



# Shop Talk

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

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Visit us at [lwvelmhurst.org](http://lwvelmhurst.org)

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## **League Candidate Forum to Cover County Board Districts 1 and 2 Wednesday, October 17, 7 pm – Community Bank of Elmhurst, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Candidates will be asked League-prepared questions on a variety of county issues, including storm water management, consolidation of services, and the status of the DuPage Airport Authority. Audience members will have the opportunity to submit written questions, which the moderator will direct to the candidates as time permits.



Information on two ballot referenda that concern the holding of dual elected offices will also be presented at the forum. All DuPage County ballots will include the County's version of the question, and Elmhurst voters will have a second ballot question on the same topic. Yet another referendum question – this one on public pensions – will appear on all Illinois ballots. (See Constitutional Amendment 49 below.) Join us to get some clarity on all of these topics.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Candidate Forum. If interested, contact Voter Service chair Sue Whitworth: [voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org).

## **Illinois Pension Reform – Our “Hot Topic” on Thursday, Oct. 18**

Yes, that's two League events on successive evenings, so mark your calendars now. Our speaker will be **Ralph Martire** (right), **Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability**, who knows this subject very well and is a dynamic speaker. This event will be held at the Wilder Mansion (the former Elmhurst Public Library) at 211 S. Prospect, beginning at 7 pm.



### **Come Early to Eat and Talk!**

Come at 6:30 pm for a half hour of socializing and networking before the meeting. Our social half-hour before last month's meeting was well-received, so we're planning to repeat it. If you can contribute to our table of light refreshments, please tell Dorothy McGuire: [secretary@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:secretary@lwvelmhurst.org).

## Elmhurst League to Support Mock Elections at Four Schools

Students and teachers in 18 high schools in DuPage County will participate in mock elections during the first week of October. The Elmhurst League is supporting Glenbard East on Oct. 2, York on Oct. 3, and Addison Trail and Hinsdale Central on October 4.



Leagues throughout Illinois have a long and successful history of working with local election authorities and high school teachers and students in helping plan and sponsor mock elections. Students will experience the entire voting process – from registering to vote, to casting ballots. The DuPage Election Commission is providing actual voting machines, ballots, and vote tabulators for the students to use.

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## Voter Registration Closes Oct. 9, but there's still ... "Grace Period" Registration & Voting, plus Early Voting

League members will register voters at the Elmhurst Public Library on Sunday, October 7, from 1 – 4 pm, and on Tuesday, October 9, from 5 – 8 pm. For those who miss the Oct. 9 cut-off, there is a "grace period" from **Oct. 10 through Nov. 3**, during which citizens can register and vote at the same time. However, they will need to travel to the Election Commission office at the DuPage County complex in Wheaton to do so.



Early Voting runs from **Oct. 22 through Nov. 3**. The closest Early Voting site for Elmhurst residents is City Hall. The hours are Mon. through Fri., 9 am – 4:30 pm.

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## LWVIL Opposes Constitutional Amendment 49 on Public Pensions

Constitutional Amendment 49, which will appear on the November 6 ballot, provides that no benefit increase under any public pension or retirement system in the State (state, local, municipal, etc.) may become law without a three-fifths majority vote. The current required vote is a simple majority. This amendment would apply to all levels of state and local governments. Voters will be asked to vote **yes** in support or **no** to oppose.

### What is the League's Position?

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is **opposed to this referendum**. Some people mistakenly assume that the higher the vote required to take an action, the greater the protection of the members. Instead the opposite is true. Whenever a vote of more than a majority is required to take action, **control is taken from the majority and given to a minority**. Read the full rationale for the LWVIL Board's opposition to the referendum [HERE](#) or here: [lwvil.org/LWVIL\\_Opposes\\_HJRCA49.pdf](http://lwvil.org/LWVIL_Opposes_HJRCA49.pdf)



## President's Message from Susan Rose - October, 2012

"Why doesn't the League take a position on this issue?" was recently asked of me. The League will not take a position until and unless we have studied the issue and reached consensus of the membership. We believe this gives us credibility and a unique voice in political discourse. If we do take a position, we publicize it to our members and the general public, and educate them to take action as well.

While the League of Women Voters is certainly political – we are deeply concerned about many local, state and national political issues – we are fiercely nonpartisan. So what does that mean? The policy of the League is not to oppose or support any political party or candidate for political office, but we do want to educate voters about candidates. Educated voters are our best tool in keeping our democracy vibrant.

In this spirit, I want to invite everyone to the **Candidate Forum on October 17, 7 – 9 pm** at Community Bank to hear the candidates from District #1 and #2. All candidates have been invited and those who have accepted our invitation will respond to questions from the League and from the audience. This is a great opportunity for voters to educate themselves about the views. Thanks to **Sue Whitworth** and all the volunteers for their work on the Forum.

I also want to give a big thanks to **Maria Hirsch**, Voter Registration Chair, and all the volunteers who have worked and will continue to work to register as many new voters as possible before the **October 9, 2012 registration deadline**. If you know of friends and neighbors who are not registered please see the schedule of registration events and invite them to one of these so their voices can be heard in the general election.

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### Final Notes, Short and Sweet:

- **Visit our website, [lwvelmhurst.org](http://lwvelmhurst.org)**, regularly for all the latest info on our issues and events.
- Our November meeting will feature **Dan Cronin, County Board Chairman**, discussing improvements in County government. Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 29, 7 pm, at the Elmhurst Public Library.
- **Voter Registrar Recertification** will take place at our League meeting on January 10, 2013. Certification for current registrars officially ends on November 30, 2012, but December is a grace period, and registrars can continue to register voters until the beginning of 2013.