



Shop Talk

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

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Candidate Forum, a Success! Video and Voters' Guide at lwvelmhurst.org

The League's February 24 Candidate Forum was a big success. At one point it was standing room only, and additional seating needed to be added between forum segments. Press coverage included the *Elmhurst Patch*, which featured articles on the forum over several days, and the *Elmhurst Independent*, which was on hand for the second half of the forum. Assuming the *Patch* articles are still available when you read this, you can read what the *Patch* said about the [City Council](#) candidates and about the [Mayoral](#) candidates.



The forum will be broadcast on local government television stations, Comcast channel 6 and AT & T U-Verse channel 99. Watch local listings or go to our website for air times. Follow this link -- [2013 Voters' Guide](#) -- to find the candidates' written answers to League questions.

An enthusiastic **Thank You!** to the middle school and high school students who helped with the forum, as well as the many Elmhurst League volunteers.

Development of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail Speaker: Jim Rogers, Executive Director of the Elmhurst Park district

Our next League meeting is **Thursday, March 14, 7 pm, at the Elmhurst Public Library**. Everyone is invited to this public meeting to hear Jim Rogers talk about the Salt Creek Greenway Trail, a 25 mile-long, regional pedestrian/bicycle trail that extends from Busse Forest in Elk Grove Village to the Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield. It serves as a key link in the development of a 210-mile integrated trail network in northeast Illinois that includes the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail, among others. View a [Map of the Trail](#). We are pleased to have Jim Rogers, Executive Director of the Park District, as our speaker.



Issues Update

State Pensions: New Position Adopted January 2013: (In brief) Support for specific changes that spread the burden of reform among a broad range of stakeholders; and support for specific state revenue expansion measures to fund state pension obligations. LWVIL opposes increased employee contributions for certain employees and extending the pension funding ramp beyond 2045. Read the entire position [HERE](#).

Health Care Reform and Women:

- Starting in 2014 insurance companies will no longer deny coverage or charge more for pre-existing condition exclusions -- which currently can include pregnancy, cesarean section, breast or cervical cancer, and/or being a survivor of domestic or sexual abuse.
- Starting in 2014 insurance companies will be unable to continue charging women more for coverage just because of their gender.
- Plans sold on the Health Insurance Exchange will be required to offer a basic benefits package that includes maternity and newborn care, mental health, prescription drug coverage (including birth control) and preventive and wellness services. The Illinois League was a co-sponsor of a group that trained individual women and leaders of women's organizations to speak out in support of the Affordable Care Act.

Fiscal Policy: There will be \$400 million less in the state budget for state aid to education in FY2014, according to Governor Quinn. It will be the third fiscal year in a row with less money spent on education than the year before. The League supports the substitution of a graduated rate income tax for the current flat rate tax, broadening the sales tax to include services, and borrowing money to pay the service providers who are owed \$9 billion in past due accounts by the state.

Parting Message from Donna Blue, Elmhurst LWV 1st Vice President



As I prepare to leave Elmhurst for Lexington, KY where my daughter now lives, I want to wish all of my friends and colleagues in LWV of Elmhurst a fond farewell and express my gratitude for their friendship. When I moved to Elmhurst around 8 years ago, my first foray into community life was to attend a League meeting at the Library. I was already aware of the important work of the League throughout the country and thought I might like to contribute my part. There I was warmly greeted by Laura Kratz and invited to become a League member, which I subsequently did.

This has proved to be a gratifying experience, resulting in friendships with wonderful, intelligent, active, involved women committed to making democracy work for the betterment of our city, state, and nation. I am grateful to have been able to contribute my efforts towards achieving League goals --registering voters, serving on the LWVE Board and LWVIL Issues Committee, and working on various projects. It has been great. I will miss you all. I have already checked out the Lexington LWV website and will be making contact with them as soon as I get settled. Thanks for your friendship and the great memories!

Editor's Note: We extend our thanks to Donna for her many years of service on the Elmhurst LWV board. She took on new tasks willingly and did them well, while always maintaining her equanimity and good humor. She will be greatly missed!

Elmhurst LWV Board Works Hard -- but Enjoys It Too!

The more fully you are involved in League activities, the greater your sense of satisfaction and accomplishment because you are doing something important for the citizens of our city, state, and country. Board members In the first picture below are (left to right) **Sue Whitworth**, Voters Service Chair, who ran our Candidate Forum; **Donna Blue**, who (sadly) is leaving us for Lexington, KY; and **Laura Kratz**, who serves as Issues Chair for the State League, as well as Publicity Chair for us. At the left in the next picture is **Jan Dorner**, State League President as well as Observer Reports Chair and School Board Observer for us. Next to her is **Myrrha Guzman**, our Webmaster, and **Susan Rose**, our President.



Calendar:

March 14 (Thursday) 7 pm - LWV Elmhurst Meeting - Elmhurst Public Library
Development of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail - Speaker: **Jim Rogers**, Park District Executive Director.

March 19, (Tuesday) 8 pm - Candidate Forum - College of DuPage Board of Trustees - Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 535 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.

April 9 (Tuesday) 6 am - 7 pm - Consolidated General Election

May 7 (Tuesday) 6 pm - Annual Meeting - Home of Colette Kubiesa.

June 7 - 9 (Friday - Sunday) 2013 State League Convention -- Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Read more: www.lwvil.org/convention2013.asp

Visit our Website, lwvelmhurst.org, regularly for all the latest info on our issues and events.



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