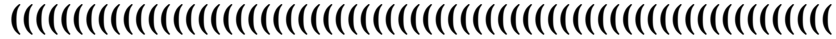


# SHOP TALK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of ELMHURST, ILLINOIS



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LWV of Elmhurst web site - [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)



## March Calendar

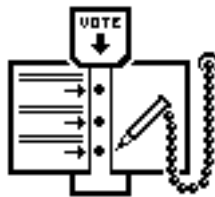
Thursday, March 2, 9:15 a.m.                      **Great Decisions**  
 At the home of Kay Gavin

Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m.                              **Board Meeting**  
 At the home of Laura Kratz

**March General Meeting**  
 Thursday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.  
 At the Elmhurst Public Library  
 125 Prospect

*How Science and Religion Can Live in Peace*  
 Discussion Leader - Dr. Murray Peshkin, Senior Physicist at  
 Argonne National Laboratory

**Tuesday, March 21, Vote!**



## *President's Corner*

What a whirlwind of activity we have enjoyed this winter....Thanks to hosts **Kay Gavin, Jan Vanek** and **Cheri Niewiara**, the consensus meetings on our school referenda study went off without a hitch. Members certainly engaged in lively issues discussions. Even though the concerns of each group were different, the final result was the same at all three sessions: We support passage of both referenda for the schools that are on the March 21 ballot. The official statement is in this newsletter.

**Patty Spencer, Carolyn Landwehr, Marilyn Thompson, Jeanne Davik, Jan Dornier, Jeannine Schonta, Alice Byrne** and I all made it to the LWV Illinois Issues Briefing on February 4th. We heard a panel on Immigration Issues and updates on Illinois League activities. Jeannine and I completed candidate forum moderator training while others learned about the changes in the Illinois voting laws and new touch screen voting machines. Meanwhile, others in our group attended a discussion of the need for an Illinois Constitutional Convention.

On February 13th **Penny O'Neill, Gail Anderson, Marilyn Thompson, Ruth Fox, Jan Dornier** and I attended the Illinois LWV State of the State luncheon. The keynote speaker, Diane Swonk, describes herself as "a bullish economist" and her thoughts on the direction our country is heading economically were mixed with interesting anecdotes and humor.

We have ongoing work in the voter services area where **Jeannine Schonta** is compiling information for our online voters guide and **Penny O'Neill** continues coordinating our Voter Registration efforts.

**Ruth Fox** has lined up a very interesting program for our March meeting. **Murray Peshkin**, whose wife **Frances** is a member of our League, will take us through a discussion on the science/religion debate that has been in the headlines recently – including his article in the February 12th *Chicago Tribune Magazine* that you should read beforehand.

Sadly, we note the recent death of one of our Lombard members, **Joann Horowitz**. Another longtime member, **Catherine Myers**, has informed us that she has moved out of our League's area.

Our League continues to grow! This month we are pleased to welcome new members **Mark** and **Sarah Tebbe** and **Myrrah Guzman**. And, once again, **Corinne Johnson** has a new member profile for us.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who participated so eloquently in our consensus meetings. Your comments have provided valuable talking points that will complement the campaign already undertaken by the citizens' committee for the referenda.

*Laura*

## Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on Thursday, March 2, 9:15 a.m., at Kay Gavin's home, 189 Linden. We will be discussing the first topic in the new book, **The United Nations: post-summit outlook**. Since we spent the February meeting taking consensus on the District 205 referenda, we will discuss the United Nations in March. If you read the material before the February meeting, please review it before this month's discussion. As always, we welcome visitors.



### March General Meeting Ruth Fox

Elmhurst resident Murray Peshkin will be the discussion leader at our March 16 meeting. Murray is a senior physicist at Argonne National Laboratory. His wife, Frances, is an Elmhurst League member. On March 16 in the Elmhurst Public Library at 7:30 p.m. in the large meeting room, Murray will lead a discussion entitled "How Science and Religion Can Live in Peace." You won't want to miss this meeting. We look forward to a lively discussion. A preview of Murray's message appeared in the Sunday magazine section of the February 12 *Chicago Tribune*.



### Membership Gail Anderson

Please welcome these new members:

Mark and Sarah Tebbe  
Myrrha B. Guzman

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Catherine Meyer has moved to Chicago.

## POSITION STATEMENT

Adopted February 11, 2006

The Elmhurst League of Women Voters supports the passage of the two referenda being placed on the March 2006 ballot by the Elmhurst Community School District 205 to

1. Issue \$41,000,000 School Building Bonds and
2. Increase the Maximum Annual Educational Tax Rate

In three consensus meetings, League members expressed overwhelming support for the public schools initiatives because:

- Increased enrollment over the past several years and projected enrollments for the next few years require building additional classrooms and hiring additional staff.
- The school tax rate has not increased since the late 1970s and the District has very limited authority to use money from other sources. The State of Illinois provides very little support to the District 205 students and expects school districts to ask their local property taxpayers for increases when needed.

While a series of cost-cutting measures over the past several years has helped the District avoid a serious crisis, the cuts have failed to resolve the financial difficulties facing the district. The League members agreed that the referenda passage would provide adequate, not extravagant, financial relief that reflects the values of the community.

### Action Item

Approval of the position by the LWV Elmhurst Board elevates the issue's status to an action item. To this end, the LWV Elmhurst will:

1. Notify all members of the decision and encourage them to assist in the efforts for passage. **Status: Email and regular mail messages sent between February 11 and 13, 2006**
2. Post the position on our website and publish it in the next edition of our newsletter. **Status: Work in progress**
3. The President will attend the next School Board meeting to announce the endorsement. **Status: Completed Monday, February 13, 2006**
4. Issue a press release to the three local papers announcing our endorsement of the referenda initiatives. **Status: Done February 12, 2006**
5. The President will write a series of "letters to the editor" in support of passage highlighting key subjects covered in the local study. **Status: Work in progress.**

6. The President will contact the citizen's committee to offer endorsement, determine volunteer needs and other League support, and articulate the League's concern that all segments of the voting population be well informed on the referenda issues. **Status: Done February 14, 2006**

7. Organize LWV volunteers to distribute information to the community and serve as poll watchers on election day. **Status: Work in progress – See What's Your Bag?**

8. The February 23, 2006 general meeting will focus on specific referendum-related issues covered in the study report such as TIF and class sizes. **Status: Meeting Pending**

9. The League will seek out and take advantage of additional opportunities to work for passage of both referenda. **Status: ongoing activity; suggestions welcome.**

### *What's Your Bag – How to Volunteer for the Referenda Campaign*

**Campaign Door-to-Door:** Distribute literature in your area and talk to your neighbors. Volunteers are being organized by elementary school neighborhoods. Training and materials will be provided. Contact your local school captain directly to volunteer:

**Conrad Fischer:** Sharon Iovinelli

**Edison:** Mike Bandy or Kevin O'Keefe

**Emerson:** Paul Heinz

**Field:** John McDonough

**Hawthorne:** Jeff Budgell or Russ Mills

**Lincoln:** Chris Healy or Maureen Polte

**Jackson:** Jennifer & Kelly Conwell

**Jefferson:** Terry Horn

**Host a Coffee:** Gather a group - friends, neighbors, acquaintances - who have questions and concerns about the referenda for an informal meeting in your home. The Vote Yes Twice Committee will send a speaker well versed on the issues. **Contact: Jan Dornier.**

**Poll Watch:** Monitor voting on March 21st, Election Day. On behalf of the Referenda committee we will track voters who have indicated they favor the referenda so the committee can make sure their supporters get to the polls. We will also have instructions for the LWVIL poll-watching project that we can conduct simultaneously. **Contact: Jeannine Schonta.**

## School District 205 Referenda Information Sources

### Information on the two referenda can be found at:

Cable TV Channel 6 will run referenda-related programming in March that will include rebroadcasting our October Forum on School Finance. Check listings for times and days; the schedule for March was not complete when this *Shop Talk* issue was written.

The Elmhurst Public Library has copies of District 205 financial reports and plans, video and DVD recordings of the LWV Forum on School District Finance, and back issues of local papers.

The campaign to pass the two referenda is being conducted by a citizen's committee, **District 205 Referenda Vote YES Twice**. There is quite a bit of good information on their website [www.voteystwice.org](http://www.voteystwice.org)



### Voter Registration Penny O'Neill

This has been a very active voter registration drive. As of this writing, the League has registered more than 200 new voters. More than 100 of them are students at York and 47 are students at Glenbard East. Five new voters were registered at Elmhurst College. What better way to lead students, as well as other citizens, to active government participation? Deputy registrars have been registering voters at local libraries as well as at many PTA events since late January.

Much appreciation is extended to the following individuals, many of whom have provided service at several locations or who have put in extra time at York and Glenbard East: **Gail Anderson, Pam Conrad, Susan DeRonne, Jan Dorner, Corinne Flemm, Ruth Fox, Kay Gavin, Corinne Johnson, Laura Kratz, Collette Kubiesa, Nancy Kurotsuchi, Carolyn Landwehr, Gerri Long, Joanne McCurdy, Cindy Reedy, Ileen Rubinstein, Milly Smith, Jeannine Schonta, Kay Sprehe, Marilyn Thompson, Mary Eleanor Wall, and Evelyn Zerfoss.**



## LWV Legislative Interviews

Once again LWV Elmhurst will participate in the annual Legislative Interview program organized by the State League. The interviews are informal discussions (in-district lobbying) with our state senator(s) and/or representative(s). Our League is in the process of setting up appointments with District 23 State Senator Carol Pankau and District 21 State Senator Dan Cronin.

The State League would like us to discuss fiscal policy and school funding as well as poll watching during the meetings. Talking points and background information are provided. This is an especially good way for new or less active members to participate in the League. Contact Laura Kratz at 941-1428 if you would like to take part in an interview.



## LWV Elmhurst Online Voters Guide

Our voter service for this primary will be our Online Voters Guide to Candidates on our website. There will not be a candidate forum.

There are 13 candidates running in this primary for positions on the County Board (Districts 1 & 2) and Forest Preserve District (Districts 1 & 2)

There are three races with opposition:

- Republican Primary, County Board District 1, 4 yr position (3 candidates)
- Republican Primary, County Board District 2, 4 yr position (2 candidates)
- Republican Primary, Forest Preserve District 2 (3 candidates)

Each candidate has been asked to respond to five questions prepared by Jeannine with input from other members. The voters guide will appear on our website, [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org) in early March.

