



Interested in world affairs but feel like you don't know enough to discuss them intelligently?

Join us for impartial, thought-provoking analyses on eight issues of concern to U.S. policymakers

GREAT DECISIONS 2009

Co-sponsored by
The League of Women Voters of La Plata County and
the Durango Public Library

Topic	Tuesdays 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.	Thursdays 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
The U.S. & rising global powers	January 27 <i>Note date change*</i>	January 22
Afghanistan and Pakistan	February 3	February 5
Energy & the global economy	February 17	February 19
The Arctic age	March 3	March 5
Egypt in the 21st Century	March 17	March 19
Global food supply	March 31	April 2
Cuba after Castro	April 14	April 16
Universal human rights?	April 28	April 30

Durango Public Library
1900 East Third Avenue
Program Room, Main Floor
Brown bag lunch

Note: The order of topics in the briefing book may be different from the schedule shown above.
Please follow the schedule.

Checks for \$20 for each briefing book should be made out to "LWV of La Plata County"
and mailed with this form no later than December 29 to:
Nadine Ancel, LWV LPC Treasurer, P.O. Box 2113, Durango, CO 81302

Questions: Pat Chatfield, 247-1692 or email lwwlpc@aol.com
More information about Great Decisions and the Foreign Policy Association at www.fpa.org

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Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

I plan to attend: Tuesdays _____ Thursdays _____ It may vary _____

***This session has been moved to Jan. 27 because of the conflict with the Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20**

Great Decisions 2009 topics

The U.S. and rising powers

Since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has emerged as the world's predominant power. However, in the 21st century some rapidly developing countries have become increasingly influential. Who are these "rising powers?" Will their emergence change the global balance of power? How will the U.S. react?

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Newfound hopes for stability in Iraq have shifted the U.S. military focus back to Afghanistan and Pakistan, one of the most volatile border regions in the world. What impact will this renewed interest have on the two states as well as on U.S. defense strategy?

Energy and the global economy

Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries, are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?

The Arctic age

Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and intercontinental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?

Egypt in the 21st Century

Egypt has long played an important role in the Arab world while maintaining a strategic relationship with the U.S. With elections scheduled for 2009, how will Egypt deal with serious domestic issues, ranging from Islamic radicalism to food shortages? What factors will influence the path of this regional heavyweight?

Global food supply

Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?

Cuba after Castro

Since Fidel Castro handed over the presidency of Cuba to his brother, Raúl in early 2008, signs of greater economic openness have led to much speculation. Will Raúl seek to reopen ties with the U.S.? What role will Cuba's American exiles play in shaping a post-Castro Cuba?

Universal human rights?

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan and Myanmar continue to challenge its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing?