



“The Media and the Election”: A Timely Topic

Please join us at 11:45 on Friday, Oct. 31, for lunch at Gio (1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston), where Professor Craig LaMay of N. U.’s Institute for Policy Research will share his views on the ways in which the media affect the outcome of elections.



Prof. LaMay has written extensively on the media and politics. As a newspaper reporter his writing appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and many other credible publications. Recently, he and Newton Minow (of Sidley Austin LLP) co-authored a book titled *Inside the Presidential Debates: Their Improbable Past and Promising Future*.

The cost of the luncheon is \$20, payable by check at the door. Please mark your calendar, and invite friends to this informative program. RSVP by Monday, Oct. 27, to PleaseReply@lwve.org or 847-866-7844.

Why Vote “No” to the Ill. Constitutional Convention Referendum?

On Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 p. m., a program sponsored by five north suburban Leagues (Glencoe, Glenview, Park Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth) will explain why the LWVIL recommends voting “No” to the Constitutional Convention referendum on the November ballot.

Dawn Clark Netsch, former Illinois State Senator and State Comptroller, will present an historical perspective on the 1970 Con-Con, to which she was a delegate. State Rep. Julie Hamos will discuss the current situation in Springfield. Afterward, there will be time for questions and comments from the audience.

The program will be held at New Trier West. See “Mark Your Calendar,” at the right, for more details.

A Few More Volunteers Needed for Mock Presidential Election at Evanston Township High School

Mock elections give students a better understanding of the democratic process and are always interesting to observe. This year’s “election” will take place at ETHS on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 7:45 a. m. through 3:30 p. m. The school will administer the election; volunteers will help oversee the process.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, at 1 p. m., a 1-hour training session for volunteers will be held at the home of Glenview League member Barbara Marsh. On Oct. 23, League volunteers can park at ETHS in the “Visitors” area at the back/west side of the school.

If you are available for this adventure and would enjoy helping teens at ETHS to better understand our electoral system, please contact Carol Mullins at carol.mullins@mindspring.com or 847-866-8887.

Mark Your Calendar

Speaker Training on League Position on Ill. Constitutional Convention

Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to noon
First Bank & Trust, 820 Church St., Evanston

Program on the Ill. Constitutional Convention: “Why Vote ‘No?’”

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p. m.
New Trier West, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield
Building C, Room 234

Debate-Watching Party

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 8 p. m.
Boocoo Café, 1823 Church St., Evanston
RSVP to Kathy Tate-Bradish

ETHS Mock Presidential Election

Volunteer Training: Saturday., Oct. 18
Mock-Election Day: Thursday, Oct. 23
Contact Person: Carol Mullins

10th Cong. District Candidate Forums

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2 p. m. and 3 p. m.
Deerfield High School
1959 N. Deerfield Rd., Deerfield

Panel Discussion: “The Economic Security of Women”

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 p. m.
YWCA of Evanston-North Shore
1215 Church St., Evanston

17th Leg. District Candidate Forum

Sunday, Oct. 26, 1:30 p. m.
Wilmette Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Ave.

Luncheon Program:

“The Media and the Election”

Friday, Oct. 31, 11:45 a. m.
Gio, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston
RSVP by Monday, Oct. 27 to
PleaseReply@lwve.org or 847-866-7844

Spring Fund-Raiser

Evening of Sat., April 25, 2009

Pulitzer Prize-winning, syndicated columnist
Clarence Page. Start inviting friends!

Next LWVE Board Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 1, 7-9 p. m.
King Home, 1555 Oak Ave., Evanston
All members are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I could be cynical about the possibility of real change and the manifest dangers of expectations. I could talk about the enormous challenges to come. But not right now... You walk into the voting booth and each time you pull the little lever there is implicit in the gesture a tiny leap of faith.

– Anna Quindlan

I just received an e-mail from a co-worker at the bank, reminding everyone about VoterPalooza on September 27th. The e-mail was initiated (without my instigation) to remind co-workers about the importance of participating in the upcoming election. Upon opening the e-mail, I immediately thought of how the efforts of our Voter Service chair, Judy Hoffman, have translated into the fulfillment of the League's mission to "encourage informed and active participation in government."

VoterPalooza represents a collaborative effort among the League of Women Voters of Evanston, EvMark, the NAACP, and the YWCA to register voters and get out the vote. On **Saturday, September 27th**, voter registration will take place at eleven high-traffic locations in central and west Evanston from 10 AM to 5PM. Through this effort, the League is trying to insure that every citizen has the opportunity to register with minimum inconvenience. Additionally, on **Tuesday, October 7th**, the League will have "Last Chance" voter registration at Boocoo Café and the YWCA from 5 to 9 PM. The League will give busy voters an opportunity to register, in the event they haven't yet had time to do so.

As well as getting out the vote, the League is working diligently on informing citizens about the issues. Here in Illinois, the proposed Constitutional Convention is of major interest. On **Tuesday, October 14th**, the Evanston League, in conjunction with other North Shore Leagues, will host a program on the Constitutional Convention, featuring Dawn Clark Netsch and Rep. Julie Hamos. Thanks to Gloria Callaci for her success in helping secure these outstanding speakers. The program, to be held at New Trier High School (West), will present the League's position opposing the Constitutional Convention. The public will have the opportunity to educate themselves on this important issue before voting.

On **Wednesday, October 15th**, the League will host a "Non-partisan Debate-Watching Party" at Boocoo in Evanston. Organized by Kathy Tate-Bradish, our Membership Chair, the event will provide citizens an opportunity to watch and discuss the debate in a non-partisan setting. Please join us for what should be an informative and fun evening.

As League members, it is so important that we support these efforts, spread the word, and encourage colleagues, friends, and family alike to participate. Share information on the issues with others; entertain and evaluate divergent opinions; recruit new members for the League. Take time to ensure that as many citizens as possible experience "that tiny leap of faith" which Quinlan describes so eloquently.

Karen



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EVANSTON

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VP-Local Program	Gloria Callaci
Planning	
Treasurer	Barbara Fowler
Secretary	Betty Hayford

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Newsletter (<i>Intercom</i>)	Karen Telser
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THE INTERCOM

October, 2008 Vol. 87, No. 3

THE INTERCOM is the newsletter of the
League of Women Voters® of Evanston.
Ten issues are published each year.

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

The LWVE welcomes men as well as women and encourages all residents of Evanston's diverse community to participate.

A CALL FOR POLL REPORTERS

The League of Women Voters of Cook County is once again sending out poll reporters. If you are going to the polls to vote, you can help. If you are voting early but are willing and able to go to the polls, you can help. If you are an election judge, even better! (Yes, you can be a judge and a reporter, too).

A poll reporter spends 15 to 20 minutes at a given precinct polling place, asking election workers to answer questions about how well the process worked – which experience tells us they are happy to do. Then the poll reporter records the responses.

You may conduct your survey at any time while the polls are open. You may report on more than one precinct at a given polling place, and you may go to several separate polling places.

If you'd like to be part of the election process but can't spend the whole day working at the polls, this is the job for you! Besides noting what is working well, your interviewees will describe problems and suggest solutions. The survey results will be tabulated and given to Cook County Clerk David Orr's office. Last year's survey resulted in many positive changes (see the article at the right). As a poll reporter, you make a difference!

Thank you for saying YES. Volunteers will receive instructions, credentials, and survey forms a few days before the election.

Please call me, Melissa Leasia, at (847) 864-0173 or send an e-mail to me at Melissa@MelissaLeasia.com. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Upcoming Candidate Forums

Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Evanston, Glenview, Wilmette, Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth

17th Legislative District

Participants: Rep. Elizabeth Coulson (Republican) and Daniel Biss (Democrat)

Sunday, October 26, 2008, 1:30-2:30 p. m.

Wilmette Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette

9th Senate District

☞ This forum is tentative. Please check our Web site, www.lwvve.org, for the most recent information.

Participants: Sen. Jeff Schoenberg (Democrat) and Brendan Appel (Republican)

3:00-4:00 p.m.; location yet to be determined.

League Poll Reporters Have Already Helped Improve the Election Process!

A report, incorporating information from the poll-reporting surveys submitted by local Leagues at the February primary, was presented to Cook County Clerk David Orr, who is in charge of elections for suburban Cook County. Mr. Orr and his staff followed up on each reported instance of a problem with a polling place or election judge, and subsequently submitted the results to the Cook County League.

In a number of cases, the polling place will be at a better location; and some judges will be moved or not utilized again. A number of schools that are the sites of polling places will be not be in session on November 4, which will free up parking lots and better polling locations in the schools.

The work is not done. With your help as a poll reporter, the Cook County League hopes to find out if some of the other recommendations made in their report have led to further improvements for the November election.

Volunteers Needed for Cook County State's Attorney Candidate Forum

The LWV of Cook County (LWVCC) and ABC/Channel 7 are co-sponsoring a forum featuring the candidates for Cook County State's Attorney: Anita Alvarez (Democrat), Tony Peraica (Republican), and Thomas O'Brien, (Green Party). The forum will be taped on October 23 at 7 p.m., at which time it will also be shown live on the Channel 7/ABC Website and their cable access channel. It will be televised on Channel 7 on either Saturday or Sunday, November 1 or 2, at a time yet to be determined.

Volunteers are needed to help on the evening of the taping (October 23), and there will be a limited number of seats for observers in the studio. If you would like to volunteer, please call the LWVCC office at 312-939-5935, x27. We also will be formulating the questions for the moderated forum, so if you to submit a question about the Cook County State's Attorney's office, please either call the LWVCC office or e-mail your question to cook@lwvil.org.



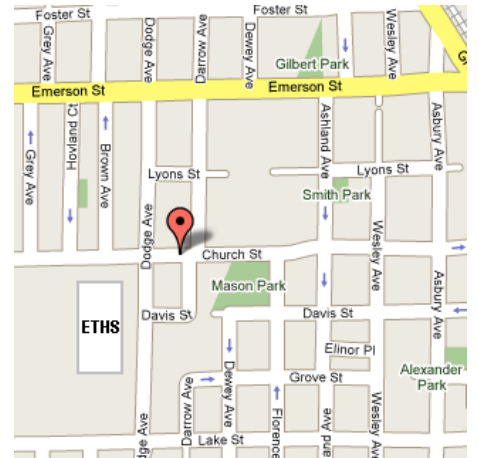
Excitement! Drama! Party Favors!
LWV Non-Partisan Debate-Watching Party

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 7:00-10:00 PM at Boocoo, 1823 Church Street, Evanston

Let's watch the last Presidential debate of the season together! We'll get some tips beforehand on watching debates in an objective, analytical way. Already have your candidate chosen? That's great – why not come and see how carefully he answers the questions you still have in your mind. Is either candidate (or both??!) evading issues? Using guilt by association? Promising the sky? Did either side's media advisors succeed in stage-managing background photo ops?

We'll show you how to use candidate report cards and debate-watcher forms, so you can keep track of the issues. We'll have a tour of Boocoo, a wonderful new space in Evanston. Bring a prospective member and make it a real party! New members: make a new friend!

- 7:00-7:30 PM Arrive at Boocoo (847) 380-1602, a cafe with refreshments for purchase – but no purchase is necessary.
- 7:30 Session on debate analysis; get your debate-watcher form and candidate report card.
- 8:00-9:30 Watch the debate together.
- 9:30-10:00 Wrap-up session and group analysis.
- RSVP By Monday, October 13, to Kathy Tate-Bradish at ktbus@sbcglobal.net or (847) 733 0741.
- Need a Ride? PLEASE let us know!



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By Connie Goddard

Evanston native John Heyrman, Chair of the Political Science Department at Berea College in Kentucky, suggested that U.S. Presidential elections might be more representative, hence more democratic, without the Electoral College. In comments made at the LWVE's September 22nd program, Prof. Heyrman, son of LWVE stalwarts Helen and Don Heyrman, pointed out that in nearly 10 percent of elections, the popular vote supported one candidate, while the Electoral College supported another.

This has changed the nature of Presidential campaigns. The parties focus on gaining Electoral votes and all but ignore the states where the parties are certain they have the Electoral votes or the number of votes is too small to change the outcome of the election. Only a small percentage of states get to meet and learn about all of the candidates. "In 2000, there were no national ads; instead, they were all spot ads,"

aimed at "tiny parts of the electorate."

Prof. Heyrman also posited that the College might exacerbate, rather than minimize, the problem of vote fraud. In sum, he said, "it is warping our elections in incredibly undemocratic ways."

Although surveys indicate that 60 percent of Americans would eliminate the Electoral College, "it's not on top of many people's agendas," said Prof. Heyrman. Surprisingly, "ballot reform, not the Electoral College, became the issue after the 2000 election."

Why did the framers of the Constitution create the College? "They were not as democratic as we are now." They did not anticipate voting for Senators or voting rights for all citizens. The electors were expected to meet, discuss, and decide on behalf of the less informed.

Several long-time and new LWVE members staffed the LWVE table at the Evanston Farmer's Market "Non-Profits Day" on Sept. 20th. They reported having much sunshine, activity, and fun. Membership Chair Kathy Tate-Bradish noted that it "was a terrific opportunity to speak with our Evanston neighbors about the League. We answered questions about voter registration, how to become an election judge or a voter registrar, and more. We signed up three enthusiastic new members on the spot and have the names of many more interested community members."

Many thanks to volunteers Gloria Callaci, Eleonora diLiscia, Helen Gagel, Emily Guthrie, Betty Hayford, Karen Hunt, Elizabeth Kinney, Melissa Leasia, Kathy Tate-Bradish, Georgia Vlahos, and Marge Wold!



Kathy Tate-Bradish, Betty Hayford, Georgia Vlahos, and Emily Guthrie, congenial LWVE representatives on "Non-Profits Day" at the Evanston Farmer's Market.

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**2008-09 Membership Directory
Is in the Works**



Diane Korling is finalizing our **2008-09 LWVE Membership Directory**. Please check last year's Directory to see if the information about you is accurate. If you have corrections or additions to report, contact Janet Kittlaus (Membership Database Coordinator) no later than **November 4**, at jkl031@northwestern.edu or 847-491-1010.

Overwhelmed by On-Line Election Info?

You're not alone. A recent study performed by the Media Management Center at Northwestern University found that young adults between the ages of 17-22 are overwhelmed by the amount of election information that they see on-line.

The "millennials" are not interested in following the day-to-day developments in campaigns, and they prefer sources those that are in the primary business of news. They do not like adding comments or reading others' comments on-line. Efforts to permeate the news with social networking features, amateur content, humor, or youth-oriented content can backfire.

Bored? Wrap a Good Book!

Remember what fun we had last year at Borders and Barnes & Noble, wrapping books for grateful patrons? We are going to do it again this year (the dates aren't fixed yet but will be in November/December).

Please let me know if you are willing to spend an hour or two helping the Evanston League earn a few bucks while reminding the community that we are here and thriving. We did very well last year and always have a fun time.

Call me if you are willing to help wrap, and we will work out the time. If I am not home, please leave a message.

Thanks!

Shirley Shevick
847-474-8954



**For More about the League's Position
on the Illinois Constitutional Convention...**

Materials provided by the LWV of Illinois are available at the Evanston Public Library (main location). Ask at the Reference Desk on the third floor.

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Jill and Michael Corr 5042 N Leavitt #2, Chicago 60625 773-739-9918; corrmw@yahoo.com; jillahaz@yahoo.com	Shirlyn Nash 5333 N Sheridan Road, Chicago 60640 773-293-6254
Kim and Kirk Hoopingarner 811 Monticello Place, Evanston 60201 847-328-7640; hoop1@comcast.net	Lois Robertson 4848 Louise-B, Skokie 60077 847-866-3303; lois.robertson@rotary.org

Additional Directory Changes

- Margaret Barr's office e-mail is m-barr2@northwestern.edu.
- Julia Carroll's new telephone number and e-mail address are 847-859-2149 and juliaann53@yahoo.com.
- Helen and Don Heyrman have moved to 307 Wilson-Sidwell, 3201 Simpson Street, Evanston 60201 847-492-4815. They no longer have an e-mail address.
- Cornelia Spelman's new telephone number is 847-869-2558.

Why Encourage Friends to Join the LWV?

1. The existence of the League is important to the health of our democracy. There's no other organization quite like it in the country.
2. The more *total* members we have, the greater our advocacy impact. The more *active* members we have, the more we can accomplish in our community, county, and state.
3. League members are great people to know!

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In This Issue:

- Upcoming luncheon program:
“The Media and the Election”
- Why the LWVIL recommends
voting “No” to the Constitutional
Convention referendum in the
Nov. election
- Debate-watching party
- Mock Presidential election at
ETHS
- Poll reporting: a success story!
- Upcoming candidate forums,
including LWVCC State’s
Attorney candidate forum
- Non-Profits Day at the Farmer’s
Market: another success story
- Prof. Heyrman’s views on the
costs and benefits of having an
Electoral College



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