

League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area



Voice

Founded in 1959

Membership representing 15 suburbs

November, 2006

General Election - November 7, 2006

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 and the polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Ballots in the Palos-Orland area will have the following candidates listed:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor:

Rod R. Blagojevich & Pat Quinn - Democratic
Judy Baar Topinka & Joe Birkett - Republican
Rich Whitney & Julie Samuels - Green Party

Attorney General:

Lisa Madigan - Democratic
Stewart Umholtz - Republican
David Black - Green

Secretary of State:

Jesse White - Democratic
Dan Rutherford - Republican
Karen "Young" Peterson - Green

Comptroller:

Daniel W. Hynes - Democratic
Carole Pankau - Republican
Alicia Snyder - Green

Treasurer:

Alexander Giannoulis — Democratic
Christine Radogno - Republican
Dan Rodriguez Schlorff - Green

U.S. Representative - 1st District:

Bobby Rush - Democratic
Jason E. Tabour - Republican

U.S. Representative - 3rd District:

Daniel William Lipinski - Democratic
Raymond G. Wardingley - Republican

U.S. Representative - 13th District:

Judy Biggert - Republican
Joseph Shannon - Democratic



Illinois Senate District 18:

Edward D. Maloney - Democratic
- No Opponent -

Polls close at 7:00 PM
Don't be late!

Illinois Senate District 19:

M. Maggie Crotty - Democratic
Eric M. Wallace - Republican

Illinois Representative District 27:

Monique Davis - Democratic
- No Opponent -

Illinois Representative District 28:

Robert "Bob" Rita - Democratic
Christopher G. Newhall - Republican

Illinois Representative District 31:

Mary E. Flowers - Democratic
- No Opponent -

Illinois Representative District 35:

Kevin Carey Joyce - Democratic
- No Opponent—

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Want some help selecting the judges?

On November 7th, more than 70 judicial positions will be on the ballot for retention and over 24 will be seeking election to the bench for the first time. This makes the November 7, 2006 ballot the longest in Illinois history.

Ten Bar Associations have put together a website to assist the public with their selections.

Click. Learn. Vote. <http://www.voteforjudges.org>

On the Ballot Continued

Illinois Representative District 36:
James D. Brosnahan - Democratic
- No Opponent -

Illinois Representative District 37:
Kevin A. McCarthy - Democratic
- No Opponent -

Illinois Representative District 81:
Renee Kosel - Republican
- No Opponent

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

President of County Board:
Todd H. Stroger - Democratic
Tony Peraica - Republican

County Clerk:
David D. Orr - Democratic
Nancy Carlson - Republican

County Sheriff:
Thomas J. Dart - Democratic
Peter Garza - Republican

County Treasurer:
Maria Pappas - Democratic
Erik Peck - Republican

County Assessor:
James M. Houlihan - Democratic
Ralph Conner - Republican

County Commissioner - 6th District:
Joan Patricia Murphy - Democrat
Michael Hawkins - Republican

County Commissioner - 17th District:
Elizabeth "Liz" Doody Gorman - Republican
Thomas "Tommy" Kraus - Democratic

Board of Review:
Maureen Murphy - Republican
Brenden F. Houlihan - Democratic

Regional Superintendent of Schools:
Robert A. Ingraffia - Republican
Charles A. Flowers - Democratic

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS:

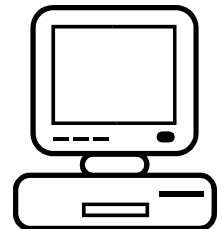
To the Voters of Cook County:

1. "For the health and safety of children and the entire community, shall the State of Illinois enact a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, sale, delivery and possession of military-style assault weapons on .50 caliber rifles?"
2. "Shall Illinois enact legislation in 2007 to increase the minimum wage for Illinois workers from \$6.50 to \$7.50 an hour?"
3. "Shall the United States Government immediately begin an orderly and rapid withdrawal of all its military personnel from Iraq, beginning with the National Guard and Reserves?"

VARIOUS LOCAL REFERENDUM QUESTIONS:

- Palos Heights - bonds for an Aquatic Center
- Atwood Heights Schools - increase rate
- Oak Lawn High School - increase rate
- Lemont and Orland Park Fire District rate increase
- Orland Hills Library rate increase

Don't forget to check up on
all those Judges at:
<http://voteforjudges.org>



Membership in the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area

Founded in 1959, the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area is a non-partisan organization which encourages citizens to play an active role in government at local, state and national levels. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

General Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM with some exceptions

Any person of voting age may join. For membership information, please contact Mary Nebor at 708-479-8309.

The ***Voice*** is published nine times per year by the League of Women Voters of the Palos Orland Area, P. O. Box 86, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463.
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League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area: <http://lwvpo.lwvil.org> / League of Women Voters of Illinois: www.lwvil.org
Illinois Student Vote: www.Illinoisstudentvote.org

Voice of the Co-President

..... By Carol Stefan

“Point of Privilege”.. Point of privilege” - not sure what this means but I do know it has something to do with Roberts Rules of Order. I used to know, but that’s a whole other column. I am using this as a segue into using the word—privilege. I had the privilege of being a small part of a group of LWV members from various local Leagues (Oak Park-River Forest, LaGrange, Evanston, Homewood-Flossmoor, Glenview, Park Forest and Palos-Orland) who volunteered to join the Cook County League in a study that had begun in 2005 of Cook County Government. Local League members are automatically members of the Cook County League, as well as the State and National Leagues. The study was focused on the structure of Cook County Government and its budget process. It was at first blush an overwhelming task. Please note that the study began before Cook County President, John Stroger, had a stroke.

The study group found that information was not readily available about either the structure or the budget, but we were determined to shed some light on this county government with it’s \$3.1 billion budget that has little or no transparency or accountability. Then, fate stepped in and the spotlight of media coverage illuminated the County Board President and the 17 commissioners.

The group of determined Leaguers was relentless in their pursuit of the workings of this government that touches all of our lives in Cook County. One of our Palos members, Marjy Gilbert, was the Chair of the Structure Committee. She truly was the spearhead behind the success of this work in progress. I am not sure how she added extra hours to her days to accomplish what she has between working full time downtown as a Tax Attorney, taking an International Tax Law class, tending to family obligations, and being the guiding and goading light to each of the members of her team. Thank you, Marjy, you made us very proud. I’m feeling good about the future of our League and NO, Cook County League can not have you!

SEE YOU AT THE POLLS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH.



Argonne National Laboratory celebrates 60 Years

On October 7th, Argonne National Laboratory celebrated its 60th anniversary by holding an open house. It was the first open house in seven years and the facility was open to the public all day. Tours of the buildings were available and the most interesting demonstrations were conducted, with many geared to children.

The 1,500 wooded acre site near Lemont has a work force of 2,900 full-time employees, including LWVPO members Al and Arlene Wagner. Argonne is the very first national laboratory and is one of the nation’s leading centers of federally funded research and development.

The University of Chicago has managed Argonne throughout its 60 years and manages the lab through a new organization as of October 1, 2006. The new

organization is called UChicago Argonne, LLC, which includes members in its Science Council from Northwestern and the University of Illinois.

Chris Slowik, editor of this newsletter, attended the open house with her brother and grandchildren. It was an amazing day. We learned that young children should not be drinking skim milk from the Osteoporosis exhibit, and we played “Beat the Robot” and ate ice cream that was chilled with Hydrogen gas. We did run into Al Wagner, who was conducting a pretty interesting exhibit with peanut butter, and Arlene, who was demonstrating how she grows things in a mysterious green solution. We saw a large group of the white deer who have been living on the grounds of Argonne since it opened. They looked like they wanted to come to the open house. They would have loved it, too.

Some Facts about Argonne:

- Argonne developed and installed an early-warning system that helped protect the 2004 Democratic and Republican National Conventions from the threat of chemical and biological attacks by terrorists.
- Argonne helped doctors fight SARS by determining a key portion of the virus’s molecular structure.
- Argonne scientists have won three Nobel Prizes in physics, including its founder, Enrico Fermi.
- Argonne has produced 34 spin-off companies and, since 1990, Argonne has received nearly 740 patents.
- Argonne has employees from 61 different nations.
- Argonne helped prove that Beethoven suffered from lead poisoning.

Good job Argonne - Take a Bow!

Cook County Mysteries Prove Spooky

In a pre-Halloween meeting, LWVPO members learned about the ins and outs of Cook County Government. The two study committees formed by the League of Women Voters of Cook County shared what they learned during their study. They did an excellent job of investigating how our county works and a terrific job of organizing that information into a presentation.

The Leagues participating in this study and presentation were the Palos-Orland Area, Oak Park-River Forest, LaGrange Area, Evanston, Homewood-Flossmoor, Glenview, and Park Forest Area. They took a close look at the constitutional and statutory framework of County Government, commissioners and districts, the board's functions, the board's committee structure, the relationship between the board and the president, source and application of funds, County employees, the Forest Preserve District, and the preparation, review and approval of the budget.

The group broke into two separate study groups with our own Marjy Gilbert chairing the Structure Study Committee. Cynthia Schilsky from the LaGrange Area League of Women Voters chaired the Budget Process Study Committee. The two committees started their work in May of 2005. After conducting the study for one year, the group sent questionnaires out to all 17 Cook County Commissioners and received ten in return.

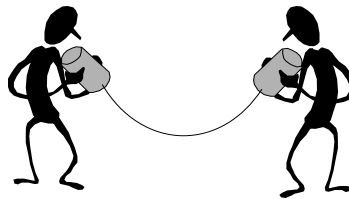
The presentation reviewed the many services that County Government oversees including 3 major hospitals, elections, health care, Forest Preserve District, real estate services, roads, municipal services, police systems, court system and a very large prison system and sheriff services. Seventeen commissioners represent districts that cover 133 municipalities, with Chicago being the largest. Chicago is the County Seat and all commissioners have offices in the County Building in Chicago. Power to run this government is given in Article 7 of the Illinois Constitution, which authorizes the collection of taxes.

Committee members found it very difficult to find information in the actual code because the system is in chaos. On a trip to the Cook County Law Library, a League member from Evanston experienced difficulty when asking for the County Code. When she tried to look up a new law on bike helmets, she found that the

the ordinance information was entered by date and not name. She also found that the Forest Preserve was not referenced to the County Code which made any cross referencing impossible.

The Budget Study Committee found that while the budget process begins in March and should be finished by October, the budget approval is often late. In fact, during the past three years, approval was not made until February, almost 3 months after the end of the fiscal year. Top ten observations by this committee were:

1. Published budget and the online budget contain a great deal of information.
2. No benchmarks were provided to commissioners for analysis and comparison of budgets.
3. During the past 3 years, the budget approval came after the end of the fiscal year.
4. County Board function of oversight is compromised by timing constraints.
5. Technology could facilitate public hearing discussions.



Technology could facilitate public hearing discussions.

6. There is a lack of attention and attendance by commissioners during the budget hearings.
7. Bipartisanship is apparent in sponsorship of budget amendments.
8. Information gathered at public hearings is not captured in a systematic manner or followed up on.
9. Final 2006 budget approval was not posted on the website until July of 2006 and has not yet been published in the newspaper as required by law.
10. Commissioners and staff were cooperative in providing interviews and answering questions.

Next Steps

- Increase Study Committee members
- Observe 2007 Budget Hearings
- Finalize Observations
- Possibly propose positions for consensus
- Outline areas for further study

Some Facts on Immigration

This is the first article to share some of the work of the Immigration study group that was approved at the 2005 League of Women Voters of Illinois Convention. We will be taking a closer look at this information at our January and February general meetings.

As of the year 2000, Illinois was home to more than 1.4 million foreign-born persons. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of documented and undocumented immigrants have likely arrived since 2000. Nearly half of all foreign-born persons in Illinois were born in Mexico. Immigration from Mexico has increased steadily since the mid-1960s.

The next largest immigrant group is from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union with over 260,000 by the year 2000.

The majority of foreign-born in Illinois are not citizens. Almost half of Mexican immigrants speak little or no English. The most skilled at the English language are the Western European immigrant, the Sub-

Saharan Africans and the East Asians.

Immigrants are represented in all sectors of the Illinois economy and compared to other states, relatively few immigrants from Illinois work in agriculture. Illinois immigrants have very low unemployment rates and levels of welfare utilization. About 1/3 of most immigrant groups say they pay 30% or more of their income for housing.

The vast majority of immigrants in Illinois reside in the Chicago area. As of the year 2000, 627,000 lived in Chicago, 440,000 in the Cook suburbs and another 355,000 in the collar counties. The rest of the state has about 110,000.

People immigrate to the U.S. and other developed countries to have better lives and fill jobs that are not available in underdeveloped countries. If the immigrants are undocumented, then they are here illegally. The experts agree that as long as the jobs are here, they will continue to come no

matter how tough we make it for them.

In December of 2005, the House of Representatives passed a bill, called the Sensenbrenner Bill, that will make it a felony for foreigners to be here without permission and a felony for anyone to knowingly help an undocumented immigrant. This bill also authorized the building of a 700 mile fence on the Mexican border.

The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act is more comprehensive and has bipartisan support. This legislation provides for earned legalization and family unity among other provisions.

Laws in the U.S. have been changing since the 1790s on the question of immigration. This issue has become very complex for Americans. Most people believe that the U.S. Immigration System is broken and there are many views on how to solve the problems. It is often an emotionally charged issue for people on all sides.

November General Meeting

Saturday, November 11, 2006 - 9:30 AM

Palos Heights Library
12501 South 71st Avenue

MVCC Professor Deron Schreck

***Commentary on Election Results and
Insight into American Government***

Juvenile Court Tour flyer here

Hizzoner flyer here



November, 2006

Special Election Issue

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

Postage for this newsletter has been underwritten by



LWVPO Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendar

Clip and Save 

- November 2 Illinois Student Vote - Student Mock Election in local area schools
- 7 **GENERAL ELECTION - VOTE!!!**
- 11 General Meeting - Palos Heights Library - 9:30 AM
Commentary on the Election & Insight into American Government
Professor Deron Schreck from MVCC
- 15 Board Meeting at Barbara Pasquinelli's Home - 7:30PM
12210 Cheyenne in Palos Heights
- 17 Join the League of Women Voters of Cook County for a
Tour of the Child Protection Division of Cook County Juvenile Court
1100 South Hamilton Avenue in Chicago - 10AM to Noon
To sign up: millie@juskevice.com or contact Marjy Gilbert
- 23 **Thanksgiving - Happy Turkey Day!**
- December 13 Fireside potluck Dinner - Sue Hennessy's Home
- January 13 Immigration Presentation - Palos Heights Library - 9:30 AM



Happy
Thanksgiving