



Area

VOTER

October 2010

From the President

Sigi Psimenos

Friends, we're heading into some uncharted waters- at least for this League- in the next few weeks.

The next two forums are not like ones we've had in the past, they will be actual debates between candidates. When our **Voter Services Committee** initially met and decided to do this debate format we asked, "how do you choose a question, or bundle them into one that brings a response from each candidate that pulls the best answer that reflects a candidate's potential? The temptation is there to present the question that "exposes" a candidate on a single issue, or we could forward an inquest that "blind-sides" them, or we could "set up" a candidate with pre-established questions by their campaigns that have been carefully rehearsed.

Or should we be the impartial advocates of thoughtful and educational forums? Barbara Walters has done this for years, framing a question that pulls the best from her guests, so we, the viewers, see the best they can deliver – how they make decisions, what their wealth of knowledge, understanding and experience is, what grounds their

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Article to submit for next month's Voter?

E-mail it to Wendy Covich at w.covich@dla-ltd.com and include Voter in the subject line.

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perspective. It's an art, it's a skill, it's a science—and we hope to do you proud on September 30th & October 3rd with the format we chose.

Of course, this is not to slight our **Dundee/Rutland Township Committee** who'll be masterfully handling another of our **Candidate's Forum** on October 14th in Carpentersville, or the phenomenal one we held on **education** on September 14th in Bartlett moderated by **Janelle Walker**. I just wanted to walk you through the process that we went through in deciding a different format. By the way... Did I say masterful-yes! Did I say phenomenal-yes!

Another first for this League...Our crackerjack **Mock Election Committee** rolled up its sleeves, and is putting together a phenomenal one day election at South Elgin High School on October 5th which will engage close to 2500 students. But, I'll let the Chair, **Wendy Covich**, tell you more about it in this newsletter.

More firsts....**Carol Grom** is leading our League's first **study group on gravel mining**. **Sandy Kaptain & Donna Askins** are leading the charge with other local leagues in a LWV nationwide effort together with worldwide organizations on **10-10-10 Climate Action Day**.

See you all on the 30th, or the 3rd, or the 5th, or the 10th, or the.....

Bartlett Legislative Candidates' Forum Regarding Public Education

Betsy Thrasher & Kaye Gamble

The first League-sponsored **candidates' forum** in Bartlett went smoothly and carried on the traditions of nonpartisanship and educating voters. All four candidates attended. The timely questions about our state's educational quandary and the thoughtful responses from the candidates made the Forum a success.

There was great support from League members who volunteered to help. Thank you to **Janelle Walker**, who moderated. She did a professional job with the right amount of personality and warmth. Thanks to **Sigi Psimenos** for coordinating the event. **Janet Poyner** greeted and answered any questions about the League. **Nancy Burnidge** greeted attendees. **Phyllis Grzywinski** greeted and collected audience questions.

Photo courtesy Ryan Wolf, Flickr



Candidate Forum Schedule

Tuesday, September 30th @ 6:30 PM

22nd District for State Senator

Michael Noland and Steve Rauschenberger

25th District for State Senator

Chris Lauzen and Leslie Juby

16th Judicial Circuit for Judge

John Dalton and David Akemann

Sunday, October 3rd @ 2:00 PM

43rd District for State Representative

Keith Farnham and Ruth Munson

49th District for State Representative

Tim Schmitz and Jennifer Barconi

Both of the above held at
Gail Borden Public Library
Community Rooms
270 Grove-Elgin

Thursday, October 14th, @ 6:30

At Dundee Township Park District Senior Center

665 Barrington Ave., Carpentersville

Candidates are: Incumbent Republican John A. Cunningham, Green Party candidate Jose Luis DelBosque and Democrat Mavis A. Bates for county clerk; incumbent Republican David Rickert and Democrat Joseph Lowery for treasurer; incumbent Democrat Pat Perez and Republican Donald Kramer for sheriff; incumbent Republican Catherine Hurlbut, Democrat Jim Shales and Independent Victor LaPorte for the 19th Kane County Board district; Republican Timothy Haley and Joseph Haimann for the open District 21 county board seat; and Republican Margaret Auger and Democrat Linda M. Nuneman for the open 23rd district county board seat; and 16th Judicial Circuit with John Dalton and David Akemann.

Dundee-Rutland Candidates' Meeting

Theresa Peterson

The candidates for Kane County Clerk, Sheriff and Treasurer and the candidates for Kane County Board Districts 19, 21 and 23 plus the candidates for the 16th Judicial Circuit have been invited to a **Candidates' Forum** on Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center facility of the Dundee Township Park District (on Rt. 68, near Rt. 25).

All of these candidates face opposition in the General Election on November 2. There is no opposition for the District 25 Board position. That candidate will be welcome to attend, but he will not be asked to participate. **Carol Grom** will act as moderator for the evening. A

questionnaire has been sent along with the invitation. Candidates are asked to return their these by mail or email to **Bonnie Kalaway**.

Also of interest to League members may be the luncheon that is being sponsored by the Women in Business group of the Northern Kane County Chamber of Commerce. Candidates for State Senator and Representatives in this area have been invited to attend and speak. The Chamber is opening this to the general public. The luncheon will be at the Randall Oaks Golf Club. Reservations should be made at the Chamber office, 847-426-8565. Mellissa Hernandez is the executive director. Cost of the luncheon is \$20.00.

Elgin SMP/Recycling and Waste Management

Janet Poyner

The **Recycling and Waste Management workgroup** has spent the last meetings fine tuning their goals and objectives, which include:

Goal #1 - Encourage increased recycling and waste reduction in residential properties.

Objective:: Within three - five years implement a pilot program for composting/organics.

Objective:: Host a yearly community recycling day that would be a central drop off center for numerous recyclables that cannot be put at the curb.

Objective:: Create a recycling booklet similar to Kane County's that instructs the what and where for certain materials. Or distribute Kane County's booklet.

Goal #2 - Implement increased recycling and waste reduction in businesses.

Objective:: Within the next two years, educate the local business on recycling.

Objective:: Within the next three years implement a pilot recycling program (and maybe incentive program) for the local businesses.

Objective:: Within five years pass a ordinance for the local businesses to recycle.

Goal #3 - Educate the public on the who, where, why's and what's on recycling.

Objective:: Have Waste Management host a yearly community education event on recycling.

Objective:: Have Waste Management yearly go into the elementary schools and educate on recycling.



Mock Election for South Elgin Students

Loni Mecum

On October 5, 2010, students at South Elgin High School will cast their ballots in a **mock election** conducted by The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area in participation with Illinois Student Vote. The purpose of this program is two-fold: 1) to teach the mechanics of voting and 2) to teach students the duties of public officials, the issues of the campaign and how to make an intelligent, informed choice about the real candidates on the ballot.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the McCormick Foundation have awarded a grant to the League of Women Voters of Illinois to fund this project in which Leagues from nine counties are participating.

The **Mock Election Committee** includes Wendy Covich (Chair), Barbara Evans, Faye Blake, Loni Mecum and Laurel Bault.

“South Elgin High School is excited to be one of the only schools in Kane County to participate in this amazing opportunity,” said Walt Gola, AP U.S. Government & Politics teacher in U-46 for 10 years, four of which have been at South Elgin High School. “It will be a great chance for our students to see how elections are really carried out. Hopefully our students become life-long voters because of this opportunity.” Mr. Gola and Tracey Jakaitis are in charge of the Mock Election at South Elgin High School.

The Kane County Clerk’s office, Election Division, is cooperating in this effort by preparing a mock ballot containing U.S. Senate candidates, Illinois gubernatorial candidates, Congressional candidates, and an issue referendum. They’ll provide electronic voting devices to the high school; Junior and senior students will act as election judges. On Mock Election Day, we’ll have Volunteers to help students conduct the election. Roughly 1,200 students will participate during 8 class periods - about 100-200 students moving through the voting site each period.

“Having taught high school for many years, I know how important it is to be able to relate what is going on in the world to lessons in the classroom,” said Barbara Evans, a member of the **Mock Election Committee** and coordinator with SEHS. “Naturally Government and Politics and U.S. History teachers have included the up-coming elections in their courses of study, but to be able to have their students

vote on actual machines—Priceless, as MasterCard would say.”

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*Photo courtesy
Micki Krimmel,
Flickr*





Know Your Elections Calendar

Last Day to Register
Tue., Oct. 5, 2010

Grace
Period Registration
Wed, Oct. 6, 2010
through
Tue., Oct. 26, 2010

Note: guidelines limit when and where
grace period registrants can vote
during this period.

Early Voting Period
Mon., Oct. 11, 2010
through
Thurs., Oct. 28, 2010

Absentee Voting Period
Thurs., Sept. 23, 2010
through
Mon., Nov. 1, 2010

General
Election
TUE., NOV. 2,
2010

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Students will take part in at least 3 election-related activities before they vote, such as issue research, candidate/issue debates, analysis of political cartoons, exit polling, and some form of mock voter registration.

The McCormick Foundation's mission is to advance the ideals of a free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. It believes civic health is not only essential to building the real power of society, it is the Foundation.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). As an independent, bipartisan commission, EAC develops guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopts voluntary voting system guidelines, and serves as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration.

If you'd like to help the Committee on Mock Election Day (October 5th), we could still use some help! Contact [Wendy Covich](mailto:Wendy.Covich@dla-ltd.com) at w.covich@dla-ltd.com to get on board.

Proposed Amendment (HJRCA31) to the Illinois Constitution

Recall of the Governor

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.

Additional details at <http://www.lwvil.org/recall.asp>

Regional Training Workshops

September 25

Here is an opportunity to network with colleagues in other Leagues. Those responsible for membership (database, programming events and recruiting and retaining members), communications (webmaster, newsletter and public relations) or finances are encouraged to attend. 3 workshops are scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30 am, Saturday, September 25th at: Arlington Heights Historical Society, LaGrange Public Library or Bloomington hosted by [Joni Painter](#). To form a carpool, please call Membership Chair [Janet Poyner](#) at 847-695-7122 if interested.



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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through citizen Education and advocacy.

* * *

The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area invites you to Become a member of this active, grass-roots oriented organization. Individual membership is \$60 and \$90 for each additional member at the same address. \$30 student membership. Please send this coupon with your payment payable to:
LWVEA, 569 Franklin Blvd., Elgin, Il. 60120

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**The Elgin Area League thanks our
2010-2011 Patrons for their support**



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