



Shop Talk

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

January Program

Wednesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm in the Elmhurst Public Library

How does the Illinois fiscal crisis affect you and your neighbors?

A Panel Discussion With:

Marilyn Boria, Director, Elmhurst Public Library

Steve Neubauer, Elmhurst Chief of Police

Kim Zoeller, Executive Director, Ray Graham Association

Molly Shellhorn, Senior Analyst, Nuveen Investments (invited)

We have all heard about Illinois' financial woes but very little about how they directly impact our own communities. For the past two months, the Elmhurst League, along with others across the state, have surveyed a variety of local governmental entities, not for profit agencies, and private sector providers to find out where state shortfalls are and how these groups are coping with late and/or reduced funding. Our panel consists of several survey respondents as well as an expert on the Illinois fiscal situation.

Help us get the word out to the community about this informative evening by inviting your friends and neighbors.

Once again we extend our heartfelt thanks to **Sally Hoffman** for opening her home for our annual Holiday Party. Everyone enjoyed the evening with fellow League members and guests in gracious surroundings.

We welcome **Dorothy McGuire** in her new role as Voter Registration Chairperson. Dorothy has arranged for Registrar Certification at our January meeting and looks forward to scheduling voter registration activities before the spring elections.

LWV Elmhurst Board Members:

Officers

Laura Kratz, President
2009-2011

Donna Blue, First Vice
President 2009-2011

Sue Williams, 2nd Vice
President – Program
2010-2012

Connie Zillig, Treasurer
2010-2012

Dorothy McGuire,
Secretary 2009-2011

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Colette Kubesia,
Membership Outreach
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Tonja Pastorelle,
Membership Admin.
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Jan Dorner, Observer
Reports 2009-2011

Gail Anderson,
Publicity 2009-2011

Danee Polomsky, Shop
Talk Editor 2010-2012

Sue Whitworth, Voter
Service 2010-2012

Dorothy McGuire,
Voter Registration
2010-2011

Myrrha Guzman,
Webmaster 2009-2011

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF ELMHURST,
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Calendar

January 8, 2011: Candidate Forum Planning meeting. All members welcome. 9:00 am at the home of Sue Whitworth.

January 19: Cool Cities Coalition meeting at 7:00 pm at Elmhurst Public Library

January 26: LWV monthly meeting: How Illinois' Fiscal Crisis Impacts our Communities at 7:00 pm at Elmhurst Public Library.

February 5: Illinois LWV Issues Briefing, Chicago, IL

February 8: Great Decisions at 1:00 pm at the home of Barbara Swords; new books will be distributed and we'll organize for the year.

February 13: Candidate Forums at Elmhurst City Hall

Voter Registrars Needed

All current registrars need to be re-certified this month. Anyone who would like to become a registrar will be able to do so at this time. We'll meet with the DuPage Election Commission official on January 26th, at the Elmhurst Public Library. We are planning on 6:30 pm, before our regular League meeting.

Please contact me in advance if you plan to attend so the DuPage County Election Commission will be able to prepare the certification materials.

-Dorothy McGuire secretary@lwvelmhurst.org



Mark Your Calendars!

Consolidated Municipal Election Candidate Forum

**Elmhurst City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd floor
Sunday, February 13, 2011, 1:00 to 5:00 pm**

This forum will include candidates running for Elmhurst City Alderman, Elmhurst Park District Board, and Elmhurst Unit School District 205. Election day for these races is Tuesday April 5, 2011.

Candidate Forum Planning

So what is on your mind league members? Questions are needed!

What questions would you ask these candidates? You may send them to me at any time. All members are welcome to join the board at my home on Saturday, January 8th, 9:00 am, for a meeting to finalize the questions.

Volunteers are also need the day of the forum even if it only for a portion of the afternoon. Please contact me if you are able to help. We need timers, greeters, people to work at a membership table, ushers, and question sorters, just to name a few. There are also some jobs that can be completed beforehand such as making name tags or shopping for supplies.

Thanks! -Sue Whitworth voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing

Saturday, February 5, 2011 in Chicago

A group from the Elmhurst League is planning to attend this year's Issues Briefing. It's a great way to find out about some of the prominent issues as well as to meet Leaguers from across the state and enjoy a day of intelligent conversation. This year, our own **Colette Kubiesa** will be part of the panel discussing lobbying in Springfield. Complete details and registration material came in the recent *Illinois Voter* but you can also read about it at http://lwvil.org/resources_issuesbriefing.asp and register at <http://lwvil.org/ticketsII.asp>

If you would like to join the Elmhurst carpool, please contact either Donna Blue or Dorothy McGuire.

Legislative Interviews

Each year the local Leagues are encouraged to visit with our local legislators when they are in their district offices. These interviews allow us to get to know our legislators as well as to present the League's positions on key issues. The interviews are conducted in January or February and we coordinate our visits with other Leagues where districts overlap.

The Issues Committee of the Illinois League has provided us with questions on a variety of topics that can be used during the interviews. This year the topics include:

The Illinois Financial Crisis

- Redistricting,
- Abolition of the Death Penalty
- Climate Change
- Immigration

Because there is a veto session in January, we will try to arrange to meet with legislators on a Monday or Friday during the day.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Laura Kratz at president@lwvelmhurst.org



Did you know?

- The first women's rights convention was held in New York State in 1848.
- In 1891, Ellen Martin was the first Illinois woman to vote. This event took place in Lombard, as its charter did not mention gender and preempted Illinois Law.
- In 1913, Illinois granted presidential and municipal suffrage, but not state suffrage, to women.

-*Timeline of Women's Suffrage in the United States at www.dpsinfo.com/women/history/timeline.html and Wikipedia*

**League Action**

November 30, 2010

Dear League Leaders,

As you may have read or heard the League of Women Voters of Illinois came under attack. The LWV of Lake County held a forum for the 8th Congressional District, which was co-sponsored by Grayslake Central High School. During this forum there was a disruption from audience members demanding that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited. After most in the audience stood and said the Pledge, the Moderator tried to re-gain control. Many unfavorable blog articles were written about the Moderator, and the League and League was featured on *Inside Edition* and the *Glen Beck Show*.

Some of the postings threatened the moderator of the forum and our executive director. Police reports were filed and an account was sent to the FBI. We stand by the Moderator and hope that all you can empathize with her role in this. This is unacceptable behavior and should not be tolerated by anyone. Unfortunately this was not the only case of incivility. Leagues across the country have faced similar disruptions to their forums. Under the advisement of the LWVUS, the LWVIL chose not to respond to the blogs and articles. We will, however, work with the LWVUS to craft a message as we look forward to the 2012 elections. As Nancy Tate, Executive Director of the LWVUS said, "these attacks represent a concerted attack of our credibility as a trusted, nonpartisan organization-and one which is likely to get stronger in 2012. We intend to push strongly on this."

Looking forward to the 2011 Consolidated Elections in your towns, the LWVIL is working to create guidelines that will help you as you plan for upcoming forums. We cannot prevent occurrences like this from happening but with better preparations perhaps we can respond more effectively. (*con't*)

Our work in Voter Service projects is vital to not only the League but to our communities. We need to continue our Voter Service work as we have done for the last 90 years. If you have and questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus, President- President@lwwil.org

Jan Dorner, Vice-president Voter Service- Voterservice@lwwil.org

In this issue:

- ◆ Seeking assistance in forum planning
- ◆ LWVIL response to attacks on League
- ◆ Illinois Fiscal Crisis Project on January 26
- ◆ Become a registrar or renew your certification

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