



League of Women Voters of Utah

The Utah Voter

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Voter Editor: Nanette Benowitz

The League of Women Voters of Utah is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- Interim Committees: Third Wednesdays; Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 14
- November 6, 2007: Election Day (municipal offices and voucher referendum)
- January 21 – March 5, 2008: 2008 Legislative Session
- End of January: League Day at the Legislature
- February 1, 2008: LWVUS immigration consensus due
- February 14: League's 88th birthday
- State convention: April 2008
- June 14-16: National convention in Portland OR

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fall is here and I cannot remember being so excited and stimulated by League activities. Alice Steiner, LWWUT co-president, is putting together a terrific package of forums and films on immigration, the major LWWUS topic of study this year. For Salt Lake members, bring family and friends and take advantage of every activity so that you can be as informed as possible for your immigration discussions. For those of you not in Salt Lake, if you can possibly make a trip to your state capital for some of these events, start planning now. We would love to have you come and I, for one, would be happy to have you stay at our house or see if I can arrange housing for you. For those who cannot come, we are hoping to have our website improved and upgraded so that you can watch some of the presentations. No matter what, become as informed as possible about immigration – through the articles in the National VOTER, the LWWUS website: www.lwv.org “for Members” “Immigration Study” in the “Quick Links” box, and from the LWWUT website: www.lwvutah.org. Then participate in the national consensus through league meetings or as an individual. Remember, the League represents all of us when it speaks from our statements of position, so do your part to help form a consensus that truly speaks for all League members.



The other fall emphasis for the state league is the updating of our website. We would like to hire an expert to be responsible for revitalizing the website and for keeping all the information current. (All it takes is money!) We want it to be a tool to recruit new members, enable donations on line, and to provide educational material to our members and the public at large. Board member, Jessica Mathewson, and our web committee are working feverishly to accomplish this goal.

As a League, we are in a coalition opposing vouchers. Off-year elections are notorious for having very, very poor participation. With the voucher item on the ballot we hope citizens will take the time to vote. The League is again sponsoring the “Democracy Store” in the main library, with the goal of helping citizens register, know how to use the voting machines and be informed voters. While we are opposing vouchers we are very careful to keep the Democracy Store non-partisan and impartial in the true tradition of the League.

We are also in a coalition opposing the Great Salt Lake Minerals expansion, which you read about in the last issue of the VOTER. As activity occurs, Ann O’Connell will keep us updated.

In January we will have our usual Legislative Luncheon at the start of the 2008 legislative session and, of course, will keep you informed of bills and actions pertinent to our positions and to life in Utah.

We have an outstanding board again this year, so I know you will be energized by the work they are doing. Enjoy the cooler fall weather, the (hopefully) brilliant fall colors and especially being a member of the League of Women Voters.

Nancy Melling, Co-President

A Sacred Right

Contrary to media reports, Martina Navratilova isn't going anywhere.

While I was in Prague this past May visiting my mother, I did an interview with a Czech newspaper about the fact that I'm applying for dual citizenship in my native Czech Republic. I'm doing it both for cultural reasons -- as a link to my heritage, my mother, and dozens of relatives who still live there -- and also because it makes travel and business options more convenient for me.

In the same interview, I mentioned my disappointment over the loss of civil liberties in my adopted country, the United States. Not surprisingly, a number of media outlets took some of my remarks out of context and even, in the case of 'TENNIS' Magazine, said I was 'cutting and running.' Since I have no intention of leaving America, I felt the need to clarify my position, and I'm grateful to TENNIS for giving me this forum.

There are two kinds of Americans: "Americans by birth" and "Americans by choice." I'm part of the second group.

I grew up in a communist country then known as Czechoslovakia, and I know what not having personal and professional freedom is like. Both of my parents suffered for speaking their minds. They weren't allowed to continue their studies and had to do manual labor for years until they could become lowly office workers. Going to America was my dream, and I took a risk to make it happen when I defected in 1975.

It's kind of ironic when you think about it -- people in the Czech Republic, Russia, East Germany, and other communist countries were persecuted and even killed for not being communists, while in the United States people suspected of being communists were the ones who were persecuted.

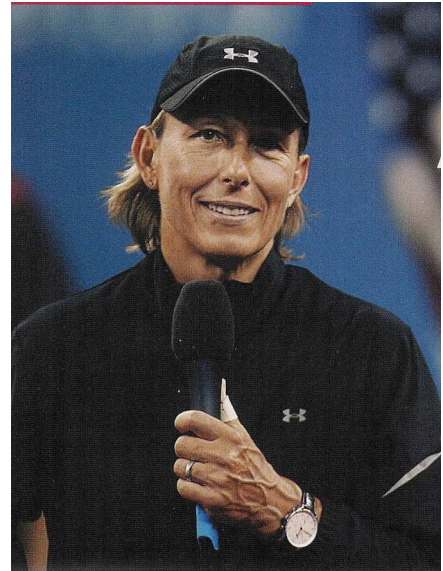
I became a U.S. citizen in 1981 and have had the honor of representing my adopted nation on numerous occasions in Fed Cup, Wightman Cup, and the Olympic Games. I have lived in many parts of the country and traveled to even more, and I've found kindness and beauty in every corner of America.

One of the things that drew me to the U.S. was the right to disagree with our government. The place as even founded by dissenters. Under communism, we had to whisper about our issues with the government lest the wrong person hear and bring "consequences." I believe that here you could voice your differences and not love your job. Over the past few years, that has not necessarily been the case. Our government and many in the media have tried to control nonconformists, portraying them as unpatriotic. But the freedom to disagree with our government is a sacred right.

When I see something wrong, I'm not going to stop giving interviews and I won't stop speaking my mind. Silence equals consent. That's not what this country is about, nor is it the basis upon which it was founded.

I don't want to get too political in a sports magazine, but I'm here to tell you that you can have a great backhand and still care about issues that affect us and our freedoms. Tennis is the ultimate meritocracy and it's one of the most international and diverse of all sports. We should celebrate that diversity.

Whether you speak out, as I do, or do something a little less public, we all need to participate. We need to stay informed, challenge our leaders and exercise our most sacred of rights -- voting. I'm very proud to be an American and have that right. I'm not going anywhere. I love this country, and I want my voice to count.



Martina Navratilova was 15-8 in singles while representing the United States in Fed Cup
TENNIS.COM October 2007

The Myth of the Recount Menace

What You Didn't Know about Recounts Won't Kill You - A FairVote Innovative Analysis

Posted August 2nd, 2007 By [Paul](#)

The Skinny

Average number of statewide elections per year, 1980 - 2006 (est.): **283**

Number of those elections resulting in recounts per year: **less than 1**

Average change in victory margin following a recount: **0.012%**

Sparked by the disputed 2000 presidential election in Florida, Americans have grown to live in fear of recounts; the endless legal battles, bureaucrats huddled in a room staring through magnifying glasses, passionate charges of fraud and corruption, an electorate unsure of whom they might have put into office, and straight-faced discussion of dimpled chads.

No one wants to relive that scenario at any level, but the increased polarization of today's politics heightens the fear for many that a slew of tiny victory margins are leading to recount after recount. The truth about recounts, however, is reassuring, and is an important reason why losers of very close elections so rarely call for a full recount, as evidenced most recently in the special election for Congress in Georgia where the winner made the runoff by under 200 votes and won the runoff itself by only about 400 votes.

- **Recounts are very rare:** Between 1980 and 2006, **there has been less than one statewide recount per year**, and that includes all statewide elections from races for governor and senator to judgeships and ballot initiatives. That means that out of over 7000 elections, only 23 have resulted in recounts, either requested or automatic.
- **The changes are insignificant:** When recounts do happen, the margins of change tend to be a middling couple hundredths of a percent, and only twice has a recount resulted in a change of outcome. That's right, just two out of over 7000 elections have flipped winners in the past 26 years. In fact, those two elections occurred within the past three years (the 2004 governor's race in Washington and a 2006 auditor race in Vermont), so **between 1980 and 2003 the number of reversed outcomes due to recounts was exactly zero.**
- **Bigger is better:** As the number of voters increases, the need for a recount decreases. A larger pool of voters makes it less likely that a margin of victory would be small enough to warrant rechecking the results, so **as the stakes for an election rise, the chances that the election will need disputing drop.** That's a relief, isn't it?

While these statistics mean that Americans can breathe a little easier about the specter of contested elections, they also tell us something about the prospects for a national popular vote for president. The aforementioned Florida recount battle in 2000 is often cited as a prime example of what can go wrong in something as important as a presidential election. Who would want to see it repeated at the national level?

The good news is that **the probability of a theoretical national popular vote for president resulting in a recount is extremely low.** As we have seen, recounts that change the result of an election are even less likely, so even if a national popular vote were held that was close enough to warrant a recount, it would be extremely unlikely to result in a change in victors.

Most importantly, though, is the fact that the more votes cast in an election, the less likely it is that the margin of victory will be small enough to contest. Without outright corruption of the electoral process (concerns for which demand our constant vigilance) we estimate that in an election with 100 million votes, it would take a margin of 12,000 votes to trigger a recount where the challenger might have a meaningful chance — albeit not a good chance — to change the outcome. The closest presidential election in the past century, Kennedy vs. Nixon in 1960, was won by a margin of about 120,000. Even the famously "razor thin" 2000 election had Gore winning the popular vote by more than 500,000 votes. If these elections had been decided by a national popular vote, **they would have come nowhere near a recount-inducing margin of victory.** The probability of a disputed outcome sharply

increases with state-by-state races for presidential electors, because the pool of voters in each race is smaller.

The National Popular Vote interstate compact is making its way through statehouses all over the country to do away with all of the problems posed by the Electoral College's state-by-state races, and it has already been signed into law in Maryland. As direct election of the president comes closer to being realized, some detractors fret about the horrors of a national recount. They can rest assured that, conservatively estimated, **a national popular vote for president would only necessitate a recount once every 16,000 years**. The odds, it would seem, are in everyone's favor.

And as for fears of outright vote stealing, well, that's another critical issue for another day.

For more on this subject, take a look at FairVote's report, [A Survey and Analysis of Statewide Election Recounts, 1980-2006](#).

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

In December the Utah Board will consider what the League's 2008 Legislative Priorities might be. We can predict two of them: education and energy policy.

I am afraid we can expect public education to be under stress if not outright attack in the next session. Since we do not know the outcome of the voucher vote in November, it is difficult to predict specifics. Perhaps our Executive Director Sandy Peck and Patti O'Keefe, the Salt Lake Education Chair, have a better idea than I do of what legislators might do in reaction to the passage or defeat of the Voucher Initiative, but these are the questions that come to my mind. If the voters reject this voucher legislation, will the legislature try another procedure to accomplish the same end? Or if vouchers are sustained will the next step be to expand the program? And how will the State School Board be treated? If vouchers survive will the legislature be magnanimous and resist attempts to make the Board less independent? A legislature watcher might predict otherwise since there has already been a move to make State School Board elections partisan and part of the party conventions and primary system.

The State School Board has been active in opposing vouchers. As League members we should be mindful that it is perfectly legitimate for voucher opponents to ask whether this is appropriate to the mission of the board. Personally, I do not know enough about the board's responsibilities to say. Perhaps one should presume that the board and its legal council do know what they may do in the public forum. However, the League certainly can propose that it is not good public policy for the legislature to change the nature and independence of the board (by going to partisan election) because it did not like a particular advocacy role. Let us hope that reason will prevail and the rather difficult balance of power between the legislature and the School Board is not tampered with in haste.

In recent years the LWVUT has been quite able to use its environmental positions in support of legislation that supports alternative energy and conservation. We have worked with Utah Clean Energy, the Sierra Club, Clean Cities, and others. We do not have positions that allow us to choose among alternative energy proposals because we have not done a comparative study of them and we probably do not have the expertise. However, we can object to particular projects that are environmentally damaging or polluting. This year state energy policy may be the chief focus for us at the 2008 legislature rather than specific energy and conservation bills. You no doubt have been reading that Governor Huntsman has convened a group of experts to develop a state energy policy. As in all reports to the legislature it is what happens up on the hill that will determine in the end whether we like and support this initiative. It may be quite positive right now but let's wait and see what happens to it in the committee process and in the legislative chambers. I must confess I am more than a bit cynical.

Lobby Corps

Now you should be able to see why the LWV needs a Lobby Corps to watch these people. If these two major interest areas are in flux and need careful monitoring, what about the others such as good government, citizen access to their representatives, social support programs? Please join us and contribute whatever time you can to watching the legislature. We need more physical presence at the legislative sessions and committee

meetings. We need more members listening on line. We need more subject matter experts. We need budget specialists. Most of us do not want to do that but dearly wish someone else would. Even if you cannot attend the fall interim meetings, join the lobby corps list-serve on line and begin to listen in to what we are doing (contact Sandy at lwvut@xmission.com). And then find some way to contribute to our presence at the 2008 session. Our very presence at the legislature, our work with other lobby groups, and our morning emails and radio program on KCPW are major public services. The public expects us to be there and speak up for the citizens who cannot.

Ann O'Connell, Legislative Chair, LWVUT

oconnell@xmission.com

801.363.9046

Education Vouchers

THE QUESTION: *On November 6 you will be able to vote on the following ballot proposal:*

Citizens' State Referendum Number 1

In February 2007, the Utah Legislature passed **H.B. 148, Education Vouchers. This bill will take effect only if approved by voters.** The bill:

- establishes a scholarship program for:
 - qualifying school-age children who newly enroll in eligible private schools;
 - and lower income school-age children who continue their enrollment in eligible private schools;
- provides for scholarships within that program of \$500 to \$3,000, depending on family size and income, increasing those scholarship amounts in future years; and
- allows school districts to retain some per-student funding for scholarship students who transfer to private schools.

Are you **FOR OR AGAINST** H.B. 148 taking effect?

THE ISSUES – PROS AND CONS

Arguments for and against Referendum Number 1 center on

CHOICE:

Pro: All families, regardless of their financial means, should be able to choose a school that meets the needs of their children. Scholarships (vouchers) based on family size and income would allow this choice. Private schools (grades K-8) are available to 75% of Utah children at an average tuition of \$3,000.

Con: Families already have choices in public schools: special programs, transfer to other schools in and out of the district, and charter schools. Families should be able to choose private schools also, but taxpayers should not subsidize private schools without assurance of quality and accountability. Private schools (75 K-12 schools with more than 40 students) are available in one-half of Utah counties at an average tuition of \$8,000.

League of Women Voters (Con): We believe tax dollars should be spent on choices within the public school system, where all children are welcome, instead of subsidizing private schools, which pick and choose their students and can discriminate on the basis of learning ability, ability to pay, English proficiency and political

philosophy. We believe many low-income families will lack any real choice if no private schools exist in their area or vouchers don't cover tuition and other expenses such as transportation.

COST:

Under HB 148, families with up to 250% of the income that qualifies for reduced-price school meals could apply to the State Board of Education for private school scholarships. This means families with incomes as high as \$150,000 could qualify. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$3,000 per student, depending on family size and income. They would be paid out of the state General Fund, which also pays for transportation, human services, health care and some higher education expenses. Scholarship amounts will increase annually by the same percentage that per-pupil public school funding increases.

Costs to the state are estimated by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to rise from \$5.5 million the first year to \$71 million in year 13 as more students become eligible and apply for scholarships. Opponents calculate a 13-year total of \$429 million.

Savings to school districts are estimated by the Fiscal Analyst at \$2.4 to \$11.5 million the first year and \$11 to \$28 million in year 13. Savings are based on the fact that a scholarship student who transfers would continue to be enrolled in his or her public school district (but for five years only). That district would continue to receive minimum school program funds (estimated by proponents at \$7,500 next year) for that pupil minus the average amount of a statewide scholarship (estimated at \$2,000). Minimum school program funds come from state income taxes through the Uniform School Fund. The state Constitution says all income tax revenue must be used for public education, including public higher education.

In summary, the year 13 figures from the Legislative Fiscal Analyst show possible losses to the state budget (\$71 million) would be considerably higher than savings to school districts (\$11 to 28 million).

Pros and Cons: The future effect of vouchers on public education costs depends on several unknown factors such as population growth (600,000 new students expected by 2012); the number of scholarships applied for, that is the number of students diverted to private schools; and the resulting changes in fixed costs of public education (number of classrooms, schools and teachers still needed). Proponents estimate that vouchers will add \$1 billion to school funding and head off tax increases. Opponents say savings, if any, should go to under funded public schools not to private schools.

League of Women Voters: We believe costs of vouchers to the state will exceed savings. But voters should continue to study and ask questions. We do question the fairness of all taxpayers subsidizing scholarships for families with incomes over \$105,000, who could afford their own choice of private schools.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

To enroll scholarship students under H.B. 148, private schools would have to

- be financially stable,
- comply with some anti-discrimination laws,
- disclose special education services and costs to parents,
- administer annual student academic achievement tests,
- hire teachers with at least a college degree or with special expertise;
- inform parents of the school's teachers' qualifications, and
- have at least 40 students.

They could not operate in a residence, encourage illegal conduct, or be a licensed residential treatment facility.

Pro: Voucher supporters emphasize that private schools will be accountable to parents not bureaucrats.

Con: Voucher opponents believe the law does not adequately address accountability not to only parents but to taxpayers in such areas as annual measurement of student progress, teacher qualifications, minimum attendance requirements and safeguards against discrimination.

League of Women Voters (Con) We support excellence in education including preparation for good citizenship, which scholarship schools would not have to provide. Schools receiving taxpayer money should be accountable along with parents for achieving that excellence. Elected state and local school boards are important safeguards ensuring that public schools, but not private schools, are accountable to taxpayers.

CONSTITUTIONALITY:

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst cites possible conflicts with federal or state constitutional (1) prohibitions of the use of public money for religious purposes and (2) equal protection provisions relating to the State Board of Education's authority or the scope of the public education program.

Pro: Proponents cite a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision that vouchers allow the government to assist a broad class of citizens who then choose religious schools, not to support religious schools directly.

Con: The State Office of Education cites a 2001 Utah Supreme Court ruling that the legislature "cannot establish schools and programs that are not open to all the children of Utah or free from sectarian control, and it cannot establish public elementary and secondary schools that are not free of charge."

League of Women Voters (Con): We recognize that the Utah Constitution is unusually specific on this issue and are concerned that HB 148 will be found unconstitutional on religious purpose or equal protection grounds.

MORE INFORMATION:

State Elections Information Pamphlet <http://elections.utah.gov/Citizen.htm>
Pro: Parents for Choice in Education <http://www.choiceineducation.org>
Con: Utahns' for Public Schools <http://www.utahnsforpublicschools.org>

By *Sandy Peck*, Executive Director



LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® The Time for DC Voting Rights Is Now

Senate leaders are expected to bring DC Voting Rights legislation to the floor the week of September 17. The House has already shown strong bipartisan support and passed the bill. Now is the time to urge your Senators to show the same support!

A critical vote will come on a cloture motion expected Tuesday, September 18 to prevent opponents of the bill from filibustering it. Senator Bennett will propose two amendments to ensure that Utah will get a 4th seat even if the D.C. vote provision is found unconstitutional and that two Senators in addition to the proposed Representative will not be authorized to represent D.C. If cloture fails, the Senate will not even be able to consider this vital voting rights measure. If it succeeds, future votes on the floor and in conference will still need your support.

[Take action today to ensure voting rights for our nation's capital!](#)

Voters in our nation's capital are not afforded the same rights as voters in the rest of the country. Citizens of the

District of Columbia pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime, and are governed by the laws that Congress passes. And yet they have no voting representation in Congress.

The District of Columbia Voting Rights Act of 2007 (S. 1257) will right this wrong. The legislation provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats -- one for DC and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House. The legislation does not affect the composition of the Senate.

District voters deserve to have the same rights as the rest of America including voting representation in the body that makes their laws, taxes them and can call them to war. Only Congress can ensure that the democracy Americans have espoused and fought for across the globe becomes a reality in the nation's capital.

As in the past, opponents of voting rights will try to block the Senate from even taking up S. 1257. They cannot be allowed to succeed. Please contact your Senators and ask them to support cloture so the Senate can consider this vital legislation

[We are poised to make history. Take action today.](#)

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senator **[now](#)**, by phone or by email, and urge them to vote for cloture on the DC Voting Rights Act. Tell your Senators that the democracy Americans have fought for around the globe must be brought to our nation's capital.

Phone calls are helpful and can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121. Or go to the LWVUS website www.lwv.org, click on Take Action on DC Voting Rights, **[Enter your zip code and send an instant message to your senators now!](#)**

2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

BACKGROUND: Learn more about what the League has done to support DC Voting Rights. Sign up to receive Action Alerts directly by email. *Don't miss an opportunity to take action! It's easy to sign up and the League will never share your email with others:* **<http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/mlm/signup/>**

*For additional information, please contact LWVUS Grassroots Lobbyist Christina Vamvas at **lobbying@lwv.org**.*

LWVUT PROGRAM ISSUES

Immigration Consensus for Utah Leagues

This fall all local leagues are being asked to provide a response to the consensus questions on U.S. immigration policy prepared by the League of Women Voters U.S. The national League has never adopted a position on immigration but is planning on doing so in the spring of 2008. The responses from the local Leagues to the consensus questions will be the basis for the national position. Local League responses are due at National on February 1, 2008. The consensus questions can be found on the LWV.org website at **[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Consensus Kit&CONTENTID=9416&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDi](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Consensus%20Kit&CONTENTID=9416&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDi)**

[splay.cfm](#) . If you do not have access to the web, Sandy Peck in the League offices can mail the questions to you. Sandy's number is 801-272-8683.

The LWVUS has been preparing the study materials needed to reach consensus on immigration since 2006. Each local League is being asked to use the study materials, plus any others that they deem appropriate, to educate their members. The League process can also be expanded to provide a community-wide discussion on immigration policy.

The League of Women Voters of Utah decided that it would hold a public forum to address immigration issues as a means of educating both the general public and local League members. LWVUtah is working with the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Honors Forum at Fort Douglas (part of the University of Utah Honors Program) and the Salt Lake Film Center on the public forum. The forum will include several documentaries and films addressing various aspects of immigration and a panel discussion with local experts. Following the forum, LWVUtah would like to host a meeting with local League representatives to discuss immigration and the consensus process. The LWVUtah is planning on providing links to a variety of materials on immigration on its web page beginning in September. The forum schedule is as follows:

Films at Fort Douglas Theatre: Thursday, 10/18; Friday, 10/19; Saturday, 10/20; Thursday, 10/25; Friday, 10/26; and Saturday, 10/27. The films to be shown each evening will be posted on the LWVUtah website. Additionally, we will be sending invitations to all League members via e-mail or snail mail.

Panel Discussions at Fort Douglas Theatre: Friday morning, 10/26 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The panels will talk about immigration from several different angles. The panels will include speakers on the current immigration law, the economics of immigration, the impact of the current law on businesses and families, and potential future immigration policies.

League Discussion: Friday afternoon, 10/26. This will be held if two or more people indicate an interest in coming. The location will be determined when the size of the group is known. If you would like to attend the League discussion during the afternoon of Friday, October 26, please RSVP to Sandy Peck at the League offices (801-272-8683).

We are anticipating posting lots of information about immigration on the LWVUtah website. Check the website in October for films (available from either the Salt Lake Film Center or the Salt Lake City Public Library), for downloadable articles and studies, and more information about the Immigration Forum.

Alice Steiner, co-president.



Energy Independence and Climate Change

Man-Made Methane

Tues Oct 9, 7 pm - Main Library

Approximately one fourth of America's energy need is met by natural gas, a fossil fuel mined from underground formations and coal mines. Methane burns cleaner than oil, coal, or wood. Can we produce enough methane to replace natural gas? Sixty years of experimentation has shown that methane gas can be produced by a special microorganism that splits vinegar into methane and carbon dioxide. Vinegar, in turn, is produced by organic matter grown under the sun. Man-made methane produced from America's two billion tons of organic wastes or "biomass," as the U.S. Department of Energy calls it, could meet all of our natural gas needs. Presented by Dr. Sam Ghosh, former chair and professor of civil and environmental engineering, recipient of a U.S. Department of Energy Renewable Energy Award and a Utah Governor's Energy Innovation Award. Anderson-Foothill Branch Library

Energy Independence and Climate Change

Tuesday November 13th 7:00 p.m. - Main Library

At first glance, the term "global warming" implies that ground temperatures are increasing everywhere on Earth. Some areas are getting warmer, but others are cooling. So "global warming" is a misnomer--"climate change" is a better description. The causes of climate change are complex and involve at least 15 scientific disciplines. We rely on empirical evidence and computer models to visualize future scenarios. Some remedies (use less fossil fuels) are meaningful; others (carbon dioxide sequestration) require even more fossil fuels. Climate change disbelievers fear economic losses, but new control technologies can create new jobs and global benefits. Presented by Dr. Sam Ghosh, former chair and professor of civil and environmental engineering, recipient of a U.S. Department of Energy Renewable Energy Award and a Utah Governor's Energy Innovation Award.

<http://www.slcp.org> click on Events; all library events

Convention approved program interest in the '**Direct Election of the President**'. Ann O'Connell is looking for league members who might be interested in this subject and willing to assist in doing research on this issue. If interested, please contact the league office: lvvut@mail.xmission.com, or call (801)272-8683

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

If you want to become more active in your local league, contact me (Janice Gygi, gygija@uvsc.edu or (801)550-3585, and I will provide you with information. State board members would be happy to visit with your league and help you plan for the year.

The LWVUT needs to have an updated list of your members with their contact information. If you have not already done so, please send this to Sandy Peck, lvvut@xmission.com, as soon as possible.

By *Janice Gygi*, Vice President, Local Leagues



THE 'IN CELEBRATION OF' FUND

The traditional 'Memorial Fund' has changed its name to 'In Celebration of Fund'. This fund has always been available for contributions from members or non-members in memory of League members who have passed away. It is also appropriate to donate to this fund in acknowledgment of a celebration of such events as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.

The fund is a joint savings account for both the State and the Salt Lake Leagues, has a current principal of \$5000.00, which is used for office supplies and/or equipment. Stuart Gygi, the Salt Lake League Treasurer, chairs the Memorial Fund Committee. In addition both Salt Lake and State have two representatives. The committee meets whenever the office has a need for equipment. For example, the fund recently purchased a copy/fax/scan/printer and a new DSL modem.

We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the league:
Steiner Foundation, Carolyn Nelson, Georgia Beth Thompson, Alice Steiner

The League of Women Voters of Utah would like to thank:
Xmission for their internet services (lvvut@mail.xmission.com)
BandCon (Ari Benowitz) for their web-hosting (www.lvvutah.com)



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THE UTAH VOTER

Fall 2007

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Support the League of Women Voters to strengthen our democracy

Join the League of Women Voters of Utah, a respected, national grassroots organization that acts on important issues that affect you, your community and our nation. You can make a difference on the issues! Membership forms are available on line at <http://www.lwvutah.org/form.html>

We are –

- *Empowering millions of voters to protect their right to vote*
- *Working to ensure that ALL votes are counted and all voices are heard*
- *Preserving our constitutional rights by safeguarding civil liberties*
- *Acting as a force for positive change in our communities and in our democracy*

We believe that sensible, responsible, civil discourse and action based on substance, rather than partisan battles is essential if we are to avoid polarization and get something done. We believe that American democracy is at risk and that now is the time to act.

Donate to the League. Your tax-deductible contribution to our LWVU Education Fund will provide important support for advancing our critical work to safeguard the vote. Contribute today!