

LWV®

The DeKalb

# voter

The New Year opens our eyes and hearts to so many promises of what is *possible*.

This year, let us focus on the Possibilities – the possibility to create an LWV-DeKalb of civic pride and involvement; the possibility of reclaiming our membership and recommitting to LWV goals and ideals; the possibility of increasing citizen knowledge and participation in election processes and the ultimate possibility of joining together many voices to set a new course and direction for our LWVDeK. There are endless possibilities – our LWV is strong, engaged and involved in endeavors that will help to propel us in 2011 – to absolutely WIN!

The DeKalb LWV made some very significant strides in 2010.

- Launch of the General Membership Meetings with Guest speakers about issues affecting women.
- Execution on 7 Election Forums and Debates
- Participation in passage of the Health Care Reform bill

The DeKalb LWV had a busy year in 2010 and we will go on to have a busy year in 2011. Let me highlight some of the upcoming events that provide us with endless possibilities and opportunities.

**General Membership Meetings.** The LWV general membership meeting is our opportunity to bring our membership and community together to learn about LWVDeK work, to increase membership and to learn how civic engagement enriches our lives. Our upcoming meetings will be open forums on DeKalb legislation, transportation, health care and local legislation regarding cityhood.

**Program Planning Meeting-** The January 29<sup>th</sup> program planning meeting will identify and develop the “new” slate of issues that the LWVDeK will address for 2011-2012 League year.

**League of Women Voters State Convention 2011** to be held in Carrollton, GA. This will be an exciting weekend of activities. Register for this monumental conference at [www.lwvga.org](http://www.lwvga.org)

The possibilities for growth, development, involvement and civic engagement are endless in 2011. We need your support and most of all your participation. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I encourage you to do so. It's easy to renew your membership with our new on-line membership enrollment at [www.lwvdk.org](http://www.lwvdk.org). I am looking forward to working with you to make the many possibilities become realities.

Belinda Pedroso  
President, LWVDeK  
[president@lwvdk.org](mailto:president@lwvdk.org)



*We are one League with many voices, setting a new course and direction.*

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

## Meet DeKalb County's Newly Elected Officials

Learn what these new leaders hope to accomplish during their terms

As the New Year begins, a handful of new leaders will begin their terms in DeKalb. Although the mid-term elections of November concluded with several incumbents returning to office, two new state representatives, Jason Carter and Elena Parent will represent parts of DeKalb in the Georgia General Assembly.

Jason Carter was elected after a special election in May to fill the 42<sup>nd</sup> District post left vacant by former Rep. David Adelman, after his appointment to serve as the ambassador to Singapore. Coincidentally, Elena Parent worked as Ambassador Adelman's Chief of Staff during his time in office. Carter is a graduate of the University of Georgia Law School, and is a married father of two sons.

Elena Parent, who defeated incumbent Jill Chambers to represent District 81, is a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School and is married with one son. Key issues for both Carter and Parent include transportation and water.

More specifically, Elena has two objectives. "I am committed to advancing the interests of DeKalb County through promoting it as a great place to live and work. Two initiatives I am especially interested in are: 1. improving our public school system and protecting it from further budgetary cuts and 2. working to attract quality, high-paying jobs to DeKalb County. I am very excited and honored about my opportunity to represent DeKalb County at the Georgia legislature and pledge to be accessible to and open with my constituents," said Rep. Parent, in a message to LWVDK. \*

The DeKalb County judicial system will see familiar faces in different places. Former Solicitor-General Robert James was elected to succeed Gwen Keys-Fleming as the new district attorney for DeKalb County. As a result of James' resignation as the county solicitor-general, Sherry Boston was appointed to the position by outgoing Governor Perdue.

Boston is a former candidate for state court judge and currently a judge for DeKalb Recorder Court.

Courtney Johnson, a former DeKalb Assistant District Attorney, will preside as the state court judge for the Stone Mountain circuit, following a victory in a close run-off election against Michael Rothenberg.

Other municipal officials include Stan Watson who will join the DeKalb Board of Commissioners as the representative for the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Watson is hardly a novice to public office after 12 years of service as a state representative. The DeKalb school board has two new members. Nancy Jester and Donna Elder took the oath of office to begin their term on January 3, 2011.



Nancy Jester (left) and Donna Elder (right) recently joined the Dekalb County School Board

### Political yet Non Partisan...

The League of Women Voters of DeKalb County adheres to the national LWV principle of strictly non partisan activity. We neither support nor oppose candidates at any level of government, but we serve the community by addressing the concerns of the general public and encouraging citizens to be politically active by educating themselves and advocating for good government.

\*The invitation to appear in the *Voter* was extended to both state representatives featured.

## Know the Issues...

### Key legislation sponsored by DeKalb County state representatives and Senators

As the effects of the Great Recession continue to linger, budget and state revenue will without a doubt dominate the 2011 Georgia General Assembly. Representatives from DeKalb and all over the state will shape Georgia's financial future. Decisions will encompass the two obvious priorities; cutting costs and increasing revenues. Taxation and transportation are two key topics that will likely permeate a good portion of the legislation during the 2011 session.

Transportation issues significant to DeKalb include the allocation of GRIP (Governor's Road Improvement Program) and LARP (Local Assistance Road Program) funds, and the Atlanta Regional Commission's 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. Transportation funding could also become a part of the discourse on the state's environmental future. Atlanta currently ranks in the American Lung Association's Top 20 most polluted cities. ([www.stateoftheair.org](http://www.stateoftheair.org))\*

Property tax is an issue of special interest to DeKalb. Recent past sessions of the General Assembly included legislation to create more consistent property tax regulations throughout the state. In addition to property tax, the restructuring of the state tax system to favor sales taxes versus income taxes will also create much debate. LWVDK will host a Legislative Update on January 26, 2011, with State Senators and Representatives from DeKalb. Please visit [www.lwvdk.org](http://www.lwvdk.org) for more details.

### DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis' State of the County Address: Tax Increase Needed to Sustain County

CEO Burrell Ellis' State of the County address focused mostly on a proposed tax increase of 2.32%. The housing market slump has caused continuous decline revenue for DeKalb County, which is mostly residential. Among the financial constraints, CEO Ellis cites \$86 million in reduced revenue and \$39 million in increased operational costs. Strategies to stretch the budget included an early retirement program and unpaid summer holidays for county employees, coupled with heavy department consolidation and reorganization. Proposed strategies for 2011 include, outsourcing of various services, entering into public-private partnerships and further elimination of non-essential programs and services.

However, according to Ellis these measures will not remedy the weakened reserve which currently holds only \$9million. The DeKalb CEO warned that operating with such limited reserves could create great fiscal risks and leave the county vulnerable to debt in the event of an emergency. Job creation, public safety, code enforcement, neighborhood empowerment, government efficiency, and accountability were highlighted as budget priorities for 2011.



CEO Burrell Ellis

Education is a key principle of the LWV mission. In 2011 LWVDK will focus on the topics of Transportation, Environment and Health. If you would like to contribute content to the *Know the Issues* section of the *Voter*, please contact [Communication@lwvdk.org](mailto:Communication@lwvdk.org).

## 4 Join the Conversation...

### Member Spotlight

#### Pat Parker Celebrates 100 years!

Pat Parker's leadership began in 1965 as the President of a League of Women Voters local league in Deerfield, Illinois. After moving to Georgia, Pat continued her service to the League as the secretary and treasurer of the LWV of Georgia, before her three-year term as the LWVGA president. Under her leadership the League lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment and developed partnerships with WSB-TV and the Young Lawyers of Georgia to produce public service announcements. Pat worked diligently for her local DeKalb league ensuring it remained active during difficult times. Ms. Parker recently celebrated 100 years of life. Her passion and dedication to the League will certainly be a part of League history.

#### Quote Me

*"The answer to one is the answer to all. Government by "the people" is expedient or it is not. If it is expedient, then obviously all the people must be included."*

*"A constitutional democracy is in serious trouble if its citizenry does not have a certain degree of education and civic virtue."*

\*The first member to email LWVDC with the answers of the authors of these quotes will be featured in the next *Voter's* member spotlight.

## Did You Know?

#### **For Your Eyes Only...**

In the 1940 the League worked to abolish the poll tax and adopt a secret ballot in Georgia.

#### **Advocates All Over the World...**

There are hundreds of local leagues across the country and in parts of the world, such as the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

#### **90 Years and Counting...**

The first League of Women Voters meeting in Georgia was held in 1920 at the home of Emily C. McDougald with 22 women in attendance.

# Make A Difference...

## Become a Member Today

Joining the local DeKalb league can make a difference in our community. Without the LWV presence, the needs of voter education and evaluation of government effectiveness would not be performed. For over 90 years the LWV has gained the reputation for "FAIR" and "IMPARTIAL" government oversight. We need your support to continue with our mission.

With the support of active members we:

- **Publish** Voter Guides for *every* primary and general election;
- **Publish** bi-annual political directory listing elected officials in DeKalb;
- **Organize** candidate forums, evening meetings, and Brunch 'n' Learns;
- **Publish** our newsletter, The DeKalb VOTER; and
- **Conduct** voter registration drives.

Membership is open to all men and women over the age of 18. Dues are \$65 per individual. Money is accepted via our website or check can be sent to the LWV DK postal address. Please consider joining the LWV DK today!

## Join a Committee

Once you become a member there are numerous ways you can participate. Joining a committee is a great way to put your skills and interest to work for the cause.

Program	<a href="mailto:Programs@lwvdk.org">Programs@lwvdk.org</a>
Membership	<a href="mailto:Membership@lwvdk.org">Membership@lwvdk.org</a>
Technology	<a href="mailto:Technology@lwvdk.org">Technology@lwvdk.org</a>
Communications	<a href="mailto:Communication@lwvdk.org">Communication@lwvdk.org</a>

## *In Memoriam*

As we close the first edition of the *Voter* for the 2011, LWV DK wishes extend condolences to their families and friends and express deep appreciation for members who departed in 2010.

Dotsie Holmes

Dorothy Pettes

**League of Women Voters  
of DeKalb County**

100 Edgewood Ave. NE  
Suite 1275 Atlanta, GA 30303  
404.321.0913  
lwvdk@lwvdk.org



*Know the Issues.  
Join the Conversation.  
Make a Difference.*

---

## **League of Women Voters of DeKalb Calendar Dates**

### **Take Note**

The Program Planning Meeting for LWVDK membership is scheduled for Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-12Noon. The meeting will be held at Emory University in room 1.432 located on the first floor. Program planning is essential to set the course for LWVDK events and forums. We welcome all members to attend and share their ideas.

Emory University  
1599 Clifton Road,  
NE Atlanta, Georgia 30322

### **LWVDK Proposed Calendar Dates**

<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Legislative Update
<b>Saturday, Jan. 29</b>	LWVDK Program Planning meeting,
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 22</b>	LWVGA Legislative Day
<b>Monday, March 7</b>	LWVDK Board Meeting
<b>March</b>	LWVGA Power of the Vote
<b>Saturday, April 30</b>	LWVGA Convention, Carrollton
<b>May</b>	LWVDK Community Luncheon
<b>Thursday, June 2</b>	LWVDK Annual Meeting

These dates are tentative. Please check [www.lwvdk.org](http://www.lwvdk.org) for more details

---

# League of Women Voters of DeKalb County

## 2011-2012 Nominating Form Instructions

The Nominating Committee proposes the following method to identify and engage all board members early in the process.

- The Nominating Committee will provide a nomination form to all active LWVDK members in January 2011. (Note: Specific roles of officers and directors.)
- The LWVDK members submit their nominations on the form by the designated date.
- The Nominating Committee will interview the candidates based on criteria developed.
- The Nominating Committee will propose a slate to the membership in the April Voter based on results of interviews.
- At the June 2, Annual Meeting, the members will accept or amend the slate from the floor and vote.
- New officers and members will become effective after the vote at the Annual Meeting.

*Your input is vital to the Nominating Committee!*

The LWVDK membership elects the Board of Directors. There are 7 officers and 6 director positions on the board. Those terms that have expired or individuals who no longer fill the positions are open for nomination to the BOD, as defined in the LWVDK bylaws. This year we are asking the non-officer directors to take a leadership position on the various committees. Review the attached brief description of the responsibilities of each position and committee. Check the appropriate position under the respective column that you are interested in for 2011-12 or in the future, as well any recommendations you may have of members who would serve LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DEKALB well in a role. The criteria are below:

### **Board of Directors Criteria**

Required: Current on dues

Preferred:

- Financial Commitment beyond dues - \$ 100- \$140
- Non-officers, i.e., directors: Committed to serve as chair or board representative for the designated position
- Agree to attend board meetings and events
- Agree to assist the BOD in reaching its organizational goals and commitments.
- Experience on a board, civic, community or professional association (recommend at least one year minimum)
- At minimum, one year active membership in LWVDK

**Board Officer Criteria** (President, President-elect, 3 Vice Presidents - Programs, Membership and Fund Development, Treasurer, Secretary)

See above criteria, plus

- Experience in the relevant field or leadership experience/skills
- Agree to work as a team member to foster a collaborative spirit in reaching the organization mission and goals
- Lead by example for the board, membership and community
- A minimum of one year active membership in LWVDK (i.e.; serve on a committee, work with a project, etc.)
- Two year minimum in community, business or professional service outside of the LWV

### ***Schedule:***

- *Announce Board positions open for nominations in the January 2011 edition of the DeKalb Voter.*
- *Deadline for nominations – March 5, 2011*
- *Interviews – March 15 – March 19, 2011*
- *Nominating Committee Report finalized and presented to the Board s on April 4, 2011*
- *Published in DeKalb Voter by April 15*
- *Voting at the Annual Meeting - June 2, 2011*
- *Induction – June 2, 2011*

Contact Nominating Committee Chair: CAROL CRUMBY, 3653 Lantern Crest Cove, Scottdale GA 30079 – [lwvdk.nomchr2010@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvdk.nomchr2010@yahoo.com). **Please email your completed application to the nominating chair no later than COB February 24, 2011.**

(Continued from reverse side)

## League of Women Voters of DeKalb County 2011-2012 Nominating Form

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in a Board position for the 2011-12 year, it is also necessary to fill out an application. The application will also be posted at [www.lwvdk.org](http://www.lwvdk.org). If you are interested in a Board position for the future please indicate below:

	I am interested in this position for 2011-2012	I am interested in this position for the future	I'd like to recommend someone for this position (Please refer to the directory of active LWV members.)
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>			
<b>President</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA _____
<b>President-elect</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Vice President: Program</b> 2011-12 (to fill unexpired term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Vice President: Membership</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Vice President: Development</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Treasurer</b> 2010-2011 (2-year term)	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA _____
<b>Secretary</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Director – Voter Service</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Director – Voter Education</b> 2011-12 (to fill unexpired term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Director – Technology</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Director – Parliamentarian</b> 2010-12 (2-year term)	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA _____
<b>Director – Observer Corps</b> 2011-13 (2-year term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Director – Communications</b> 2011-12 (to fill unexpired term)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____