



*The Naperville*

# VOTER

October 2009

President – Jane Barnes, 630-820-0255

Editor - Mary Ellen Barry, 630-420-8794

Administrator – Erin O'Donnell, 630-637-8717

Website - <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/>

## Calendar

### October

**7** - DuPage County-wide Kick-Off Rally:  
Countdown to the 2010 Census,  
7 p.m. West Commons Room of Building  
K; College of DuPage

**13** – Board meeting, Mary Wright's, 635  
W. Jefferson

**22** – Roundtable discussion on ethics in  
government, 7:30 pm North Central  
College, Koten Chapel in Kiekhofer Hall  
329 East School Street

### November

**11** – Consensus meeting on the Form of  
Local Government (TBA)

### December

**4** – Holiday Party (Details to come)

## President's Letter

Hello, Everyone!

There's a full calendar of activities to take us into 2010. Those who gathered for conversation at our September meeting were introduced to three intriguing public issues. If you weren't there, you have more opportunities to connect in a real way to the activity of the League in Naperville – and to make a difference in your own level of information!

If you have not yet sent in your dues for the 2009-2010 year, please take a moment now to do so. Checks should go to Bev Parker. If you can, consider writing a separate check which is tax-deductible - to the Naperville League of Women Voters Education Fund. These donations help to stretch our voter services to the community.

And, once again, I hold up for your consideration the possibility of greater participation in a League activity: voter registration and information; program development; community outreach through the Democracy in Action Award or connection to up and coming voters in our schools; observing a government body for League issue alerts; helping to archive accounts of League action in newspaper accounts; helping with hospitality... Any of these possibilities could give you pleasure, satisfaction, and a stronger League in Naperville. What would it take to entice you into one small step? Let me know! I'm willing to go an extra mile to make it happen!

*Jane Barnes*

# Roundtable Discussion on Ethics in Government

October 22, 7:30 – 9:30 pm  
North Central College  
Koten Chapel in Kiekhofer Hall  
329 East School Street

**Speakers**                    **James Wright**, Executive Inspector General, Office of the Executive Inspector General of the Agencies of the Illinois Governor

**Jim Bonk**, Director of Investigations

The LWV is committed to Making Democracy Work. In January 2006, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. released “Six Benchmarks for Lobbying Reform”. One of these is "Oversee and enforce ethics rules and lobbying laws through an independent congressional Office of Public Integrity and increase penalties for violations." The Naperville League is focusing on Ethics in Illinois. This is one of a series of events which the Naperville League will present on this vital topic.

The first roundtable will feature representatives from the State of Illinois Office of the Executive Inspector General (OEIG). The speakers are James Wright, Executive Inspector General, and James Bonk, Chief of Investigations. The OEIG acts as an independent agency whose function is to investigate fraud and abuse in State government under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Governor. Specifically, the Office of Executive Inspector General receives and investigates complaints of violations of any law, rule or regulation or abuse of authority or other forms of misconduct by officers, employees and appointees of State agencies under its jurisdiction and vendors and others doing business with the State. The Executive Inspector General reports any findings of misconduct to the Governor, and recommends measures to prevent the future occurrence of investigated instances of fraud, abuse or misconduct. The Executive Inspector General refers findings establishing criminal conduct to the appropriate prosecuting authority.

Join us for this informative discussion with the agency that investigates misconduct in state government as they answer questions including: how to change the lackadaisical culture of ethics in the Illinois; is mandatory training the answer; can legislation solve the problem and what needs to be done to fix the current system?

Next month, DuPage County District 5 County Board members Jim Healy and Tony Michellassi will address the topic of ethics in the county. The date and time will be forthcoming.

**For more information or to get involved, contact the League:**  
[EthicsStudy1@naperville.il.lwv.org](mailto:EthicsStudy1@naperville.il.lwv.org) or call Mary Wright at 630 901 4535.

# Local Government Study

On November 11, study committee members Jack Barry, Connie Burns, and Joan Norman will present their research into the options for electing representatives for local governments in Illinois to our membership. Some of the topics they're investigating include:

- Analysis of district representation systems in cities over 100,000
- Past history regarding local district representation referenda
- Naperville Homeowners' Associations statistics
- Illinois statutes relating to home rule, population, and local government changes
- Demographics of city councils past and present
- Campaign spending in recent elections
- Voter turnout statistics by election and geographical area
- Controversial issues that divide a community

At the consensus meeting, members will determine which option for local government the League should support by deliberating on the consensus question "***How should members of the Naperville City Council be elected: at large, by district, or a mix of at large and district?***" Members will recall that the restudy of our local government position was adopted at our Annual Meeting in June. Watch our website for more information about the topic and the meeting!

As preparation for the November meeting members should consider the following list of possible options, compiled by committee member Jack Barry from the "Illinois Municipal Code" section of the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*:

## **At Large**

-(65 ILCS 5/5-2-12)(b) "... In cities of at least 100,000 but not more than 500,000 population, the council shall consist of the mayor and 8 councilmen."

## **Districts**

-(65 ILCS 5/5-2-2) "...In all cities of less than 500,000, 20 aldermen shall be the maximum number permitted except as otherwise provided in the case of aldermen-at-large."

-(65 ILCS Sec. 5-2-18) "...After the adoption of such proposition the provisions of Article 3 shall be applicable to the division of the city into wards and to the election of the mayor and aldermen of such city, except that only one alderman shall be elected from each ward."

## **Mixed (Some at Large and some from Districts)**

-(65 ILCS 5/5-2-18.7) "...In cities of 50,000 and not more than 500,000 population, the council shall consist of the mayor and 8 councilmen, 3 councilmen being elected at large and 5 councilmen being elected from districts...The city council shall divide the city, whenever necessary thereafter, into districts which shall be of as compact and contiguous territory as practicable and of approximately equal population. The number of such districts shall be the same as the number of councilmen to be elected from districts.

One councilman who is an actual resident of the district, shall be elected from each district. Only the electors of a district shall elect a councilman from that district. The rest of the number of councilmen authorized shall be elected at large."

# Health Care Reform in Jeopardy

## *Letter from Mary Wilson, LWVUS President to all members:*

We are reaching a critical point in the health care debate. The League is calling for bold reforms that guarantee universal coverage and quality care, and keep health care costs under control. But first we must fight the intentional lies and desperate tactics of those who oppose health care reform.

The House and the Administration have put forward plans for health care reform that will:

- Provide universal coverage for all Americans, and include a public option.
- Control health care costs.
- Improve safety and quality of care.
- Ensure transparency in plans and coverage.
- Provide adequate financing.
- 

These plans will not do the following, despite the false allegations of opponents:

- Will not hurt our seniors or end Medicare.
- Will not ration coverage and care.
- Will not impose long delays on cancer treatment and vital surgeries.

For more detailed information, check out [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org).

On top of these myths that our opponents are spreading, the League is under direct attack by the people who mislead, confuse, and sow fear in an attempt to stop much-needed reform.

A new organization calling itself the “League of American Voters” is conducting an advertising campaign to undermine public support for health care reform by sowing fear and mistrust. Since we spoke out against their tactics earlier this month, we have received backlash from “supporters” of this group, including disruptive and rude phone calls and emails. An overwhelming number of you responded to our call for support, so we know we’re not alone in our condemnation of this low level of discourse. We’ve also begun exploring what legal options are available to help us protect our name from those who are misusing it.

This is just one example of the fight we face in the battle for real health care reform.

Here’s what you can do to fight back:

1. Contact your Senators and Representative. Tell them that you support universal coverage and cost-containment—and urge them to keep health care reform legislation moving forward.
2. Keep the League of Women Voters informed. Call your local League if you see any misleading health care ads running on television.
3. Tell your friends. Show your support on Facebook and Twitter by posting this to your pages: “The League is under direct attack by the people who mislead, confuse, and sow fear in an attempt to stop much-needed health care reform. Learn how you can help combat the lies at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).”
4. Call out the media. If you see an ad that perpetuates any of the above myths, contact your local media and demand that they reject misleading ads.
5. Write your local newspaper. Send a letter to your local newspaper editor about the blatant falsehoods being spread by those who oppose health care reform.

This is our best and last chance to fix our broken health care system, and we can’t hold back. We must denounce those who will lie or use any means to block health care reform, and the best antidote, as usual, is the truth.

## *News from the State League:*

### **LWVIL Selected as Lead Agency for Illinois' Complete Count**

The League of Women Voters of Illinois has been selected by Governor Quinn as the lead agency for Illinois' Complete Count Committee: "Everybody In.. No One Left Out!" for Census 2010. The League will collaborate with the Governor's office to help select Complete Count Committee members from non-profit organizations, business community, faith-based organizations, and the media. Working with these organizations and local Leagues from around the state, the LWVIL will help ensure that Illinois is fully counted.

### **LWVIL Joins Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC)**

The League of Women Voters of IL has joined with the Responsible Budget Coalition, a powerful statewide coalition founded on the belief there is a promising and responsible answer to Illinois' fiscal quagmire. The RBC will conduct a statewide campaign that is committed to building the support needed to solve Illinois' budget crisis, prevent further harmful cuts to essential public services, save jobs, eliminate the state's long-term structural deficit and provide struggling Illinoisans with relief from regressive taxation. Coalition members agree that legislation supporting a balanced income tax such as HB 174 SA2 proposes will protect children and families.

As a result of LWV participation in the coalition, most League activities on fiscal reform will now be in concert with this overarching organization. More information about the RBC is available on the Voices4kids website [www.voices4kids.org](http://www.voices4kids.org) where you will find a link entitled: [getinvolved/statebudgetactioncenter](http://getinvolved/statebudgetactioncenter). There you'll find talking points, principles and links to planned event information.

*Yoo Hoo! Dues Are Due!!*



Please send your check today to:  
Bev Parker, Treasurer  
1330 Deep Run  
Naperville, IL 60540



**League of Women Voters of Naperville**  
**c/o Mary Ellen Barry, Editor**  
**1134 Omaha Court**  
**Naperville, IL 60540**

**Inside:**

**Ethics in Government, p. 2**

**Local Government Study, p. 3**

**LWVIL News, p.5**