



# Shop Talk

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



## **New League Project**

How does the Illinois fiscal crisis affect you and your neighbor?  
November 11th, 7:00 pm Elmhurst Public Library

Our November meeting will be a workshop to kick off a new a new project our League is undertaking: a look at the impact of Illinois' fiscal crisis on our own communities. The broad picture of how the state's economy is affecting Illinois citizens is daunting, at best, to understand. Most people have neither the time nor the interest to follow more than the broadest brush strokes painted by the media. However, when faced with what is going on in our own communities, it tends to hit home.

The project involves identifying and contacting important community service agencies, both governmental and nongovernmental, and asking them six survey questions provided by the LWVIL. The surveys may be done in person, over the phone, or by email.

Once the surveys are completed, we will present and discuss the findings at our January 26th Roundtable meeting.

We would like as many League members as possible to do one survey each. If you are unable to attend on November 11th but would like to do a survey, please contact any of our board members or email us at [info@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:info@lwvelmhurst.org)

You do not need to live in Elmhurst to participate in this project as we will be looking at our entire membership area. As always, the general public is welcome. We expect the workshop to last about one hour.

*-Laura Kratz*



## **LWV Elmhurst Board Members:**

### **Officers**

Laura Kratz, President  
2009-2011  
Donna Blue, First Vice  
President 2009-2011  
Sue Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President – Program  
2010-2012  
Connie Zillig, Treasurer  
2010-2012  
Dorothy McGuire,  
Secretary 2009-2011

### **Directors**

Colette Kubesia,  
Membership Outreach  
2010-2012  
Tonja Pastorelle,  
Membership Admin.  
2010-2012  
Jan Dorner, Observer  
Reports 2009-2011  
Gail Anderson,  
Publicity 2009-2011  
Danee Polomsky, Shop  
Talk Editor 2010-2012  
Sue Whitworth, Voter  
Service 2010-2012  
Gina Brigham, Voter  
Registration 2009-2011  
Myrrha Guzman,  
Webmaster 2009-2011

## *After the workshop...* **LWV Elmhurst Board Meeting**

The board will hold a brief meeting after the workshop on November 11th at the Elmhurst Public Library. Everyone is welcome.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS OF ELMHURST,  
ILLINOIS  
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[www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)

## Calendar

**November 2:** Election Day

**November 3:** "The Long Road to Victory: The Struggle for Women's Right to Vote" program offered by Elmhurst Public Library. 7:00pm.

**November 9:** Great Decisions at 1:00 pm at the home of Barbara Swords: "Security Through the Peace Process"

**November 11:** LWV monthly meeting/workshop: How does Illinois' Fiscal Crisis Impact our Communities? 7:00 pm at Elmhurst Public Library. LWV Board meeting immediately following.

**December 3:** Holiday party at 7:30 pm, at the home of Sally Hoffman

**December 7:** Great Decisions at 1:00 pm at the home of Barbara Swords: "Transnational Crime"

**January 19, 2011:** Cool Cities Coalition meeting at 7:00 pm at Elmhurst Public Library

**January 26:** LWV monthly meeting/community roundtable: How Illinois' Fiscal Crisis Impacts our Communities. This will be a discussion about the findings from our survey of governmental and private organizations. 7:00 pm at Elmhurst Public Library.

**February 5:** Illinois LWV Issues Briefing, Chicago, IL

**February 13:** Candidate Forums at Elmhurst City Hall



### *Annual Holiday Party*

**Friday, December 3** at 7:30pm  
At the home of Sally Hoffman, 883  
Euclid in Elmhurst

All members are encouraged to bring a spouse or friend.

The League will provide beverages.  
Please bring a sweet or savory to share.

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### **"The Long Road to Victory: The Struggle for Women's Right to Vote." Wednesday, November 3, 7:00 pm Elmhurst Public Library**

This year celebrates the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Through a series of interconnecting "vignettes," actress Annette Baldwin brings five leaders in the 72-year battle for women's right to vote to life. You will meet SUSAN B. ANTHONY, beloved leader in the battle for women's rights, whose suffrage work included a fierce fight for the rights of women workers; CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, founder of the League of Women Voters; LUCRETIA MOTT, Quaker minister, abolitionist, and one of America's most respected social reformers; ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, brilliant leader of the 19th century women's rights movement, who agitated for every radical reform of her day; ALICE PAUL, militant strategist, famous for White House picketing, dramatic parades, and imprisonment for the Cause. Victory is an amazing story of vision, courage, and tenacity.

*- Elmhurst Public Library*

★ *Local League Action* ★

**Elmhurst League Action: School District 205 Public Comment Policy**

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent electronic Time for Action asking School District 205 to retain their current policy on public comment at Board meetings. During the two-year process during which time the BOE has been revising the policy manual, new provisions were proposed that would have limited free speech and given the Board president extensive powers over public comment.

On August 30 LWV Elmhurst President Laura Kratz and Citizen Advocacy Center Executive Director Terry Pastika, along with two other Elmhurst residents, spoke out against the proposed changes. After that meeting, the Policy Committee considered several “compromise” proposals, none of which alleviated the threat to freedom of speech guaranteed to citizens under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

On October 19th the Board Committee of the Whole met to discuss the policy manual and work on final wording of several sections including the public comment section. Laura drafted a statement that was read by 1st Vice President Donna Blue reiterating our belief that the proposed changes are unnecessary and would be detrimental to the community. A representative of the Citizen Advocacy Center also spoke to the issue at the meeting. After discussing the options, the Board members present agreed to keep the current policy as it stands; the option the League and the CAC supported. They added a statement that the typical time allotment for individual comments is three minutes so people will know what to expect. The League will continue to monitor the progress of the policy through the final vote to adopt and implement.

The League’s October 19 statement follows:

Donna Blue  
(address)  
Good evening:

I am the 1st Vice President of the Elmhurst League of Women Voters and I am speaking on behalf of the League while our President, Laura Kratz, is out of town.

As you know, the League spoke out against proposed changes to the Board’s public comment policies on August 30th. The changes are numbered section 2.230.

We continue to believe that the proposed changes are unnecessary. They threaten the community’s First Amendment rights and, therefore, weaken our democracy.

No one disputes the need for the Board of Education to run tight, orderly meetings. However, we strongly believe that the approach the board proposes will not really do this. It will create new issues and open the District to potentially expensive legal challenges.

The Elmhurst League of Women Voters encourages the Board to keep the current policy as it is and to drop all the proposed changes to section 2.230.

Thank you

## **Elmhurst League Action: Redistricting**

As part of the Illinois League's campaign to encourage the new General Assembly to adopt a fair process for redistricting, local League presidents have been asked to write letters to the editors of our local papers. Here's ours:

*Letter to the Editor*  
*October 22, 2010*

Election 2010 is upon us. On November 2nd, Illinois voters will go to the polls to elect a vast array of state officials, a US Senator, Congressional representatives, and judges; all important positions.

Yet it is the men and women we elect to the next Illinois General Assembly this November who will determine whether or not voters will have real choices in subsequent elections until the year 2022. Because 2010 has been a census year, the next General Assembly will have the honor of redrawing Illinois' congressional and legislative district lines based on the census results.

In past practice, most districts were drawn to favor sitting legislators or the parties they represented. 98% of legislators elected since the current map was drawn in 2000 have been reelected. Many of our legislative districts are oddly configured and offer no logical explanation for their shape. The current system created an electoral reality where politicians chose their voters not the other way around.

This past spring, a lively debate took place about ways Illinois might change its redistricting process. We hope that the principles advanced in that discussion -- strong consideration of the Voting Rights Act, districts drawn to follow visible geographic and municipal boundaries, and districts that are not drawn to favor one political party over another -- are forefront in the minds of our new General Assembly when it comes time to decide how to redraw Illinois' districts.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois believes that redistricting should result in districts wherein the voters have a real choice of candidates for election. District maps drawn to protect incumbents, reduce voter choice, discourage potential candidates with new ideas, and create partisan polarization do nothing to advance democracy in Illinois.

The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Laura Kratz  
President  
Elmhurst League of Women Voters

## Cool Cities Coalition

The next Green Fest is scheduled for 2012. Hosting Green Fest requires a huge commitment from our members and a biennial schedule provides Cool Cities more time to focus on other initiatives.

This year, Cool Cities will join Emerson School parents and their efforts with The Great Donation Day. This event has been very successful. The students sort their unwanted supplies during the last week of school into bins for donation. Organizers hope to have the other schools and the Park District join in for a citywide event. Cool Cities will provide a shredder and electronic recycling for the day.

If you would like a presentation to a local organization on Project GREEN (Green Retrofits for Energy Efficient Neighborhood homes), please contact Sue Williams. For more information go to [www.ElmhurstCoolCities.org](http://www.ElmhurstCoolCities.org). Jan Vanek is working with the City of Elmhurst and local banks to help residents finance retrofits. Look for future updates on the program.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2011, 7:00 pm at Elmhurst Public Library. Everyone is welcome.



- Sue Williams



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## Green Programming in DuPage

From SCARCE, [www.scarcecoed.org](http://www.scarcecoed.org)

### \* Free Electronics Recycling for DuPage County Businesses, November 1 - 5

Businesses with over 30 large electronic pieces call 877-57-GO-CRS or 877-574-6277 to schedule pickup. Businesses with under 30 large electronic pieces drop off at 278 Windy Point Drive, Glendale Heights Monday to Friday, 10 am - 3 pm

\*Minimal charge of \$2 for all CRT TVs, damaged LCDs and CRT monitors. All other recycling & transportation services are free for DuPage County businesses only during the recycling event.

Sponsored by Creative Recycling Services, the DuPage County Environmental Committee and Choose DuPage, For more information visit <http://dupageco.org/recycling/>

### \*Composting Workshops: Tuesday, November 12, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or Friday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m at SCARCE, 799 Roosevelt Road, Building 2, Suite 108

Join us for this outdoor composting workshop covering the basics of backyard home composting. We will demonstrate and discuss various compost bin options.

Learn how to save money, conserve water and create a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Call SCARCE to register at 630-545-9710 or online at [www.s-c-a-r-c-e.org](http://www.s-c-a-r-c-e.org)

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