



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

Over 75 Years of Public Policy Debate and Voter Education in our Community

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Shop Talk

Get to Know The League of Women Voters Wine Tasting

***Thursday, November 20, 2008
Tannins, 112 N. York Road***

Mark your calendars for this first time, free event to help the community learn more about the League!

Invite a few friends – especially potential new members – and drop in anytime between 7-9 pm. Printed invitations are available from our membership chairman, Sue Williams. E-invitations will be sent out three weeks before the event. Forward your friends' names and email addresses for e-invitations to membership@lwvelmhurst.org. If you have questions, please contact Sue.

Great Decisions Barbara Swords

Thursday November 6th at 9:15 am

On November 6th we will discuss Chapter 8: *Foreign Aid: new players, new goals?* Author Barbara Crossette, former foreign correspondent and United Nations bureau chief for *The New York Times* points out that the concept of foreign aid is undergoing a transformation with new forms of assistance, new donors, and new ways of measuring success. Will a different approach

produce better results? New members are always welcome. We hope that you can join us.

Great Decisions does not meet in December and January has yet to be determined. Our new books will arrive early in January; plans for January and February gatherings will be announced or contact Barbara for further details.

Directory/Yearbook Jan Dorner

There are still a handful of directories that need to be distributed. Most of these are outside of Elmhurst.

Thank you to all the delivery helpers – especially **Cindy Peterson, Sue Williams, Marilyn Thompson and Laura Kratz.**

President's Corner

Make sure you cast your ballot to make your voice heard in this election! It is the most important thing you can do to shape the future of your democracy. The outcome of election 2008 will affect everyone's job, health care, energy costs and security. This election will help decide what kind of country we and our children will live in.

Voter information can be found on our website, www.lwvelmhurst.org. A Voters Guide for DuPage County Board District 1 candidates with their responses to questions from our League will be on our website. Channel 19, our regional access channel, will be showing the DuPage County District 2 & 3 and Forest Preserve District 3 Candidates Forum that was held in Downers Grove on October 15. Times for these showings will be posted on our website.

This year we will be asked to vote on whether an Illinois Constitutional Convention should be

held. As a result of the consensus reached by our League and local Leagues across the state, the **LWVIL opposes holding a constitutional convention at this time.** We believe the present constitution is serving the citizens of Illinois and may be changed using the amendatory process where necessary.

Thank you to all of our League members who have worked on voter registration, candidate forums, student mock elections, and website voter information. All of your work is appreciated and is a fine expression of the dedication of the LWV to the informed and active participation of citizens in our government.

See you at the polls!

Donna

DuPage High School Mock Elections

Jan Dorner

When the opportunity for conducting 12 DuPage High School mock elections came our way, I assumed that members of the five DuPage Leagues would jump at the chance to volunteer in our local high schools. Of course, my assumption was not correct, and I was left without volunteers for five high schools. The Elmhurst League stepped forward like the civic leaders that they are and filled in the remaining spots. Thank you to **Gail Anderson, Jeanne Davik, Marta Davy, Myrrha Guzman, Laura Kratz, Diane Millikan, Cindy Reedy, Susan Rose, and Jan Vanek** for coordinating at York, Westmont, Glenbard North, Glenbard East, and Fenton High Schools. Although their days were long, all seemed to find the experience rewarding and exciting.

A grant from the U. S. Election Assistance Commission allowed the LWVIL to offer this actual voting experience to our high schools. The students and staff who participated were

universally thrilled with this actual voting experience. The DuPage Election Commission supplied us with the ballots, optical scanning equipment, including ballot box and tabulator, and all supplies that are normally at a polling location. We appreciate their extra efforts in printing the ballots, delivering and picking up equipment and supplies, and training our volunteers. High School mock elections were conducted in other areas of the state, including every Chicago Public School, many Cook County schools, McHenry County, rural Stephenson County and rural/suburban Madison County.

The ballots listed the President/Vice President, US Senate and US House races. The results should be posted on the LWVIL sponsored website: www.illinoisstudentvote.org. Anyone can go to this site to see results by candidate or school. When you have a chance, check out the races!

Voter Registration

Myrrha Guzman

350: That is the number of voters we registered during our most recent registration drive! Many voters were first-time registrants – from the enthusiastic high school students we met at York and Westmont High Schools and the college students at Elmhurst College, to the woman *born in 1913*, who, previously, “let” her husband do the voting for them. But there were many days when our volunteers just did not have time to chitchat with the registrants, as they briskly filled out application forms one after the other. Not only did we register voters, we were able to provide useful information to scores of other people, such as how and where to vote early, how to request a ballot to vote absentee, and how to check their voter registration status. As usual, the last day to register to vote, October 7, resulted in the most registrations – 130 -- with a

steady flow of “business” at Elmhurst Public Library, and a good number of citizens showing up at Oak Brook Public Library. CompTIA, a business located in Oak Brook Terrace, also asked us to register its employees and others in its office building, and we registered voters at Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Thank you to the following member deputy registrars who volunteered their time to provide this community service: **Gail Anderson, Negar Barmaki, Donna Blue, Marta Davy, Jan Dorner, Darlene Heslop, Lisa Landreth, Elaine Libovicz, Joanne McCurdy, Frances Peshkin, Dannee Polomsky, Cindy Reedy, Ileen Rubinstein, Kay Sprehe, Marilyn Thompson, Jan Vanek, Sue Williams, Evelyn Zerfoss, and Connie Zillig.** In total, during the past year, our registrars registered 800 voters.

Voter Service

Cheri Niewiara and Gail Anderson

www.lwvelmhurst.org

DuPage County Board District 1

This District, which serves all or parts of Addison, Bloomingdale, Wood Dale, Itasca, Bensenville, Roselle, Elmhurst and Elk Grove Village has four candidates running for two seats. All four were invited to answer five questions for the on-line League's voter guide. Their responses will be posted simultaneously October 26, 2008.

County Board Districts 2 and 3 and Forest Preserve District 3

The forum we helped the Downers Grove League and Chamber of Commerce conduct on October 15th in Downers Grove will be aired on cable Regional Access Channel 19 on
Monday, October 27th at 5:00 pm
Thursday, October 30th at 1:00 pm
Saturday, November 1st at 1:00 pm.

Living Green

Clean Air Summit – A Project of the York High School Ecology Club

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 7:30 pm
York Auditorium, 333 West St. Charles Road

Area sponsors of the Illinois Clean Car Act (HB3424) – to decrease carbon emissions from automobiles – have been invited for discussion and show of public support for this important piece of legislation. We expect a House vote during the November veto session so a large turnout is vital. **Laura Kratz**, representing our Cool Cities Coalition, along with **Jim Babcock** of the Sierra Club, **Celia Christensen** of the Illinois Law and Policy Center, and **Kay**

McKeen of SCARCE are scheduled to give presentations.

Local legislators who support and are co-sponsors of the Act have been invited including House Reps Bob Biggins (41st), Sandy Pihos (42nd), and Mike Fortner (95th), and Illinois State Senator Dan Cronin (21st). We also hope area legislators who are not yet on board will attend and consider the reasons for supporting the bill.

LWV Elmhurst Calendar

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 7:30 pm **Clean Air Summit**
York High School Auditorium, 333 West St. Charles Road

Thursday November 6th at 9:15 am **Great Decisions**
At the Home of Barbara Swords

Important Note: The LWVIL Lobby Day scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th has been cancelled, as the Legislature will not be in session that day. We are tentatively planning on a Lobby Day the following week, November 20th and information will be sent to members as soon as it becomes available

Thursday, November 20, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Get to Know The League of Women Voters Wine Tasting
Tannins, 112 N. York Road in Elmhurst
Please invite potential new members to enjoy this free social event!

Save the Date:
Friday, December 12th

LWV Elmhurst Annual Holiday Party



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