



Shop Talk

*A publication of
the League of
Women Voters of
Elmhurst.*



Candidate Forum



Sunday, February 13, 1:00-5:00 pm

**Elmhurst City Hall, Council Chambers
209 N. York St., Elmhurst**

Local elections will take place on Tuesday, April 5, 2010
Be prepared! Join us for a candidate forum covering:

Elmhurst Park District Board Members Elmhurst Aldermen
Elmhurst Community School District Unit 205 Board Members

LWV-Elmhurst Board Members have compiled prepared questions. Questions will also be taken from the audience.

1:00 pm: 1:00 pm Opening statements by Laura Kratz, LWV Elmhurst President and Moderator, followed by candidates who will not have opponents present: Mary Kies (Park Board), and Aldermanic candidates Scott Levin (5th Ward) and Mark Mulliner (7th Ward). The Aldermanic races will follow immediately.

Alderman Forum Participants:

Ward 1 - Diane Gutenkauf, John Ranieri
Ward 3 - Paul McLafferty, Dannee Polomsky
Ward 4 - Mark Anglewicz, Darlene Heslop, Stephen Hipskind
Ward 6 - Rachel Kern, Steve Morley

2:45 - 3:00: Break

3:00 - 5:00: Elmhurst Community School District Unit 205 Forum

4 seats are available. The following candidates are participating: Christopher Blum, Deborah Conroy, Shannon Ebner, Annette Franklin
Paul Guerino, John McDonough, Robert Robertson, Karen Stuefen

7th Ward candidate Dean O'Brien is unable to attend, however he will participate in our on-line voter guide. Anthony Pelosi, running for the Elmhurst Park District Board, is unable to attend the forum but will participate in our on-line voter guide. Robert Dunn running unopposed in the 2nd ward will not be participating.

An online Voters Guide will be posted on our website after the forum with full written responses to League questions from all participating candidates. Candidates who met the RSVP deadline but were unavailable on February 13th will also be included. LWV Elmhurst policy states that candidates who do not reply to the Voter Service Chairman by the deadline are not eligible for either the forum or the Voters Guide.
-Sue Whitworth

LWV Elmhurst Board Members:

Officers

Laura Kratz, President
2009-2011
Donna Blue, First Vice
President 2009-2011
Sue Williams, 2nd Vice
President – Program
2010-2012
Connie Zillig, Treasurer
2010-2012
Dorothy McGuire,
Secretary 2009-2011

Directors

Colette Kubesia,
Membership Outreach
2010-2012
Tonja Pastorelle,
Membership Admin.
2010-2012
Jan Dorner, Observer
Reports 2009-2011
Gail Anderson,
Publicity 2009-2011
Sue Whitworth, Voter
Service 2010-2012
Dorothy McGuire,
Voter Registration
2010-2011
Myrrha Guzman,
Webmaster 2009-2011

Dannee Polomsky, Shop
Talk Editor 2010-2012

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
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www.lwvelmhurst.org



Calendar

February 5: Illinois LWV Issues Briefing, Chicago, IL*. Visit www.lwvil.org to register. If you would like to carpool, please contact Donna Blue at drblue@comcast.net.

February 8: Great Decisions, 1:00pm at the home of Barbara Swords

February 13: Candidate Forums at Elmhurst City Hall

February 24: Annual Program Planning Meeting at the home of Sue Williams, 7:00 pm

February: Annual Finance Drive

March 23: LWV monthly meeting

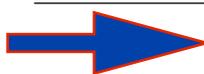
March 14-31: Early voting for April 5 election

April 5: Election Day

Volunteers Needed!

Candidate Forum

Volunteers are needed Sunday, February 13, the day of the candidate forum. We plan to schedule volunteers in shifts and are seeking members to staff the LWV Membership table, serve as timers, greeters, and pages to collect questions from the audience. If you are able to help us, contact Sue Whitworth at sawhitworth@ameritech.net.



Program Planning

Our February 24 Program Planning Meeting is where members decide what issues we want to take on next. What do you want to work on locally or at the state level? Please join the discussion.

Issues and Advocacy:

Abolition of the Death Penalty

The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst thanks former 41st District Representative Bob Biggins and recently appointed 21st District Senator Ronald Sandack for their votes to abolish the death penalty in Illinois. The League of Women Voters of Illinois has been a leader in the effort to repeal this practice. As of this writing, the bill awaits Governor Quinn's signature. To voice your support call his office at 217-782-6830 or email governor@state.il.us.

State Study Proposals

The following two study proposals will be discussed and voted on at our local Program Planning Meeting. Please read them and think about whether or not you believe the League should undertake either (or both) of these projects.

Project 1: Proposal for Action Focus on Natural Resources: Large-Scale Livestock Facilities Position

The League of Women Voters of Glenview (LWVG) recommends that the LWVIL maintain an Action Focus on the Natural Resources Position currently in place regarding Large-Scale Livestock Facilities.

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(Issues and Advocacy: Project 1, con't)

The League of Women Voters of Glenview (LWVG) recommends that the LWVIL maintain an Action Focus on the Natural Resources Position currently in place regarding Large-Scale Livestock Facilities.

This position relates to “sustainable agriculture and protection of our environment, as well as “human health” which has the potential for engaging the public and recruiting new members.

- Regulatory concerns raised in our Position have not yet been resolved. This is a state-wide issue involving multiple units of government.
- This is an issue which is increasing in importance with the potential growing threat of more Large-Scale Livestock Facilities trying to locate to our state. Without proper regulation there will be further negative impact.
- The way we feed our families, and the issue of water pollution, land use and effective government oversight are of general interest across Illinois.
- Concerns can be addressed effectively by League activities, including “informational and roundtable discussion on the environmental and economic impacts of increased livestock production in Illinois” and “monitoring initiatives and legislation impacting Illinois’ large-scale livestock facilities.
- Action activities would be effective at the local League level as well as at the State level.

The LWVG would take a leadership roll by

- 1) working with other local leagues and the LWVIL to shape a plan for the Action Focus;
- 2) monitoring regulatory and legislative initiatives impacting large-scale livestock facilities in Illinois and;
- 3) conducting round table discussions and informational presentations about the LWVIL position.

At the 2010 national convention the LWVG, via a guidance to the board, asked LWVUS to update the natural resources and agriculture positions so that Leagues could take action to “encourage access to plentiful and nutritious food, promote land use policies that are sustainable and environmentally sound, support the conservation of natural resources, protect all water sources, and establish appropriate national standards relating to food supplies.” The LWVG believes that taking action on the LWVIL Large-Scale Livestock Facilities position is relevant to the stated purpose of our guidance which is allow the League to act specifically on proposed food policies.

Project 2: Proposal to Study Pension Problems In Illinois and Proposals for Pension Reform

The LWVIL Issues Committee recommends that the LWVIL study pension problems in Illinois and proposals for pension reform. Currently, the LWVIL does not have a position

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(Issues and Advocacy, Project 2 con't)

and cannot take action on the enormous issues facing the people of Illinois regarding pension payments.

Scope of the Issue:

There are five state pension systems;

- 1) teachers (outside of Chicago Public Schools)
- 2) state employees
- 3) state legislators
- 4) judges, and
- 5) state university employees (including professors and doctors at the medical schools).

There are local government pension systems for employees, including police and firefighters, and there is the retirement system for the Chicago Public Schools.

The Issues Committee will coordinate this study: appoint a chair and create a study committee to work on this issue.

Submitted by,
The LWVIL Issues Committee
(authored by Kathy Nesburg, Issues Specialist)

◆◆ Announcements ◆◆

The Latest from LWV Elmhurst Board

• Annual Finance Drive

The LWV of Elmhurst will launch its annual Finance Drive in February. Letters to potential contributors will be mailed at mid-month. Please send suggestions for additional potential donors, individuals or businesses, to drblue@comcast.net. Contributions may be made to the League general fund or the League Education Fund (tax-deductable). Much appreciated contributions in past years have helped fund our activities and allowed us to keep our dues from additional increases.

-Donna Blue

• LWV Elmhurst in Support of of LWVUS Issues

At the request of other Leagues, the LWV Elmhurst board took under consideration and agreed to encourage the LWVUS Issues Committee to take the following actions:

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Announcements *(continued)*

The Latest from LWV Elmhurst Board

1. To make Water a priority issue by recognizing the importance of and advocate for insuring a sustainable water supply and by joining the Healing Our Waters Coalition and America's Great Waters Coalition. The initial request came from the Lake Michigan LWV (Elmhurst LWV is a member) and the board found that the issue met the requirements for a priority issue.
2. To place Abolition of the Death Penalty on the LWVUS Watch List so that the LWVUS will be able to take some initiative or action if and when an opportunity arises. So doing would help inform the public that the issue is on our program agenda. The request came from the St. Louis LWV.

• Annual Meeting Preparation Appointments

The following Board members have been appointed to committees that will soon begin preparations for our Annual Meeting:

Nominating Committee: Dorothy McGuire and Donna Blue. They will join Cheri Niewiara and Lisa O'Halloran.

Budget Committee: Sue Williams and Myrrha Guzman Bylaws: Colette Kubiesa

• Change in Responsibilities

Shop Talk Editor Dannee Polomsky stepped down from the Elmhurst LWV Board in December. With full approval of the Board, she is continuing as editor in an off-board capacity.

Program Planning

What is Program Planning? Each year our League shapes and redefines our public policy program: our Study, Support and Action Items on page 7 of your Directory/Yearbook. We also have a say in the Illinois League's policy program (Directory pp.15-19) that will be adopted this June at state convention.

If you have a local issue you would like us to tackle, now is the time to speak up.

What do you think about the two proposals for state studies -- pension reform and large-scale livestock farms? Should our League support those studies? Should we retain our current positions or are some obsolete?

NOTES FROM MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN PETER ROSKAM AND
Illinois 6th District LWVs (Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Elmhurst, Arlington Heights/etc.)

1/10/11

Congressional Aid who took notes:

Kevin Kuhlmann

League members in attendance:

Diana Hoke, LWV Glen Ellyn
Ginger Wheeler, LWV Glen Ellyn
Cathy Duoba, LWV Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, etc.
Jan Dorner, LWV Elmhurst, LWVIL State Board
Missey Wilhelm, LWV Wheaton
Di Niesmans, LWV Wheaton
Joan Fefferman, LWV Wheaton

What are your major priorities for the 112th Congress?

Cong. Roskam stated the "Drive toward economic recovery" would be his major priority. He said, "Our district is chock full of 1st and 2nd generation companies that have had to stop spending and lay off employees. Companies are sitting on lots of cash that they won't invest because of uncertainty in costs such as health care and energy/utilities."

Another major priority was "Job creation" but he couldn't elaborate on what plans he had for this other than to "cut spending" and "eliminate waste" in such areas as the department of defense and infrastructure.

Do you support efforts to increase transparency and provide more information to the public through such steps as requiring disclosure and quick reporting of all election-related spending?

Cong. Roskam stated that he thought the DISCLOSE ACT was unconstitutional. He said it was "A foil of Chris Van Hollen" (of the DCCC). He was less concerned about the rules than he was about them being applied equally. Seemed to think that labor unions were exempt from DISCLOSE ACT. He was not at all concerned about the Supreme Court's decision on Citizens United v. FEC. He is a believer that all entities should have the same rules. When pressed, he agreed that election spending should be transparent.

What can you do to help improve civic discourse and reduce the level of rancor and partisan bickering in national politics?

Congressman Roskam said that he tries to lead by example. He also said that rough language in our country is not new. He said he tries to seek common ground with others but he can't/won't do anything about his colleague's level of partisan speech, because each congressional district is unique turf and each congress person has their own way of dealing with their constituents. He quoted Speaker Boehner (who was quoting others) that "We can disagree without being disagreeable."

Do you support repealing or limiting the newly enacted national health care legislation, the Affordable Care Act?

Congressman Roskam believes that because of the 2010 November election results, the American people have mandated that Congress MUST VOTE to repeal and replace the Health Care Act, "or they (ie The People) would say, 'What do you think you know better than we do?'"

After a long discussion, he said Medicare fraud reform by using predictive modeling should be used and that he told President Obama we shouldn't add 15 million people to Medicaid without first fixing Medicaid, a broken system.

He said the name of the repeal act "Repealing Job-Killing Health Care Law Act" would not be changed because the use of 'job-killing' is common and not inflammatory.

To sum up Cong. Roskam's views:

- supports a vote to repeal the Health Care Act and
- thinks Health Care should include
 - Fund for high risk patients (pre-existing conditions)
 - Cost Control Containment
 - Tort Reform
 - Move to Predictive Model for payments
 - Buying Insurance across state lines should be allowed

Do you believe that Congress should delay or curtail enforcement of the Clean Air Act?

Cong. Roskam didn't appear to know about this. We explained that EPA wants to name carbon dioxide a pollutant.

He started talking about HR 10 as a bill the LWV could/should support. It has not been introduced yet, but it is a rule about whenever agencies (like EPA) need to spend \$100 million, that expenditure MUST be debated by House, expenditure should be examined by CBO.

This led to a discussion about science vs. ideology, and he never answered the question about the Clean Air Act.

◆ Membership ◆

We welcome new and returning members Catherine Sewell, Terry Pastika, Corinne Flemm and Jean Janecek. Look for their contact information in a Member Update email from LWV Elmhurst.



In this issue:

- ◆ Candidate Forum: schedule and seeking volunteers
- ◆ Issues and Advocacy
- ◆ Notes from meeting with Congressman Roskam
- ◆ New State Study Proposals

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