



League of Women Voters  
of Wilmette

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# BULLETIN

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE**

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*DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT*

## **INITIATIVE to RECALL the GOVERNOR on NOVEMBER 2 BALLOT**

At the November 2, 2010, General Election, voters will be asked to decide whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to add a new Section 7 to Article III, Suffrage and Elections. The proposed amendment would provide for a special election to recall a governor and for a special election to elect a successor governor.

**The League of Women Voters of Illinois has not conducted a study on the recall amendment and, therefore, has not taken a position for or against the amendment.**

### **Summary of the Amendment**

No sooner than six months after the beginning of a governor's terms, an affidavit may be filed with the State Board of Elections indicating notice of intent to circulate a petition to recall the Governor.

The affidavit must have the signature of 20 members of the Illinois House of Representatives and 10 members of the Illinois Senate. No more than 50% of signatures can be from members of the same political party.

The number of petition signatures required is 15% of the total votes cast for Governor in the preceding election. Based on the 2006 gubernatorial election almost 525,000 signatures would be needed.

Signatures must be collected within 150 days. 100 signatures must come from each of at least 25 of Illinois' 102 counties.

Two special elections may be required: one to recall the Governor and, if necessary, a second to elect a successor Governor. The State Board of Elections estimates the cost of these elections at \$101 million. *Continued on page 3*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

February is for lovers, and June is for brides, but fall in even-numbered years is when the League steps forward and supports the American electoral process. Our voter services chair, Dorothy Speidel, has worked diligently to organize voter registration afternoons at the Wilmette Library, and several forums for General Assembly candidates. Finding volunteers to be registrars, to usher, to be time-keepers, moderators and question screeners, while coordinating schedules with several campaigns, is done so seamlessly that the public quite takes the entire process for granted.

While these forums will be rebroadcast on the local public access channel, I hope that many of you will have taken time to attend the live debates. It's rather like the difference between watching TV instead of live theatre. There is really no substitute for seeing candidates field questions in real time! Think of it as a reality show; someone is going to be voted off the island November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Besides the roster of candidates, Illinois voters will be asked to vote on the proposed amendment to the Illinois constitution which will enable recall of the Governor. Look for a brief description of this question further on in this bulletin.

As we move through the campaign season, there may be questions about the proposed amendment and other election-related information. Visit [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org) and [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

And remember that this is the year when you can actually vote for U.S. Senate twice and still be legal!

Georgia

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## more on the RECALL AMENDMENT

### Pros to the Recall

Recall improves the performance of elected officials.

Recall provides a way for voters to retain control over elected officials who are not representing the best interests of their constituents.

Recall stimulates interest in public affairs.

Recall encourages elected officials to be more responsive to constituents.

Voters should have the ability to remove a Governor mid-term.

### Cons to the Recall

Recall puts an additional burden on the voter (longer ballots, more frequent elections).

Elected officials may feel unduly restrained; they may be reluctant to support action in the public interest for fear of recall.

Expense of additional recall election is not justified, especially when impeachment or next election is available for getting rid of an elected official.

Recall can be used for partisan purposes.

Recall can lead to abuses by well-financed special interest groups.

### How does Recall differ from Impeachment?

Recall allows voters to remove a public official during his or her term in office. Impeachment is a legislative process that brings specific charges and decides whether removal is warranted, e.g. the January, 2009 impeachment of Governor Rod Blagojevich.

### Gubernatorial Recall History

Eighteen states permit the recall of state officials. Prior to the 2003 recall of Governor Gray Davis of California, the only successful recall of a governor to date took place in North Dakota in 1921. In 1988, Arizona voters filed enough signatures to trigger a recall for Governor Evan Mecham, but the State House of Representatives impeached him before the date of the scheduled recall election.

**Sharing this information with friends and neighbors might be a “good citizen” thing to do. Thus far, information on the recall question has not been widely publicized.**

For more information on the Recall Amendment and other election-related information, visit [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org) and [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

## **VOTE TWICE FOR U. S. SENATOR!**

In the best Illinois tradition, we're being asked to vote twice for U. S. Senator – but this time it's entirely legal. In fact, it is really important that we do so.

Here is the language of the Virtual Ballot from the website of the Cook County Clerk:

**This vote is for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress which begins January 3, 2011:**

Senator, U.S., 6 Year Term, Vote For 1

List of 4 candidates and their parties—Ballot # 1 through 4

**This vote is for the final weeks of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress replacing the temporary appointment of Roland Burris to the vacancy created by Barack Obama's election to the presidency:**

Senator, U.S. (Unexpired Term), Vote for 1

Same list of 4 candidates and parties as above—Ballot # 9 through 12

## **VOTERS GUIDE for ILLINOIS STATE RACES available ONLINE**

The League of Women Voters of Illinois has an online voters guide available through the National League's website: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

The Guide covers the following races: Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, US Senator, Representatives in Congress, State Representatives, and those State Senatorial districts that are up for election.

The website also includes a polling place finder, a voter registration tool, as well as information about candidates and ballot measures.

## **SAVE THE DATE! LWV HOLIDAY PARTY! SAVE THE DATE!**

**Mark your calendars! Our league's annual holiday party has been scheduled for Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 4-6 pm. Sarah Oliver, once again, has offered to welcome all of us at her home (110 Broadway). More details to follow but please plan to join us!**

## **Calendar**

- October 3**            **Voter Registration at Wilmette Public Library, 1:00 – 5:00**
- October 3**            **13<sup>th</sup> Cook County Candidate Forum, Beth Emet Synagogue,  
2:00-3:00 p.m. Larry Suffredin/Linda Thompson LaFianza**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Forum, Beth Emet Synagogue  
3:30-4:30 p.m. Robyn Gabel/Steve Funk**
- October 10**          **9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Niles North High School,  
2:00 p.m. Jan Schakowsky/Joel Pollak**
- October 19**          **Board Meeting, Wilmette Public Library Meeting Room,  
1:00 p.m.**
- November 2**        **Election Day**

## ***MEMBERSHIP***

While most of our members have renewed, we're still hoping that those of you who haven't replied are still intending to renew. The Program Committee is busy working on a full schedule of events and we want you to have the opportunity to participate in all the events, not just those open to the public.

As with last month, a membership form is included with this bulletin. Please send it, along with your check for \$65 (\$55 if renewing senior), to LWV Wilmette, PO Box 432, Wilmette, IL 60091. If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to call Membership Director, Jan Peterson, on 847-256-5692.



## ***NEWS FROM LWV—ILLINOIS***

### **LLWVIL and ABC 7 to present "VOTE 2010: THE CANDIDATES DEBATE"**

George Stephanopoulos, Chief Political Correspondent for ABC, will moderate the debate between Illinois senatorial candidates on **October 19 from 10:35-11:35 PM**, and Ron Magers, ABC 7 anchor/reporter, will moderate the gubernatorial candidates' debate on **October 20 from 10:35-11:35 PM** on **ABC 7**.

During both debates, a panel of journalists will ask the candidates pertinent questions on issues key to the voters of Illinois. For the Senate debate, the panel will include Charles Thomas, political editor, ABC 7; Andy Shaw, executive director of the Better Government Association; and Kerry Lester, political reporter at the "Daily Herald." The Governor's debate will also include panelists Thomas and Shaw. The third panelist will be announced soon.

## ***NEWS FROM LWV—LAKE MICHIGAN***

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Michigan League of Women Voters will be held on October 8 and 9 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

On Friday evening, Phillip Moy, Sea Grant Invasive specialist, will speak on Asian carp, the potential of the species to establish itself in the Great Lakes and the detrimental environmental and economic effects. Jeannette Neague, copresident, will present "What LMLWV can do for the Great Lakes," and the audience will follow up with discussions of League actions.

On Saturday, Manitowoc Mayor Nickels will speak on the Mayors' Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its findings. After the LMLWV business meeting, Jim Knickelbine, Director of Woodland Dunes Nature Center, will speak on the relationship of the wetland area to Lake Michigan.

Tours to the Point Beach Energy Center on the Point Beach Nuclear Facility and Woodland Dunes are planned.

The deadline for registration was September 24. Contact Marge or Art Palleon at [mpalleon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mpalleon@sbcglobal.net) to determine if late registration is available.