



League of Women Voters of Utah

The Utah Voter

3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106
(801) 272-8683 FAX (801) 272-5942 [email: lwvu@mail.xmission.com](mailto:lwvu@mail.xmission.com) web: www.lwvutah.org

Volume 73 Spring 2005 Issue 5

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Important Dates

- ◆ Convention April 29-30 in Ogden
- ◆ State Board Meeting April 30th, 7:30AM, Ogden

President’s Letter



I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for the last three years. It has been an unbelievable experience for me. The league members I have had the privilege to work with and the members I have met in traveling to the local leagues have expanded my appreciation for the league in general and a pride in the gift we bring to our respective communities. I look forward to our up-coming State Convention to share with you all the joy the league has brought me and encourage you to all consider attending.

Kudos’ must go out to the outstanding job our Lobby Corps did at the Legislature this year. Kathy Dorn and her tireless team spent endless hours listening, writing

and testifying for the League. We continue to be a voice of reason on the hill and we thank the Corps for representing us so well and keeping us informed. And finally, we can never adequately express our thanks to the awesome power of our executive director, Sandy Peck. I only wish you could all see her in action. I know that you all enjoyed her Legislative Updates, but did you know that so do a great many of the folks on the hill both legislators and lobbyists? Salute, to a job well done.

And now an overview of what is in this VOTER.

- ◆ Kathy Dorn, our Legislative Director, will have a comprehensive Legislative Wrap up in the VOTER. The LWVU Lobby Corps had their final caucus with the state board where we evaluated our year on the hill and picked our top ten bills of interest (these were not necessarily bills that we had positions on but that we monitored and kept the league informed). A comprehensive background on everything we did can be found on our web-site at www.lwvutah.org.
- ◆ The web-site is one of our greatest accomplishments this year. Pat Comarell has continued to work with Tony at 444 Design to make the site easy to read and to move around in. I hope that you all had the opportunity to use it. The site is an excellent tool for us internally for legislative issues and voter service activities. It has been great for our internal education (studies, positions and policies, etc.) but also it has been a great tool to introduce the league to new members and to introduce the league's issues to the community. We plan to have an orientation demonstration of what is available on the site at the LWVU Convention in Ogden.
- ◆ *The Nuclear Waste Study* can be downloaded from the site as well as information on *Part II: The Election Systems*. Along with the State Voter, members can read the Salt Lake Voter or visit the Weber County web-site.
- ◆ Gigi Brandt, our new VP-Program, has prepared some excellent information on the process of selecting state program. The state board has made some suggestions for program based on the conclusions from the Legislative Wrap-up of the LWVU Lobby Corps. This year we are including the program form in the VOTER so that members can individually submit program ideas as well as participating in local unit discussions which will be forwarded to the state from the local league boards.
- ◆ The National League has two very interesting and timely program activities going on that local leagues might want to consider when looking to their program choices for 2005:
 1. The LWVUS Board has developed five key areas of concern to guide the League's work at the federal level on election reform issues in 2005. These five key areas deal with many of the very significant problems that were exposed during the 2004 election, including the long lines in many states and jurisdictions that clearly undermined voter participation, as well as those we saw in the 2000 election. A study is available now from LWVUS titled: *Helping America Vote: A Guide to Implementing the New Federal*

Provisional Ballot Requirement.

http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/pub/voting_help-vote.pdf

2. The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), with funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is pleased to announce the launch of “Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities,” an eight-month project to coordinate a public dialogue about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security. As part of this project, LWVEF will award pass-through grants to 10 Leagues to hold community dialogues on this important and complex topic.

Convention will be held in Ogden on April 29th and 30th.

Because many of us will have to travel some distance to get to Ogden, the state board is encouraging everyone to stay overnight. This will give us the opportunity to share our passions for the league and to discuss the issues facing Utah in a more informal atmosphere. This is a great opportunity to expose members to the heart of how league works. It is often a powerful energizer and a recruitment/training tool for local boards. Ask your local league president to be a delegate.

Friday evening will have a dinner and guest speaker. The topic will be issue-oriented around a possible new state study on Hate Crimes legislation. It is our hope that this will be an interesting and exciting topic that will encourage members into a broad discussion of league program in an informal setting before the official meeting starts the following morning at 9 AM. This will also be an opportune time for local leagues to share their ideas about state study issues they are passionate about. I hope I see you there!

Nanette Benowitz, President



*Happy Birthday to
Irene Sweeney and Charlotte Newman
on their 90th birthdays!*

Legislative Wrap Up

At the stroke of midnight on March 2nd, this session ended and became history. The League watched several bills that reflect our positions. Let's look at the winners and losers and see how we grade this session.

Tuition Tax Credits was back again. 2 Substitute HB 39 would have provided a tax credit for private school tuition. The League has strong beliefs that taxpayer money for schools should go to public schools, which unlike private schools must welcome all students without discrimination and

which are accountable through elected schools boards for how they spend tax dollars. This bill failed in the House and was filed for the year. The vote was very close – 34 yeas vs. 40 nays. If you want to know how your representative voted on this bill and other League bills, please check www.lwvutah.org and this VOTER. For greater impact, send a note or call your legislator and express your pleasure or disappointment. The more they hear from us, the more they will know what we value.

Transportation funding is not completely settled. Substitute HB 18, which passed 50 to 24 in the House, never was discussed in the Senate. This is one of the bills Governor Huntsman was hoping would pass. For the Governor's corporate growth vision to become a reality, it is necessary to build more roads. There are plans for a special session on April 20th during which this bill may be discussed. HB 18 earmarks a percentage of sales tax revenue each year for roads. The League opposes extensive earmarking of taxes. Stay tuned on April 20th.

DORA, the drug rehabilitation bill which we have followed and supported last year, passed the Senate unanimously. In the House Committee, SB 22 passed out favorably but because of a high fiscal note Rules never released the bill. The Lobby Corps sent notes to members of House Rules to get the bill released and notes were sent to the Appropriations committees to fund it, but to no avail. The Bill tests offenders for drug use and recommends diversion to a treatment program so that they can get off their drugs and become useful, contributing persons and be reunited with their families. The \$6 million cost in the first year is a major stumbling block. Some legislators seem to oppose spending big dollars to fix people they consider unworthy and the cause of their own problems. Funding the bill is expected to reduce crime and the number of prison beds needed; there would be fewer repeat offenders and more families would be kept together and off welfare. The benefits far outweigh the cost and everyone, even the legislators, agree that it makes sense. It is likely to be back next year and we in the Lobby Corps will follow it closely.

Child Welfare Reform saw a series of bills this year. Four became law:

- SB 72 Child Welfare Amendments
- SB 83 Medical Decisions
- Subst HB42 Medical Recommendations for Children
- Subst HB338 Child and Family Welfare Revisions

HB338 is largely a philosophical statement by Rep LaVar Christensen but an Assistant Attorney General states that the bill "destroys" the child welfare system because it requires the government to use "least restrictive" measures to enforce the law. A comprehensive bill, HB202, ended up being filed. The author and supporters promise to be back next year with more bills that address parental rights. Child advocates are asking for vetoes of HB 42 and HB 338. The League believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. So the Lobby Corps will be paying attention to similar bills in the Health and Human services during interim.

Hazardous Waste. What might be the best and most surprising bill to pass into law was Substitute SB 24. The bill carried by C. Bramble incorporated SB 166 sponsored by P. Arent to prohibit the state from accepting B & C hazardous waste. It also strengthens oversight for closure and long term care of the waste sites. The members who have watched Nuclear Waste bills for years celebrated, but will keep their eyes and ears open for all changes and new bills in this area.

Hate Crimes Bills. HB 50 and SB 181 failed as they have for the last 7 years. They would enhance penalties if the crime included evidence of a " bias or prejudice". It will be back and the League may want to do a study so that we could testify on this subject.

Voters' Issues. League watched Substitute HB211. It requires that new voting machines have an auditable voter-verified paper trail to allow recounts. A Mock Election to test new voting equipment being considered for purchase by the state will be held on March 30th. We testified to allow voters to register on Election Day (HB 267), for a task force on legislative reforms (HB 281), for prohibiting personal use of campaign contributions (SB 140) and establishing a redistricting commission (HJR 14). We also supported more restrictions on lobbying by former government officials and lobbyist gifts (HB 369 and HB 282), better disclosure of gifts (SB 102) and digital records of government public meetings (SB 143). Some of these unsuccessful proposals may be studied in interim along with early voting, ranked-choice voting and requiring proof of citizenship from voters.

Task Forces. Lastly, several task forces were formed to study issues for one to two years. The goal is to educate legislators in hopes of coming up with good bills in the future. Task forces will cover the state tax system and privately owned health care (the outgrowth of bills on patient access reform or any willing provider, 2 Subst SB 34, and Intermountain Health Care regulation, 5th Substitute SB 61). There will be more, so stay tuned.

Now YOU have a job to do to complete this session's legislative activity -- look up the League's 10 favorite bills, as found elsewhere in this VOTER, and contact your own legislators. You can thank them for the vote if it agrees with our position or ask for an explanation if it does not. This is just one way to let them know that we care and are watching.

That wraps up our efforts on the Hill for the 2005 session. Lobby Corps was fortunate to have several new and very dedicated people and they all deserve a big round of applause. The Lobby Corps does plan to attend all of the interim committee meetings. You can go to our web site for background. If you would like to participate in the LWVU Lobby Corps, contact Kathy Dorn @ (801)277-0897 kmd1965@msn.com

LWVU Top Ten Bills for the 2005 Legislative Session

- 2Subst HB 39 - Tuition Tax Credits (J Ferrin) – LWV Opposed
Providing income tax credits for private school tuition
- Subst HB 18 – Transportation Investment Act (R Lockhart) – LWV Monitored
Earmarking portion of sales tax to fund highways
- SB 22 – Drug Offender Reform Act (D C Buttars) – LWV Supported
Screening, assessing and treating offender drug abuse
- 2Subst HB 202 – Revisions to Child Welfare (W Harper) – LWV Monitored
Changes in child abuse and neglect and parental rights law
- Subst SB 24 – Waste Amendments (C Bramble/P Arent) – LWV Monitored
Prohibiting accepting hotter Class B or C low-level radioactive waste
- HB 281 – Task Force on Legislative Reforms (N Hansen) – LWV Supported
Studying appropriations and legislative process, ethics, campaign finance
- HB 50/ SB 181 - Criminal Penalty Amendments (D Litvack/K Hale) – LWV Monitored
Providing enhanced penalties if victims are selected because of bias or prejudice
- SB 140 - Personal Use of Campaign Funds (K Hale) - LWV Supported
Limiting candidates' personal use and disposition of campaign contributions
- Subst HB78 -Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Amendments (W Harper)League support the substitute
Keeping corporate franchise and income tax by removing the phase-out
in original HB 78
- SB 109 - Safety Belt Enforcement (K Hale) – LWV Supported
Making seat belt violations for persons over 19 a primary offense

The yellow column are votes on bills the league opposed, so a no vote is what we were hoping for.

The green column are votes on bills the league support, so a yes vote is what we were hoping for.

Y=Yeah, N=Nay, A/NV= Absent or Not Voting

Not all bills made it to both houses of the legislature. Some did not get out of committee. For more details of these bills, please refer to the legislative wrap up article by Kathy Dorn, or go to our web site www.lwvutah.org under the Legislative News section.

HOUSE OF REP.											Subst
Name, Party, Dist. No.	City	HB 39	HB 18	SB 22	HB 202	SB 24	HB 281	HB 50	SB 140	SHB 78	SB109
Doug AAgard - R #15	Kaysville	N	Y		Y	Y	N			N	Y
J. Stuart Adams - R #16	Layton	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			A/NV	A/NV
Jeff Alexander - R #62	Provo	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	A/NV
Sheryl L. Allen - R #19	Bountiful	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Roger E. Barrus - R #18	Centerville	Y	Y		N	Y	N			N	Y
Ralph Becker - D #24	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Ron Bigelow - R #32	West Valley City	N	N		A/NV	Y	N			Y	Y
Jackie Biskupski - D #30	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	Y	Y			A/NV	Y
Duane Bourdeaux - D #23	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	A/NV	Y	Y		Y	N
DeMar "Bud" Bowman - R #72	Cedar City	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Y
Craig Buttars - R #3	Lewiston	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			N	N
D Gregg Buxton - \$ #12	Roy	N	Y		N	A/NV	N			Y	N
LaVar Christensen - R #48	Draper	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	N		Y	Y
David Clark - R #63	Santa Clara	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	N
Stephen D. Clark - R #63	Provo	Y	Y		A/NV	Y	N			N	Y

Name, Party, Dist. No.	City	HB 39	HB 18	SB 22	HB 202	SB 24	HB 281	HB 50	SB 140	SHB 78	SSB109
Tim M. Cosgrove - D #44	Murray	N	Y		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
David N. Cox - R #56	Lehi	N	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	Y
Greg J. Curtis - R #49	Sandy	Y	A/NV		N	Y	N			A/NV	N
Bradley M. Daw - R #60	Orem	Y	Y		Y	N	N			N	N
Margaret Dayton - R #61	Orem	Y	Y		Y	A/NV	N			N	N
Brad Dee - R #11	Washington Terr.	N	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	Y
Glenn A. Donnelson - R #7	North Ogden	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			N	N
John Dougall - R #27	Highland	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			N	Y
Carl W. Duckworth - D #22	Magna	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Jim Dunnigan - R #39	Taylorsville	A/NV	N		A/NV	Y	N			Y	Y
Jim Ferrin - R #58	Orem	Y	Y		Y	N	N			N	N
Ben C. Ferry - R #2	Corinne	N	Y		Y	Y	N			N	N
Julie Fisher - R #17	Fruit Heights	N	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	N
Lorie D. Fowlke - R #59	Orem	N	Y		Y	N	N			Y	Y
Craig A. Frank - R #57	Pleasant Grove	Y	Y		Y	N	Y			N	N
Kerry W. Gibson - R #6	Ogden	N	Y		Y	N	N			Y	N
Brent H. Goodfellow - D #29	West Valley City	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
James R. Gowans - D #21	Tooele	N	N		N	N	Y			Y	N
Neil A. Hansen - D #9	Ogden	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Ann W. Hardy - R #20	Bountiful	Y	Y		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Wayne A. Harper - R #43	West Jordan	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	N		N	N
Neal B. Hendrickson - D #33	West Valley City	N	N		N	N	Y			A/NV	Y
David L. Hoque - \$ #52	Riverton	N	Y		Y	Y	N			A/NV	N
Kory M. Holdaway - R #34	Taylorsville	N	N		Y	Y	N			Y	N
Greg Hughes - R #51	Draper	Y	Y		Y	N	Y			A/NV	Y
Fred R. Hunsaker - R #4	Logan	N	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	Y
Eric K. Hutchings - R #38	Kearns	Y	Y		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Bradley T. Johnson - R #70	Aurora	Y	Y		Y	N	N			N	N
Patricia W. Jones - D #40	Holladay	N	N		N	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Brad King - D #69	Price	N	N		N	N	Y			Y	Y
Todd E. Kiser - R #41	Sandy	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	N		N	N
Bradley G. Last - R #71	St George	N	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	N
Susan Lawrence - R #36	East Millcreek	N	Y		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
David Litvack - #26	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	Y	Y	Y		Y	N
Becky Lockhart - R #64	Provo	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			A/NV	N
Steve Mascaro - R #47	West Jordan	Y	N		A/NV	A/NV	A/NV			Y	Y
John G. Mathis - R #55	Naples	N	Y		Y	Y	N			N	N
Roz McGee - D - #28	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Ronda Rudd Menlove - R #1	Garland	N	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Karen W. Morgan - D #46	Coltonwood Hgts.	N	N		A/NV	Y	Y			Y	Y
Mike Morley - R #66	Spanish Fork	Y	Y		Y	A/NV	N	N		N	N
Carol S. Moss - D #37	Holladay	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Joseph C. Murray - R #8	Ogden	N	Y		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Merlynn T. Newbold - R #50	South Jordan	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			N	N
Michael E. Noel - R #73	Kanab	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			Y	Y
Curtis Oda - R #14	Clearfield	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	N		N	N
Patrick L. Painter - R #67	Nephi	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			N	N
Paul Ray - R #13	Clearfield	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		N	N
Ross L. Romero - D #25	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y

LaWanna Shurtliff D #10	Ogden	N	Y		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Gordon E. Snow - R #54	Roosevelt	N	N		Y	Y	N			N	N
Aaron Tilton - R #65	Springville	Y	Y		Y	N	N			N	Y
David Ure - R #53	Kamas	Y	N		Y	Y	Y			N	N
Stephen H. Urquhart - R #75	St George	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	N		N	N
Mark W. Walker - R #45	Sandy	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			N	Y
Peggy Wallace - R #42	West Jordan	Y	Y		Y	N	A/NV			N	Y
Mark A. Wheatley - D #35	Murray	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Richard W. Wheeler - R #68	Ephraim	Y	Y		Y	Y	N			N	N
Larry Wiley - D #31	Salt Lake City	N	N		N	Y	Y			Y	Y
Scott L. Wyatt - R #5	Logan	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			N	N
SENATE											
Name, Party, Dist. No.	City	HB 39	HB 18	SB 22	HB 202	SB 24	HB 281	HB 50	SB 140	SHB 78	SB109
Ron Allen - D #12	Stansbury Park			Y							Y
Patrice Arent - D #4	Murray			Y							Y
Gregory S. Bell - R #22	Fruit Heights			Y							Y
Curtis S. Bramble - R #16	Provo			Y							N
D. Chris Buttars - R #10	West Jordan			Y							N
Allen M. Christensen - R #19	North Ogden			Y					N		N
Gene Davis - D #3	Salt Lake City			Y					A/NV		Y
Mike Dmitrich - D #27	Price			A/NV							N
Dan R. Eastman - R #23	Bountiful			Y							Y
Beverly A. Evans - R #26	Altamont			Y							N
Fred J. Fife - D #1	Salt Lake City			Y							Y
Karen Hale - D #7	Salt Lake City			Y					Y		Y
Thomas Hatch - R #28	Panguitch			Y							N
Parley G. Hellewell - R #15	Orem			Y					N		N
John "Bill" Hickman - R #29	St George			Y					N		N
Lyle W. Hillyard - R #25	Logan			Y							Y
Scott K. Jenkins - R #20	Plain City			Y							N
Paula F. Julander - D #2	Salt Lake City			Y							Y
Sheldon Killpack - R #21	Syracuse			Y							Y
Peter C. Knudson - R #17	Brigham City			Y							Y
Mark B. Madsen - R #13	Lehi			Y							N
Al Mansell - R #9	Sandy			A/NV							N
Ed Mayne - D #5	West Valley City			Y							N
Scott McCoy - D #2	Salt Lake City										N
Darin Peterson - R #24	Ephraim			Y							Y
Howard Stephenson - R #11	Draper			Y							Y
Dave L. Thomas - R #18	South Weber			Y							Y
John L. Valentine - R #14	Orem			Y							Y
Michael G. Waddoups - R #6	Taylorville			Y							N
Carlene M. Walker - R #8	Cottonwood Hgts			Y							Y

Program Updates

NUCLEAR WASTE UPDATE

The Governor and the Legislature (and the new owners of Envirocare) have driven a “silver stake through the heart” of Class B & C Low-Level Waste storage. BUT that does not mean that we should abandon the issue we have spent several years studying. There will be many nuclear (and dumping) issues in the future. Utah’s ability to regulate the industry has been questioned. Economic development vs. land use vs. the will of the people has to be considered. We urge local leagues to request the consensus questions for the League’s study on our website www.lwvutah.org and participate in the discussion so we have a basis for action when these issues arise.

Senate Bill 166 (Arent) to prohibit acceptance of class B&C was incorporated into the Task Force bill (SB24, Bramble) once Envirocare’s new owners indicated that they would not pursue obtaining legislative and gubernatorial approval of Envirocare’s regulatory permit. SB24 was signed by Governor Huntsman in February.

Uranium mining could be returning to San Juan County now that the uranium market has turned around. Prices are higher than at any time during the past 20 years, per IUC (International Uranium Corporation in Blanding). What steps will be taken to avoid creation of new tailings piles?

The decision on what to do about the Atlas tailings pile in Moab could be made as early as March but is more likely in the summer of 2005. The EPA is urging the DOE to move the pile, as are the governors of the states using Colorado River water. If DOE decides to move it, it will take years and there will be safety issues. If it is capped in place, there will continue to be flood-related issues. Governor Huntsman wants it moved, but the decision is not his to make. 90% of the funding will come from DOE.

The “900-pound gorilla” is fuel rod storage on the Goshute Reservation. Utah’s administrative objections were rejected by the Atomic Safety Licensing Board in February. This can be appealed to the full Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Ultimately a federal appellate court and the US Supreme Court could be involved.

In March two panels of the National Academies of Science urged that highly radioactive waste should stay where it was created. This may have implications for the parking lot for fuel rods planned for Skull Valley. Yucca Mountain’s fate remains uncertain.

The Nuclear Waste Study can be found on the web site at www.lwvutah.org. The author, Marelynn Zipser, has prepared and the board approved the following consensus questions.

1. Should the decision to *permit application for licenses* to store Class B & C wastes require legislative and gubernatorial approval?
2. Should the State ensure that adequate perpetual care funds are maintained for both Envirocare and IUC?

3. Should Utah ultimately own Class A sites because the waste needs 100 years to decay to background level?
4. Should Utah enact legislation to prevent erection of additional mill tailings piles?
5. Should the League of Women Voters of Utah support the State in its fight against the Skull Valley fuel rod storage facility?
6. How frequently should nuclear waste taxes and regulatory fees be reviewed?
7. Should the State act to slow down the “revolving door” between regulators and regulated industries?

Local leagues have the option of planning unit time, or having their board answer the consensus questions. Check with your local president for further information. For a printed copy of the study, contact Sandy at lwwut@xmission.com.

Part II of the Election Systems Study is also available in hard copy only by contacting the league office -Sandy at lwwut@xmission.com. Local leagues may choose how and/or if they want to use this information. No consensus is required. This was a hot topic at national convention and could well become a national study. Questions can be directed to Ann O’Connell @ (801)277-9046 oconnell@xmission.com

Gigi Brandt, our VP-Program, will be heading up a task force of league members to update “Impact on State Issues,” LWVUT position statements, this summer. Anyone interested in participating in the process, should contact her at (801)582-1102 or gigibrandt@att.net

Voting equipment under consideration for purchase by the state will be tested in a Mock Election on Wednesday, March 30th at the South Towne Center Mall in Sandy. The public is invited to "Touch the Future" and test out the equipment between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.--especially before 5 p.m. For more info call the Lt. Gov (State Elections at 801. 538-1041 or 800. 995.VOTE).

Utah Program Planning Utah LWV Wants Your Ideas

Every two years the League of Women Voters of Utah engages in program planning for the biennium. We are asking for member ideas about program.

The planning process is the same for each level of league. Members suggest ideas for study and action to the Board, the Board suggests a program, program is adopted at convention.

“In League” says:

- Does it fall within League Principles?
- Does the League already have positions that can be applied to the proposal?
- Is government action needed? Possible?

- How much member interest has been expressed for the issue?
- Is this the crucial time for the issue?
- Do the political realities permit effective action?
- Is this the appropriate level of the League to address the issue?
- Will the League's involvement make a unique impact? Increase the League's influence and credibility?
- What are the prospects for funding anticipated educational activities and/or action strategies?
- Will the League be able to draw on allies?

To this list, I would add:

- Is a committee and chair available?

Some Thoughts on Program Making What Issues are Most Important to You?

Program making, either by attending a meeting or responding to the program items in this Voter, is every member's chance to have their issues considered. Remember League Program is our local, state and national stands on issues.

As I sat at the Lobby Teams wrap-up luncheon and preliminary State Board consideration of program, and the Salt Lake League's Legislative Wrap-up, many thoughts swirled through my mind. What should be the direction the Utah League should take? When we talked about the 147,000 new students that will be entering the public school system one member reminded us that an equal number of citizens will be over 65 years. What about our health care system? What about the tax system—the Governor wants to phase the corporate income tax and some legislators want to push a flat tax? Should the League study child welfare? There are 226 or so items on the Legislature interim study list—which ones are important? Why should citizens be concerned about *HB18* which earmarks for highways an increasing percentage of general fund money—that pot of money which funds higher education and human services?

Representatives James Dunnigan (R-Taylorsville) and Pat Jones (D-Holladay) who spoke to the annual Salt Lake League Legislative Wrap-up both talked about taxes—the recent task force that they sat on and the new one authorized by the Legislature. Are our positions relevant—do we need member re-education?

State Suggested Program - By Marelyn Zipser

The Lobby Corp, after its successful debut under the direction of Kathy Dorn, feels that some of our positions do not clearly address today's issues. This is no surprise. Our positions, developed over the years, reflect of our philosophy about a topic rather than address a specific issue. This is intentional, much like the Constitution, to give us flexibility that will stand "for the ages".

Over the 2005-2007 biennium, the group suggests we should be looking at the following existing positions:

1. Tax Policy: Since there will be a Task Force over the interim, it should be observed. Olene Walker's tax study needs to be reviewed. We need to talk to LWVU's tax experts and review the "original tax policy study" to see if it still addresses today's issues. If not, a study can be developed to provide material for a "new and improved" attempt at consensus. There are inconsistencies in tax policy--earmarking okay sometimes but not in other cases.

2. Education: Our current positions do not address how Utah's education funding is spent. This is the unaddressed aspect that could be the basis for effective lobbying.

3. Health Policy: We may have National positions that address the issues, but we may want to look at it as a State issue.

4. Hate Crimes: The Lobby Corps thinks this issue is "domestic terrorism" and we should address it as a public safety issue or a civil rights issue. We may need to actively study to attempt to arrive at a position that might elevate the public dialog beyond the current anti-gay (but unarticulated) rhetoric. Existing positions?

These are not the only issues out there. Please propose other areas of statewide interest that should be brought up.

Utah program planning ideas need to be received by the State Board prior to April 15. It will recommend items to Convention (April 29-30) which can be adopted by majority vote. All other items will be listed and can be brought to the floor and adopted by 2/3 majority.

As in every issue proposed for study, there needs to be a champion that can rally a group that will accomplish the goal. A timely issue that will attract new members is a plus.

Put On Your Thinking Caps. The State Board looks forward to hearing from you.
The Program worksheet form is at the end of the VOTER.

Resources:
League website: www.lwvutah.org
Impact on State Issues
HJR 20 at www.utah.gov
LWVUS website: www.lwv.org

National Update, *Position on Social Security*

From: Kay J. Maxwell, LWVUS President

The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned over proposals to privatize the Social Security system. We believe that any Congressional debate must address the broad social needs the system now meets, the long-term future of the system and the financial risks that privatization could place on individuals and on government.

In the 1930s, the League of Women Voters supported passage of the Social Security Act. Fifty years later, in a study of the fiscal policy of the United States, League members determined that the federal government has a role in funding and providing for old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance. For such insurance programs, participation should be mandatory and coverage should be universal.

Social Security is one of the most successful social welfare programs of the 20th Century - one that has contributed to unprecedented economic growth and the stability of the U.S. economy. It has been the primary safety net for older workers and their spouses. Before Social Security, one in three senior citizens lived in poverty. Today that number is one in ten. In addition, disability and survivors' benefits under Social Security have provided for millions of American families. We must recognize that Social Security is not merely a retirement program - it is a social insurance program with broad effect.

Concerns have been raised that Social Security is in crisis and that Congress needs to act now. The League of Women Voters believes that both the perceived crisis and the proposed solutions need to be thoroughly examined and debated. We believe there is sufficient time to do so. The long-term challenges do not manifest themselves until the year 2042. Even then, Social Security has 70 percent of needed funds. Diverting money from the Social Security trust fund into private accounts could hasten the insolvency of the fund. The results could include a substantial increase in the deficit and significant cuts in some or all of Social Security's retirement, disability and survivors benefits.

If Congress determines that changes in Social Security are needed, there are reasonable, moderate adjustments that can achieve solvency and fiscal soundness. But it is key that we have a full, national debate before making major changes in the system that has served so many Americans so well.

Convention- Will be held in Ogden on Friday April 29th and Saturday April 30th. Further information will be available from the Local League Presidents in the coming weeks. Sherilyn Bennion (801)274-9215 is the state liaison. LWV Weber's liaison is Shelleice Stokes (801)393-4852.

"Thanks for the Memories"

Kathy Dorn, Legislative Action Director

It's March 3rd and several new Lobby Corps members are sleeping in. It has been a long 45 day session and many of them were on the Hill at least 3 times a week. We had a much larger presence at the Capital this year thanks to the wonderful dedicated observer corps.

Our new members this year were Marie Fulmer, Jessica Mathewson, Joycelynn Straight, Peggy Christensen, Jane Hansen, and Pat Klentzman.

The Corp also has a backbone of great experienced watchers and KCPW reporters. They include Anne Zeigler, Mary Buchanan, Mary Fogg, Joyce Barnes, Nanette Benowitz, Bonnie Fernandez, Carolyn Nelson, Pat Nielson, Ann

O'Connell, Stuart Gygi, Reva Servoss, Nancy Melling, Phyllis Frankel and Marelynn Zipser. These folks, (and any I may have missed), watched, reported to Sandy, and wrote articles for the web pages. They are extremely dedicated and I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart, as does the rest of League.

The hardest worker on the Hill is Sandy Peck, our executive director. She knows all the bill numbers and names that we are watching and many others. Sandy recognizes many Senators and Representatives and connects with many, many other lobbyists, then she goes to the office and writes the updates. Her days are easily 16 hours or longer.

Thanks Sandy, for ALL you do and for ALL you know! She made my first year look good because she is such a knowledgeable person. She is my new role model, cool under any conditions and able to speak brilliantly to reporters and testify at a moment's notice.

Give the Gift of Democracy **A Gift Membership in the League!**

As the elections of 2004 showed us there is still more to be done to make sure that all votes count and that all votes are counted. Our democracy is one of our most precious gifts and the League stands as an ever vigilant and active source of strengthening this precious system. What a great opportunity we all have now to reach out and invite others into our essential organization.

Many thanks to our generous contributors of time, talent & treasure!

XMission.com
Bandwidth Incorporated
United Way
Scott Benowitz
Marilyn Campbell and Stephen
Benowitz
Irene Sweeney

Dottie Bintz
Phyllis Frankel
Stephanie Harpst
Carol McCormick
Ruth Magar
Roz McGee

Lobby letter contributions

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Agi Plenk
Tom Proffitt
Carolyn Somer
Georgia Beth Thompson
Sharon Walkington
Nancy Wingelaar

Please fill out and send to the League Office by April 5.
 3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106

Utah League of Women Voters Program Making Worksheet 2005-2007

League name _____ or Individual Name _____

If League response, number of members attending Meeting _____

What issues should the Utah LWV study or take action on in the next biennium?
 For resources, refer to Impact on State Issues and LWV Program, 2003-2005,

Program Area	Drop? Why	Reword? Fine tune only—no substantive change	Expand the item substantively with new study or project
Government: includes election laws and procedures, Utah state taxation, utility regulation			
Natural resources: includes energy, land use, waste management, water resources			
Social Policy: Includes education, education and economic development, corrections, employment, housing, child care, health, etc.			
New Study A new study outside the box			