



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst
Over 75 Years of Public Policy Debate and Voter Education in our Community

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Shop Talk

LWVIL Democracy Project: Show Us Amendment

Thursday, February 21st at 7:00 pm
Elmhurst Public Library

Join us to learn about a grassroots petition drive to place an amendment on the November 4, 2008, general election ballot that would require a 21-day "public review" period before any non-emergency bill could be passed by our legislature.

Under current practices in the Illinois General Assembly, a bill can be voted into law before the public - and many legislators - have the opportunity to review its contents. This amendment would allow citizens to know what is being proposed

before it becomes law.

To get the Show Us Amendment on the ballot, supporters must gather 350,000 signatures throughout the state before May 1, 2008.

Learn more about this amendment and how you can help!

NB: The program on District 205 School Referenda follow-up will be presented at a later date than originally announced

Program Planning for National Convention All Members Welcome

Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm

From the LWV dictionary:

Program: *Statements of position maintained by the membership on governmental issues and issues under study by the League of Women Voters membership.*

In preparation for the LWVUS convention in Portland this June, we must review national League positions to determine which, if any, should be updated or modified. We will also consider whether any new studies are needed.

The process is informative, the conversation is always lively, and we use the discussion as a basis for our local direction in the year ahead.

The items we'll be discussing are on pages 22-24 of your *Directory/Yearbook*.

This is one of the best ways to see the League at work and have an influence on setting our priorities. Join us on February 6th. Wine and refreshments will be served.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Laura Kratz

Saturday, February 2nd 8:30 – 11 am

Accepted items: Prescription medicines, household cleaners and drain openers, oil based paint, mineral spirits, paint strippers and solvents, insecticides and herbicides,

automotive fluids, fluorescent lights, household batteries. Please bring items in original containers if possible.

Great Decisions
Barbara Swords

Thursday, February 7th at 9:15 a.m.

The topic for discussion will be "Iraq: strategies for dealing with uncertainty," chapter 1 in our new book for 2008.

The author is Anthony Cordesman, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Mr. Cordesman frequently comments on foreign affairs on TV panels including the *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer.

Some issues chapter 1 raises are: What are the options for deciding to keep U.S. forces in Iraq? for reducing troop levels? for withdrawing? What are major issues that U. S policy makers and the American public must address?

These are only some of the serious topics for discussion that will prompt our thoughtful concern.

Voter Service
Myrrah Guzman

Primary Election 2008
Registration Drive

The Elmhurst League of Women Voters registered a total of **167** voters during December and January. The registration drive culminated in a last-day-to-register swell of 98 registrants. Voters from all over the Chicago suburbs were registered. We were happy and encouraged that many new voters were registered – including many high school and college students.

Thanks to the following registrar members for devoting their time to this community service: Gail Anderson, Marta Davy,

Jan Dorner, Myrrha Guzman, Corinne Johnson, Elaine Libovicz, Joanne McCurdy, Ileen Rubenstein, Kay Sprehe, and Evelyn Zerfoss

We were also assisted by three York High School American Government students. For those who were unable to help out during this registration drive, we will be contacting all LWV-Elmhurst registrars again to register voters before the November general election!

LWV Elmhurst Issues and Action
Jan Vanek

Cool Cities
January 30, 7:00 pm, Elmhurst Library

The Cool Cities subcommittee has set **Saturday, August 9, 2008** from 9am to 6pm for a community-wide Green Fest! The event will take place at in the center of town with exhibits and activities on the Elmhurst College lawn, Elmhurst Public Library and

Elmhurst Park District property from Church Street to Alexander.

Meanwhile, the entire Cool Cities committee will meet Wednesday, January 30th to resume work on city sustainability initiatives.

Keeping it Green

Tips and Techniques for living in a greener world

Junk in the trunk -- Did you know every 100 extra pounds of "stuff" you carry around in

your car eats up an extra mile per gallon of gasoline? -- Source: Yahoo Green

LWV of Illinois

Does the IL Constitution still work effectively or does it need to be revised via a convention (Con-Con)? Before this question goes to the voters in November 2008, the Illinois Leagues will consider whether or not to advocate for Con-Con. Each League will be asked to hold consensus meetings on this question very shortly.

Redistricting, death penalty, fiscal policy, school funding, home rule, county government, income taxes, and graduated income taxes are some areas where change may be warranted. But will it be worth the risk of opening up the whole constitution to possible changes?

If you're not all that familiar with the Illinois Constitution of 1970, there is a booklet that

Do We Need a Constitutional Convention?

explains the source of and the rationale behind each component of our state Constitution. It's written in a style that's easy to read and it can be viewed in PDF (Adobe Reader) format online:

1970 Illinois Constitution, Annotated for Legislators

4th Edition, Updated 2005

David R. Miller, Staff Attorney and Deputy Director for Research

Illinois Legislative Research Unit

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/ILConstitution.pdf>

Detailed study information and the study guide will be available at the LWVIL website <http://www.lwvil.org/ConCon.asp>

LWV Elmhurst Events and Activities

January 30

Cool Cities Committee

Elmhurst Library, 7:00 pm

February 2nd

Hazardous Household Waste Collection

8:30 am – 11:00 am

February 6th

National Program Planning

All members are encouraged to attend!

February 7th

Great Decisions

February 21

**General Meeting
Show Us Amendment**

Elmhurst Library, 7:00 pm

February 23

Illinois LWV Issues Briefing
See the *Illinois Voter* for details

Chicago, All Day