



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

Volume 60, #7
February 2009
Laura Kratz, Editor
shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org

Shop Talk

LWV Elmhurst Candidate Forum

Sunday, February 22nd, 1:00pm to 5:00 pm
Elmhurst City Hall
209 North York

College of DuPage Trustees

District 205 School Board

Mayor, City Clerk and Treasurer

Elmhurst Aldermen

Elmhurst Park District Commissioners

To prepare voters for the April 7th Consolidated Elections, our League will hold a series of candidate forums starting at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 22nd at Elmhurst City Hall.

In the Aldermanic races there is one seat in each ward up for election. Three seats are being contested on the School Board and as well as three seats for the Park Board. There are three six-year terms and one two-year term open on the COD Board of Trustees. We have invited all candidates who filed petitions in all the races listed above and we will announce the schedule of their appearances in early February on our website and in our local papers. You may also contact the Forum Committee chairman, Cheri Niewiara for further information.

Meanwhile, the Candidate Forum Committee is busy preparing the final questions the candidates will be asked to address on February 22nd. As in

past years, the audience will be invited to submit questions during the forum. Three past presidents of our League – Laura Kratz, Jan Dorner, and Jeanne Davik – will serve as moderators for different segments of the meeting. Additional volunteers are needed for the day to serve as timers, pages, and help direct people in the building. You do not need to stay for the entire afternoon; please let Cheri know if you can give an hour or so of your time.

The forum will be taped for television broadcast on our Government Access Channel during the month of March. The League will also provide a Voters Guide on our website, www.lwvelmhurst.org where voters may read the candidate's written answers to the forum questions as well as to some additional questions.

For the latest information on LWV Elmhurst Events check out the Activity Calendar on our website
www.lwvelmhurst.org

President's Corner

Elections past, elections future. Your League has been and continues to be very busy with voter registration and education activities, including candidate forums, voter registration drives, and voters' guides.

These "making-democracy-work" activities will be expanded to include participation in the **LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact Study**. We will need to determine our League members' consensus positions on seven study questions and submit them to LWVUS by May 1st. Educational materials for this study are available on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org. One of the League's greatest strengths is grassroots agreement on issues. A chair and committee are needed to move our contribution to this study forward. Join in! This is a great chance to become more active in our League. Contact me at president@www.lwvelmhurst.org.

In early January, **Laura Kratz, Jan Vanek**, and I attended the 6th Annual DuPage Environmental Summit "**Greening**" **Our Transportation and Roads** in Lisle. The presentations and exhibits were informative and exciting. It was gratifying to see how much is being done and planned by DuPage County to protect our environmental, scenic, aesthetic, and natural resources in the areas contained by county roads. Power Point presentations from the Summit are available at http://www.dupageco.org/generic.cfm?doc_id=3915.

Welcome to our new member, **Maria Hirsch**.

Here's to enough already of snow and arctic temperatures and to an early arrival of spring!

Donna

GREAT DECISIONS

Barbara Swords

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,

Thursday, February 7 at 9:15 am

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Sue Williams

We are happy to welcome our newest member:

Maria Hirsch

VOTER REGISTRATION

Myrrah Guzman

Thank you to all registrars who were able to come to our January general member meeting to become recertified to register voters. To all other registrars, if you still have not obtained your recertification, please contact the DuPage

Election Commission to set up a time for retraining and reappointment. Watch this space and your mailboxes for information on upcoming voter registration activities.

Important Meeting for All Members

CHOOSING OUR ISSUES
All Members Welcome

Wednesday, February 11th at 7:00 pm
At the home of Laura Kratz

The issues that we study and act upon at each LWV level – local, state and national – are determined by the membership. It is now time for all members to take an active role as we decide which issues we want to work on at the local and state levels over the next two years.

Our current local and state programs follow. Please read through them and think about areas you are interested in working on. At the meeting we will have updates on the progress we have

made over the past two years as we consider our next steps. Even if you're not sure how you want to be involved, this is one of the best ways to see the League at work and have an influence on setting our priorities.

Please join us on February 11th. Wine and refreshments will be served and we expect a lively conversation. For carpooling, please contact our President, Donna Blue.

League of Women Voters of Elmhurst **Study, Support and Action Items 2007-2009**

Adopted by the LWV Elmhurst Membership, May 2007

1. Monitor and report on activities of local government bodies and support and promote good governmental practices.
2. Promote a comprehensive action strategy that recognizes the relationships among the environmental health, economic vitality, and social equity of the City of Elmhurst.
3. Support and encourage intergovernmental cooperation among the City of Elmhurst, Unit School District #205, Elmhurst Park District and Elmhurst Public Library.
4. Encourage and support voter registration and education.
5. Develop criteria, monitor and evaluate use of the 2006 District #205 referenda funds and to take action on the findings.
6. Investigate the feasibility of a Cool Cities program for Elmhurst and take action on the findings.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

2007-2009 PROGRAM SUMMARY

Adopted by the LWVIL Membership, June 2007

POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Implementation and Amendments: Support for League positions to implement, amend and uphold the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

County Government Structure: Support for expanded citizen initiative powers to address county government structure and support for changes in the Illinois County Executive Act.

Criminal Justice: Support for improved criminal justice procedures and alternatives to incarceration.

Death Penalty Abolition: Support for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

Gun Violence Prevention: Support for handgun and assault weapon control.

Schools: Support for a public school system that is equitable in both quality for the student and financing for the taxpayer.

State Election Laws: Support for improved election laws and procedures applied uniformly throughout the state and opposition to term limits for members of the Illinois General Assembly. Support for election reforms that increase voter participation and are fair and equitable for all eligible citizens.

State Fiscal Policies: Support for a diversified revenue system which principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

State Redistricting: Support for a redistricting process which is timely, orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use: Support for a state land use policy that addresses the problem of conflicting uses for the land resources of Illinois.

Large-Scale Livestock Facilities: Support for strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels.

Pesticides: Support for reduction in pesticide use and the promotion of non-toxic alternatives.

SOCIAL POLICY

Children's Services: Support for improved state and local services by Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

Immigration: Support for state and local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for all immigrants. Support provisions for educational programs and materials on rights in the workplace for all workers, driving certificates for undocumented workers and the availability of auto insurance for holders of certificates. Oppose deputizing state and local police to enforce immigration laws and ordinances that penalize landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants. Oppose extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

Income Assistance: Support for income assistance and support services for all low-income individuals and their families.

Mental Health: Support for comprehensive and coordinated services for mentally ill adults and children in both state facilities and community-based programs.

ACTION FOCI and STUDIES

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: Assess and strengthen citizen participation in the state legislative process which will include, but not be limited to, efforts to pass the *Show Us Amendment*.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: Efforts to increase voter education and reduce barriers to the electoral process. The action item will strengthen our judicial system by promoting the creation of an Illinois Judicial Evaluation Commission to provide voters with impartial evaluation of judicial candidates.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING: Promote efforts to provide stable, reliable and adequate revenues for public education and other social services.

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: Investigate the need for a State Constitutional Convention. The Constitution of the State of Illinois requires that the question of a need for a constitutional convention be submitted to the voters every twenty years, if not sooner. The question was last submitted to the voters in 1988.

LWV Calendar

Thursday, February 5th

Great Decisions 9:15am

At the home of Barbara Swords

Wednesday, February 11th

Choosing our Issues 7:00 pm

State & Local League Study and Action Planning Meeting,

At the home of Laura Kratz

Sunday, February 15th

Presidential Courage a Lecture by Michael Beschloss

7:00 pm at Hammerschmidt Chapel, 190 Prospect

At Elmhurst College

Sunday, February 22nd

Elmhurst LWV Municipal Elections Candidate Forum

Elmhurst City Hall, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Thursday, February 26th

LWVIL Luncheon with Keynote Speaker Carol Marin

Union League Club of Chicago



LWV Elmhurst

P.O. Box 12

Elmhurst, IL 60126

Visit us online at www.lwvelmhurst.org