



Join/Support

May 2022

# The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



## Greetings!

It was a joy to gather in person, for the first time in two years at Glen Oak Country Club on April 28. Many thanks to committee members Carrie Burrows, Judy Gervase, Christa Mannion, and Lynn Bruno, as well as a special thanks to Karin Daly for designing the wonderful new magnet-backed League buttons everyone received. They were a hit!



Congratulations to our 2022 award recipients, Barbara Kwiatkowsky, Bernie Laszewski, and Erica Nelson. Much appreciation goes to our guest speaker, Dr. Sania Irwin, LWVUS National Board member as well as LWVGE member, for her excellent presentation on "A National View of the League of Women Voters." The Civic Betterment Party-recommended position revision was presented and approved by the membership.

Thank you Voter Services for the outstanding Primary Candidate Forums for Congressional District 6, May 3 and May 4 and District 4 DuPage County Board Forum on May 11. Planning and running these events requires a significant amount of time, dedication and teamwork. Kudos to all! Voter registration events were held at COD in early May, engaging students to get registered in time for the upcoming June 28 Primary. Voter registration was also offered at a April 24 Park District Earth Day community event.

Voter Services has coordinated new voting machine demonstrations at the Glen Ellyn Public Library in collaboration with other DuPage Leagues, providing similar community trainings. A Community Meeting, "Election 101," will follow the evening voting machine demo session on June 2. Details of all are in this issue.

At the May 12 Old Board/New Board Meeting, we were excited to welcome five new members to the Board: Joyce Miller, Treasurer; Dave Evans, Voter Services; Barbara Kwiatkowsky, Local Government, Jacquelyn Casazza, *Voter* editor; and Emily Lobdell, Social Media. We are very grateful that retiring Voter Services Chair Bernie Laszewski will fulfill the remainder of Jodi Baltimore's VP of Programs term.

We voted for our League to participate in the 2022 Glen Ellyn July 4th Parade. So much fun *plus* our involvement delivers unbeatable public attention! We encourage members to march. To take part, please email Media Relations chair, Karen Schulz, karenjschulz@gmail.com.

In light of dropping attendance at the Glen Ellyn Farmer's Market, the Board elected to take a break from the traditional Father's Day Ladybug Giveaway. We will explore a new partnership with local gardening and/or environmental groups for 2023. We know the program is great publicity for LWVGE and allows additional Voter Registration opportunities. Stay tuned!

Two local referendums are included on the June 28 Primary Ballot. The first, for Community Consolidated School District 89, has been reviewed by a LWVGE committee chaired by Julie Nolan with Karen Schulz and Heather Fleming in relation to our position on School Referenda Criteria Consensus (2005). The Board approved by consensus on May 12 that the League Co-Presidents will prepare a letter to the District 89 School Board noting the League position.

Also, a LWVGE committee, chaired by Carrie Burrows, with Gail Bernstein and Mary Sheehy, reviewed the Glen Ellyn Park District referendum in relation to our position on Criteria for Evaluations Referendum by Local Taxing Bodies Other Than Schools (2017). The Board approved by consensus on May 12. The League Co-Presidents will craft a letter to the Glen Ellyn Park District Board reflecting the League position.

**Note: Only League Presidents can speak officially in support of any positions on behalf of the LWVGE.**

We are excited to be sending three delegates (Sarah Allen, Bernie Laszewski, and Barbara Kwiatkowsky) to the LWVUS Convention June 23-26 in Denver. It promises to be an exciting convention!

Working to Empower Voters,

**Sarah Allen, Co-President, [lwvgecopresident1@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgecopresident1@gmail.com)**

**Michelle Z. Thorsell, Co-President, [president@lwvge.org](mailto:president@lwvge.org)**

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Website**



## DUPAGE'S NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT: SEE A DEMONSTRATION IN PERSON!

Open House at the Glen Ellyn Public Library

Tuesday, May 31  
9:00 am - 11:00 am;  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm;  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, June 2  
9:00 am - 11:00 am  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 1  
9:00 am - 11:00 am;  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Saturday, June 4  
9:00 am - 11:00 am  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## Get Ready to Vote!

LWVGE will demo the county's new equipment at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Please take advantage of this special opportunity, just in time for the June 28 Primary Election.

Several sessions are available to fit everyone's schedule.

Also key: Congressional boundaries have changed. Before heading to the polls, are you aware of your current voting district? Check it using the DuPage County's online **Election Services Lookup Tool**.

(Please note: the June 2 evening date will also be part of our League's Community Meeting. Details below.)

## Coming Soon in June

Join the League of Women Voters in cooperation with the DuPage County Election Division to see the county's new state of the art voting machines at our Open House and demo from 6:00-7:00 pm. Then please stay for our Community Meeting: Primary Election 101. The General Primary Election is just around the corner.

Are you ready for the polls? Here you will learn about the offices up for re-election, new district maps, voter security issues, and more- your questions will be answered!

You can also register to vote. All are welcome.

No registration necessary. This is an in-



What: Primary Election 101

When: Thursday, June 2,

person meeting only.

Submitted by: Erica Nelson, Voter Services

6:00-8:00 pm

Where: Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400  
Duane Street

## Candidate Forums

Candidate Forum Planning – DuPage County Sister Leagues

[Dates for Candidate Forums | LWVGE Leading](#)

Congressional District 8

Thursday, June 2 - 6:30pm

In-person at the Gail Borden Public Library

Democrat Candidates followed by Republican Candidates

Details may be found here: <https://lwvvelginarea.org>

Forest Preserve D4: Wheaton is working with Wheaton high school students to produce candidate videos for the one Democrat and two Republicans. No Candidate Forum is planned for the Republican candidates

Details may be found here: <https://www.lwvge.org>

Submitted by Bernie Laszewski, Erica Nelson, Dave Evans and Bobbi Wheatley, Voter Services



## Annual Dinner and Meeting 2022

The Annual Meeting/Dinner held April 28 at Glen Oak Country Club was quite successful. A total of 61 members attended, including nine new members. The room was abuzz with chatter as members seemed very excited to be together after a long Covid interruption. Several members were awarded, honored and thanked for their contributions to the cause of supporting democracy. Dr. Sania Irwin, a Director with the League of Women Voters US and also a LWVGE member, spoke of the projects and policies the US League is focusing on in the near future. The dinner was delicious and the opportunity to interact in person was priceless!

Submitted by Judy Gervase & Carrie Burrows,  
Annual Meeting Chairs



## Retiring Board Members Recognized

Pictured above (L to R) are retiring LWVGE board members: Candy Purdom (2018-2022 Voter editor), Angela Smith (2020-2022 Fundraising Director), Carrie Burrows (2020-2022 Local Government Director), Bernie Laszewski (2020-2022 Voter Services Co-Chair) and

Judy Kinn (2018-2022 Treasurer).

A special highlight of the Annual Dinner & Meeting is bidding our retiring board members a fond farewell. It's their moment in the spotlight after giving untold hours to the work of the League. With their terms completed, each received bouquets, applause and the organization's sincere appreciation.

"LWVGE is blessed to have many talented and dedicated members who energetically and selflessly give of their time and talents in the mission of our League," noted Co-president Sarah Allen.

## Three Exceptional Members Honored



Karin Daly congratulates winner Barbara Kwiatkowsky.



Candy Purdom presents Bernie Laszewski with her prize.



And Erica Nelson earns the 2022 Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award.

The grand finale of the Annual Dinner & Meeting is when the League's Special Award Winners are announced. Each year, the Awards Committee receives nominations of those members who have gone above and beyond! With so many worthy candidates, winning is a remarkable achievement and attests to the overall quality of our organization. Now added to the LWVGE history books are this year's awardees:

Barbara Kwiatkowsky- Outstanding New Member  
Bernie Laszewski- Susan B. Anthony Service Award  
Erica Nelson- Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award

Submitted by Candy Purdom, Awards Committee

## Year-End Membership Report

LWVGE ended the 2021-22 fiscal year with 205 members - 127 of which have renewed their dues for the coming year.

**If you have not yet renewed your dues**, you can do so along with the member interest form you received with the Annual Meeting invitation/Membership renewal packet (last month's bright yellow envelope). You can also renew online at [lwvge.org](http://lwvge.org) with a \$3 processing fee. You can also find the Member Interest Form online. If you have ANY questions, or need another interest form, please contact Judy Gervase at 630-291-0269 or [jbgervase@yahoo.com](mailto:jbgervase@yahoo.com). If you are not intending to renew your membership, *please* let her know.

New members as of March:

Brit Murphy

Lisa Mojica  
Susan Scown  
Kim Dorn  
Karl Irwin  
Ivy Toth  
Genesis Fasules  
Samantha Martin

Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

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## Two Local Referendums on June 28 Ballot Supported

As mentioned in our Co-President's letter leading off this *Voter* issue, two important referendums will face local voters during the June 28 General Primary Election. The League's diligent committees addressing these measures were: Julie Nolan (Chair), Heather Fleming, and Karen Schulz regarding the Community Consolidated School District 89; and focused on the Glen Ellyn Park District proposal, we turned to Carrie Burrows (Chair), Gail Bernstein and Mary Sheehy.

After the teams' careful evaluations, using the League's referendum criteria, Board consensus approval was granted on May 12 for the Co-Presidents to write a letter regarding the evaluation. The following referendums will appear on your local ballot:

- Shall the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District Number 89, DuPage County, Illinois, alter, repair and equip the Arbor View Elementary, Briar Glen Elementary, Park View Elementary, Westfield Elementary and Glen Crest Middle School Buildings, including installing school safety and security improvements and repairing and replacing windows, doors, roofs and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$27,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?
- Shall the Glen Ellyn Park District, DuPage County, Illinois, improve, equip and maintain Sunset Pool, expand, improve, equip and maintain Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center, improve, equip and maintain other parks and park facilities, acquire land for park purposes, and issue its bonds to the amount of \$15,900,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?

The evaluations are now completed and links to both evaluations can be found below.

Submitted by: Candy Purdom, *Voter* editor

[Community Consolidated School District 89 Referendum Evaluation](#)

[Glen Ellyn Park District Referendum Evaluation](#)

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## Our League Continues Advocacy Efforts for Affordable Housing

President Senak appointed 13 members of the community to sit on the Roosevelt/Taft Avenue

hotel site's "Ad Hoc Work Group." They were seated at the April 6 "Community Listening Session." Most of the members appointed reside in the area of the proposed redevelopment.

Co-President Sarah Allen made public comment on behalf of League, along with several other League members. All public comments have been summarized in the Minutes of the meeting and videos are also available for viewing on the Village website.

The Village stated that they are very interested in getting the parcel back on the tax roles so want to move this along as quickly as possible.

That being said, the Village is still committed to having these "Community Listening Sessions" to solicit feedback and ideas regarding uses for the property.



The "Ad Hoc Work Group" will ultimately make a recommendation to the Board about options for its use. The second "Community Listening Session" on May 5, again, had several League members speak as residents. This session also generated more ideas from the general public for the site's use.

The DuPage County Assessor also spoke about his process for assessing properties, a person from Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) spoke about its role in financing for-profit and non-profit developments and Kon Savoy Consultants spoke about TIF Funding. Valerie Kretchmer, a consultant hired to do a Market Analysis of this property, was also available to answer questions and allayed concerns related to an affordable housing development causing lower property values nearby. She stated that studies show that property values rise in the surrounding area of a well-developed affordable housing project.

The consensus was that the group would still continue their process but the Village Board on Monday, May 9, would vote on whether to place the Roosevelt/Taft Avenue property on the market as soon as possible. This took place in closed session and the information is not yet available per this writing.

The next "Community Listening Session" is scheduled for June 2 at 7:00 pm. at the Glen Ellyn Police Department.

Submitted by: Joyce Hothan, League Issues

## Next Book Club: June 25

Looking forward to an in-person Book Club meeting on June 25 at 9:00 am.

Our next discussion will be at the home of Shawn Fasules,

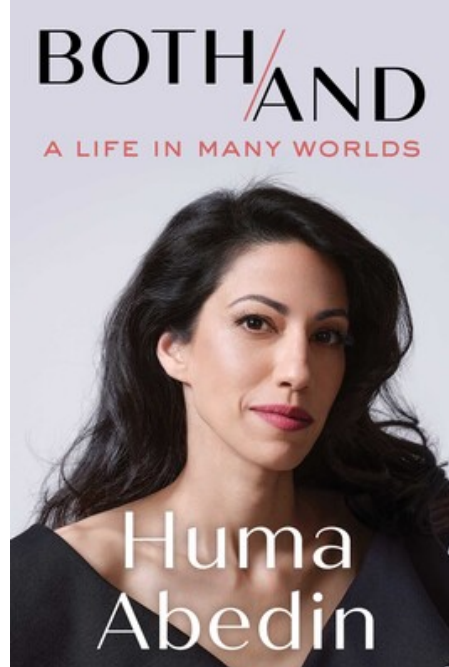
755 Chidester Ave, Glen Ellyn.  
(Please note the new location!)

Our featured book is *Both/And* by Huma Abedin.

About the Book: A *New York Times* bestseller, this extraordinary memoir from Huma Abedin—Hillary Clinton’s famously private top aide and longtime advisor—offers “a gripping testament to the power of a woman finding her voice, owning her ambition, and sharing her truth” (Glennon Doyle).

Abedin’s stunning memoir garnered an extraordinary amount of media coverage, with appearances on *CBS Sunday Morning*, the *Today* show, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *The View*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *Christiane Amanpour*, and coverage in many other outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and NPR.

Submitted by: Shawn Fasules, Book Club



## Step Up and Join the Parade!

**When:** Monday, July 4  
**Where:** Downtown  
Glen Ellyn

To show your support for the LWVGE come one, come all to march/walk with your friends in the Glen Ellyn 4th of July Parade! The parade kicks off at 12:00 and travels west from Glenbard



## What: March/ Walk in the Parade

West down Crescent Blvd, north on Main St. and east on Linden, ending at the Lake Ellyn boathouse.



Details with our staging area, time to convene and other pertinent details will be forthcoming. Last year we had a very enthusiastic group of 23 people marching and waving LWVGE signs. We were very well received by the public. Looking forward to seeing you all on the 4th!

Contact: Karen Schulz, LWVGE Media Relations Director.

[karenschulz@gmail.com](mailto:karenschulz@gmail.com)

Cell: 630-207-6130

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### CALENDAR

**May 31-** Voter Registration Event,

DuPage County New Voting Machine Demonstrations, Glen Ellyn Library

**June 1-** DuPage County New Voting Machine Demonstrations, Glen Ellyn Library.

**June 2-** LWVGE Community Meeting: Primary Election 101 and DuPage County New Voting Machine Demonstration, Glen Ellyn Library. 6:00 pm.

- Congressional District 8 Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm, Gail Borden Public Library, 270 North Grove Avenue, Elgin
- Listening Session for the Roosevelt Road hotel property project, 7:00 pm, Glen Ellyn Police Department.

**June 4-** DuPage County New Voting Machine Demonstrations, Glen Ellyn Library.

**June 8-** New LWVGE Board Orientation, 7:00 pm via Zoom

**June 12-** LWVGE Executive Board Meeting, 2:00-4:00 pm, Home of Sarah Allen

**June 23-26-** National LWVUS Convention, Denver

**June 25-** LWVGE Book Club, 9:00 am, Home of Shawn Fasules, 755 Chidester Avenue, Glen Ellyn. (Please note new location.)

**June 28- General Primary Election Day**

**July 4-** Glen Ellyn Annual Fourth of July Parade

**August 18-** Kick-off Meeting for the 2022-23 LWVGE year, 6:00 pm, Glen Ellyn Boathouse. New member orientation precedes meeting.

**Plans for events are subject to change. To avoid disappointment, please check the LWVGE website for final details.**

Questions about League events? Get details here:

[www.lwvge.org](http://www.lwvge.org).

**Please visit our website for the most current information.**

PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

