



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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Dan Cronin to Discuss "Reforming County Government"



**Thursday, November 29
7 pm
Elmhurst Public Library**

Dan Cronin, County Board Chairman and Elmhurst resident, will discuss his efforts to streamline and reform county government at our next League meeting. Come at 6:30 pm to enjoy refreshments and socialize with League friends. This meeting is open to the public, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

League Helps Voters Become Better Informed

As League members know, ballot choices go well beyond selecting the next President of the USA. Referenda questions (two for Elmhurst residents; one for everyone else in DuPage) concern the question of whether an individual should be permitted to hold two or more public elected offices simultaneously. Read the exact wording of these questions plus an explanation online at <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/2012%20Dual%20Office%20referenda%20handout.pdf>

As discussed in the October *Shop Talk* the ballot will also ask voters to respond Yes or No to the proposed Amendment 49 to the IL State Constitution. The Illinois League is opposed to this Amendment and recommends a NO vote. Read the rationale behind their decision at <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/Handout%20Constitutional%20Amendment%2049.pdf>



All candidates for DuPage County Board in District 1 and 2 were invited to our Candidate Forum on October 17. Of the six candidates in District 1, only two, Paul Fichtner and Sam Tornatore, chose to participate. All candidates in District 2 - Elizabeth "Liz" Chaplin, the only Democrat running, plus the three Republican candidates, Sean Noonan, Elaine Zannis and Peter DiCianni - did participate.

Although the forum was not videotaped for public access television, we were able to film the event and stream it on our website at <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/2012%20October%20Candidate%20Forum.asp>. Our website also provides a Voters Guide to District 1 and 2 candidates at <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/2012GeneralVotersGuide.asp> enabling you to read how they responded to League-prepared questions.

Election Activities for High School and Middle School Students

With support from the State League and the DuPage Election Commission, the Elmhurst League sponsored four high school mock elections this year: Addison Trail, Glenbard East, Hinsdale Central and York High schools. Through these efforts we exposed almost 10,000 students to the voting experience.

We worked with social studies department chairs at each school to coordinate the day of mock elections and the voting process. More importantly, we assisted with and encouraged student preparation through classroom discussion and exercises in advance of Election Day.



Age appropriate instructional materials were provided. Classroom discussions focused on voter rights, voter registration, how to judge a candidate, where you are on the political spectrum and more. At three of the four schools, we also provided voter registration for seniors who would be eligible to vote in this election.

Jan Dorner, LWVIL president and Elmhurst LWV Board member, spoke to Elmhurst middle school students at a debate-watching event, hosted by Sandburg Middle School, on the night of the first presidential debate. Jan discussed what it means to be a citizen and explained the importance of our participation in the democratic process.

Help Wanted: League Members to Report on Local Government Meetings



How would you like to join our Observer Corps? We currently are in need of Observers for Park District and Library Board, and we may need one for City Council. There's a lot going on on Elmhurst. For instance, the City has approved a fourth TIF and has two others in the pipeline.

So, how about giving it a try? Our members and contributors would be very grateful! Contact Jan Dorner 630-832-8089 or jdorner1@comcast.net.

President's Message from Susan Rose - November, 2012

The National League of Women Voters has been tireless in its efforts to register and include as many voters as possible in this election. For example, early in the year, ID requirements in Wisconsin were in place, and Wisconsin League observers saw first-hand the confusion they produced. Thanks to a successful LWV legal challenge, this requirement is on hold for the upcoming election, and voters are not required to show ID.

In these last days before Election Day please take advantage of all the opportunities available to educate yourself about the candidates for office. You can use the LWV-US sponsored VOTE411.org to find out who is on your ballot and review where candidates stand on the issues that matter most to you. You can find a Voters Guide to DuPage County Board candidates and a video version of our Candidate Forum on our website www.lwvelmhurst.org.



There will be two issues of great interest on the ballot this November as well:

1) Voters in Elmhurst will have two different referenda on the ballot about Dual Duty – one put forward by DuPage County and one by the Elmhurst City Council. If you believe individuals should not be allowed to hold two or more public elected offices in Elmhurst you would vote “No” on the County referendum and “Yes” on the City referendum. If you believe individuals should be allowed to hold two or more public elected offices in Elmhurst you would vote “Yes” on the County referendum and “No” on the City referendum. The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst did not conduct a formal study on the referenda; however, at a public program of our League, representatives from the League of Women Voters of the Park Forest Area presented the results of their study, using the traditional methodology of study and member consensus to reach the following position: “The League of Women Voters of the Park Forest Area (LWVPFA) supports the concept that an individual should not simultaneously HOLD local public offices which have been determined to be incompatible....” If you want further information on their study and position, please visit their website at www.lwvpfa.org/CurrentStudy.html

2) Voters will also be asked to vote “yes” or “no” on a Constitutional Amendment. The Amendment would amend the Illinois Constitution to require a 3/5s majority vote of any governing body (the Illinois General Assembly, School Districts, City Governments, etc.) to increase a benefit under any public pension or retirement system. The League of Women Voters of Illinois is opposed to proposed Constitutional Amendment 49. Its opposition rests solely on the 3/5s majority requirement as well as its belief that an amendment to the Constitution is not the appropriate vehicle for addressing the pension issue. The League develops its positions based on study and consensus and we recommend that you vote “No” on this amendment.

We urge you to first educate yourself on the issues and candidates and then VOTE.

In Memory of Mae Pearson, Long-Time Elmhurst League Leader



Mae Pearson was president of the League of Women Voters for a total of five years in the 1970s 1980s and 1990s. When she wasn't president, she served on the League Board in other offices, often as Treasurer, and on all kinds of committees between 1967 and 2004.

Mae was born in Spencer, Iowa, on April 13, 1929. She met her husband Clarence while both were attending Drake University in Des Moines. After they married in 1950, they moved to the Chicago area and soon settled in Elmhurst. They had three children - Janet, Amy, and John - in the 1950s. By the early '60s Mae was well launched into a career of community service.

Besides her work with the League, she was president of the Elmhurst Historical Museum Commission and the EHM Foundation; she was a founding organizer of the Elmhurst Recycling Center; she held responsible positions in Lincoln School PTA, Elmhurst Bicentennial Commission, Elmhurst Plan Commission, United Way of Elmhurst, DuPage County Housing Authority, and Bethel Church.

Mae will be remembered by family and friends for her strength, determination, love, and amazing ability to juggle a million things and do them all wonderfully! We will miss her.