



BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

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

847-604-1207

lwwilmette.org

January/February 2010

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

Please Join Us

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

11:30 a.m.

Special Luncheon Meeting



Two Special Items:

Fair Map Amendment Presentation

given by Mary Schaafsma from
the League of Women Voters of Illinois

**Local and National League
Program Planning**

Discuss what issues the League will consider
for possible study or action in 2010-2012

at the home of
Dale Cohodes
2531 Kenilworth Avenue

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

RSVP by February 12

Therese Steinken – tmsteinken@gmail.com
or 847-251-3818

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! 2009 was a busy year for us, and 2010 seems to be equally as active already. Only two weeks into the year, and we have sponsored candidate forums for U.S. Representative, State Representative, and Cook County Commissioner. We have hit the ground running.

2010 is a very significant year for the League of Women Voters. On February 14, the League will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary. In 1920, after a 72-year struggle, passage of the 19th Amendment appeared to be imminent and members of the National American Women Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters. This organization's purpose was to educate the newly franchised women to effectively use the vote.

On February 2, you will once again have the opportunity to exercise your right to vote. As you step into the voting booth (or stand in front of a touch screen voting machine), remember those women who bravely fought for your right to vote. You can exercise that right early, too. From January 11 – 28, Early Voting is available in Wilmette at Centennial Park, 2300 Old Glenview Road, Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you are a registered voter, you can vote early. You do not need a special reason or explanation; just be sure to bring a government-issued form of identification (driver's license; state-issued ID; passport).

Also, if you know of someone who has difficulty getting out and have not submitted an absentee vote, offer to help them get to the polls. If you want to beat the crowds, offer to take them during Early Voting where it is usually less crowded, particularly during the weekdays.

**THIS PRIMARY ELECTION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
BE INFORMED AND VOTE!**

Therese

2009-2010 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Therese Steinken
VP/Programs	Georgia Gebhardt
VP/Membership	Libby Bankoff
Treasurer	Susan Morrison
Secretary/Programs	Dorothy Speidel

2009-2010 ELECTED DIRECTORS

<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Dale Cohodes
Publicity	Judy Mandel
	Jan Peterson
Student Government	Deena Mitchell
	Lali Watt
Voter Services	Heidi Voorhees
	Ellen Falkof
Web Master	Beth Nyhan

2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Cinda Axley, Chair, Dorothy Speidel & Beth Nyhan



**ILLINOIS PRIMARY ELECTION
FEBRUARY 2**

VOTE FOR YOUR PARTY CANDIDATE

U.S Senator
Illinois Governor
Representative 10th Congressional District
State Rep., 17th District
State Rep., 18th District
Board President, Cook County Commissioner,
Cook County Board, 13th District
and many more State and County positions

REFERENDUM ON BALLOT

New Trier District 203 – Issue Bonds

POLLS OPEN 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Go to www.voterinfonet.com
to confirm your polling place and see a sample ballot

**EARLY VOTING
NOW AVAILABLE**

If you are a registered voter, you can vote early

January 11 – 28
Centennial Park
2300 Old Glenview Road
Wilmette
Monday – Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LEAGUE SPONSORED 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATE FORUM

NOW ON CABLE CHANNEL 6

On January 7, at New Trier West, our League co-sponsored a candidate forum for Representative of the 10th Congressional District. The Republican candidates who participated were Elizabeth Coulson, Robert Dold, Arie Friedman, and Paul Hamann. The Democratic candidates were Julie Hamos, Elliot Richardson, and Dan Seals.

The forum will be televised on Channel 6 the following days and times:

Wednesday, January 27 – 7:30 pm
 Thursday, January 28 – 9:00 pm
 Friday, January 30 – 9:00 pm
 Saturday, January 31 – 9:00 pm
 Sunday, February 1 – 9:00 pm
 Monday, February 2 – 8:00 pm

League of Women Voters of Illinois – ANNUAL PHONATHON TUESDAY, MARCH 9 @ 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

It is time once again for our League to participate in the LWVIL Phonathon. Callers from our League will phone Wilmette League members on Tuesday, March 9 to solicit monetary support for the state League. The state League (LWVIL) provides guidance, information, and support to our local Leagues in ways both concrete and philosophical. The LWVIL plays an important, if sometimes unnoticed, role in even our local activities. This fundraiser benefits both the LWVIL Ed Fund (voter service and citizen education) and the IL Fund (advocacy activities and membership).

We need callers for this important fundraiser. Our League will receive 15% of all contributions made in response to our calls. Additionally, any gifts mailed to LWVIL by our local members prior to May 1, 2010, will be counted toward the total gifts upon which our share is based. We must participate in the Phonathon to receive any percentages from mail contributions.

The Annual Phonathon will be held Tuesday, March 9 at Koenig and Strey at the northeast corner of Glenview and Waukegan Roads. There is a large parking lot in front of the building. The orientation will begin at 6:30, and we will start calling at 7:00 p.m.

I hope you will support your state and local League when a fellow Leaguer calls you on Tuesday, March 9.

Please contact Therese Steinken (tmsteinken@gmail.com or 847-251-3818) if you would like to be a volunteer caller.



An Introduction to the 2010 Census

Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian as

well as language guides in 59 languages will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/2010>.

APPLAUSE!! 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:

HEIDI VOORHEES, DALE COHODES, GEORGIA GEBHARDT, and DOROTHY SPEIDEL - for ushering and sorting questions for the 18th Legislative District candidate forum.

PROGRAM NOTES

WOMEN'S HISTORY LUNCHEON

Go to your calendar immediately and circle Saturday, March 6, 2010! That's the date the North Shore Leagues of Women Voters will sponsor the annual Women's History Luncheon at the Glen Club in Glenview.

The League is, of course, famous for its work. We work to register and educate voters, we work on candidate forums, we work to advocate for issues. However, once a year, we gather to celebrate the American woman for her career success and her dedication to community.

This year we are pleased to welcome **Elizabeth Brackett**, PBS news correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, host for WTTW-TV's *Chicago Tonight* and author of Pay to Play, How Rod Blagojevich Turned Political Corruption into a National Sideshow. Not only is Elizabeth a distinguished reporter and world-class athlete, but she is actually one of our own, having attended New Trier High School. Her observations of the Illinois political scene should be fascinating.

If you have had the pleasure of dining at the Glen Club, then you know that the ambiance and the food are top notch. Add a wonderful speaker, and you have the formula for a memorable event.

Cost: \$38 per person. More details and reservation information will be sent to members and posted on the League's website at www.lvwilmette.org. Bring a friend or two, this would be a great introduction to the League!

CALENDAR

January 11-28	Early Voting at Centennial, 2300 Old Glenview Road Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
February 2	Primary Election Day, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
February 6	LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing, Chicago, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
February 16	Special Luncheon Meeting, All Members Welcome Fair Map Amendment and National League Program Planning at the home of Dale Cohodes, 2531 Kenilworth Avenue, 11:30 a.m.
February 19	Board Meeting, at the home of Therese Steinken, 900 Chestnut Avenue, 1 p.m.
March 6	Women's History Month Luncheon The Glen Club, 11:45 a.m.
March 9	LWVIL Phonathon, Koenig & Strey, Northeast corner of Waukegan Road and Glenview Road, Glenview 6:30 p.m.

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

University Center, Conference Chicago: Lake Room
525 South State Street, Chicago

- **Registration, Breakfast & Networking** **Starts at 8:30 a.m.**
- **Issues Program** **9:15 a.m. – Noon**

Redistricting – How Can We Ensure the Lines Will Be Drawn Fairly?

- 1) Rep. Mike Fortner, Illinois' 95th District and a Winner in Ohio's Redistricting Map Drawing Contest;
- 2) Tom Geoghegan, Attorney, Author, and Activist; and
- 3) Justin Levitt, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

Illinois' Fiscal Crisis – What Can We Do?

John Bouman, President of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law and Spokesperson for the Responsible Budget Coalition

- **Luncheon** **Noon – 1:00 p.m.**
- **Workshops (select one of four)** **1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The 2010 Census: Uncle Sam needs YOU! What your League can do to help achieve a complete count.

Redistricting Citizen's Initiative: Let's get going! How Local Leagues can educate their communities and get those petitions signed!

Term Limits for Leaders: Is this the solution?

The Illinois Budget: A look from all sides – What can we eliminate, from where, and what are the consequences?

To register for the Issues Briefing online, go to www.lwvil.org by January 27

Wilmette League Co-Sponsors Candidate Forums

The Wilmette League of Women Voters joined with the League of Women Voters of Illinois, the Better Government Association, other north suburban leagues, and ABC Channel 7 to sponsor three candidate forums during this primary election season. The debates were well attended, providing an opportunity for candidates to speak to the issues and educate voters regarding their background and qualifications. All of the debates were taped as well as streamed live on the ABC 7 website. DVDs of the debates were also provided to local cable television studios to broadcast on public access channels, providing a wider audience for the debates.

10th Congressional District Candidates' Forum was held on Thursday, January 7 at 7 p.m. at the west campus of New Trier High School.

13th District Cook County Commissioner Candidates' Forum was held on Sunday, January 10 from 2- 3 p.m. at Evanston Township High School.

18th Legislative District Candidates' Forum was held on Sunday, January 10 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. at Evanston Township High School.

Thank you to our members -- Dale Cohodes, Georgia Gebhardt, Dorothy Speidel, Therese Steinken, and Heidi Voorhees -- who assisted in ushering, question screening, and other logistics to make these debates a success!