



Shop Talk

Why doesn't much get done in our legislature?

Does it have anything to do with the legislators we elect and re-elect?

Does it matter that incumbents have won their elections 98% of the time?

Why are there so many SAFE legislative districts—safe for incumbents, that is?

Does it have something to do with the crazy way legislative districts are drawn—gerrymandered by the party in power to protect their own?

HOW CAN WE CHANGE ALL THAT?

Answer: A Constitutional Amendment that would change the redistricting process so we would have a FAIR MAP of legislative districts.

If we're going to do it, we have to do it this year — after the 2010 Census — or we'll have to wait 10 years until the next one.

HOW CAN WE CHANGE THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION?

Answer: We can collect signatures on petitions asking that the issue be put on the ballot in November, 2010.

How many signatures? 500,000 — so we need to get busy right now!

Where do we get the petitions? If you are at your computer, click on this link: <http://www.ilfairmap.com/wp-content/petitions/Counties/DuPage.pdf>

Or, go to www.ilfairmap.com, and download a petition for DuPage County, our election authority.

Or, call or email Jeanne Davik, and she will print one for you.

More on the Fair Map—
Citizen Initiative on page 2

Primary Election: Tuesday, February 2 *Election Information is now on our Website*

Myrrha Guzman, Webmaster

To assist voters this Primary Election, the League has posted its **Voters Guide**, which contains the written responses to League questions for participating Candidates running for...

- Illinois State House of Representatives—Dist. 41 and 46
- DuPage County Board Chairman
- DuPage County Board—Dist. 1 and 2
- DuPage County Forest Preserve President
- DuPage County Forest Preserve Commission—District 2

Go to <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/2010VoterGuide.asp> to view the guide. Encourage your friends to look at the Guide also so we may all go to the voting booths well-informed.

Candidate Forum on our website. Did you miss our Candidate Forum, or do you want to review what the candidates said? Go to our website at www.lwvelmhurst.org. You may also watch the video on COMCAST Channel 6 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 - Fridays and Sundays at 1 pm. Elmhurst programs may be viewed on Comcast Channel 110 on cable-ready televisions in Downers Grove, LaGrange, Lombard, Oak Brook, and Westmont.



Laura Kratz, LWV Elmhurst president, moderating one segment of Candidate Forum. (Image from website video.)

Some voting locations have changed. To make sure you go to the right location to vote, the League's website has a link to locate your polling place. Go to our Election page at <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/Election.asp> to find other useful election information.

LWVIL Issues Briefing: Saturday, February 6

A group of Elmhurst League members are planning to carpool to Chicago for the League's Annual Issues Briefing. You can join the group if you register before Jan. 27. Register online at www.lwvil.org or call the LWVIL office: 312-939-5935. Go to the website for full details about the morning program and afternoon workshop choices.



Overall Goal: Collect 500,000 signatures.
Goal for Each of Us: Fill 1 petition with 10 signatures.

When you ask for signatures, what will you say?

The best idea is make the message short and to the point — an “elevator speech.” *Example:*

Are you unhappy with Illinois Government? Do you want to do something to fix the system?

Right now, the system for drawing legislative district boundaries is completely in the hands of the political party in power. And when our new census results are released, they will redraw the districts to make sure they stay in power.

We can change that by demanding a system where the districts are drawn fairly, and voters will choose the candidates they want, not the other way around.

Will you sign our petition to put a referendum on the November ballot to amend the Illinois Constitution and put the power in the hands of the voters?

LWVIL Candidate Debates

Jan Dörner, LWVIL Voter Service Chair

LWVIL Executive Director Jan Czarnik and I worked closely with ABC 7 and the Better Government Association to broadcast debates for the Democrat and Republican primary candidates for Governor and Senator last month.

There were many “bumps in the road” since mid-November with at least 20 candidates and/or their representatives weighing in on the planning. A lack of nonpartisan polling data - required by LWV policy for participation eligibility - was a problem that will need to be addressed. Working with people – partners and campaigns – whose behavior ranged from polite and cooperative to uncivil and contrary, seriously tested our negotiating skills and our patience. The numbers of candidates running in the individual primaries made formatting a particular challenge but, in the end, all the partners agreed to one consistent format for all of the forums.

The debates are still on the ABC 7 website. Go to abclocal.go.com/wls/index and type in a phrase such as “republicans for governor debate” in the search box. The stream may be divided into six parts, but you may see them all...with built-in breaks!

Thanks to Elmhurst League members Sue Whitworth, Sue Williams and Jeanne Davik, who helped with these forums.

Elmhurst Candidate Forum

Cheri Niewiara, Voter Service Chair

We hosted an informative candidate forum at Elmhurst City Hall on Sunday, January 10th, 2010. *Opposed* primary candidates were invited to participate. Three of the four County Board primary candidates and four of five 41st District candidates participated. We were fortunate to have many of our League members volunteer their time, and grateful to Gigi Moore, of the Park Forest LWV, who moderated the County Board President portion. We also coordinated a **Voters Guide** in which 15 primary opposed and unopposed candidates participated. It can be accessed on the homepage of the League website.

Reminder: Early voting for the February 2 Primary election is available at Elmhurst City Hall from January 11-28th. To vote early, you will need to bring a valid ID, such as a current driver’s license, state-issued ID card or another government-issued ID with a photograph. Additional information on early voting in DuPage County can be found at the County Election Commission’s website <http://www.dupageelections.com>.

Cool Cities Coalition Update

Jan Vanek

A committee of interested Cool Cities Coalition members is meeting to develop a **Home Energy Efficiency Refit Program** for Elmhurst. More than 70% of Elmhurst homes were built before 1970. The more homes that can be weatherized and insulated, the less energy is used and the smaller the carbon footprint.



The program will be modeled after DuPage County’s program for low-income homeowners. Mike King, who administers the program, informed the committee that DuPage refitted 600 homes in 2009 and expects to complete 750 homes in 2010. The County program is funded by federal dollars and has income testing.

The details of the Elmhurst program are still being determined, but it will include an energy audit by a certified auditor, baseline analysis of energy bills, work done by a certified contractor, and then a final energy audit by a second auditor.

Trash to Treasure: Where Does Our Garbage Go?

Thurs., Feb. 11 ♦ Elm. Pub. Library ♦ 7 p.m.

Jan Vanek, Program Chair

Join us on February 11 to hear a presentation on recycling by Richard VanDerMolen of Allied Waste, Inc. Have you ever wondered how all the recyclables can be mixed together, or how much Elmhurst removes from the waste stream?



Mr. VanDerMolen will answer these and additional questions from the audience. He will also provide information about state-of-the-art curbside recycling

practices and share a report card on how Elmhurst is doing compared to other communities.

Great Decisions moves to Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Barbara Swords

GREAT DECISIONS will meet on a new schedule for 2010. Meetings will be held each month at 1 p.m., Tuesdays, at the home of Barbara Swords.

The first meeting for 2010 will be on Tuesday, February 9, 1 p.m. The topic for discussion will be "Special Envoys": Special envoys can help bring attention and diplomatic muscle to resolve conflicts and global challenges, but they also bring with them their own 'special' problems. Will the Obama administration's reliance on special envoys increase the ability of the U. S. to deal with major international issues or complicate our diplomatic options?



As always, the topics for discussion in 2010 are timely and provocative. Each discussion will be led by a member of our group. This year's topics are (March) Kenya and R29; (April) Global crime; (May) U. S.- China security relations; (Sept.) Global financial crisis; (Oct.) Russia and its neighbors, (Nov.) Persian Gulf; (Dec.) Peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

*Join us when your schedule permits.
New members are always welcome.*

Go Green & Save with Illinois Rebate Program

Sue Williams

Need to replace your old heating, cooling, water heater or appliances? Go green and save money with the Illinois Rebate Program announced on January 22, 2010.

It is a two phase program:

Phase 1: Starting January 31, 2010, consumers can get point of purchase rebates on qualifying heating and cooling equipment and water heaters for **as long as funding lasts**. Furnace, Air Conditioning and Water Heaters are eligible for a **30% federal tax credit up to \$5,000 in materials and installation**. (Be sure to check that your unit will qualify!)

- Central Air Conditioners \$500
- Air Source Heat Pumps \$1,000
- Propane Furnaces \$350
- Gas Furnaces \$350
- Gas Boilers \$1,200.
- Water Heater 25% markdown

Check with ComEd for electricians/AC list and Nicor for furnaces.

Phase 2: Point of purchase rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified **clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and room air conditioners** will be available for items purchased from April 16 - 25, 2010.

- Clothes Washers, Dishwashers, Refrigerators, Freezers and Room Air Conditioners are 15% markdown at point of sale.
- Receive an extra \$100 for recycling Refrigerators and Freezers.
- Clothes washers and dishwashers will receive \$50 for recycling.

Looking for more information? Go to <http://www.illinoisenergy.org> or call 877-782-7005. Only certain energy efficient models will receive the rebate.

Another Green Tip:

Looking to save gas? Empty out your car of unnecessary items; the extra weight burns more gas. Keep tires inflated. Slow down, accelerate more slowly, and decrease speed slowly when approaching an intersection.

Upcoming League Events:

February 2: General Primary Election

February 6, 8:30 am: LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing. Register by January 27.

February 9, 1 pm: Great Decisions. Home of Barbara Swords.

February 11, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting, Elmhurst Public Library
Topic: *Trash to Treasure. Where Does Our Garbage Go?*

February 20, 9 am: Board Meeting. Home of Gina Brigham.

March 11, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting, Elmhurst Public Library
Topic: *How to Run for Public Office*

March 22, 7 pm: Combination Birthday Party / Petition Party. Home of Dorothy Maguire.
Celebrate the IL League's 90th Birthday.
Get your Fair Map Amendment petitions notarized.

July 31, Third Annual Green Fest



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