

Adult Ministries  
2012 Election Issues Series  
Leader: Freeman Hall

October 7<sup>th</sup>; Food for Thought: 12:30 – 2:00pm

**Topic: “How the election of 2012 will shape our nation’s approach to balance debt reduction through spending cuts and tax reform with the need for economic growth and reduced unemployment”**

Moderator: Warren Olney, Host of KCRW’s “To the Point”, and “Which Way, LA?”

([http://www.kcrw.com/people/olney\\_warren?role=host](http://www.kcrw.com/people/olney_warren?role=host))

Panelists:

- Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, Senior Fellow, Price School of Public Policy, USC, KNBC commentator ([http://www.usc.edu/schools/price/faculty/nontenure/bebitch\\_jeffe.html](http://www.usc.edu/schools/price/faculty/nontenure/bebitch_jeffe.html))
- Bill Boyarsky, Journalist, Lecturer, Writer ([http://www.truthdig.com/bill\\_boyarsky#bio](http://www.truthdig.com/bill_boyarsky#bio))
- Charles Wolf, Distinguished Chair in International Economics, The RAND Corporation, and Professor, The Pardee Rand Graduate School; Senior research fellow, The Hoover Institution

October 14<sup>th</sup>; Topics at Ten: 10 – 11

Topic: Further Information presented followed by group discussion on FFT topic of **“How the election of 2012 will shape our nation’s approach to balance debt reduction through spending cuts and tax reform with the need for economic growth and reduced unemployment”**.

Resources:

- Congressional Budget Office:
  - o Long-Term Budget Outlook <http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43288>
  - o Economic Effects of Reducing the Fiscal Restraint That Is Scheduled to Occur in 2013 <http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43262>
- “Simpson-Bowles” Debt Reduction Committee <http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/news/moment-truth-report-national-commission-fiscal-responsibilityand-reform>

October 21<sup>st</sup>; Topics at Ten: 10 – 11

**Topic: What Now on Healthcare? Policy Options & Political Preferences After the Supreme Court Ruling**

Resources:

- Supreme Court Majority, Concurring, and Dissenting Options (<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/11pdf/11-393c3a2.pdf>)

October 28<sup>st</sup>; Topics at Ten: 10 – 11

**Topic: Fixing California’s Structural Deficit: Governor Brown, the Legislature and Ballot Initiatives. A review and discussion of the Governor’s and Legislature’s budget plans and tax initiatives on the ballot**

Resources:

- LA Times article links <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jun/21/local/la-me-state-budget-20120622>
- Ballot Initiative links <http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California>

November 4<sup>th</sup>; Topics at Ten: 10 – 11

**Topic: With Congressional and state legislative approval at historic lows, how can the broken legislative system be improved, if not fixed. The filibuster, campaigning after Citizens United, and party rivalries that trump constituent interests.**

Resources:

- Public Opinion on Congress and State Legislature Performance
- Impact of Filibuster and debate curbs [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/22/opinion/sunday/friedman-down-with-everything.html?\\_r=1&ref=filibustersanddebatecurbs](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/22/opinion/sunday/friedman-down-with-everything.html?_r=1&ref=filibustersanddebatecurbs)
- Money as Speech, and can influence of money on elections be restricted in the wake of Citizens United (<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>)
- Articles demonstrating Party Interests are trumping the public’s interest and will