme Court, judges from the Los Angeles Court system and lawyers. They will be discussing the pressures facing the judicial system. As League members, what better way to spend a Saturday morning than becoming better informed about this least examined branch of the government.

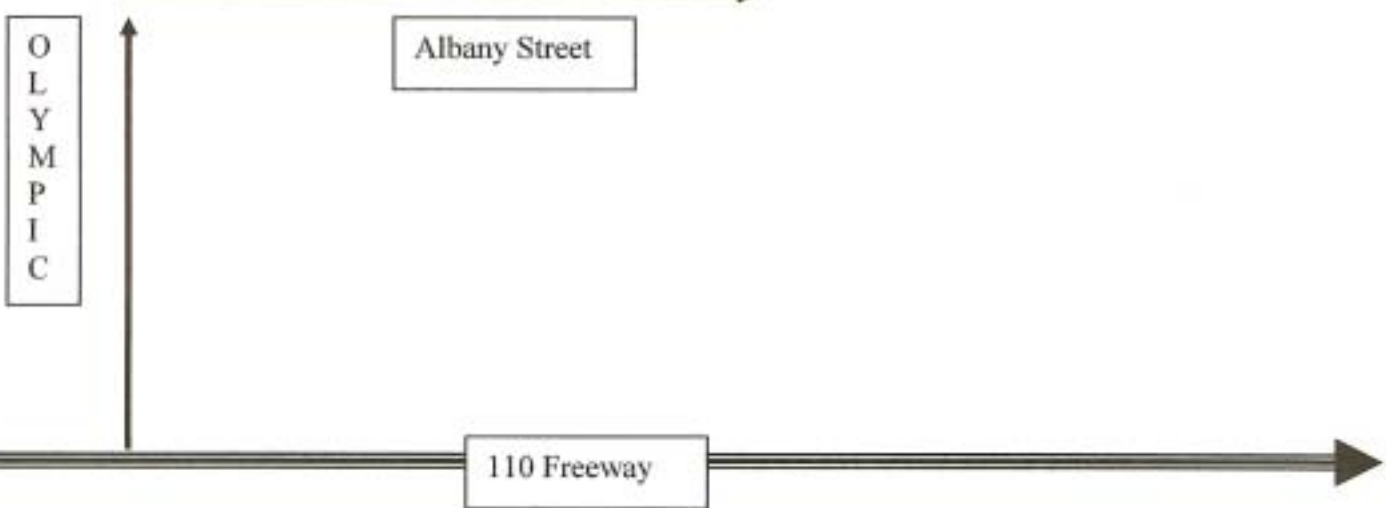
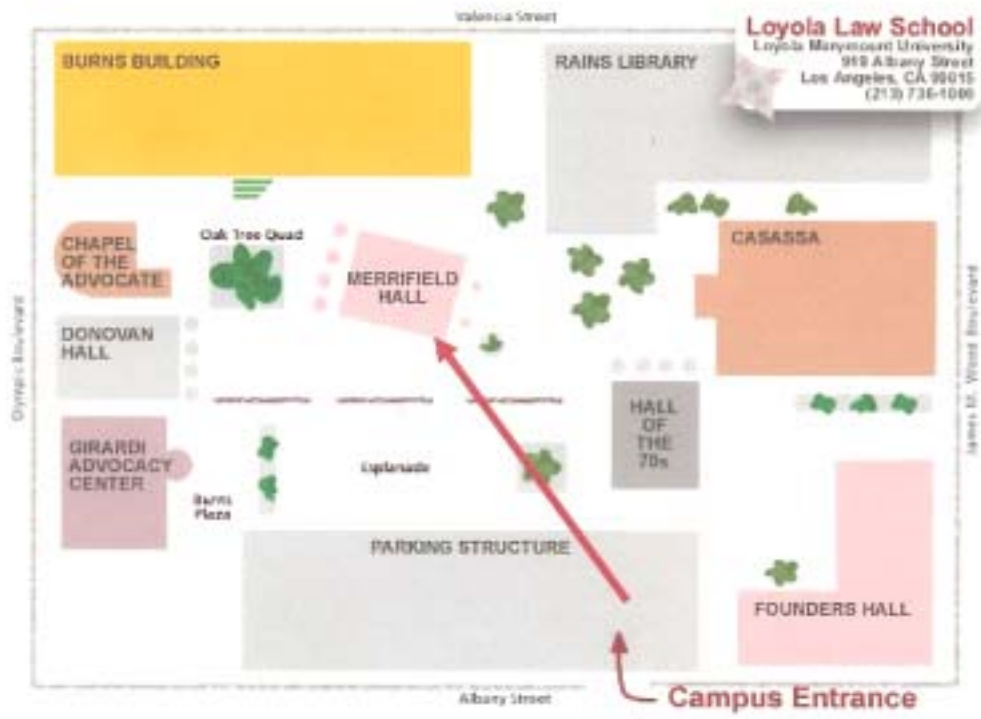
The forum will include a luncheon. RSVPs are due by January 12. Please see the flyer included with this Voter.

Monica Marquez

On Thursday,
January 25 at 7 pm,
we will hold a
Candidates' Forum
for the Burbank City Council
and School Board.
It will be held in the
Burbank
City Council Chambers
and broadcast live
on Burbank's Channel 6.

Directions to Loyola Law School
919 Albany Street
Los Angeles

110 Freeway, Olympic Blvd Exit (West), right on Albany Street,
enter through parking structure. Cross plaza to Merrifield Hall



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. We do not support nor oppose any candidates or parties. Membership is open to all men and women of voting age.

3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1005, Los Angeles CA 90010 • Tel. (213) 368-1616; Fax: (213) 368-1615
Email: info@lwvlosangeles.org Website: www.lwvlosangeles.org



**LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF
LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, BEACH CITIES,
GLENDALE/BURBANK, PASADENA AREA, TORRANCE**

**JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE
WHY YOU SHOULD CARE!**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2007
LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL
919 ALBANY STREET
LOS ANGELES
9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

You are invited to join us for a community forum examining the least understood branch of government.

The First Panel will discuss the challenges such as recent ballot initiatives, term limits, campaign funding, influence of special interests and media, judicial activism. The moderator for the panel will be Judge Terry Smierling; participants will include Loyola Dean David Burcham and Judge Joan Dempsey Klein and other experts in the field.

**Luncheon Keynote Speaker
Carlos Moreno, California
Supreme Court Justice**

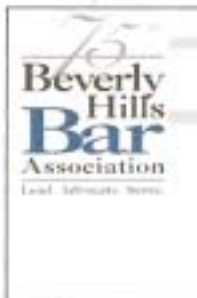
The Second Panel will concentrate on options and potential solutions to the problems above and cover the need for public education, advocacy support groups, appeals/legislation. Moderating the panel will be Judge Norman Epstein, participants will include Judges Candace Cooper, Harold Cherness; Met News, Jo-Ann Grace; Attorneys John Van de Kamp and Steve Rohde.

REGISTRATION FORM—"Judicial Independence"—January 27, 2007

Reservation Deadline January 12, 2007.

Name(s): _____ Phone () _____
Address _____ City _____
No. Reservations (lunch incl) _____ @ \$30.00 Total _____ Email _____

Make check payable to LWVLA and send with form to LWVLA, 3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1005, Los Angeles CA 90010. Because of limited space, there will be an additional charge of \$25 for those registering at the door, if there is space available. If you have any questions, please call the Los Angeles office at 213 368-1616.

	<p>For those attending and wishing to receive MCLE CREDIT: This activity has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of California in the amount of 5 Hours and the Beverly Hills Bar Association certifies that this activity conforms to the standards for approved education activities prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Bar of California governing minimum continuing legal education.</p> <p>The charge for those applying for the 5 Hours of MCLE Credit will be \$150. (Call the Beverly Hills Bar Association for MCLE reservations at (310) 601-2422). An additional charge of \$25 will apply for those registering at the door, space permitting.</p>
---	--

Funding has been provided by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1005, Los Angeles CA 90010 •Tel. (213) 368-1616; Fax: (213) 368-1615
Email: info@lwvlosangeles.org Website: www.lwvlosangeles.org

The League in Action

Local Campaign Finance Study

The committee continues its work. As we head into the election cycle in both cities, here are two articles developed from the committee's research and presentations, designed to give members some background to assess the campaigns.

Here are the most interesting statistics on the contributions made to candidates running for City Council, School Board, and City Clerk in 2005. Arline Ames has done the research in Glendale; Gwen Cochran did the research for Burbank.

As a matter of background, Glendale has a population of approximately 200,000 and Burbank has a population of approximately 100,000. In the spring of 2005, both cities held elections for city council, city clerk, city treasurer, school board and community college (Glendale only).

City Council

In Glendale, winners are determined by plurality, and there is no runoff. Nineteen candidates ran for four open council seats. The candidate (Agajanian) who raised the most contributions (\$159,460) placed tenth, with just 5% of the vote. The next two highest contribution recipients (Yousefian, an incumbent, and Najarian) won office placing second (9.1%) and first (10.6%), respectively, raising \$148,612 and \$147,178. The other winners (Quintero and Weaver, both incumbents) raised \$96,549 and \$60,751, respectively. None of the other candidates raised more than \$51,000 in contributions.

In Burbank, winners must exceed 50% of the vote, so there is a primary and runoff. Seven candidates ran for three open council seats; one candidate (Murphy, an incumbent) won in the primary, having raised \$13,158 in contributions. The most contributions (\$16,110) were raised by a new candidate (Bonis) who did not achieve enough votes to go into the runoff election. In the runoff, four candidates ran for the remaining two council seats. The two winners (Golonski and Ramos) were both incumbents, and through both elections raised \$16,415 and \$15,247, respectively. The two losing candidates raised \$9,330 and \$10,264 through both elections.

School District

In Glendale, nine candidates ran for three seats. The two candidates (Rochart and Nahabedian) who raised the most in contributions (\$64,538 and \$41,154, respectively) did not win office. The three winning candidates (Krikorian, Sambar and Wagner) raised \$14,663, \$11,125 and \$10,457, respectively.

In Burbank, six candidates ran for two open seats. The candidate (Bowers) who raised the most (\$15,363) did not win a seat. The two winning candidates (Applebaum and Kupta) raised \$7,813 and \$6,525, respectively.

City Clerk

In Glendale, there was no incumbent running, and nine candidates filed to run. The winning candidate (Kassakhian) raised \$88,269 and received 28.3% of the vote. The next highest candidate in terms of contributions (Mardikian) raised \$69,606 but placed fourth with 13.9% of the vote. None of the other seven candidates raised as much as \$25,000.

In Burbank, there was an incumbent who filed to run for reelection; no other candidate filed against her. The incumbent raised \$1,250

The City of Burbank has a contribution limit of \$250 per person per election. The City of Glendale has no limit on contributions. The very significant differences in contribution levels between the two cities are clearly disproportionate to the difference in population, and the fact that Burbank typically has two elections (primary/run-off) in each cycle as opposed to only one in Glendale. It would seem that Burbank's contribution limits must be having a very significant impact on the amount of contributions and therefore expenditures. This in itself is not surprising but the apparent magnitude of the difference is rather surprising.

Small Steps to Level the Playing Field

Not all campaign finance reform proposals involve sweeping changes. Small programs in place in cities throughout California help level the playing field as well.

Free Air Time

One of the most challenging hurdles for candidates is reaching the voters through the use of broadcast media. As we know, Glendale and Burbank are set in the middle of the Industry heartland and it's extremely expensive to purchase air time. Cities can offer all candidates equal time to tape statements and then broadcast the statements on the

Local Campaign Finance Study continued on page 7

Immigration 101: The Basics

The following resource list contains introductory and overview information on US immigration.

Books and Reports

William Dudley, Ed. *Illegal Immigration*. Opposing Viewpoints Series. Greenhaven Press. 2002

Includes expert opinions in a pro/con format. Available new and used from amazon.com

Oscar Handlin. *The Uprooted: The Epic Story of the Great Migrations That Made the American People*. Little, Brown and Co. 1973 University of Pennsylvania Press. 2002.

As the title indicates, this book is about the history of immigration in this country. Both printings are available new and used from amazon.com.

Immigration and America's Future: A New Chapter. Report of the Independent Task Force on Immigration and America's Future. Spencer Abraham and Lee H. Hamilton, Co-Chairs. Migration Policy Institute. 2006

Just released on September 20, 2006, this publication may be ordered on the Migration Policy Institute at www.migrationpolicy.org for \$14.95. Includes policy recommendations. Because of its timeliness and its conciseness (93 pages of text), this may be the one book on immigration issues that you want

Tamar Jacoby, Ed. *Reinventing the Melting Pot: The New Immigrants and What it Means to be American*. NY: Free Press. 2004

This is a compilation of writings from various authors, expressing a variety of opinions about immigration. Available new and used from amazon.com

Ann Chih Lin. *Immigration CQs Vital Issues Series*. CQ Press. 2002.

Even handed analysis of immigration, covering all sides of issue. Available new and used from amazon.com

Ruben Martinez. *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. (Henry Holt and Co.).

First person, anecdotal account of a migrant family. New and used, paperback and hard copy available at amazon.com

Aristide Zolberg. *A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy: the Fashioning of America*. (Russell Sage Foundation. 2006)

Covers the history of US immigration policy from the Declaration of Independence to date.

Articles

The State of American Public Opinion on Immigration in Spring 2006: A Review of Major Surveys. Pew Hispanic Center Factsheet . www.pewhispanic.org

Websites

Migration Policy Institute

Migration Policy Institute's Migration Information Source provides a gateway to solid demographic information in the US

Migration Policy Institute's Migration Information Source provides a link to state-specific information

Pew Hispanic Center (see articles)

United States Citizenship and Immigration Service website includes not only the nuts and bolts of the various processes of the service, but also immigration statistics.

New American Opportunity Campaign (NAOC). Pro-immigrant organization working for comprehensive immigration law reform. "Immigration Basics" includes helpful information.

National Immigration Forum website includes information about current events – reports, legislative action, news releases, etc.

National Immigration Law Center website includes mostly current event coverage.

Videos / DVDS

Finding Community Sixty-minute excerpt from PBS series, New Americans. Includes guide book. More information at www.customflix.com/Store/ShowTtl.jsp?id=205416

LAO Raises Warning Flags about the Budget



As the new legislative session gets under way, the Governor's vision continues to be that of California moving forward to a bright future with no new taxes. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) fiscal outlook for next year, however, takes a more sober view marked with a number of warning flags.

The LAO says that while this year's budget is expected to end with a reserve of about \$3.1 billion, projected expenditures will exceed revenues by about \$5 billion in each of the next two budget years. The reserve could help to balance next year's (2007-2008) budget, leaving a \$2.4 billion deficit to be dealt with, but this does not solve the ongoing structural deficit.

In the last couple of years the reserve was generated by a healthy economy that produced higher than expected revenues. The Governor and Legislature used that windfall to increase spending in many program areas. Now the question is whether they can maintain that spending and deal with the ongoing deficit if, as the LAO expects, the economy is more "subdued" in 2007. The LAO's estimates do not include the Governor's "compact" with higher education, which promised increased future funding.

The LAO does include a transfer of funds to the Budget Stabilization Account required under Proposition 58, half of which is supposed to go to accelerated repayment of the deficit financing bonds. These repayments, as well as borrowing from other special funds, local governments and schools, represent the major share of the deficit and average about \$3 billion a year for the next few years.

These obligations, added to the debt incurred with the passage of new infrastructure bonds

approved by the voters in November, would push the debt service ratio, which is the percentage of the General Fund (GF) needed to repay debts, up sharply over the next few years to a peak of 8.1 percent in 2009-2010 before dropping back to a more normal 6 percent. The Governor and Legislature can stretch out the repayment of the deficit bonds, and may be likely to do so, given the consequences to a number of program areas that would suffer in such a budget squeeze.

The LAO notes several areas of increased costs that will squeeze the budget. One is the rising costs of pension and health benefits for retired state employees. These are now paid out of the annual GF. The administration has proposed to fund part of this liability through a pension obligation bond, but has so far been stymied by adverse court rulings. In the meantime, the LAO says the unfunded future liability is approaching \$100 billion.

Another problem is the cost of improvements to the prison health care system which are now being forced by the courts, to say nothing of the fact that the courts are also pressing for improvements to the prison system in general. Other state health program costs are also rising sharply due to increasing caseloads and other factors.

Schools, on the other hand, will benefit substantially from the operation of Proposition 98 on the overall general fund and increases in the local property tax contribution. The LAO estimates K-14 funding will be 4.3 percent higher than this year.

The LAO says that in a good economy the state should be generating surpluses rather than deficits, and that a continuing failure to "address the long-term fiscal imbalance would leave the state in a precarious position."

Glendale Going Green

For the past few months, our League has been working with the Southern California Coalition for Clean Air and the Sierra Club, Verdugo Hills Group to urge the Glendale City Council to support giving information and education to private developers on Green Building standards for future development in Glendale. We were successful, thanks in no small measure to League member Nancy Kent who worked tirelessly to coordinate the advocacy effort. The work continues now in meetings with city staff to work out the details. Members who are interested in working on this effort will be welcomed with open arms! We need a couple of people who could do research on the Internet in their spare time. Surely you're out there.

Chris Carson, Action Chair

Local Campaign Finance Study

Continued from page 4

Government channel. This helps candidates who don't have large amounts of money get some media coverage to reach voters. The City of Burbank tapes candidate statements for all offices. These statements are then broadcast on Burbank TV 6 throughout the campaign. The City of Glendale does not offer this to candidates.

Sponsoring objective candidates forums on Government TV is a third way to give all candidates equal access to voters and allow voters to more fairly judge the candidates. The City of Burbank allows the League to use the Council chambers for a forum and pays for Burbank TV staff to film the forum. It is then broadcast on Burbank TV 6 until the election. The City of Glendale allows the League to use Council chambers for a forum. Charter Communications underwrites the cost of the Glendale TV staff taping the forum which is then broadcast on Government TV until the election.

Ballot Statements

It costs money to publish candidate statements in the sample ballot sent to voters. Candidates without a lot of money often choose not to put a statement in the sample ballot. Cities can subsidize the printing costs in whole or in part.

The Burbank City Clerk estimates that it costs about \$750 per candidate statement. The Council has voted to reimburse candidates \$350 each to help them defray the cost of a statement. The City of Glendale does not do this for candidates.

Free Air Time and financial assistance with ballot statements are two small but very effective steps cities can take to encourage citizens to run for office without the need for enormous amounts of money.



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

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

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

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.

President: Monica Marquez

Editor: Chris Carson

Production: Carole Dougherty

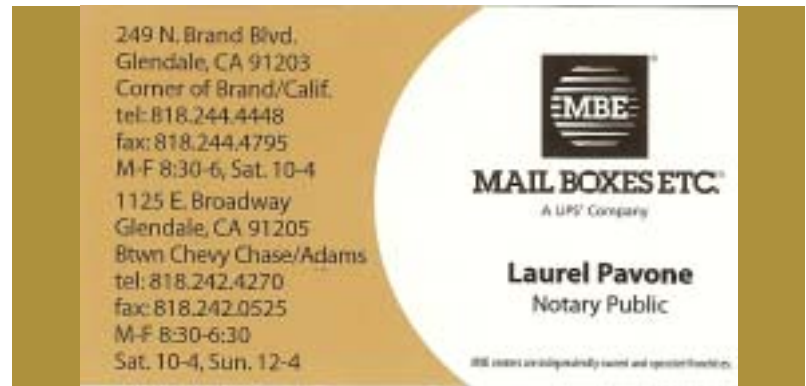
Circulation: Anna Rundle

The **League of Women Voters**, a non-partisan 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.

An Independent Judiciary; Should You Care?

On January 27th, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Beach Cities, Glendale/Burbank, Pasadena Area, and Torrance will present a forum on Judicial Independence in Los Angeles County. It will address the challenges to an independent judiciary posed by the increased need for campaign funds, influence of special interests and media, and judicial activism. It will also cover the need for public education, advocacy support groups, and appeals/legislation. The Keynote Speaker will be Carlos Moreno, Associate Justice, California Supreme Court. Panelists will include Appellate and Superior Court judges, distinguished attorneys, and media experts. Anybody who cares about the future of our courts should attend. See the flyer for details. And attorneys take note; continuing education units are offered for attendance. Please invite friends and neighbors.



CATHY SELLITTO
NOTARY PUBLIC
Mobile Service
Business Hospitals Residence
(818) 502-0661

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BURBANK/GLENDALE

VOTER
a publication of the

7714 Via Capri
Burbank CA 91504
(818) 247-2407

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>

Printed courtesy of Mail Boxes Etc.