



# October, 2008

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

The debates, the candidates, the economy, OH MY! What an exciting time it is, yet a very important time to be well informed. Whether you are on the internet, reading the newspapers or watching CNN the events of the past few weeks makes the upcoming election very important. The League continues its mission to inform voters of the facts and with the upcoming Constitutional Convention Unit Meeting and the Candidate's Forum in Wheaton, this mission continues. We didn't have to look far to find an expert on the Illinois Constitution, so Glen Ellyn League member, Rinda Allison, will be leading the discussion at the October 23rd unit meeting with an explanation of the League's stand to vote no on the Constitutional Convention ballot question. We are also assisting the Wheaton League who will host a Candidate's Forum on October 22nd for the candidates from the 23rd and 48th Legislative Districts; 42nd, 45th, 55th, and 95th Representative Districts; all County offices; County Board Districts 4 and 6 and the 18th Judicial Districts. By participating in these events, you can make informed decisions on November 4th.

In these very busy times, many thanks need to be made. Thank you to Dawn Bussey who kicked off the year with an informative program on what the library can offer Glen Ellyn citizens. Julie Nolan and Dorothy Hess have worked very hard registering voters and overseeing the mock election held at both Glenbard West and Glenbard South. Please turn to page 2 of this Voter to see the results of the mock election. A big thank you to both of them for all their hard work these last few weeks. We also would like to thank the members of the Civic Betterment Party study committee for their work. The result is a list of recommendations (see page 5) that will help bring the CBP into the 21st century.

After the election, take a break from politics and come hear a representative from the DuPage Forest Preserve talk about the special facilities offered by the forest preserve, along with their current conservation efforts. Included in all this will be an explanation of their special winter activities. Yes, winter is on its way!!

We would like to encourage all members to think about how they can become more active in League. There are many ways to become involved and we encourage you to think about how you can best serve the League. Finally, in the final presidential debate, Bob Schieffer closed the debate with a quote from his mom, "Go vote now, it will make you feel big and strong!" We couldn't agree more.

Shawn and Michelle

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### CALENDAR

- October 22-Candidates' Forum, Wheaton, 7:00 p.m.
- October 23rd- Unit Meeting ,Con-Con, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m
- November 4th- Election Day. Polls open 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
- November 13- Unit Meeting, DuPage Forest Preserve, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
- November 22-CBP Town Meeting, Civic Center



### VOTER SERVICES FALL REPORT Dorothy Hess, Voter Services Chair

This fall has been a particularly busy one for LWVGE Voter Services. As we near the November 4 election, interest in voting and the voting process has peaked. Letters to the editor encouraging voting have been sent to local newspapers, hundreds of citizens have been registered, and the student mock elections have been held at Glenbard West and Glenbard South. Each of the activities has involved a cadre of League volunteers. Special thanks to Midge Anderson, Cleo Burtis, Sherry Crumbaugh, Illiana Ebbole, Barb Fried, Judy Kinn, Julie Nolan, Kim Reed and Dori Warner for volunteering their time to register voters. Registrations took place at the Glenbard South and Glenbard West, Sunrise Assisted Living, The Meadows, and Glenside Public Library.

The student mock elections at Glenbard South and Glenbard West were made possible by a grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. LWVGE worked with the Social Studies departments at each school to set up the mock elections. All students at each school were eligible to vote. More than 600 students at South and 1,000 students at West cast their ballots using ballot boxes, voting booths, and official tabulators provided by the DuPage Election Commission. The commission also printed official ballots listing the candidates running for President of the U.S. as well as those running for U.S. Senator and 6th District Representative to Congress. The votes were able to be tabulated on the spot so results were known by the end of the school day. League volunteers for the mock elections were: Julie Nolan, Kim Reed, Sarah Allen, Lynda Hornbeek, Diana Hoke, Midge Anderson, Kristin Malone, Dori Warner, Cleo Burtis, Sarah Peck, Margaret DeLarosa, and Liz Mackenzie. My gratitude goes to each of them for making this event such a success. These volunteers unanimously agreed that it was exhilarating to see the students' enthusiasm and pride in casting their ballots and using authentic voting machines. The results of the elections were as follows:

<b>President</b>	<b>GBS</b>	<b>GBW</b>	<b>U.S. Senator</b>	<b>GBS</b>	<b>GBW</b>
Barack Obama	442	779	Richard Durbin	353	650
Cynthia McKinney	7	6	Kathy Cummings	59	109
John McCain	149	241	Steve Sauerberg	143	236
Bob Barr	4	12	Larry Stafford	24	36
John Polachek	2	0	Chad Koppie	25	29
Charles Baldwin	0	1			
Ralph Nader	17	35			

#### **Congressional Dist. 6 Representative**

Jill Morgenthaler	275	538
Peter Roskam	329	521

One last reminder. Be sure to vote on November 4th. Voting is your right and your responsibility as a citizen of our country.



## **CANDIDATES FORUM OCTOBER 22, 2008**

The Wheaton League of Women Voters in conjunction with the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters invites you to a candidates forum on Wednesday, October 22 at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 South Blanchard Road. There will be a meet and greet session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the forum will begin at 7 p.m. Invited candidates include those from the 23rd and 48th Legislative Districts; 42nd, 45th, 55th, and 95th Representative Districts; all County offices; County Board Districts 4 and 6; and the 18th Judicial Circuit. Candidates running without opposition will be introduced at the beginning of the Forum, but will not speak. Candidates running with opposition will each give a two minute opening statement, take written questions from the floor, and will make a one minute closing

## **NOVEMBER UNIT MEETING DUPAGE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT**

Please join us on November 13th at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center when representatives from the DuPage Forest Preserve will give us an introduction to the Forest Preserve District and its role in the community. Highlights will include a discussion of recreational opportunities in the preserves, an overview of the special facilities and an update on current conservation efforts. Fall is a wonderful time to be outdoors, so please come and find out more about our local parks!

## **ROSKAM CAMPAIGN FORCES DEBATE CANCELLATION**

Citing the failure of Congressman Peter Roskam's campaign to respond to their debate invitation, the Elmhurst League of Women Voters cancelled plans for its 6th Congressional candidate forum according to LWV Elmhurst President, Donna Blue. Although Democratic challenger Jill Morgenthaler agreed to appear at the October forum in Elmhurst, Ms. Blue said the non-partisan League cannot hold an "empty chair" debate for a federal election.

Two years ago the LWV hosted Mr. Roskam and Tammy Duckworth in a debate at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. That event drew 1,000 people and launched both candidates into the national and international spotlight. Ms. Blue said she was surprised by the Roskam campaign's failure to respond to the League's invitation this time. "The last debate showed how eager the voters are to see the candidates in person and hear them seriously discuss the issues," she said. "The response we had from the public was overwhelmingly positive and voters have been asking us when we will do it again."

The League issued invitations to both candidates in June and extended the response deadline at the Roskam's campaign's request, but the campaign never followed through. "We made repeated efforts over the past month to contact the campaign by phone and e-mail. They didn't reply to anyone," said Blue. "When our final urgent request for a response went unanswered we were forced to cancel. There just is not enough time for our volunteers to lay the groundwork for a candidate forum that meets League standards," she said. Ms. Blue noted that incumbent 10th District Congressman Mark Kirk made a commitment to a League debate in his district several weeks ago. "We can only assume Mr. Roskam has no desire to participate," she said.

Volunteers from several Leagues in the 6th District including Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Wheaton and Arlington Heights/Mt. Prospect/Buffalo Grove were working on debate arrangements. The organizers also included DuPage residents who are members of the non-partisan Union League Club of Chicago.

## NEWS FROM LWVUS

(For more information visit the website at [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org))

### **States Illegally Purge Voter Rolls**

A recent *New York Times* article has highlighted the illegal removal of tens of thousands of voters from the rolls in at least six states: Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Nevada and North Carolina. According to federal election law, states are not allowed to purge rolls within 90 days of Election Day except in very specific circumstances. States are also wrongly applying the data available from the Social Security Administration to accept or reject voter registration applications. LWVUS is in regular communication with the article's author.

### **Leagues Working Tirelessly to Protect Voters**

Stories are breaking nearly every day regarding new tactics to disenfranchise voters. We applaud the work of: the LWV of Virginia for their work to protect students' voting rights by working directly with the State Board of Elections to clarify students' rights with County registrars statewide; the LWV of Florida that is challenging a state law that just took effect Sept. 8 that invalidates a registration if a person's driver license number, or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, do not match numbers in other databases; and the LWV of Ohio's efforts to uphold the state's same-day registration absentee ballot voting law.

### **VOTE411.org Gets a Facelift**

Vote411.org, the League's one-stop shop for election information, was recently redesigned to make the site even more voter-friendly. In addition to exploring the site's fresh new look, you'll still be able to find important information on getting registered, voting in your state, and much more. Check back often as we work to include the most up-to-date polling place information in advance of Election Day!

### **LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force**

The LWVUS is pleased to announce the formation of a seven-member Health Care Education Task Force. The Task Force members are Olin Bray (NM), Sue Bredensteiner (TN), Robin Lane (NC), Susan Leinberger (PA), Doris Nelson (CA) and Rhonda Tewes (MA). LWVUS/EF Director Janis McMillen is chair of the Task Force, whose purpose is to design a program for educating our members about health care.

### **League Voices Concern over Department of Health and Human Services Regulation**

The LWVUS has voiced concern over the recent "Provider Conscience Regulation" that will have a negative impact on patient access to health care services and information, particularly in the area of reproductive health care.

### **League and Partners Urge Congress to Pass Clean Energy Tax Incentives**

The League and coalition partners are urging Congress to pass the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, which would promote a new energy economy and begin the fight against global warming, and not to provide funding for dirty energy initiatives. League also urges Congress to adopt forward-looking policies that would produce real changes in energy policy and reject calls to drill for oil in pristine areas.

### **LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Background paper Available Online**

The background paper "Coal-The Great Hope, the False Promise or a Disaster in the Making?" by Climate Change Task Force Member Chad Tolman (DE) is now available online.

## REPORT ON THE SUMMER GET TOGETHER

For the Summer Wine & Cheese party our guest speaker was Dawn Bussey, Director of the Glen Ellyn Public Library. It was just the right amount of chit chat with wonderful AHA! moments. For example did you know:

- You can search Virtual Reference Library collections where there are 200 full text reference books available?
- The library subscribes to a genealogy database?
- Questions can be posed to the library 24/7 by logging on to the library website and click on ASK AWAY?
- There is an online access to reserve meeting rooms?
- Self Checkout is available?
- Tumblebooks will read stories to your kids?
- You can access the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, AARP and many other archives from your home computer through the library website?

Also, the Teen Room's grand opening will be November 8th. The room will be a comfortable place for kids to meet and study with teenage friendly furniture, late night study hours and a high school textbook collection. Many thanks to Dawn for the entertaining presentation. Take a new look at our library either on line or the next time you visit the library!

## REPORT OF THE CIVIC BETTERMENT STUDY GROUP

At the September 11th unit meeting the CBP Study Group presented its findings. After reviewing the history of the CBP, comparing our process to surrounding communities, and reviewing the CBP's nominating and election procedures, it is the study groups' opinion that the CBP does serve the needs of Glen Ellyn in finding qualified candidates to run for office. However, the study group has concerns and reservations about some of the processes currently in place or lack thereof, and offered the following recommendations to improve the process: change the name of the group to the Civic Betterment Committee or Organization; prepare detailed written procedures for all processes used by the CBP and make sure that they are available to the public and monitored for compliance; increase publicity and awareness of the organization; increase fundraising to support increased publicity; increase the time between when the nominating committee first convenes and when the town meeting occurs; open the nominating committee meeting with the Village Board President and Library Board President to the public; and undertake a thorough study of the early voting process to see if it really meets the goal of expanding participation, and put procedures in place to ensure that people do not vote again at the town meeting. It was also the study group's opinion that the LWVGE current guidelines for participation in the process were still satisfactory. The next step will be to prepare a draft local position statement for the board to present to the membership at the annual meeting. Lastly, the study group encourages members and the public to attend the upcoming town meeting to be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.



**Glen Ellyn League of  
Women Voters**

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**CHECK OUT  
OUR WEBSITE  
[www.lwvge.org](http://www.lwvge.org)**

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

**OCTOBER UNIT MEETING  
WHY VOTE NO ON CON-CON QUESTION?  
OCTOBER 23, 2008**

Please join us for an informative evening with our guest speaker, Rinda Allison, who will educate us about this very important ballot question. The meeting will be held at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. The League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes holding a Constitutional Convention at this time. It is our position that the present constitution is serving the citizens of Illinois and may be changed using the amendatory process where necessary. Issues most often cited for opposition include the risk of exposing the entire constitution to revision and loss of important 1970 gains; the \$78 million cost of a convention when state finances are limited; previous successful use of the amendatory process; considerable concerns about the delegate selection and election process, particularly the impact of special interests on such processes; the risk of the current political dysfunction in state government extending to the Convention; and the presidential election resulting in voters distracted from Con-Con issues.

This meeting is open to the public, and we encourage you to bring your family, friends and neighbors. This would be a wonderful opportunity for you to encourage your guests to become a member of League. Membership dues are \$60 for an individual and \$90 for a family. For additional information about membership, contact Sue Kamphuis at 469-2591.