



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:

- October 11 -- at 7 pm the Salt Lake Library and Kingsbury Hall are hosting a panel discussion, George Orwell's 1984, News and Propaganda: When Does Spin Go to Far. Local journalists will discuss the fine line between news and propaganda. (www.BigBrotherisWatchingU.com)
- October 14 –Utah Solar Building Tour 2006 at 10 AM to 4 PM. Visit www.utsolar.org to find a tour near you? This free event provides an opportunity to get an up close look at all the great things our neighbors are doing with clean, renewable solar technology.
- November 7, 2006 -- General Elections
- November 16, 2006 - Mark Danner (whose work on human rights/torture the Seattle League drew heavily upon for their study) is speaking on "Into the Light of Day; Torture, Human Rights and the New State of Exception" at 7 pm at the Salt Lake Main Library.
- January 15, 2007 – General Legislative Session begins
- Week of October 13, 2006 -- Hate Crime Study Briefing (date not final yet)
- Week of November 16, 2006 – Redevelopment Agency Study Briefing (date not final yet)
- April 1, 2006: -- Consensus due on the Hate Crime Study and Redevelopment Agency Study
- LWVU Convention – April 14, 2007

KUED Debates Broadcast Schedule

Leading up to the November 7 election, Production Director Ken Verdoia moderates live debates featuring questions posed by a studio audience comprised of concerned voters. <http://www.voteutah.org/>

- **Congress, First District Debate, Friday, October 13, 9 pm**
- **Congress Second District Debate, Friday, October 20, 9 pm**
- **Congress Third District Debate, Friday, October 27, 9 pm**
- **U.S. Senate Debate, Friday, November 3, 9 pm**

Notes from the President



I am having a hard time realizing it is fall, partly because I have been gone for much of the summer. I am happy to report that the League functioned very well in my absence, because of inspired board members and Sandy Peck. We have had a board retreat at which we evaluated the events of last year and planned for 2006-2007.

In a little over a month the 2006 Elections will be upon us. The web team and local voter service chairs have been working very hard to provide voters with information about the candidates on the web and producing great publicity materials about the League and the Voter Service website. Thanks goes to the web team—Nanette Benowitz, Kathy Biele, Pat Klentzman, Stuart Gygi, and Bob Beaudoin. We will not be producing hard copy because of costs but are producing information pamphlets and posters directing voters to the websites. A plus to utilizing the website for voter information is that candidates' replies are not limited because of space considerations. A first this year is web information from the Judicial Council

on all of the judicial elections. The results as of September 25 have been discouraging—we have not received responses from any of the incumbent U.S. House and Senate candidates and many of the state and Salt Lake candidates. Please take a look at the website and determine what offices that you vote for may be missing. Then take time to contact that (those) candidates and tell them you are disappointed. You may find, as I did, that computer glitches may have prevented your candidate from responding.

Of all the offices in *The Voters Guide* I am most disappointed in the State School Board candidates' lack of responses. In discussions of many civic issues, e.g. campaign finance reform, reapportionment, and failure to vote, civic education is cited as a problem and solution. Since one of our state school board candidate questions deals with civic education, the failure of candidates to respond is particularly worrisome.

Jessica Mathewson and her brother, Terry Fallon, a Vermont graphics designer, have produced a stunning brochure advertising the services of the League and a poster advertising *The Voter's Guide* for libraries and other spaces. Thank you, Jessica and Terry.

The Redevelopment Agency and Hate Crimes study committees have completed their work, the consensus questions have been approved and the Board awaits your consideration. We have put a date on consensus questions and urge all members who aren't able to attend a unit meeting to answer the questions and send them to the office so that their opinions can be included. Thank you Study Chairs Marie Fulmer and Bonnie Fernandez and Marilyn O'Dell; Hate Crime committee members Joycelynn Straight, Missy Larsen, Pat Klentzman, Kathy Dorn, Julien Puzey, and Carolyn Nelson; RDA committee members Alice Steiner, Marilyn Smith and Pat Nielson; and editing committee members Pat Brim and Nanette Benowitz.

Congratulations to Nanette Benowitz who was honored by the Salt Lake League for her services to the League at the Salt Lake League's Fall Fete.

Recently I participated in a panel discussing the documentary, *By the People*, which was part of a Democracy Film Series presented by the Salt Lake Film Center. The film looks at the nuts and bolts of putting on the 2004 Election in Indianapolis, Indiana. One of the themes is the diminishing number of volunteers willing to serve as election judges. Please think about serving as an election judge in the November 7 election. Many counties face a shortage of election judges. You are especially needed to assist with new electronic voting equipment this year. Past LWWUS president Kay Maxwell urged in Salt Lake on February 1 that all League

members consider being election judges. Some members are donating their election judge salaries to the League. The Salt Lake Film Center is to be commended for this important series.

The US House of Representatives has passed *HR4844*, "Federal Election Integrity Act." The legislation requires eligible citizens to present government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008 and proof of citizenship by 2010. LWVUS opposed the bill. Representatives Bishop and Cannon voted for the bill; Representative Matheson opposed the measure. It is unclear whether the Senate will get to the measure before fall adjournment.

Gigi Brandt, President

VOTER SERVICE: Kathy Dorn Director



Voter Service Plea:

This fall with Early Voting beginning just a month from now, the League website www.lwvutah.org is still missing many legislators' replies to our letters and emails asking them to include their views on current legislative issues in the electronic voter's guide. We are asking that each of you go to our website Voters Guide and check to see if your legislators are candidates and have sent in their information. If not, contact them and ask them to fill out the questionnaire on our website, attach a photo and submit it. You'll find their contact information at <http://le.utah.gov> (Click on House then Roster or Senate then Roster.) We are attempting to educate the voters of Utah and having all the information in one place is a great service to the public. If your legislators are there,

call and thank them for participating.

The goal of Voters Service is to educate and inform the public so that they have the information they need to choose their elected representatives.

Confessions of a League Poll Worker

One recent morning, my wife, Leona, accused me of wearing a particularly ragged-looking pair of my overshorts (cutoff legs of a pair of overalls) which I usually wear in the summer weather. I responded to her that I was being guided by the old saying about "rags to riches," and that I was indeed expecting a check.

Well, sure enough I got a check for \$120 from our lovely county clerk for serving as a poll worker for the Primary Election. That reminded me of my now ancient suggestion that a few of us could collectively serve as Salt Lake County poll workers and donate our checks to our Salt Lake League's treasury. This would preclude the necessity of raising money via our Spring Luncheon.

I never suggested that we should discontinue our Spring Luncheon where most of us are entertained and/or educated by an excellent speaker whom we usually compensate. We definitely should continue our spring gathering and continue to enjoy it by having fun, learning and eating a nice meal.

Had only 12 of us served at the most recent primary, we could have raised about \$1,440 for the League — about one-third of what we usually raise via the lunch. Moreover, we could still do it this year. How? Like this:

On Nov. 7, we will have a General Election as we do in most even-numbered years. The generous compensation offered poll workers by our county clerk will duplicate the payments made for service during the recent Primary. For myself, I will serve our citizens as their poll worker in this election. As usual, my check will be donated to the League.

Without exception, the couple and lady with whom I worked in the Primary are generally older than most of our League members, including myself. The work is simple. You will be well-trained and only occasionally bored. The dead periods give you a chance to read a book or eat a snack. Just think — the new poll worker compensation is delightfully fair and now, unlike in the past, it exceeds the minimum wage!

It is my hope that my previous suggestion be adopted by our board, especially since poll worker compensation is now at a decent level.

Sincerely, *David Blackbird*

The idea of an election is much more interesting to me than the election itself... The act of voting is in itself the defining moment.
-Jeff Melvoin, television writer and producer

LEGISLATIVE NEWS - Peggy Christensen Co-Director

Heard in the Senate: Arguments for and against changing the Tax System

Arguments favoring giving taxpayers a choice between paying 5.35% or taking deductions and then paying the 7% they paid last year included:

- we made a deal in January to give back \$70 million to taxpayers so it's time to make good on the deal
- we have the money now so shouldn't wait
- this bill is good economic policy and will mean more \$ for education in the future
- families know best how to spend their \$ for their children
- education issues can be solved once and for all with vouchers
- new brackets decrease the retrogressive bias of the system
- indexing matches the brackets to inflation so stops bracket creep
- a bill to provide an earned income tax credit can be passed in the general session 2007



Arguments against this change in the tax system:

- the money would be better spent for education (reducing class size and paying teachers more)
- a well-educated work force is more important for economic development than lower income tax rates
- more time is needed to discover the implications of these changes
- this is too close to the election so wait until the general session when a more transparent discussion might be possible
- education needs to be provided by the government to insure equal access
- economic growth (from tax cuts) is an assumption that has yet to be proven valid
- the cost of this bill in lost revenue will continue to 2012 before the State breaks even
- brackets need much more adjusting to be meaningful
- real tax reform would consider all aspects of taxing and set priorities for needs such as education, health, transportation
- thousands of \$\$ go to the top 4 or 5% of highest income people who don't have mortgages and don't contribute to charities
- 95% of taxpayers will see a tax reduction of about \$47
- transparency requires more discussion
- why "cut" income tax while adding a new local option 1/4 cent sales tax for transportation?

This bill passed out of the Senate with 22 yea votes and 7 nay votes. The House vote was 49-25. LWV's positions in favor of progressive taxation and adequate funding for education opposed this bill.

The Revenue and Taxation Committee considers this bill a first step and plans to continue to work on tax reform immediately (i.e., October interim session).

The D.C. Vote and Utah's 4th Seat in Congress

By *Sandy Peck*, Executive Director



The League has a special interest in the proposal now before the U.S. House to give Utah a 4th representative in Congress. We want the citizens of the District of Columbia to have a congressional representative who has a vote on the House floor. Now Eleanor Holmes Norton can vote on behalf of D.C. only in committee. We have tried for years to correct this by amending the Constitution with no success.

This year a bill sponsored by Virginia Republican Tom Davis has proposed a different route, a political deal. A voting representative for D.C, who would likely be a Democrat, would be balanced by a 4th representative from Utah, likely to be a Republican. The bill proposed that the Utah 4th District would represent all voters in the state at-large. Every Utahn would be represented by one and a third representatives, instead of by just one, as is the case in all the other states. This hardly seemed fair and likely to be unconstitutional. It was rejected by the House Judiciary Committee chair James Sensenbrenner .

Instead Utah Governor Jon Huntsman was asked to come up with a 4-district Utah map that complies with one person-one vote. Under the governor's plan, the 2nd district now held by Congressman Jim Matheson would consist of northern Salt Lake County including Salt Lake and West Valley cities, plus Summit and Morgan Counties. District 1 would cover northern Utah, District 3 south eastern Utah and District 4 southwestern counties.

This amounts to redistricting, so the legislature would have to approve it in a special session and public hearings would be needed. The Legislature actually hoped in 2001 for a 4th seat so they adopted a contingency map. But the 2000 population figures are now out of date so a new map is needed.

The governor and legislative leaders are willing to call the special session but Congress plans to adjourn on September 29, so no further action is expected until after the November 7 election.

Meanwhile Ms. Norton still can't vote. And D.C. residents continue to be taxed without representation. (Didn't we fight a war about that?)

The League's 1980 re-districting position calls for:

establishing a bipartisan commission to advise the legislature. We support anti-gerrymandering standards including prompt judicial review, basic equality among districts, district lines that honor local political boundaries, lines that are compact, that are not drawn for the advantage or disadvantage of any political party, incumbent or any person or group, and that do not dilute voting strength of any minority.

PROGRAM

Hate Crimes (Bias Motivated Offenses) Legislation Study

By *Marie Fulmer*

Laws against Bias Motivated Offenses or Hate Crimes have received criticism in two categories from serious legal scholars and very conservative persons. The first criticism focuses on the First Amendment issue of free speech and the second on the Fourteenth Amendment issue of equal protection under the law. The scope of this study was to investigate the validity of these allegations.

The **BMO** Study committee approached the study with enthusiastic determination.

We met at least once a month for four months. We decided to proceed with interviews, using newspaper editorials and articles and Attorney General Mark Shurtleff as sources. These activities are documented in appendices of the study and are referred to in the study.

The study is 8 pages long with 29 pages going to appendices. We hope it sheds light on the controversial issues surrounding hate crimes legislation. The committee will be presenting the study to the Salt Lake unit meetings in October.

The study can be found on line at: <http://www.lwvutah.org/Studies/Hate%20Crime%20Study%202006.pdf> . Thanks go to the study committee: Co-Chairs Marie Fulmer and Bonnie Fernandez; committee members Kathy Dorn, Joycelynn Straight, Missy Larsen, Pat Klentzman, Polly Hough, Julien Puzey and Carolyn Nelson.

Discussion and Consensus Questions

All responses to these questions must be submitted to the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Utah (LWVU) by April 1, 2007, to be used as a basis for formation of the LWVU position. Individual League members are encouraged to submit responses to the Consensus questions if they have not had an opportunity to participate in a Local League unit discussion. Print off this page and submit it with your responses to the LWVU Executive Director. (Please note that 'Unit' responses will carry more weight than individuals but the board encourages all league members to contribute to the consensus process.)

There will be a 'briefing' (The Study committee and/or experts in the field will discuss the study and the questions) the week of October 13th in Salt Lake (final date has not been set). The exact date will be posted when available. Although Briefings are designed to educate and clarify the information for unit discussion leaders, all league members are invited to attend especially if they are unable to attend a unit discussion.

Discussion Questions:

1. Before reading the study, were you concerned that hate crimes law punished speech and thought?
2. Did the study address those concerns? How?
3. Before reading the study, were you concerned that hate crimes law applied the law only to specific groups such as African-Americans or Catholics, instead of generic, neutral groups such as race or religion?
4. Did the study address those concerns? How?

Consensus Question:

The Utah legislators passed a new hate crimes law in the 2006 Legislative Session.

1. Should the league support hate crime legislation?
2. The new law does not include a list of groups (race, religion, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, natural origin, sexual orientation) protected by the law. Should the league support hate crimes law that includes a list of protected neutral groups?

Redevelopment Agency Study

By *Marilyn Odell*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Redevelopment Agencies (RDAs) use tax increment revenue to cause redevelopment and economic development to occur. RDAs are created by municipalities and counties and enabled by state law. An explanation of RDA operation is included in the study.

The 2005 Legislature made changes in the law governing RDAs because of problems which they perceived as abuses of the law's intent. These problems were:

- Use of redevelopment tax increment to attract large scale retailers;
- Use of eminent domain to provide land for large scale retailers;
- Use of redevelopment in areas that were not blighted; and
- Loss of taxes by counties and schools.



To mitigate these abuses the 2005 Legislature passed Senate Bill 184 amending the RDA law. Most items in the bill expired in 2006. Senator Curtis Bramble (R) requested the Utah League of Cities and Towns to draft new legislation for the 2006 session. The legislation was passed.

The legislation includes:

- A new track, Community Development, that is added to the Economic Development and Redevelopment tracks;
- Requirement that a supermajority vote of the Taxing Entity Committee meeting is required for Economic Development and Redevelopment areas (This vote must be at least 7 days after the project is introduced.);
- The term of any project area would be negotiated with these committees;
- Criteria for blight will be more stringent (Blight is used only for Redevelopment projects.);
- Tax increment from retail business in Economic Development Areas is not allowed; and
- Eminent domain will not be allowed for any projects implemented under this law.

This study gives a synopsis of the history of Redevelopment Agencies since Congress passed the U.S. Housing Act in 1949, an explanation of the structure of RDAs in Utah with some explanation about the intent of the legislation, and a more detailed explanation of recent problems and the Legislature's work to solve them in 2005 and 2006. Other suggestions for changes are also reviewed.

This study also gives a short history of the Salt Lake City and Ogden RDAs, the two biggest RDAs in the state by project dollars. Information is included about their current finances, use of affordable housing funds, examples of projects, and two projects in Ogden that have been affected by the prohibition in SB 184 of the use of eminent domain.

The study can be found on line at : <http://www.lwvutah.org/Studies/Hate%20Crime%20Study%202006.pdf> . Thanks to the committee Chair -Marilyn O'Dell and study committee members Alice Steiner, Pat Nielsen and Marilyn Smith.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

All responses to these questions must be submitted to the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Utah (LWVU) by April 1, 2007, to be used as a basis for formation of the LWVU position. Individual League members are encouraged to submit responses to the Consensus questions if they have not had an opportunity to participate in a Local League unit discussion. Print off this page and submit it with your responses to the LWVU Executive Director. (Please note that 'Unit' responses will carry more weight than individuals but the board encourages all league members to contribute to the consensus process.)

LWVU Board Suggestions:

Questions 1, 2 and 5 are broad philosophical questions that will make up the basis of the league position. While 3 and 4 are important, they are more specific. Unit discussion leaders need to take this into consideration when budgeting time for unit discussion. Units might find that they need more time than one unit meeting to adequately address the subject.

There will be a 'briefing' (The Study committee and/or experts in the field will discuss the study and the questions) the week of November 16th (final date has not been set) in Salt Lake. The exact date will be posted when available. Although Briefings are designed to educate and clarify the information for unit discussion leaders, all league members are invited to attend especially if they are unable to attend a unit discussion.

1. **Redevelopment agencies have been used to (1) broaden the tax base, (2) redevelop blighted areas, and (3) assemble properties for both public and private redevelopment. Is each of these an appropriate role for local government to undertake?** This is a broad philosophical question and could take up a great deal of time. Time of debate should be limited to allow discussion of the other questions.
2. **Is eminent domain appropriate so that RDAs can assemble properties?** For example, is it fair for eminent domain to be used to force owners from their homes, some of which are blighted, for construction of one or more privately owned businesses or should the city just wait until private businesses negotiate with the owners and a price is reached at which the owners are willing to sell? Occasionally, there is no price at which the owners are willing to sell.
3. **Should allocation of the 1% local option sales tax be changed so that cities no longer compete for retail? If so, what, if any, percentage should go to the municipality where the sales are made?**
4. **Should the Legislature set a limit for collection of tax increment from certain types of construction, i.e. retail, office space, or manufacturing?** For example, within 25 years from its construction, the Ogden City Mall, a part of the Ogden Central Business District RDA project area was torn down before the project expired and the taxing entities fully benefited. Currently, the length of time a project collects tax increment is negotiated with the taxing entity committee on a case by case basis. The recent legislation has removed all limits on project length.
5. **Should RDAs be required to provide a standardized public report?** Although RDAs/Urban Renewal Agencies must file an annual summary report and an annual audit with the State Tax Commission and the State Auditor, some RDAs also produce an annual report available to the general public. The voluntary annual reports produced by the RDAs do not follow any specific format.
 - Should each RDA be required to disclose its revenue, accomplishments, costs and debts by project area in addition to the filings with the State Tax Commission and State Auditor?
 - If reports are required, should there be a central, public repository, such as the public library for the annual reports

Water Studies

By *Ann O'Connell*, Natural Resources Chair



Salt Lake League units plan to discuss water issues in the spring. The exact topic has not been decided upon but might be the Las Vegas plans for the West Desert aquifer that Utah shares with Nevada or perhaps the reports that are accumulating of contaminants in the Great Salt Lake. It seems clear to me that while it is interesting for Salt Lake members to discuss the current hot button issues, it is time for the LWVU to undertake a more comprehensive water study. It is a rare water issue that is confined to one local league's area and it has been many years since we have reviewed the state's water resources.

We can go to many organizations, state agencies, and water districts for information. They are all very willing to help and most of the data we would want will be on line. For example the Utah Division of Water Resources has a map of the West Desert aquifer on its web site where one can see that some of the aquifer drains north into the Great Salt Lake. Imagine what might happen if the aquifer were depleted to the level that the GSL drained back into the aquifer - an example of why we should look at all the water that drains into and out of Utah if we want to understand water issues.

Some of the questions we might want to address are:

How much water do we actually have?

How is the water we use allocated among urban households, industry, and agriculture?

How is this predicted to change as population and the economy grows?

How much water is essential for individual use and consumption and how much do we currently use?

What is planned for the future use of water currently dedicated to agriculture? What does this mean for agriculture and the environment?

How do our present water systems affect the environment and animal habitats, and what effect will our future plans have?

How can the 5 - 6 million people projected for the Wasatch Front in 2050 live within a constrained water budget? What should that budget be?

If this project sounds interesting, volunteer now by phone or email and start thinking about designing a water study proposal for the state convention on April 14 in Salt Lake. Remember we decide there what our program will be for the next two years, plenty of time to do a water study.

MEMBERSHIP:

by *Anne Zeigler*

National Convention of the League of Women Voters held in June, was a stimulating and inspiring experience. One of the many areas that triggered my Utah senses was that of Membership. Not only in Utah but throughout the U.S., membership has declined, so national is taking a new and optimistic look at how we can retain and gain new members. Five leagues across the country have been selected as pilot sites to run a comprehensive membership recruitment program over a 12 month period.

The scope of the program targets women/men who are reaching the retirement phase of their lives. They are different than previous retirees – they are diverse in race, ethnicity, and family status, consider themselves young and energetic, and want the opportunity to make a difference in their communities. These women will have the time to contribute a wealth of experience and skills from years in the workforce that can strengthen the League as active members. Research shows that League values resonate with this group. Given the size of this group (educators, lawyers, nurses, administrative personnel, etc.) and the values shared with existing members, outreach will be the easiest way for LWV to begin to strengthen membership now. THE SALT LAKE LEAGUE HOPES THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THIS NATIONAL LEAGUE PROJECT.

This does not mean that we will not welcome young people. People join the League for different reasons and it's likely that young people will join for different reasons than retiring women will. Targeting retiring women/men, is just a starting place for the National LWV membership drive. National encourages local leagues to initiate their own programs for retaining and acquiring new members.

In the meantime the Salt Lake League has formed a Membership Committee that would target new members, contacting them 3-4 times a year, to determine their status, interests, and how they will best fit into the League spectrum of topics we are involved with. To serve on this committee is a great way for new members to become involved, but also for experienced members who have a difficult time getting out to serve. A phone call at a bad time of the day, or on a bad "hair day", can be countered by another person calling at a better time, and with a different situation. Communication is the key, and information emailed to the committee about contacts made and suggestions can be kept by the chair person and passed on to future callers. We hope you will try this with your League.



LWVUS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD LIAISON FOR UTAH

By *Kathy Dorn*

I was at the League convention in Minnesota and my highlight was the meeting and wonderful lunch we had with our new national board liaison. It is one of the things we all can look forward to in 2008, at the LWV National

convention in Portland. She is our personal contact to take issues to the national board and to get information for us from the board. Her name is Donna Lauffer from Overland Park, Kansas. She has been in League for many years (20+) and now has a board position which means she is liaison for 5 states. Every National board member is a liaison to some states. She has never been to Utah but asked us lots of great questions about our program, problems, and what we want and expect from the national board. She was an excellent listener. She brought to the national convention her daughter who is just recently in League and still trying to figure us out. Do you remember when you were trying to figure out what league did and how they did it??? If you have any question or concerns for the national board I can highly recommend calling her and you will find a great ear and action to match.

LWVUS Board Liaison: Donna Lauffer
8622 Broadmoor Street, Overland Park, Kansas 66212
membership@lww.org

Here is an overview of the League's Home page. www.lwwutah.org

Take a moment and familiarize yourself with what is available to you. At a glance you can learn a great deal about the league.

- **WHO WE ARE:** gives basic information such as our officers, policy, program, bylaws, and how to join.
- **LEGISLATIVE NEWS:** tracks the activities of the legislature during the general session and interim committees. You can find our 'KCPW' Daily Legislative Update, Action Alerts, League Legislative Priorities including background on bills and testimony the league has given on the hill.
- **CURRENT ISSUES:** reviews important dates, state program and new studies.
- **VOTER GUIDE:** Includes all federal candidates, state legislature, state school board, and judges running in the November General election. Under local links both Salt Lake and Weber Leagues have local races.
- **LEAGUE POSITION:** Includes our newest position statements (Nuclear Waste, Juvenile Justice and Water Taxation), and the LWVUS and LWVU "Impact on Issues." –(position statements)
- **PUBLICATIONS:** Includes our VOTER and new studies. (Redevelopment Agency and Hate Crimes)
- **HELPFUL LINKS:** Includes National and Local League links, The President and Congress, Utah State Government, Utah Cities & Counties and Elections

LOCAL LEAGUES: Each league (Cache, Cedar, Davis, Grand, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, Weber) has their own page which can be as large and as many pages as they desire. Right now only Salt Lake and Weber have utilized this space. I have begun work on Davis, Grand and Cache and would welcome any information any league member would send me to go on the local league pages. Just send your information (events, meetings, studies, 'Know Your County,') to Nanette Benowitz at njb@benowitz.net. Please use 'word' documents or pictures in jpeg format. Also, we are looking for typists to help put some of the local league documents onto word documents. Anyone interested, please let either Sandy (801)272-8683, or Nanette (801)278-3324 know



League of Women Voters of Utah

Who We Are

- [Our principles & Mission](#)
- [Objectives](#)
- [How the League Works](#)
- [Officers](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Bylaws](#)
- [The Voter](#)
- [How to Join](#)
- [Donations](#)
- [Contact us](#)

WELCOME

We're so glad you found us. Take time to explore "Who We Are" so you know all about us. Of particular interest at this time of year is the Election. Don't hesitate, try all the buttons!! There is so much information to explore.



Legislative News

Current Issues

Voter Guide

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL

League Positio

- [Important Election Dates](#)
- [Voter Guide](#) (Click on Voter Guide to see all the candidates responses to the leagues' questions) Click here on [DemocracyNet](#) - to find out **what district you are in** and **who is running** . When you click on DemocracyNet, enter your zip code in the appropriate box. Then click on the questions you need answered, ie congressional races or state races. Then enter your address and all the candidates for your zip code will appear.
- **New LWVU Studies on ['Redevelopment Agencies Study'](#) and [Hate Crimes](#)**

Publications

Helpful Links

Local Leagues

The League of Women Voters 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.

MEMORIAL FUND

The [Memorial Fund](#), 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, is the chair. In addition both Salt Lake and State have two representatives. The Memorial Fund 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.

This fund is available for contributions from members or non-members in memory of League members who have passed away.

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



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THE UTAH VOTER

Summer 2006

Non-Profit Org. US Postage Paid Salt Lake City, UT Permit No. 1716

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 will provide important support for advancing our critical work to safeguard the vote. Contribute today!