



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

Shop Talk

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 Jeanne Davik, Editor
shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org

LWVIL Candidate Debates: Governor & Senator

Jan Dorner, LWVIL Voter Service Chair
 LWVIL, ABC 7, and the Better Government Association (BGA) recently completed the first round of meetings with both Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor and Senator, and the Cook County League met with the candidates for Cook County Board President.

Each forum will be taped at 7 p.m. on the nights listed below. **The forums will be streamed live on the ABC 7 website** and fed to a satellite that ANY station (other than the Chicago metro area) can pick up and run live, or can show at another time.

ABC 7 will also show it live on their digital channel (7.2, Comcast 217, Wide Open Web 219 and RCN 618) **and on the regular channel 7 at 11:05 p.m.** (after *Nightline*) the same night each forum is taped.

The forum dates are as follows:
Tues., Jan. 12, Democrats for Sen.
Wed., Jan. 13, Republicans for Gov.
Thur., Jan. 14, Republicans for Sen.
Tues., Jan. 19, Democrats for Gov.

LWVIL's rules for these forums are that each candidate must be constitutionally eligible, show evidence of an actual campaign (an office, website, phone number, etc.) and **poll at least 5% within 30 days of the election.**

LWVIL will be checking nonpartisan polls the first week in January to determine which candidates will be eligible to participate in these forums.

Anyone who is interested in helping with these debates, please notify Jan Dorner, voterservice@lwvil.org. Leaguers are needed to serve as timers, to assist candidates and their aides, and to help with the press conferences immediately after the tapings.

Get Ready for the February 2 Primary Election! League Candidate Forum Sunday, Jan. 10 ★ Elmhurst City Hall ★ 1 p.m.

Cheri Niewiara, Voter Service Chair

LWV of Elmhurst will hold a Candidate Forum on January 10, 2010, at Elmhurst City Hall, 209 N. York, Elmhurst. The 1-5 p.m. Candidate Forum will feature 'opposed' candidates running for office in the February 2, 2010, Primary Election. The candidates will answer both League-composed and audience questions.

At 1 p.m. Republican candidates for **DuPage County Board Chairman** — Gary Grasso, Debra L. Olson and Carole Pankau — will begin the forum. At 2:30 p.m. Republican candidates for **State Representative 41st District** — Matt Burden, Chris Nybo, Rafael Rivadeneira, and Brien Sheahan — will be on the dais. Audience members will also have the opportunity to "meet and greet" candidates in the lobby after each section of the forum.



Note: *This forum will include only **opposed** candidates. Democratic candidates running for these offices are all unopposed.*

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A video of the Candidate Forum, featuring the races for DuPage County Board Chair and State Representative 41st District, will be on the Elmhurst LWV website — www.lwvelmhurst.org — as soon as it becomes available.

Look for Our Online Voter Guide — Jan. 17

The League will offer an online Voter Guide at www.lwvelmhurst.org from January 17 through Election Day, February 2.

The Voter Guide will feature written responses to League-composed questions by many of the candidates running in the Primary Election for these offices: State Representative 41st District, State Representative 46th District, DuPage County Board Chairman, DuPage County Board Districts 1 and 2, DuPage County Forest Preserve President, and DuPage Forest Preserve District 2.

Local Finance Drive & State Phonathon Slated for Early 2010

Donna Blue, Vice President – Development

Finance drive letters for our League are scheduled to go out to members and League friends in early February. Contributions may be made to our General Fund or to our Education Fund (tax-deductible).

The LWV of Illinois' Annual Phonathon will be held March 1 - April 9. This year our Elmhurst League will participate by making phone calls. We will benefit because contributions are shared between the State League and the local participating League.



Volunteers are needed to help make phone calls. Please plan to participate both by making a gift and by making calls to fellow League members during Phonathon. Contact Donna Blue at lstvpresident@lwvelmhurst.org to volunteer. The League needs your support.

New Initiative! Illinois Fair Map Amendment to the Illinois Constitution

A citizens' movement to 'Take Back Illinois' was recently launched by the Illinois League of Women Voters, Better Government Association, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, and other reform groups.

The partnership plans a **petition drive** to empower voters to change the state's redistricting process with an amendment to the Illinois Constitution. The amendment would allow for an independent commission to draw the state's legislative district boundaries after the 2010 census in an open and transparent process.

The partners are looking for 500,000 people to sign the petitions by May 2 to safely ensure the voters will decide the question on the November 2010 ballot. If approved, the Illinois Fair Map Amendment would require that the districts be compact, protect minority voting rights, respect municipal boundaries and eliminate undue political favoritism.

The petitions will be available at www.ILFairMap.com along with detailed instructions, power point presentation, history and other information. The hope is that ALL League members will circulate petitions. For more info, go to www.lwvil.org.

Elmhurst Members to Attend LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing Saturday, February 6, 2010

Once again the Illinois League has put together an outstanding program on topics that are vital and timely. The morning sessions on **Redistricting** and on the **Illinois Fiscal Crisis**, combined with the in-depth afternoon workshops, will make for a stimulating day and will provide League members with insight and knowledge they can't get anywhere else.

Registrations due January 27th.

You can register and pay online with your credit card at <http://www.lwvil.org/tickets10.asp> or you can print a registration form and mail it in with your check. Go to www.lwvil.org and click on the link to [Mail-in Registration Form](#).

Please contact either Donna Blue lstvpresident@lwvelmhurst.org or Dorothy McGuire secretary@lwvelmhurst.org to be included in one of the carpools.

Workshop Choices

The 2010 Census: Uncle Sam needs YOU! What your League can do to help achieve a complete count.

Redistricting: Citizen Initiative: Let's get going! How Local Leagues can educate their communities and get those petitions signed!

Term Limits for Leaders: Is this the solution?

The Illinois Budget: A look from all sides - What can we eliminate, from where, and what are the consequences?

Green Tip: Reuse, Reuse, Reuse



One way to keep items out of landfills and save money in the process is FreeCycle – an online group where members post things they are looking for, and what they want to get rid of. Learn more about Elmhurst FreeCycle at <http://www.freecycle.org/group/US/Illinois/Elmhurst>

School District #205's Financial Situation: Inconsistent Financial Projections

Jan Dorner, Observer Reports Chair

Editor's Note: *The following is an explanation of cash flow projection discrepancies that have appeared in District 205 's budget documents over the past six months.*

At the School Board meeting from November 17, one of the documents posted online on the District's "BoardDocs" by the 205 administration showed that the financial projections for FY [Fiscal Year] 2010 (this school year), would be **-\$6,250,000** (Notice the minus sign!) in the operating funds as of May 31, 2010, with subsequent years progressively worse.

Cash flow is important when the administration looks at possible short term borrowing (**tax anticipation warrants**) that may be needed when cash flow actually becomes negative. In July 2009, the projections were that the low point for cash flow would be \$630,730. In September 2009, the projections were that the low point for cash flow would be \$2,844,847.

The September projection reflected a higher level of cash (\$2,214,117 more than in July) because of budget cuts of about \$750,000, and probably some slightly different assumptions about cash flow. The September projection was issued about a week before the School Board approved the 2010-2011 budget, so the Board used the September cash flow projection when voting on the budget.

Shortly after the November 17 meeting, Jan Dorner emailed a question about the recent negative projections [-\$6,250,000] to some of the Board members. Specifically, what happened to almost \$9 million?

More recently, Jan was invited to a meeting with Superintendent Krizic, Assistant Superintendent for Finance Masterton, and Board member Jim Collins to discuss this question. Assistant Superintendent Masterton notified those at the meeting that the negative \$6 million in cash flow was due to a chart that was **run incorrectly** and that the real number was approximately +\$2.6 million as the low point for cash flow for this school year.

Ms. Masterton added that the projections would
(next column)

not be corrected and re-run until after Jan. 16, 2010, when the CPI [Consumer Product Index] would be available. Although this number (+\$2.6 million) is much closer to the September 2009 projection, it should be noted that any projection for this fiscal year (2009-2010) should be considered a *budget* figure rather than a *projection*.



District 205 School Board

Back Row: David Carlquist, Maria Hirsch, Peggy Ostojic, Marta Davy, Jim Collins.

Front Row: Susan De Ronne, Deborah O'Keefe Conroy.

Source: <http://www.elmhurst205.org/>

Important District 205 Meeting on Jan. 12

Jan Dorner, who also serves as the LWVIL Voter Service Chair, will be downtown at Channel 7 on January 12 for the first of the televised Candidate Debates. Consequently she will *not* be available to attend and write an *Observer Report* on the January 12 District 205 School Board meeting.

She wants everyone to know that this is an especially important meeting since **the administration will be giving the School Board multiple options for budget cuts for the 2010-2011 school year.**

If you can't attend this meeting, try to catch the rebroadcast on cable TV the following Thursday. Also, the meeting should be posted on the District 205 website (<http://www.elmhurst205.org/meetings>), a couple of days after the event.

Senate Passes Health Care Reform

The Senate bill includes many reforms, including the extension of coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans. LWV hopes that when the bill comes out of Conference, it will also include a government-run insurance option for those who cannot afford private coverage or find adequate coverage in their area.

Upcoming League Events:

January 5: Last day for registration of voters by deputy registrars before the Primary Election.

January 10, 1 pm: Candidate Forum at City Hall, 209 N. York St., Elmhurst

January 23, 9 am: Board Meeting. Home of Connie Zillig

February 2: General Primary Election

February 6: LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing

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*



LWV Elmhurst
P.O. Box 12
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Visit us online at
www.lwvelmhurst.org