



BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

www.lwvwilmette.org

Contact us: LWV-Wilmette, P. O. Box 432, Wilmette, IL 60091
847-604-1207

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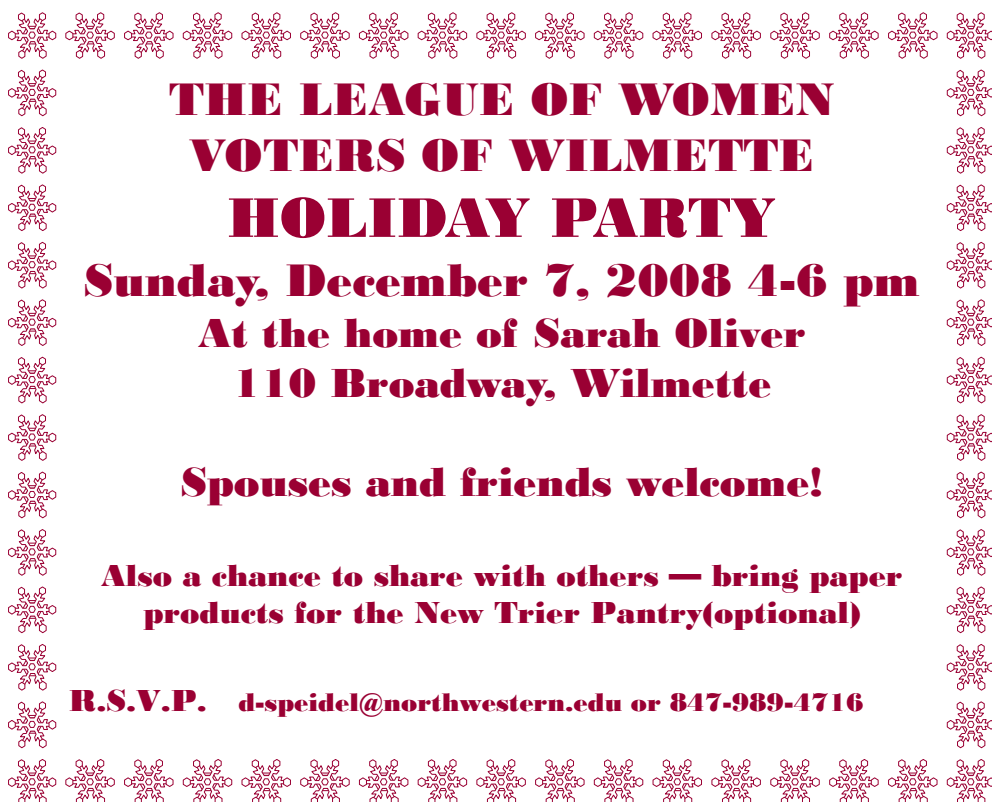
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WILMETTE LEAGUE TO DEVELOP VOTERS GUIDE FOR SPRING ELECTIONS

Now that the fall election is over, the Voter Services Committee will turn its attention to the development of the Voter's Guide for the spring municipal elections. For many, many years, the Wilmette League has provided this important educational tool to voters in advance of the spring municipal elections. The Voters Guide allows candidates for School Board, Park Board, Library Board and the Village Board to respond to questions on issues facing each of these governing bodies. If you are interested in working on this important project, please contact Heidi Voorhees, Co-Chair of the Voter Services Committee at HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com or by telephone at 847-256-7299.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
 VOTERS OF WILMETTE
 HOLIDAY PARTY**
Sunday, December 7, 2008 4-6 pm
At the home of Sarah Oliver
110 Broadway, Wilmette

Spouses and friends welcome!

**Also a chance to share with others — bring paper
 products for the New Trier Pantry(optional)**

R.S.V.P. d-speidel@northwestern.edu or 847-989-4716

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Direction of our League for 2009

For the past five months our League has focused much of its time, energy and personnel on Election 2008 including our advocacy on Con-Con. I should note that, despite the intensity of our Election 2008 efforts, we also have attended to our ongoing functions, projects and responsibilities (e.g., our Student Government program, our membership renewal, and our social events).

With Election 2008 now history, an important policy decision faced our Board. That is,

Do we choose to spend the coming year doing the various projects and programs to which we are already committed but not undertake a 'policy project'? Or,
Do we choose to fulfill our various projects and program commitments while **also** embarking on a policy project?

After a lengthy and serious discussion, your Board made the following important policy decision: The League of Women Voters of Wilmette will undertake a program of ACTION in support of the LWVIL's position on School Funding.

In brief, the LWVIL position is that **'schools should be provided stable, reliable, and adequate revenue through a combination of federal, state, and local sources. That schools are currently funded in a manner that is heavily weighted on local resources, creating a disparity in quality based on local property wealth, is unacceptable'**.

The LWVIL urges action focused on the bills being considered in the legislature and promoting the League's position.

What Program of ACTION our League will undertake is still under consideration. Our Board has agreed to a special Board meeting next month in which this issue will be the only agenda item, thereby allowing time for a lengthy and thorough discussion.

I urge each of you to give serious consideration to what action(s) our League can and should undertake. Please note that there is a wealth of information to be found on the LWVIL website, www.LWVIL.org. Then, do let me (or any other Board member) know any thoughts and/or suggestions regarding a Program of ACTION on School Funding in our State.

As always, I welcome YOUR feedback, ideas and/or suggestions.

Libby Bankoff

GREAT DECISIONS

Mark your calendars now for the 2009 Great Decisions discussion group offered by the Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth League. The subjects during 2009 are: US and Rising Powers; Afghanistan/Pakistan; Energy and the Global Economy; The Arctic; Egypt in the 21st Century; Global Food Supply; Cuba after Castro; and Universal Human Rights.

We will meet at the Winnetka Library, 768 Oak Street, Winnetka, at a time convenient for the majority of participants. If you would like to order a book, please send \$18.00 to Arline Doblin, 1265 Westmoor Road, Winnetka, 60093. Friends are invited as well.

One Book Everybody Reads Partnership

The Board of Directors of the LWV of Wilmette voted unanimously to accept an offer to partner with the Wilmette Public Library on its annual One Book Everybody Reads (OBER) program. This program, now in its fourth year, is an effort to unite the local community in a shared reading experience. The library selects one book, and invites residents to read it. Then the library has a series of book discussions and related events. The highlight of the program is when the author visits the library to discuss the book.

The OBER book selected for this year is The Man Who Loved China, by best-selling author Simon Winchester. Mr. Winchester will visit the library on Sunday, May 3, 2009.

The League's role will be one of promoting the program and, of course, participating in this exciting community-wide event.

PROGRAM NOTES

This past month the Wilmette League has been heavily involved in all things political from our community meeting, **The Illinois Constitutional Convention: Why Vote No**, to candidate debates for the 10th Congressional District and the 17th State Representative District to voter registrations at the library and at New Trier High School.

As if that period of intense political activity were not enough, a group of Wilmette Leaguers attended a post-election panel sponsored by the **Chicago Humanities Festival** on November 7 at Thorne Auditorium. Jonathan Alter of Newsweek, Markos Moulitsas of the Daily Kos, and Laura Washington and Lynn Sweet from the Sun Times offered their observations of the campaign and answered questions from the audience. Charles Madigan was the moderator.

With **the holidays** around the corner, our next activity will be the traditional League party. Invitations are in the mail. Sarah Oliver will be welcoming us into her home on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 4-6 PM. Bring your spouse/friends and join us for good food and holiday cheer!

Coming Up in 2009? Watch for details about a discussion group on The Nine, Jeffrey Toobin's fascinating, accessible book on the Supreme Court justices. Location, date and time TBA.

Question: Should the state of Illinois convene a constitutional convention in 2009?

Answer: No.

On October 14, 2008 the Leagues of Women Voters of Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Wilmette and Winnetka held a community meeting to urge a **no** vote on the Con-Con question. New Trier West generously provided the facilities. Illinois LWV President Paula Lawson introduced guest speakers, the Honorable Dawn Clark Netsch, and State Representative Julie Hamos, who outlined the reasons why they both stood in opposition to its passage. Glencoe member, Hollis Burgess, served as moderator of the Q & A session which followed. The program was telecast on local public access channels throughout the Northshore.

On November 4, 2008 Illinois voters rejected the Constitutional Convention call by a two to one margin. Unless there is an organized effort to place this question on the ballot sooner, it will automatically appear in 2028 (in 20 years) as required by the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

VOTER SERVICE

Candidate Forum A Success!

On Sunday, October 26 the Wilmette League of Women Voters in conjunction with Leagues from Glenview, Evanston, Northfield, Winnetka and Kenilworth sponsored a debate between Elizabeth Coulson and Daniel Biss, candidates running for the 17th Representative District seat. Approximately 60 people attended the debate moderated by Phyllis Albrecht, a member of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff League of Women Voters. The candidates answered questions posed by the Leagues and by the audience members addressing issues such as the tax structure for the State of Illinois, ethics reform, public education financing, abortion rights, immigration, and communication with constituents. The Forum was held at the Wilmette Village Hall and broadcast live over cable television. A similar forum for the Ninth Legislative District race between candidates Jeffrey Schoenberg and Brendan Appel could not be arranged due to scheduling conflicts.

Tenth District Congressional Debate

The Wilmette League of Women Voters provided ushers and "question sorting" support to the Tenth District Congressional Debate between Mark Kirk and Dan Seals held at Deerfield High School on Sunday, October 19. This event was co-sponsored by all of the Leagues in the Tenth District and was well attended. Candidates addressed numerous issues debated on the federal level including the war in Iraq, the economy, equal pay legislation, environmental issues and many others.

Wilmette League Participates in Cook County Poll Watching Survey

The Wilmette League of Women Voters is participating in a county wide survey of polling places. League members fanned out on election day equipped with poll watching credentials and survey forms to determine if polling places opened on time, were appropriately staff, had operational equipment, and provided sufficient privacy for voting. League volunteers covered 18 precincts in Wilmette which is more than half of the precincts in the Village of Wilmette. The results will be tallied and provided to the Cook County League who will in turn give this important feedback to County election officials.

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 4, 2008

BOARD MEETING

1 p.m.

The home of Dorothy Speidel

1535 Elmwood

Sunday, December 7, 2008

HOLIDAY PARTY

4—6 p.m.

The home of Sarah Oliver

110 Broadway

Details on page 1 of the *Bulletin*

APPLAUSE!! THANKS FOR STEPPING UP!! APPLAUSE!!

MANY THANKS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO SO MANY PEOPLE WHO, ON AN ONGOING BASIS, HELP TO MAKE OUR LEAGUE STRONG AND VIBRANT. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS DESERVE SPECIAL THANKS FOR 'STEPPING UP' THIS PAST MONTH.

LIBBY BANKOFF – for working at the 17th State Representative District Candidate Forum as well as for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey

SUE BERGHOEF – for working at the 10th Congressional District Debate

DALE COHODES – for working at both the 10th Congressional and 17th State Representative District Candidate Forums as well as for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey

DONNA DOBERSTEIN – for working at the 17th State Representative District Candidate Forum

GEORGIA GEBHARDT – for working at the 10th Congressional District Candidate Forum, for preparing the Con-Con materials and helping to organize the program, and for organizing the trip to the Humanities Festival

JUDY MANDEL – for working at the 17th State Representative District Candidate Forum

DEENA MITCHELL -- for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey

SUSAN MORRISON – for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey

DOROTHY SPEIDEL – for working at the 10th Congressional District Candidate Forum as well as for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey

THERESE STEINKEN – for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey

HEIDI VOORHEES – for working at both the 10th Congressional and 17th State Representative District Candidate Forums as well as for participating in the Cook County Poll Watching Survey. **MOST ESPECIALLY, HEIDI IS TO BE APPLAUDED, THANKED AND COMMENDED FOR HAVING BEEN THE ORGANIZER OF AND FORCE BEHIND ALL OF THE CANDIDATE FORUMS AND THE POLL WATCHING SURVEY!!!**

NEWS FROM LWV COOK COUNTY

A study committee of LWVCC has been working for many months on deciphering Cook County government, particularly its allocation of expenditures and employees. It is part of a larger project evaluating the transparency and accountability of Cook County government. The focus of the study was on departments that report to President Todd Stroger.

The results of the study in a document called *Where Does Cook County Spend Our Money?* will be distributed to the Commissioners and other elected Cook County officials as they prepare to discuss the budget for 2009. The report outlines inconsistencies and apparent contradictions in published documents, and notes areas where County information is opaque. This lack of clarity inhibits the ability of citizens to participate in improving their government.

LWVCC hopes to have the report available on the League website, <http://cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org> in the near future.

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT THE LEAGUE ?

Issue: Selection of the President of the United States of America

The League's History

A League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in its 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as an essential element of representative government. The League also has supported national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states and to facilitate the electoral process. At the 2002 Convention, the League voted to expand and update its position. The League came to concurrence on a new position in June 2004. The new position takes into account the entire presidential selection process and supports a process that produces the best possible candidates, informed voters and optimum voter participation.

At the 2008 Convention, the delegates voted to adopt a new study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President."

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by the National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982 and Updated June 2004:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

Explanation of the Position

The League strongly believes that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely "reformed." One "reform" which the League specifically rejects is the voting by electors based on proportional representation in lieu of the present "winner-takes-all" method. Such a system would apportion the electoral votes of a state based on the popular vote in that state. Instead of making the Electoral College more representative, such proportional voting would increase the chance that no candidate would receive a majority in the Electoral College, thereby sending the election of the President to the House of Representatives where each state, regardless of population, would receive only one vote. Election of the President by the House further removes the decision from the people and is contrary to the "one person, one vote" principle. The League also does not support reform of the Electoral College on a state-by-state basis because the League believes there should be uniformity across the nation in the systems used to elect the President.

ATTENTION!! WE **STILL WANT YOUR INPUT!!!
PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES/PROGRAM PLANNING IDEAS FOR
THE LWV OF ILLINOIS CONVENTION**

Every two years the Leagues of Women Voters of Illinois hold their state convention. It is at this convention that critical and timely public policy issues are selected for study by the League. It is also the occasion when any policy positions the membership deems sufficiently important can be adopted as a high-priority program for the League.

In short, one of the most important responsibilities of local League members at state convention is to select the critical and timely issues that will impact public policy in Illinois and will comprise the 'State Program'.

But, the program planning process begins long before the convention is convened. In preparation for the June 2009 Convention, the State League has begun this process by soliciting recommendations for policy issue positions and/or study from each local league. As such, our League will soon have the opportunity to bring to the fore those policy issues we believe should be of concern to all State Leagues.

However, in order for your Board to offer such recommendations, we first want and need input from you, our membership. We want to know your recommendations, suggestions, ideas regarding what policy issues should be considered.

Thus, we are turning to each of you. Please let us know what public policy issues you think should be considered for the 2009-2011 State LWV Program. Remember, this is a grass roots process!

You can email Libby Bankoff at Lbankoff@sbcglobal.net us or mail a note to: LWV Wilmette, P.O. Box 432, Wilmette, IL 60091.

MEMBERSHIP

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LEAGUE MEMBER
JAE CHOI KIM!**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO R.S.V.P.

TO DOROTHY SPEIDEL

FOR THE LWV-WILMETTE HOLIDAY PARTY!

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT THE LEAGUE?

Issue: Climate Change

Climate Change, a subject near and dear to this league, was approved as a National action priority for the LWV. As such, "a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change" has been adopted as an amendment to the 2008-2010 LWVUS Program. As part of the advocacy campaign, The League of Women Voters urges ALL CITIZENS to cut their use of gasoline and diesel fuel and offers tips to assist with this effort!

Here are some money-saving, NO cost or very low cost ways to cut your use of gasoline and diesel fuel:

- Combine your trips. Make a list of your errands and appointments in the same direction and do them all in the same trip. If you do multiple errands in one trip you not only save fuel but the time it takes to get there and back!
- When going to an event, see if you can carpool with a neighbor or friend.
- Find out the proper number of pounds for your tires and make sure they are inflated to that pressure. Check once every month. Under-inflated tires (very common in cold weather) can cause you to lose 1-2 miles per gallon, as it's like driving with your parking brake on. Incorrect inflation can also cause you to have to replace your tires sooner. (Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every pound per square inch drop in pressure of all four tires.)
- Don't be an aggressive driver. The faster you drive (over 60 miles per hour) or the more jackrabbit starts you make, the more gasoline you waste – anywhere from 5 percent around town to 33 percent at highway speeds.
- Observe the speed limit - each mile driven over 60 miles per hour is like paying 20 cents more per gallon.
- Avoid unnecessary idling. Particularly when the weather is cold, let the car idle while warming up for 30 seconds and then drive it slowly (35 mph) until engine is totally warmed up. Newer engines do not need longer "warm-ups."
- Turn your car off even when you're "just running into the store or post office," as many times you run into a friend and chat for ten minutes. Idling guzzles gas and produces unnecessary pollution! It does not take more gas to restart the engine than it would save from turning off the engine.
- Have your air filter inspected every time you change your oil. If it is dirty, replace it, as a dirty air filter can cause you to lose 10 percent of your gas mileage.
- Have your gas cap inspected. If it is damaged, loose or missing, replace it and avoid having your gas vaporize. Gas vapors cause ozone (smog) formation. Gas caps need to be airtight to avoid loss of fuel.
- Have your spark plugs inspected and replaced if dirty. If spark plugs are misfiring, that costs mileage.
- Keep your engine tuned. Fixing a vehicle that is noticeably out of tune can improve gas mileage by 4 percent. Fixing a serious problem such as a faulty oxygen sensor can improve gas mileage by as much as 40 percent.
- Reduce excess weight in vehicles. For every extra 100 pounds you can remove from your vehicle you can increase gas mileage by 20 percent (even more if it's a small car.)