



THE VOTER

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2007

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members:

We are off to a great year! We had a great turnout for the Summer Coffee with a variety of people in attendance that generated a good discussion of DuPage politics. J.R. McBride and Debra Olson discussed the pros and cons of Home Rule in DuPage County adding a little gossip about what things are happening at the county level. Thank yous go to Ginger Wheeler for organizing and Ursula Bryant for opening her house for the meeting.

Our Membership Books are hot off the presses. They can be picked up at our next unit meeting which is October 11. Thank you to Sarah Allen, our membership chair, for getting the books out in a timely manner. Membership books, which include a directory of members and a calendar of events, are a great way to stay in touch with League friends.

Speaking of unit meetings, please join us on October 11 for Emergency Response in Glen Ellyn and DuPage County. Local officials will address the emergency response plan in place for Glen Ellyn and discuss what went right and what could have been done differently in responding to the August storms that hit DuPage County.

In closing, please check out our website <http://www.lwvge.org/> and mark our unit meeting on October 11th in your calendars so you can spend an evening with your League friends.

Shawn and Michelle

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our upcoming unit meetings. On October 11th representatives of the Dupage County Department of Homeland Security and Glen Ellyn police and fire departments will be on hand to discuss the County's and Village's response plans to natural or man-made disasters and what we as citizens can do to prepare for such emergencies. In addition, they will discuss the response to the recent storms.

On November 8th we will have a panel discussion about poverty in DuPage County and what can be done to address this growing issue. Speakers will include local experts as well as representatives from outside organizations who are trying novel approaches to end poverty in our area.

Both meetings are sure to be informative, so please join us at the Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

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CALENDAR

- Oct. 11— Emergency Responders. Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 8— Poverty in DuPage County. Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 29— Holiday Open House. Ten Thousand Villages 5-8p.m.
- December 8-Immigration Consensus Meeting at Civic Center 9-11 a.m.

DISTRICT 89 TO GO TO REFERENDUM IN FEBRUARY

At their September 17 meeting, the District 89 Board of Education voted unanimously to go to the voters and ask permission to issue \$24.8 million in bonds for facility repairs and improvements. Taxpayers will not experience a tax rate increase. Taxpayers agreed to a rate of \$0.21 in 1997. However, over the last few years the rate has decreased to \$0.188. According to Lori Gaspar, the Board President, "We are simply asking residents if it would be permissible to continue paying the same tax rate they agreed to in 1997 when the last bond referendum was approved." If successful, the funds would be used for long term improvements such as roofs, boilers, parking lots, asbestos abatement, security systems, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems. Every District 89 school would benefit. The list of improvements to be made is based on input from committees that included parents, community members, teachers, administrators, and outside experts.

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Illinois Primary election date is Tuesday, February 5, 2008. Our League will be getting requests for voter registrars. If you are asked about voter registration please contact Cleo Burtis, Julie Nolan or Dorothy Hess. If you have been appointed a deputy voter registrar and have not been sworn in please do so at your earliest convenience at the County offices. If you wish to be appointed as a voter registrar or you need registration materials please contact Julie Nolan. Here are some key dates to remember:

- Last day to register to vote: Tuesday, January 8, 2008
- First day to apply for absentee ballot: Thursday, December 27, 2007
- Last day to apply for absentee ballot: Thursday, January 31, 2008
- Early voting period: Monday, January 14 to Thursday, January 31, 2008

The earlier primary election date means that some key voter deadlines fall during or after the holiday season when folks are busy so please remind family, friends and neighbors to register or update their registration status soon!

LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY

The League of Women Voters has recently launched a two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. The League has now reached the member agreement phase of the LWVUS Immigration Study, the time when Leagues prepare to take consensus. Grassroots agreement on positions is one of the League's greatest strengths. Preparing for and taking consensus is hard work, but worthwhile. The resulting position will allow the organization to affect national policy for years to come, just as we have been doing in other areas for 87 years. Our League will discuss the following consensus questions at our unit meeting on Saturday, December 8th at the Civic Center from 9-11 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. We want your input!

LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following (not listed in any particular order or hierarchy): Ethnic and Cultural Diversity; Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs; Environmental Impact/Sustainability; Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children; History of Criminal Activity; Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution in Home Countries; Immigrant Characteristics (health and age); Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Liveable Wage; Rights of Families to Remain Together; Rights of all Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Rights of Appeal, and Humane Treatment); or Education and Training.

2. Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows: Deport Unauthorized Immigrants; Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.; Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of U.S. Employers; All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.; If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry; or Assess Fines Before Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment Of Status.

3. Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are: Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S.; Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs; Entering the U.S. as Students; or Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country.

4a. In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include: Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for All Persons Residing in the U.S.

4b. Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including: Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders; Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points; More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country; Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers; Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status; Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies; A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs; or Significant Fines Proportionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees.

5. Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

6. Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

NEWS FROM LWVUS

(For more information visit the website at www.lwvus.org)

October 2007 National Voter Magazine Now Available

The October 2007 *National Voter* magazine is hitting mailboxes now! This month's issue features articles on Global Climate Change, Public Financing, Immigration and Election Reform.

Children's Health Insurance Bill Passes House and Senate

The League called on our Grassroots Lobby Corps to take action on children's health insurance. Thanks in part to our efforts, the House and Senate passed legislation to reauthorize SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The League will urge the president not to veto this crucial program.

League Urges Senate Majority Leader Reid to Protect Public Process

League of Women Voters joined with other organizations in writing a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D NV), asking for public hearings on any proposed legislation to alter the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) before either the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence or the Senate Judiciary Committee votes on such legislation.

League Urges Senate Support for National Security Letter Reform Act

The League is urging Senators to cosponsor and support legislation that will protect the personal information of American Citizens by placing clear and reasonable limitations on the FBI's authority to issue National Security Letters.

DC Voting Rights Bill Suffers Setback in Senate

DC Voting Rights legislation suffered a setback when the Senate narrowly failed to reach the required 60 votes to force debate on the DC House Voting Rights Act, which passed the House early in the summer. However, the closeness of the vote marks tremendous progress in the fight for voting rights. League members and staff have played a key role in this battle and will continue to press Senators on both sides of the aisle to bring DC Voting Rights back for consideration as soon as possible.

Thousands Join Local and State Leagues to Celebrate Constitution Day

Constitution Day was celebrated Monday, September 17th by thousands of students and interested citizens across the country at events organized by local and state Leagues in partnership with local schools and county school boards, historical societies, universities and other nonprofit organizations.

League Celebrates Anniversary of 19th Amendment

Leagues throughout the country celebrated Women's Equality Day on August 26th calling for more representative and responsive democracy for all. In the 87 years since women gained the right to vote, the League has worked to educate, inspire and engage all eligible voters.

Participate in the Discussion-Join a Discussion List Today!

Do you have some concerns about the state of our civil liberties or want to discuss natural resource issues with other League members? Then join a League discussion e-mail list today. Some additional topics include campaign finance reform, healthcare, and immigration. To see all the great discussions that you can participate in, visit the "Get Involved" area of the "For Members" section at www.lwv.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEAN AND PAUL MOORING!

Congratulations to our very own Jean Mooring and her husband, Paul, for being named one of the 10 most influential environmentalists in the county by the Daily Herald! Jean and Paul are charter members of the Illinois Prairie Path nonprofit corporation. Paul spent 21 years as the board's president and is now treasurer. Jean is a longtime board member. In addition to their work with the Illinois Prairie Path, they are active in the DuPage Conservation Commission, the Conservation Foundation, the Illinois Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. Their enduring legacy is the Illinois Prairie Path, once an abandoned railroad right-of-way, that now offers 62 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding that stretches into DuPage, Kane and Cook counties. Jean and Paul join an illustrious list of individuals who have made a lasting impact on the area. These include: May Watts; Chuck Johnson; Brooks McCormick; Brook McDonald; Jack Sheaffer; Kay McKeen; Ray Schulenberg; Mel Hoff; and Douglas Mains.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Andrea Bonney is our newest member of the Glen Ellyn League, and serves on the board as our publicity chair. Andrea grew up in Lombard and attended Northern Illinois University, receiving her Bachelor's degree in marketing. For the past ten years, she has been an advertising executive with BBDO in Chicago. Andrea and her husband, Chris, have two children: Nathan (5) and Kathryn (3). They live in Winfield. Andrea was introduced to League by Shawn Fasules and joined so she could become a more informed voter and more active member of the community. Welcome Andrea!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are still looking for volunteers to be part of the Glen Ellyn League Observer Corps. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, an observer can write their own job description. The only guidelines are that you attend board meetings of the organization you are observing and that you write up a few notes so that the rest of our members can benefit from your attendance. You do not have to commit to attending every meeting of the board you are observing, nor do you have to attend Glen Ellyn League board meetings. If you are interested, please give Diane Hoke a call at 630-351-8523.

We are happy to report that the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Initiative, with support from the Glen Ellyn League, was unanimously supported by the Village Environmental Committee. The Initiative was recently presented to the Village Board for adoption. If you are interested in getting more involved in this effort, please give Ginger Wheeler a call at 630-835-6959.



**Glen Ellyn League of
Women Voters**

P.O. Box 2391
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630-881-1490

PRESIDENTS
Shawn Fasules 790-1966
fasules@sbcglobal.net

Michelle Peterson 858-2336
peteriford@aol.com



**CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE
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.

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING THE GLEN ELLYN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS! WE ENCOURAGE ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES.

ALFIE'S INN

WILLIAM A. FAIRBANK, ATTY.

B.G. DESIGN

HEALTH TRACK SPORTS WELLNESS

BARONE'S OF GLEN ELLYN

JUST THE BOOKSTORE

THE BENDIGKEIT BUNCH

THE LEONARD MEMORIAL HOME

BUSY BEE BARBER

MAIL 'N STUFF

CABERNET AND CO.

MCCHESNEY AND MILLER

PJ'S CAMERA AND PHOTO SUPPLY