



Shop Talk

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

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Visit us at lwvelmhurst.org

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Staying Afloat – Elmhurst’s Flooding Issue

Our next League meeting is **Thursday, October 17**, 7pm, at the Elmhurst Public Library. We will learn about various engineering options for combating the flooding problems that Elmhurst citizens have been facing for some years.

Our speaker will be **Jim Grabowski, Elmhurst’s City Manager**. He will address the different options that have been suggested by the City’s professional consultants, Christopher Burke Engineering, and by the City’s Stormwater Comprehensive Plan.



These options include overhead sewers, check valve backflow prevention, private property rainwater containment, as well as possible floodwater storage in the green spaces of Elmhurst’s parks and schools. Although the Elmhurst League does not have a position on these possible solutions, we have, in the past, supported rain gardens and other *green* alternatives for greater flood protection.

As always, we will gather 30 minutes before the presentation to socialize with other attendees, so come at 6:30 pm. This program is open to the public.

President’s Post: Sue Whitworth



Candace King from the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform was the guest speaker at our meeting on September 19th. The Federation’s mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people in DuPage County by leveraging relationships and knowledge to build an effective and efficient health and human services system.

Candace spoke very candidly on the growing need for services for **the rising numbers of those living at or below poverty level in DuPage County**. Especially hard hit are single mothers, and more programs are greatly needed. The Federation is able to provide a wide range of interpreters. They are also holding training session about the Affordable Care Act. For more information

check out their website, dupagefederation.org.

I hope to see League members and guests at our October 17th program when Jim Grabowski, Elmhurst's City Manager, will speak on the options for flood relief in Elmhurst.

State of the State Event, a Big Success: Jan Dorner

This year's LWVIL *State of the State* celebrated the 100th Anniversary of women receiving the right to vote in Presidential and Municipal elections in Illinois. Special note: **Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi to allow women to vote in these elections.**

Ed and I attended this special event along with over 300 League members and friends. We were lucky enough to be seated with **Christine Radogno** and **Lisa Madigan**, who were great conversationalists and just plain "folk." Most of the conversation was centered around family, with the Attorney General talking about her two daughters, and Senator Radogno talking about her grandchild and the expected arrival of twin grandchildren. At one point the AG was asked about the time before she decided against running for governor -- whom she would have wanted to run against. She replied that she looked forward to more white Irish men throwing their hats in the ring. Everyone at our table laughed.



The program featured an illustrious panel of women in Illinois politics: **Lisa Madigan, Sheila Simon, Christine Radogno, and Patti Bellock**. Partisan issues were off the table, but the panelists were forthcoming with their views on a variety of topics. They also showed their more lighthearted side under the expert moderating of *Chicago Tribune* columnist **Mary Schmich**. Many of those who attended complained afterwards about the lack of this kind of collegiality among our current state leaders. It was a wonderful afternoon spent at the beautiful Union League Club of Chicago!

*Editor's Note: **Kudos to Jan Dorner**, who was an important member of the Planning Committee! Look below for photos of some of the Elmhurst League members who attended the SoS.*

GRIT = Graduated Rate Income Tax

The League is seeking your support for the Graduated and Fair Income Tax Amendment (GRIT) in Illinois. Take action by visiting your legislators, phoning them, sending them emails, or writing them letters to support SJRCA 40 (Senate) and HJRCA 33 (House). [Contact info](#) for legislators. These bills would amend the Illinois Constitution to allow **a fair tax** with *higher rates on higher incomes and lower*

rates on lower incomes.

Comprehensive tax reform is needed to solve Illinois' fiscal problems. Spending alone did not cause the deficit problem. Cuts alone will not fix the problem. A graduated rate income tax will help by collecting higher amounts from sectors of the economy which are growing. [More info](#) about GRIT.

LWVIL's fiscal policy position supports a fair, sustainable, stable, and efficient revenue system. LWVIL and its local Leagues have been working for years as advocates for a fair and graduated rate income tax. Without long term, substantive tax reform that addresses the state's structural deficit, Illinois will continue to slide further into debt, while also cutting vital services and program

Are You Good at Handling Money? Consider Treasurer Training



The Illinois League is offering a half-day training session for current and future treasurers, covering the responsibilities and resources of a League treasurer and the use of Education Funds. The training will be held on a Saturday morning (either Oct. 12 or 26) from 9:30 am to Noon at the State League office in Chicago. For those unable to make the trip downtown, a conference call arrangement is also being offered.

If interested, contact Connie Zillig, our Elmhurst League treasurer, at treasurer@lwvelmhurst.org. Connie will be moving out of state in a few months and is interested in helping possible successors learn what the job involves so the transition will be an easy one.

Important Notes!

- **Observer Reports:** City Council and District 205 meeting reports are now posted online *within 1 day of the meeting*. Look for an email announcement with a link to the new report. If you missed the most recent email, go here -- lwvelmhurst.org/Observerreports.asp – to find the September 24 School Board report.
- **Cool Cities:** The next Cool Cities' meeting is **Tuesday, October 1**, 7 pm, at the Elmhurst Public Library. Check out this meeting and **consider becoming the Elmhurst League's Cool Cities representative.**
- **League Directories:** If you have not received your Directory, please contact Sue Williams at membership@lwvelmhurst.org.
- **Voter Registration of 17-year-olds:** Effective January 1, 2014, seventeen-year-olds in Illinois will be able to vote in primary elections if their 18th birthday falls on or before the date of the next general election.

Visit our website www.lwvelmhurst.org for the latest information on our issues and events.

More Photos from *State of the State*



Noel Talluto and Susan Rose.



Jeanne Davik and Sue Whitworth.



Sue Williams and Carolyn Landwehr.



Marilyn Thompson and Connie Zillig.



Connie Zillig and Dorothy McGuire.



Sue Whitworth and Noel Talluto