



SEND VOTER MATERIALS BY MIDNIGHT, FIRST WED. OF THE MONTH TO: Voter.Materials@gmail.com

UTAH CO-PRESIDENTS

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ngmelling2@gmail.com

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October 2009

CURRENT ISSUES

PETITIONS – PETITIONS – Time to get involved and show your “grass-roots” desire to make our state a better place to live and give people some reasons to VOTE!

REDISTRICTING PETITION: Signing this petition will allow an initiative enacting a new redistricting law to be on the ballot– that is all signing a petition does. If we get 93,000 signatures from registered voters, all voters can decide in 2010. Go to www.fairboundaries.org/ to learn about the independent commission and how it would give voters more say about their future legislative, Congressional, and state school board district boundaries and candidates and to volunteer to carry a petition.

ETHICS PETITION: Signing this petition will allow an initiative establishing an independent Ethics Commission and code of conduct for legislators to be on the ballot in 2010. The code of conduct would prevent: lobbyists’ gifts to legislators other than light refreshments; personal use of campaign contributions; undisclosed conflicts of interest; and legislators becoming lobbyists until two years after serving. Campaign donation amounts from individuals and PACs would be capped and donations from corporations, non-profits and unions prohibited. We are one of only 10 states that do not have an independent ethics commission and one of a small minority of states that do not cap campaign contributions. We as the public MUST do something. League members should be able to get at least the 20 signatures needed to fill one petition. Contact www.utahnsforethicalgovernment.org for more information and to volunteer to carry a petition. Call Gigi Brandt – 801-582-1102

WATER: We must address this subject because we live in a desert. How much growth will we be able to sustain, especially in the face of climate change? I hope you were able to hear Jeff Niermeyer of the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Department talk about this at the Salt Lake Art Center on October 14 and will find a convenient unit meeting in which to discuss the League’s new WATER study. Ann O’Connell and her committee have done an outstanding job in preparing it . Briefings for Salt Lake unit meetings were held on October 15th and 20th for unit leaders and anyone unable to make a unit meeting. This major 37-page study has been mailed to all League members and is also available for download from our website www.lwvutah.org Just click on **League Studies** in the left menu on the Home Page. If you want a hard copy via snail mail, email the League office at lwvut@mail.xmission.com or call (801)272-8683.

LEGISLATURE: As you know the League is an action group and as long as we have a consensus position on a subject the League president or her designee can lobby

Continued on bottom of Page 6...

The League of Women Voters of Utah & Salt Lake

3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106

(801) 272-8683 FAX: (801) 272-5942

Email: lwvut@mail.xmission.com
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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OBSERVER GROUP'S
APPROACH REVAMPED!**

The Salt Lake League is embarking on a new direction in local government. No longer asking members to commit long hours to sit through city and county meetings on a regular basis, we're asking Leaguers to choose their local interests and follow them wherever the topic takes them. We know many Leaguers already actively follow local issues. Others would if they knew how to get access to them.

As an example, your interest in historic preservation in your neighborhood might take you from your Neighborhood Association to the Salt Lake City Historic Preservation Plan on the Salt Lake City website to Planning Commission meetings to a City Council meeting, always watching what effects the proposed plan will have on your home and neighborhood. It's possible that you would follow the issue by newspaper, website and newsletter for months before ever attending a meeting—and still be very much on top of the issue. Along the way, you would update the chair of the Local Government Committee on what progress is being made on your issue.

The first need is to get access to the boards, commissions, representatives and websites where you can get information and talk to people who influence and make the decisions that affect you. This can seem a daunting task to an ordinary citizen. LWVSL can help you get started.

First, on the LWVUT website homepage, click on "Salt Lake" in the Left-side Menu. On the Salt Lake page, you will find a listing of all City and County Council and Planning Commission meetings in Salt Lake County by clicking on "**Find a Meeting**" heading.

Second, Judy Short lists (on Page 6) two very important web addresses for getting involved and staying connected. Whatever your local interest—a very partial list of local issues include homelessness, traffic congestion, libraries, canyon preservation, health, Neighborhood Watches—you will be able to access it through one of these addresses.

To keep League members informed about the local government issues being followed, we will feature a member, issue or activity in a Voter article each month. For this to happen, members must keep the Local Government Committee informed of their activities and findings.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, Chair Local Government, SLC

**ALL LWV MEMBERS & FRIENDS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010**

SLC'S "STATE OF COMMUNITY" LUNCHEON PLANS ARE SET!

HONOREE: **Gordon Hanks**, co-founder and past director of GAM, the Utah jazz foundation, who has granted generous music scholarships toward 1500 young musicians' education

SPEAKER: **Martha Bell**, a celebrated S.L.C. junior high U.S. History teacher speaking on Public Education.

LOCATION: Downtown Marriott Hotel—served by TRAX 2 blocks away; parking provided.

2009 Luncheon Committee, Susan Lind, Chair

**THIS SAVE
DATE...!**

**LWV WATER STUDY:
SLC's OCTOBER UNIT MEETING TOPIC**

THE WATER UNDER YOUR FEET

The water you're drinking today may have come from groundwater. The League's water study is showing us that in many areas, that is the principal source of water we use in our homes and businesses (Municipal & Industrial). While we can see a water level in a reservoir and measure a stream's flow, we know less about how much groundwater we have. The Division of Water Resources has models to tell them about how much water is in various aquifers using water levels in wells as a data source. However, because it can't be seen, the totals in some areas still may be uncertain. And, of course, the amount that's there today isn't the same as what will be there next year. That depends on how much we use and how much re-charge occurs.

Besides the amount of ground water, we need to be concerned about the quality. Although there can be a problem with salinity or other dissolved minerals, originally, most ground water didn't suffer from human or animal pollution. However, now what we humans pour on the ground surface can affect it. Injection of water into ground water basins by water management districts, now being explored for storage, has a potential to affect water quality. If polluted, ground water may be harder to clean than water on the surface.

The just published water study of the League of Women Voters of Utah addresses Utah's water supply, uses, laws, and bureaucracy. We hope you will participate in reaching consensus on future water policy.

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Water Study Committee & Co-President

maodell@aol.com 801-393-7225

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WATER STUDY

We hope you were able to attend Jeff Niemeyer's presentation Oct. 14 on climate change and what it means for Utah water. He is a forthright presenter. After hearing Mr. Niemeyer, or even if you didn't hear him, you might read the section on Utah's climate future in the League Water Study. By then you will probably understand why we might not want to spend too much time on the battles over the source of global warming. We have more than enough to worry about without debating the significance of anthropogenic contributions to global warming.

You may be overwhelmed with the information in the study. Do pay attention to the reading instructions. They should help. Even so, you will find that you are left with more questions than answers. That is to be expected and the study authors find themselves in the same situation. It is very dense material. In some sections each sentence could be the topic for a multi-page report. However, I do think that certain themes become apparent.

- We will have less water in the future.
- The climate will be warmer and droughts will occur.
- There are firm plans to develop more water for human use.
- We must decide what our values are and where in the water system we can work for change.

Above all, have a stimulating meeting!

Ann O'Connell, LWVU Water Study Committee

oconnell@xmission.com 801-363-9046

**WHAT
CONCERNS
DO YOU
HAVE ABOUT
*WATER?***

**WHAT ARE
YOUR
"WATER"
PRIORITIES?**

Thank You!

to all
Fall Fete
Contributors

- Mary Bishop
- Carolyn Dunn
- Joel & Marilyn Bown
- Irene Fisher
- Marie Fulmer
- Janice & Stuart Gygi
- Emily Hall
- Tina Hose-Sumner
- Herbert & Helga Lloyd
- Jeanne MacKenzie
- Norma Matheson
- Ellen Maycock
- Nancy & George Melling
- Sandy Peck
- Judy Short & Wade Jones
- Corinne Wunderli
- Margo Thurman
- Janet Warburton
- Anne Zeigler
- Anonymous

**Why the League Supports the Utah Ethics Initiative:
A New Legislative Code of Conduct and Independent Ethics Commission**

A Code of Conduct for Legislators: The ethics initiative for which many League members are carrying petitions would enact a Code of Conduct that would reduce the role of special interest money in politics, make legislators more accountable to all voters, and encourage high ethical standards. The League has advocated many of the proposed reforms at the legislature for *years* – 25 years at least, seems like 50! Here is a good description of abuses that would stop if the initiative passes from the initiative sponsors, Utahns for Ethical Government:

Did you know that under current law:

- Legislators can be lobbyists while serving in office.
- They also can lobby for themselves or a business (if it is not primarily a lobbying organization) as soon as they leave office.

What’s the matter with this?

- 1) Utahns do not know whom their legislator is representing while in office—the public or their lobbying organization
- 2) We do not know whether the serving legislator is tempted to vote a certain way while in office in hopes of securing a job or a lobbying contract after the session or his term of office ends.

- Legislators can accept appointments to corporate boards when the corporation may have matters to come before the Legislature and when the principal qualification to serve is the legislator’s status as a legislator.
- Legislators can sponsor bills that give a specific financial benefit to themselves or their business interests without sufficient disclosure of their conflicts of interest.
- Legislators are not prevented from using their official positions to threaten judges and agency heads and to get employees of the executive branch fired for not ruling a certain way.
- Legislators can spend campaign funds on non-campaign personal expenses.
- Legislators can contribute to each other’s campaigns with money that was given to them for expected use in their own campaign. They can acquire a war chest and give money to other legislators or legislative candidates to curry favor with them and influence legislative leadership decisions.
- Legislators can accept unlimited donations to their campaigns from individuals, corporations, and other special interest groups.
- Legislators can accept gifts and perks from lobbyists without being named in lobbyists’ financial disclosure reports. The initiative would prohibit legislators from accepting gifts or meals from lobbyists other than awards of recognition or light refreshments of negligible value.

A Utah Independent Ethics Commission: A second major purpose of the initiative is to provide a fair, nonpartisan and transparent process for reviewing complaints of ethical violations by legislators. Recent decisions by legislators’ own ethics committee have been partisan and taken in secret. Commission decisions would be based on open hearings, with safeguards for substantiating complaints and due process, and would

Continued on Bottom Page 5...

VOLUNTEER CORNER
OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEAGUE
With Small Commitments of Time

- 1, Distribute Ethics Petition. Email Gigi Brandt: gigibrandt@att.net
2. Distribute Redistricting Petition: Email Jenn: jenn.gonnelly.com
3. Attend Interim at the Capitol on Oct. 21, 2009. Email Sherilyn: lcbsb@q.com
4. Join Local Government Observer Corp: email Kathy: kathrynfitzger-ald@yahoo.com
5. Come to a Unit meeting and learn about WATER. See Unit Meeting Schedule on pg. 10 (where Mailing Address is).
6. Spend 2-3 hours at Democracy Store in SL Main Library. Help people find their voting district and get signatures on petitions. Email Barbara Durst (and her sister): MaxineandBarbara@aol.com
7. Go on line: www.VOTE18.org and check out the lesson plan. Need volunteers to go to 12th Grade and get 18 year olds registered to VOTE.
8. Help with mailings at the League office. Email Sandy at: lwvut@xmission.com

At University
Of Utah:
PARK

in lot on
**East Side of
Student
Union**

**Toll Booth
in lot**

ATTEND FORUMS—FREE TO THE PUBLIC

presented by

HINCKLEY INSTITUTE of POLITICS

located at the **UNIVERSITY of Utah**

In Orsen Spencer Hall (OSH), Room 255

**Fri. Oct 30
12:55 p.m.**

Candidate Debate – Salt Lake City Council Dist. 3
Phil Carroll v. Stan Penfold

**Fri. Oct 30
2:00 p.m.**

Policing America

Robert C. Wadman, Professor, Criminal Justice Department, Weber State University; author, *Police Theory In American: Old Traditions and New Opportunity*; former Chief of Police Wilmington, NC (1991-1994), Aurora, IL (1989-1991), Omaha, NE (1982-89)

....“Ethics” Continued from Page 4

be referred to the Legislature for final action, as required by the Utah Constitution.

Learn More: For more info go to www.utahnsforethicalgovernment.org

Carry a Petition: League contacts: Gigi Brandt 801-582-1102 gigibrandt@att.net

Dixie Huefner 801-359-6705 dshuefner@comcast.net

Sandy Peck, LWVU Executive Director

**THANK YOU
to our
CONTRIBUTORS:**

**Ken Roach
Lee Brennan**

**The League of
Women Voters
thanks
Xmission
for their
generous
gift of Email,
Internet Access
&
Website Hosting
services**

**Our website
moved to
Xmission this
month.**



**HOW TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS
GOING ON IN SALT LAKE COUNTY**

To get an email of the agenda for any of the various commissions, or notices and newsletters and other important information from a variety of Salt Lake City Departments, go to <http://www.slcgov.com/online> and click on “**Subscribe to City newsletters.**”

Choices are added from time to time. Current choices include:

- ALL PLANNING DIVISION NOTICES, which include open houses, Board of Adjustment, Historic Landmark Commission, Planning Commission and other meetings, as well as the monthly newsletter
- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
- BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
- NEWSLETTERS FOR SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1-7
- DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER
- DOWNTOWN EVENTS
- E1 CITIENS
- FPDC
- GREEN NEWSLETTER
- HOUSING ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD
- HOUSING TRUST FUND ADVISORY BOARD
- LAND USE APPEALS BOARD
- MAYOR NEWSLETTER
- TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

To find out what your local community council is doing, find their agenda and minutes, go to http://www.slcgov.com/citizen/comm_councils/councils.htm

For those of you who live in the county or another incorporated city, please go to that website to see what you might be able to find.

If you are attending any of these meetings, or following specific issues in your city, please communicate the information to Kathy Fitzgerald, Local Government Chair. Her email address is Kathryn.fitzgerald@yahoo.com and telephone number is 801-521-5790.

Judi Short, Member of SL Local Government Group

“Current Issues” —continued from page 1....

legislators in committee. Of course all League members can speak directly to our legislators as citizens and express our personal views regardless of League positions. We urge members to always contact their legislators on any matter of concern and to respond to League ACTION ALERTS.

Of groundwork importance are INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (Oct. 21) at the Capitol. Sandy Peck, our Executive Director, will send out an email the evening before the meetings notifying you of agendas and times. On interim mornings at 8:30 you can hear the League’s 2-minute preview of the day’s most important meetings on KCPW 88.3 and 105.3 FM. The Legislature’s website: le.utah.gov has complete info on agendas and minutes.

Anne Zeigler, Co-President, SLC

**INTRODUCE
YOURSELF
TO
NEW
MEMBERS:**

***Make a
New Friend***

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

As of October 2009 WEBER LEAGUE

JENICA JACOBSEN— [801-628-4229](tel:801-628-4229)— tealwren@gmail.com

Jenica grew up in North Ogden and graduated from Weber State University in 1995. She works as a computer programmer at Mountain View Software in Kaysville and serves as the secretary of the Weber County Democrats.

LEAH MURRAY lmurray@weber.edu

Leah Murray is a political science professor at Weber State University. She was raised in Schenectady, New York, received a BA from Syracuse University in 1996 and a PhD from the University of Albany in 2004. Leah and her husband, Paul, have two children.

As of JULY 2009 SALT LAKE LEAGUE

JASON YOCUM, cell 801-455-9105, wk 801-468-3536. jasonyocum@gmail.com
1179 Kensington Ave, Salt Lake City, Ut 84105

After graduating from Cottonwood High School, Jason attended the University and got a degree in English and Philosophy. His Masters in Communication is from Westminster. He spent a year in St Louis working in Americorps – Emergency Response – fighting wildlife fires and mentoring youth in St. Louis. He returned to Salt Lake to work on the campaign of his father – David Yocum and then on the campaign of Jim Bradley. He worked for Jim Bradley for a few years but left to take the position of Chief Deputy Clerk with the Salt Lake County Clerk's Office. Jason has been intrigued with the League as his office and the League share many goals. In his spare time Jason enjoys golf, skiing and fly fishing.

BRENDA KAILA, res. 801-733-5926, wk 801-246-1772, cell 801-910-1367
Brenda.kaila@wellsfargo.com,
2220 Sommerset Dr. SLC, Ut 84121

Brenda grew up in Tooele, and graduated from highschool there. After graduation she started working for 1st Security Bank and enrolled in their Management Training Program. She moved to a management position – that of Manager of a branch of 1st Security and moved to Salt Lake in 1999. She is now Vice President of Client Services for Wells Fargo. Brenda has two grown sons and one grandson. She wants to learn more about what is going on at the Legislature.

RUTH and WILLIAM OHLSEN 801-364-2159, wdohlсен@juno.com
1224 Second Ave, Salt Lake City, Ut 84103

William is originally from Ithaca, NY and Ruth grew up in many different states – Arizona, New Jersey, Nebraska and NY to name a few. They moved to Salt Lake in 1961 when William started teaching in the Physics Dept at the Univ of Utah. Ruth was a Psychometrist in the Counseling Center and left that to open the Salt Lake Weaver's Store. She worked there for nine years until she retired in 1996. They are both particularly interested in electronic voting, re-districting and health care.

MANY MORE WILL BE LISTED NEXT MONTH AS SPACE ALLOWS

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QUICK**

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&
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Online**

**[Go to
www.lwvutah.org](http://www.lwvutah.org)**

**On the top,
horizontal menu:**

**Choose
"Support Us"
then click on:**

**"Donate"
Or
"Join"**

**The screen
that asks for your
credit card
information is on
a secure (safe)
web page.**

EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

Cedar City League has scheduled a meeting on November 19 to discuss the new League Water Study. Cedar City is close to the Snake Valley where water rights are threatened by Las Vegas and will face a large bill for the Lake Powell Pipeline now being planned to deliver water from the Colorado River. This makes the future of their water supply an important issue.

The Grand County League taped their annual Candidate's Forum on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Moab Arts & Recreation Center. Candidates for mayor of Moab, Moab City Council and the Water Board answered questions presented by the League. The tape was shown on the local community television station. Funds for taping the Forum and to advertise the schedule were raised at a silent auction held last May.

The Weber League met October 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the new Pleasant Valley branch of the Weber County Library for a tour featuring the energy conservation features of the building. League members have been invited by the Weber County Women's Legislative Council to attend a candidates' forum for the Ogden City Council seats.

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-President

**ONE GOOD WAY TO MAKE
YOUR VOICE HEARD IN U.S. CONGRESS**

The offices of Members of Congress, all committees, and all subcommittees can be reached at the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Remember that telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not the member of Congress.

Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment. After identifying yourself, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, such as: "Please tell Senator/Representative (Name) that I support/oppose (S.____/H.R.____)" [the Bill Number]. You will also want to state reasons for your support or opposition to the bill.

Ask for your senators' or representative's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call. See additional information on Addressing Public Officials in the LWVSL Member Handbook or go to the LWV website www.lwvutah.org and, on the Left-side Menu, click on "Helpful Links /scroll down to "U.S. President and Congress" to find contacts for Utah Senators and Representatives.

Anne Ziegler, LWVSL Co-President

<p style="text-align: center;">LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SALT LAKE CALENDAR September—December, 2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND VOTER MATERIALS BY MIDNIGHT, FIRST WED. OF THE MONTH TO: Voter.Materials@gmail.com</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER Unit Topic: REDISTRICTING</p> <p>02 SL BOARD Meeting, 5:00 pm 02 SL (& UT) September VOTER Material—Deadline Emailed to Voter.Materials@gmail.com 07 Labor Day 11 Patriot Day 15 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY 16 Legislative Interim Meetings at Capitol 17 Constitution Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER Unit Topic: WATER STUDY</p> <p>1-2 UEA Booth 03 Fall Fete 3-5 p.m. at Home of Nanette Benowitz 07 SL BOARD Meeting, 5:00 pm 07 SL October VOTER Material—Deadline Emailed to Voter.Materials@gmail.com 14 General Meeting for All Jeff Niermeyer, Speaker on Climate & Water 21 Legislative Interim Meetings at Capitol</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER Unit topic: WATER STUDY</p> <p>03 GENERAL ELECTION DAY 04 SL BOARD Meeting, 5:00 pm 04 SL November VOTER Material—Deadline - Emailed to Voter.Materials@gmail.com 11 Veteran’s Day 18 Legislative Interim Meetings 26 Thanksgiving</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER HOLIDAY SOCIAL Dec 3, 5-7:00 pm</p> <p>02 SL BOARD Meeting, 5:00pm 03 HOLIDAY SOCIAL Thursday, Dec 3, 5-7:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Village III Clubhouse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4th Street Clinic Presentation: “State of Homelessness and Health in SL County”</p> <p>05 LWV-UT Board Mtg on Legislative Priorities, Noon @ League Office</p>

To Save the Environment & Postage Costs

This voter is being emailed as a link to the www.lwvutah.org website rather than sent by postal mail to all members with email addresses. Please let us know at 801.272.8683 if you would prefer postal mail instead.

UTAH VOTER

VOTER Page 10

**League of Women Voters
of Utah**

3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D
Salt Lake City, UT 84106
(801) 272-8683, www.lwvutah.org

OCTOBER 2009

Non-Profit Org
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Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #1716

October — SLC—Unit Meeting Schedule — Topic: Utah Water Study

We have 5 units meeting at the following locations.
You are welcome to attend any of these units as the subject matter is the same for all.

Town Club ~ Wednesday, November 4, 10:45 a.m.

1081 East South Temple Street
Alice Steiner, Unit Leader, 801-363-9193 akarsteiner@aol.com

** To stay for lunch (\$13) MUST make reservations early with Alice Steiner.
Dress is ladies professional/nice casual; no T-shirts/jeans; all LWV members welcome.

Nite Owls ~ Monday, October 19, 7:30pm

862 E Harrison (1375 S)
Judi Short, Unit Leader, 801-487-7387 judi.short@gmail.com **Note: new email**

Bench Bunch ~ Wednesday, October 28, 9:30am

LWV Office, 3804 Highland Dr.
Carolyn Dunn, Unit Leader, 801-278-9409

Girl Scout Unit ~ Monday, October 26, 11:00 am

Girl Scout Headquarters 445 E 4500 S
Anne Ziegler, Unit Leader, 801-944-4163 aziegler@xmission.com

Library Unit ~ Thursday, October 29, Noon [BR- / LUNCH: 11:00 at Les Madeleines, 216E. 500S.]

Main Library 200 E 400 S
Joyce Barnes, Unit Leader, 801-278-2296 jbarnz@xmission.com

The League of Women Voters 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.