



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 informed and active participation 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

Voter Registration: By Mail-by October 6th, County Clerks-by October 20th

Early Voting: October 21-31st

Absentee Voting: Postmarked by November 3rd

General Election: November 4th

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Fellow Leaguers,

The League of Women Voters of Utah is in the process of creating the Voters' Guide for all Utah voters. The guide will be available in mid September on the League's website, www.lwvutah.org. It will include comparable information on candidates for Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Auditor, State Treasurer, State School Board and State Legislature. We are working hard to get the word out that this is the place to go to get information about candidates. The League has produced a bookmark that encourages people to register, to educate themselves by going to our website, www.lwvutah.org, and to vote. If you are registering voters this fall, consider getting several bookmarks to hand registered voters as well as the folks who are registering this year. The League's website will also provide links to other non-partisan websites to help voters make election choices and to candidate websites, if the candidate provides this information to us. Thank you

to Kathy Dorn, Nancy Melling, Nanette Benowitz, Pat Klentzman, Kathy Biele, Bob Beaudoin, Stuart Gygi, and Sandy Peck for all of their work to put together the Voters Guide and get it on the web. A special thank you to Julie Sagers, the League's Hinckley Institute Intern, who joined our efforts to produce the Voters' Guide this summer.

The Board welcomed four new members to its retreat in June. If you run into Joel Bown, Marilyn Odell, Stephanie Harpst, or Bev Cooper at a League event, be sure to thank them for their willingness to serve on the Utah Board. We have an incredibly able group of women and men guiding the activities of the State League in Utah.

We have one major vacancy—the Utah Legislative Coordinator. We need someone who is charming (even to stubborn legislators), insightful, well-organized, and fun to work with. If this is you, volunteer! If you know of a Leaguer with these skills, let us know and we will extend an invitation to her or him. This is a critical vacancy for the Utah League that we must fill soon to fulfill our mission of lobbying the Legislature on our policy positions.

The Utah Board is hoping to include the leadership of each of the local Leagues at its Board meetings in-person or via phone. Coordination between Leagues on voter service and legislative issues, among others, will make us stronger. Conferring together at Board meetings will also help each League increase visibility, implement membership recruitment ideas, explore ways to raise funds, and work with National on leadership training initiatives.

We look forward to working together over the next year.

Alice Steiner and Nancy Melling, Co-Presidents

VOTER SERVICE

Kathy Dorn, Voter Service Director

League of Women Voters of Utah 2008 Voters' Guide
<http://www.lwvutah.org/votersguide.html>

As you read this, the League Voters' Guide to Utah candidates' background, experience and views on the issues is taking shape on our website. Information to help citizens register and vote is there, too.



The Voter Service and Web Teams urge all league members to look at the responses of their own candidates. If they have not responded yet, please call them, email them, write them and urge them to participate! We need every candidate to respond and we need your help to make this happen.

Jessica Mathewson and our dedicated President, Alice Steiner, have been raising money for a comprehensive publicity campaign this fall for our Voters' Guide. We thank American Express, Zions Bank, Fabian Attorneys at Law, XMission, America First Credit Union, Barbara G. Browning and Mary W. McCarthy who are generously supporting the Voters Guide. When you go to our <http://lwvutah.org/votersguide.html> you'll find information about:

National Offices

- U.S. Congress - House Districts 1, 2 and 3

State Offices

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- State Auditor
- State Treasurer
- Utah Senate Districts
- Utah House Districts
- State School Board

Voter Information about current office holders and office qualifications and links are also on the State Elections site at www.elections.utah.gov

How to register to vote - How, where and when?

Be sure to re-register if you have moved or changed your name. First Time Voters need copies of photo ID or two proofs of name and address either when registering OR when voting. Early Voters also need ID.

Voter Registration Deadline:

- By Mail: Monday, October 6, 2008
- In County Clerks' offices: Monday, October 20, 2008

Where to Vote? Find your polling place and contacts for current federal, state and local elected officials in your district. Print your sample ballot.

When to Vote?

- Election Day: November 4, 2008
- Early Voting: October 21-31, 2008
- Absentee Ballot by Mail: Postmark by November 3, 2008
- Applications to receive absentee ballots are due to County Clerks by October 15 (overseas) or October 31 (U.S.)

- How to vote by mail or absentee ballot
- Contacting your County Clerk to Vote Absentee or Vote Permanently by Mail
- What Candidates are Running for Office in Utah and the U.S.
- U.S. House of Representatives district maps
- Utah Senate district maps

- Utah House district maps
- DemocracyNet: Find information and contacts for all federal and state candidates running in your district.
- Top 10 Reasons to Register and Vote

LWV Utah Election Ad Campaign



The LWV Utah has raised \$22,500 for an ad campaign to encourage people to register to vote, to visit the LWV-Utah website to learn about the candidates, and to vote on November 4. We are also working with Zions Bank to stock mail-in voter registration forms in the Zions Bank branches throughout the state which should make getting a voter registration form very easy no matter where a potential voter is located. The ad campaign will focus on registration in September and on the Voters' Guide and voting in October. Listen to our ads on KDUT-FM, KBMQ-FM, and KTUB-AM for the minority demographic. For the younger group, we will be running ads on U92, KZHT, and KUBL. Each station has agreed to include us on their websites and to run bonus spots. The stations will also hand out mail-in voter registration forms and

League materials when they broadcast from a remote location. We are hoping to have interviews on television channels throughout the election season. Currently, we have booked interviews on Channel 23 and KUED's "Contact."

Our target audience for the campaign are under-voting segments of the electorate—minorities, those without a college degree including current students, and people with lower incomes. The 2006 survey of voters by the U.S. Census identified Utah as the state with the lowest voter turn-out in the nation. Hopefully, the ad campaign and the availability of registration forms will improve our ranking in 2008.

One of the aims of the ad campaign is to encourage candidates to respond to the Voters' Guide questions. Whether this aspect will be successful, is still to be determined. Nonetheless, the ad campaign will increase the visibility of the Voters' Guide to voters.

LWV Utah has also produced an attractive bookmark to go along with the ad campaign. The bookmark is being distributed with the mail-in voter registration forms, at libraries and on campuses. The bookmark will be prominently featured by the radio stations at their remote broadcasting events

We are grateful to the donors who have supported the League in its efforts to register under-voting populations and to advertise the Voters' Guide. Our donors include: American Express, Zions Bank, Fabian & Clendenin, XMission, America First Credit Union, and several individual women who care about our democracy. We are also very grateful to the Storey Agency which has helped us to determine which radio stations and print media to use and to negotiate our ad contracts. Shelly Storey has been by our side every step of the way as we have thought this through. Thank you to all of our sponsors.

Jessica Mathewson, Communications Director

"If you want to have a voice, make a choice."

REGISTER AND VOTE!

Visit the League of Women Voters of Utah website to find out:

- ★ How to register to vote
- ★ Where and when to vote
- ★ How to vote by absentee or mail-in ballot
- ★ Which Utah and U.S. candidates want to represent you
- ★ How candidates stand on issues in our Voters Guide

www.lwvutah.org

LWV League of Women Voters of Utah

Sponsored by **ZIONS BANK**

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www.lwvutah.org

LWV League of Women Voters of Utah

Sponsored by **ZIONS BANK**

Zions Bank Partners with LWVUT on Voter Registration and Promotion of Voters' Guide



Zions Bank has agreed to promote voter registration by making registration forms available in each of their 144 branches statewide. To accompany the voter registration forms, LWVUT printed bookmarks encouraging voters to make informed candidate choices by viewing our *Voters' Guide* at www.lwvutah.org. On August 14th LWVUT volunteers prepared 5,300 voter registration forms for Zions Bank by inserting a LWVUT bookmark into each form. Of the 15 volunteers that helped, pictured below (left to right) are Tina Hose, Kathy Van Dame, Anne Zeigler, Ann O'Connell, Nancy McGee, Tom Markus and Kathy Fitzgerald.

LWVU 2008 COUNCIL RESULTS

League of Women Voters of Utah Program 2007-2009

May 29, 2008 (corrected)

- I. Promote election process reform.
 - a) Participate in the implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Act to improve the election process, including voter registration and election procedures, election equipment, and redistricting for federal and state candidates.
 - b) Complete and implement consensus on the Utah League Study of Election Systems.
 - c) Promote campaign finance reform with a primary focus on campaign contribution limits for candidates for state offices, personal use of campaign funds, and lobbyist gifts and contributions.
 - d) **Study** the '*Direct Election of the President*,' including the National Popular Vote state compact proposal, LWV Electoral College positions, and making Election Day a holiday to increase voter participation.
- II. Review all current Utah League positions to resolve inconsistencies and to determine their adequacy for current policy issues.
- III. Act to promote community awareness of the issue of health care for the uninsured and review LWVUS policy on health care.
- IV. Act to implement League consensus positions regarding nuclear waste.
- V. **Study Alternative Energy**, based on LWV Salt Lake's May 2007 study, "*Energy Alternatives for Today and Tomorrow.*"
- VI. **Study Utah's Water Allocation.**
- VII. Act to implement League consensus positions regarding the Utah corrections system.
- VIII. Act to protect Utah's citizen initiative process.

*new items

Approved April 14, 2008

Slate of Officers 2008-2010

Executive Officers:

Co-President	Alice Steiner	Salt Lake	2009
Co-President	Nancy Melling	Salt Lake	2009
1 st Vice President/Program	Gigi Brandt	Salt Lake	2009
2 nd Vice President/Local Leagues	Marilyn Odell	Weber County	2010
Treasurer	Joel Bown	Salt Lake	2010
Secretary	Tina Hose	Salt Lake	2009

Directors:

Director (Legislative Action)	TBA		
Director (Voter Service)	Kathy Dorn	Salt Lake	2009
Co-Director (Development)	Stephanie Harpst	Salt Lake	2010
Co-Director (Development)	Beverley Cooper	Salt Lake	2010
Director (Communications)	Jessica Matheson	Salt Lake	2009

Nominating:

Nominating Committee (Chair)	Anne Zeigler	Salt Lake	2010
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New Board Member Bios:

MARILYN ODELL (2nd Vice President - Local Leagues) Marilyn is currently newsletter editor for the Weber County League. She has previously served as Co-President of the Weber County League, and First Vice President. Marilyn, a League member for 14 years, has served on the state board as Vice President for Field Services, Natural Resources Director and Treasurer. In 1997 she organized a tour of Davis County wetlands for the League. In that same year, Marilyn retired after 30 years with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, where she served in a variety of positions. She was born and raised in Michigan, lived in Colorado for 4 years, and moved to Utah in 1961 when her husband and took a job with Thiokol Chemical.

JOEL BOWN (Treasurer) Joel Bown has been involved with the Salt Lake and Utah Leagues for many years. He was the treasurer of the Salt Lake League for two terms during the 90s and didn't bankrupt the chapter while he was there. He is a graduate of the University of Utah and worked for nearly 40 years as a "computer guy". The first half of his career was with First Interstate Bank where he learned to add and subtract. He recently retired from the University of Utah Hospital. Joel is an active biker, hiker and skier and general outdoors enthusiast.

STEPHANIE HARPST (Co-Director of Development) was active in the Salt Lake and Utah Leagues for many years serving as Salt Lake Co-President (88-90) and Local Government Chair and as Issues and Nominating Committee Chairs for the Utah League. She has maintained her membership for 27 years while on hiatus from active membership for some time, but says she is glad to be getting involved with the League again.

Stephanie has served as VP for Community Relations for First Interstate Bank, then Wells Fargo in Utah since 1993. In that position she has managed charitable contributions and outreach to community groups. She also serves on the boards of Ballet West, Jordan Education Foundation, and Grand Theatre as well as the advisory boards for the U/U College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Utah Humanities Council and SL County Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) Tier I. She is a strong believer in sharing leadership responsibilities and is looking forward to sharing this new position with Co-Director Bev Cooper. When Stephanie enjoys downtime, she relaxes with hubby Tim and 'Sade the Setter' at their home in Emigration Canyon.

BEVERLEY COOPER (Co-Director of Development) has spent her life supporting good causes and good people with her organizing and fundraising skills. Since moving to Utah in 1989 she has been particularly engaged with

women in politics and women's issues. She began working with Karen Shepherd at the Utah State Senate and graduated to event coordinator for Karen's successful run for Congress, managing fifty-two events over seven months. After working in Karen's District Office, Bev became the Executive Director of Utahans for Choice which morphed into Planned Parenthood Action Council. In that position over the next thirteen years and in her current consulting work with JDC Resources, Bev has helped organizations and candidates raise money and write persuasive brochures and appeals. She is committed to the work of the League of Women Voters and has enjoyed working with Sandy Peck on legislative issues. "I'm very excited about working alongside Stephanie Harpst to further the work of the League of Women Voters," said Bev.

ANNE ZEIGLER (Nominating Committee) came to Utah from Watertown Connecticut in 1958. She was an airline stewardess and met her husband on a chairlift at Alta. Since then they have lived and taught skiing in several places in northern Utah, worked at Thiokol and run their own mining equipment business in Salt Lake. Anne was recruited into the Davis County League by long-time Leaguer Nancy Cooper. Now retired and living in Salt Lake, she has worked on the League Salt Lake County study and observed at Salt Lake county government meetings, has been active at the legislature and is working to attract new and student members. Tennis maintains her sanity. She also likes travel, hiking, golf and biking.

COUNCIL ATTENDEES:



League of Women Voters of the United States 2008 Convention in Portland, Oregon



From left to right: Nanette Benowitz, Nancy Melling, Anne Zeigler, Tina Hose, Alice Steiner, Sandy Peck, Joyce Barnes and Ann O'Connell

The Utah delegation had a large contingent this year that enabled us to cover most of the workshop and caucus activity. Several delegates have written their experiences in Portland for the *Voter*.

For a more in depth view, go to the national website at www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention. All the daily plenary sessions are available, the daily action reports and the workshops materials. We strongly urge you to listen to the video and podcasts of the keynote speakers. We found that The Honorable John Kitzhaber of Oregon gave one of the best presentations we have heard on universal health care. He by the way is the son of one of LWV-Oregon's past state Presidents.

Nancy Melling and Alice Steiner presenting the Utah League year during roll call.



Ann O'Connell: "The Final Outcome"

Elections: The officially nominated board and presidential candidates were elected without controversy or any nominations from the floor. In the past conventions I have attended there were some rogue candidates, often related to the voting machine debates. The only point of interest in the election of the nominated slate is that we have our first male board member. He is a computer scientist and alternative voting systems (such as instant run-off) expert so I am doubly pleased: Also a thoughtful and charming fellow. I believe the number of male Convention attendees is slowly but steadily increasing. They come in all sizes and colors. I was going to say all shapes as well but LWV guys all tend to be rather thin.

The LWVUS Program for the next two years: The National Board recommended that we retain all current positions and of course we did just that. For Projects and Programs go to: <http://www.lvv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Projects2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=64&ContentID=9720> For Issue Priorities go to: <http://www.lvv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home> They also recommended a health care education program for members and the public and the addition of the judicial branch to the wording of our balance of powers position. The convention concurred with the above.

The delegates added to the program from the floor and of course this is the fun part of, the what might otherwise be terribly dull plenary sessions, where we all meet together and approve things.

First and foremost, we will do a *Study of National Popular Vote*, the compact system for direct election of the president. (The LWVUT has already had this item as part of our program for the last two years.) Thirty eight local leagues proposed this study specifically with ten more making some kind of presidential election topic their first priority. That was by far the largest interest group. I am surprised the National Board did not think it was sufficient for them to recommend the study themselves. However, it is great fun to work through the legislative process: caucuses, floor debate, and final vote with green and red cards. I have developed some long term friendships with Arizona, California, and now New York advocates of alternative voting systems (not the machines vs. paper debate). It is interesting to me that even in the large New York State League, virtually only two ladies wrote the study: One is a lighting director for a dance company, the other a lawyer who did a magnificent job of explaining the counter arguments in a fair and lucid manner--something League members should always be able to do.

We debated several resolutions that came from local or state leagues rather than the National Board. We approved only two. There will be a **Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign** to promote solutions to climate change and we instructed the National Board to formulate better rules for the pre-convention process for non-board recommended studies and resolutions. This particular resolution was representative of the frustrations of local and state leagues with the National Board and staff. It is there every session and expresses itself in various ways.

Heard about the Conventions: Another important procedural question I heard discussed by League members, was uncertainty about why the National League could or should prevent a state league from supporting National Popular Vote. One can easily argue that since a state can instruct its electors as it wishes, National Popular Vote is a state issue. However, the NPV proposal certainly has national ramifications of all sorts so the LWVUS has a point. The question is moot now that there will be a national study.

I also heard talk of uncertainty about the use of National Positions by state and local leagues. I would agree that Utah or Salt Lake should not lobby at the national level without LWVUS permission, but I gather there is some question about applying National Positions at the local or state level. I always thought we could and I think I am correct.

Information gleaned from caucuses and workshops: Mornings, evenings, and sometimes afternoons, whenever there is no plenary session, meal or party, there are small rooms full of leaguers listening and talking. I attended a few and heard some of the following.

- LWVUS spends an exorbitant amount of money on direct mail requests for money with a very small return. The reply is that we do make a profit and every non-profit does this. And our older membership only responds to mail. The question is really if we could get a better return on something else or whether this is a reliable source of funds when others dry up.
- Local and state leagues are most effective working in coalitions. The question was raised about whether it is essential that we have a member on the board of such groups.
- Instant Run-off elections are talked about much more than proportional representation. However, New Mexico is doing a multi-member district study. We should think of borrowing it as a review of our position.
- Public financing of elections can and is being done at the state level. (This presidential election will push the issue even further.)
- We need to be smarter about media with more direct targeting of reporters with care for their time frames.

- LWVUS has an on-going Election Audits Taskforce with computer experts, statisticians, etc. Their work includes the interesting and much misunderstood topic of sampling size.
- Diversity - People of color (male and female) can and do become enthusiastic League members.
- Other Leagues go to court too and it does not hurt to be a feisty little old lady when you are testifying; in fact it is quite effective.

Nancy Cooper:

I attended a couple of workshops

- **Citizen Diplomacy:** The Importance of an Informed Citizen was led by Zaida Arguelas from LWVUS. Speaker Sherry Mueller, National Council for International Visitors, talked about their program (we have group in SLC). Zaida discussed the LWVUS program that brings women in from other countries to learn grassroots democracy. This has been an ongoing program for many years. Tucson's experience with Muslim women from Kenya was another focus
- **Vote18**, an interactive civics role-playing program for high school juniors and seniors about how the people in this country got the vote and died for it, was really great. I hope we can get it into some Utah schools. Volunteers?

Anne Zeigler

LWVUS National Convention in Portland, OR was another exciting adventure for me. It was stimulating being with such a dynamic group of women who are so passionate about what they care about and always willing to pass on their successes and ideas to anyone who is willing to listen. The workshops, caucuses, and speeches at Plenary were educational and informative – so much information, I'm still trying to get through all the CD's and handouts they gave us.

My main focus at Convention was MEMBERSHIP, so I tried to attend all the sessions I could. It appeared Membership was a prime concern for everyone. The first session on Friday afternoon was "Reaching New Heights Together". There were "Tips to Succeed," we had exercises on how to "ASK" people to join, and how to FOCUS:

First rule of League -- Nonpartisanship

Outreach to community: Program – Educating members and community about topics of interest.

Consensus -- Not going it alone. Our positions are brought about by member agreement.

Us, the grassroots -- Membership growth and diversity. Our members are our greatest asset.

Speaking with One Voice – To be most effective, all three levels of League must work in cooperation with one another.

Some ideas I came home with on membership were:

1. Smaller leagues suggested they were successful with luncheons with a speaker as a substitute for "unit meetings" and others agreed it was a great way to recruit new members.
2. Have a "retention plan" for members who might consider dropping their membership.
3. Be more "social".
4. Have a fall "membership orientation" (dessert party, wine and appetizers), for potential new members.
5. Locate LWV brochures in libraries.

Nanette Benowitz

My major focus was to attend the multiple workshops on web design. The expansion of this type of electronic information has grown by leaps and bounds. There is no question that the old fashion 'hard copy' is becoming a thing of the past. I was extremely proud of Utah because we have a website and have updated our site to be more user friendly and comprehensive.

Money was the major force in the size and quality of sites across the country. California has been at the forefront of development for voter service information and has an exciting design group call Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org/>. This service is available to us for an annual fee. The National site at <http://www.vote411.org/> s linked to our Utah website Voters' Guide

The opportunities for providing information are limitless. It is the goal of our web team to expand the content of the Utah site to include current information for all of our local leagues. We are looking for league members who have web skills to help us with maintaining our site.

We encourage local boards to start thinking of what information they could supply us such as: 'Know Your County', Officers, Program, Studies and Current Issues. Take a look at Weber County, <http://www.weberleague.org/> and Salt Lake, <http://www.lwvutah.org/saltlakecounty.html> . Send us your information, and we will upload it to njb@benowitz.net

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. 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.

For a comprehensive explanation of types of donations and to donate online, go to:
<http://www.lwvutah.org/donations.aspx> .

We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the league:

American Express

Zions Bank

XMISSION

Fabian & Clendenin

America First Credit Union

Mary S. McCarthy

Barbara G. Browning

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



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THE UTAH VOTER

Fall 2008

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