



League of Women Voters of Utah

The Utah Voter

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Volume 76: Winter 2008, Issue 3

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

- January 21 – March 5, 2008: 2008 Legislative Session
- January 29: League Day at the Legislature
- February 1, 2008: LWVUS immigration consensus due
- February 5: Utah Presidential Primary
- February 14: League's 88th birthday
- State Convention: April 2008
- June 14-16: National Convention in Portland, OR

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members of the League,

The 2008 session of the Utah Legislature will start on Monday, January 21 and conclude on Wednesday, March 5. Lobbying the legislature on the issues important to the League is the primary function of the League of Women Voters of Utah. We invite all League members to become a part of the lobbying corps. Our wonderful Ann O'Connell is coordinating our lobbying efforts this year. If you would like to spend some time at the Capitol talking to our legislators about the important issues affecting the state, please e-mail Ann at occonnell@xmission.com or call her at (801) 363-9046. In this issue of the Utah Voter, you will find a listing of the issues we will be pursuing at the legislature.



We also want to invite each of you to the League of Women Voters' Legislative Luncheon. It will be at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, in the Beehive Room in the East Building of the Capitol Complex. You should purchase your lunch from the cafeteria before going in to hear the speakers. Sandy Peck has lined up three speakers who will each talk about the issues on which they will be working with the Legislature in the 2008 session. Our three speakers will be Kim Campbell, president of the Utah Education Association, Sarah Wright, Director of the Utah Clean Energy Council, and Amy Defreese of the Utah Rivers Council. It will be an educational lunch with good opportunities to pose our questions on energy, the environment, and education.

We are very pleased to announce that the League of Women Voters of Utah has hired Marci Stokes part-time to help with web issues and to assist Sandy in the office with the League's administrative tasks. Marci has good practical experience with Planned Parenthood, where she will also continue to work part-time. This is a significant financial commitment for the LWV of Utah, but we feel that keeping the website up-to-date and easy to understand is very important for getting our message out and for recruiting new members in each of the local Leagues. We are hopeful that our members will support us in this endeavor.

The Co-Presidents and the Board congratulate the League members who worked on the voucher referendum and its successful outcome. Through their tireless efforts, the League has once again taken a strong stand in support of using our public tax dollars for public education.

Your co-presidents hope to see you on Capitol Hill in January.

Alice Steiner Co-President

VOTER SERVICE

UTAH PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY - TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2008

The following link lists the important election dates and the candidates running in the presidential primary.

<http://www.elections.utah.gov/WesternStatesPrimary.htm>

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



GARY R. HERBERT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Democratic Candidate Information

Biden, Joe
PO BOX 438
Wilmington, DE 19899
Phone: 302.574.2008
Web: joebiden.com
Designated Agent: Danny Kelly
Date Filed: 10.15.2007

Edwards, John
410 Market Street, Ste. 400
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Phone: 919.636.3131
Web: johndwards.com
Designated Agent: Jeffrey Eisenberg
Date Filed: 9.13.2007

Lynch, Frank
PO BOX 3508
Tequesta, FL 33469
Phone: 561.512.7947
Web: franklynch.org
Designated Agent: Todd Taylor
Date Filed: 10.11.2007

Giuliani, Rudy
295 Greenwich Street, #356
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212.835.9449
Web: joinrudyl2008.com
Designated Agent: Lee Jensen
Date Filed: 10.9.2007

Keyes, Alan
1510 W. 500 N.
Provo, UT 84601
Phone: 801.373.5788
Web: alankeyes.com
Designated Agent: Stephen Becker
Date Filed: 10.11.2007

Romney, Mitt
PO BOX 55239
Boston, MA 02205
Phone: 857.288.6400
Web: mittromney.com
Designated Agent: John L. Valentine
Date Filed: 9.18.2007

Clinton, Hillary
4420 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: 703.469.2008
Web: hillaryclinton.com
Designated Agent: Donald K. Dunn
Date Filed: 10.10.2007

Gravel, Mike
1916 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703.243.8303
Web: gravel2008.us
Designated Agent: James Montana
Date Filed: 10.15.2007

Obama, Barack
233 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312.819.2008
Web: barackobama.com
Designated Agent: Phil Riessen
Date Filed: 10.11.2007

Republican Candidate Information

Huckabee, Mike
PO BOX 2008
Little Rock, AR 72203
501.324.2008
Web: mihuckabee.com
Designated Agent: Sean Rooney
Date Filed: 10.5.2007

McCain, John
PO BOX 16118
Arlington, VA 22215
Phone: 703.418.2008
Web: johnmccain.com
Designated Agent: Tim Bridgewater
Date Filed: 9.25.2007

Tancredo, Tom
501 Church Street
Vienna, VA 22180
Phone: 703.255.9898
Web: teamtancredo.com
Designated Agent: William Jackson
Date Filed: 10.11.2007

Dodd, Christopher J.
PO BOX 51882
Washington, DC 20091
Phone: 202.737.3633
Web: chrisdodd.com
Designated Agent: Gina Erickson
Date Filed: 10.12.2007

Kucinich, Dennis
4262 Kennebec Road
Dixmont, ME 04932
Phone: 800.41-Dennis
Web: dennis4president.com
Designated Agent: Chris Lish
Date Filed: 10.15.2007

Richardson, Bill
111 Lomas Blvd., NW, Ste. 200
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone: 505.828.2455
Web: richardsonforpresident.com
Designated Agent: Aaron Thompson
Date Filed: 10.11.2007

Hunter, Duncan
9340 Fuerie Drive, Ste. 302
La Mesa, CA 91941
Phone: 619.463.3896
Web: gohunter08.com
Designated Agent: James V. Hansen
Date Filed: 10.12.2007

Paul, Ron
3461 Washington Blvd., Ste. 200
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703.248.9115
Web: ronpaul2008.com
Designated Agent: Joseph Becker
Date Filed: 10.9.2007

Thompson, Fred
1760 Old Meadow Rd., 3rd Floor
McLean, VA 22102
Phone: 571.730.1000
Web: fred08.com
Designated Agent: David Ellis
Date Filed: 10.11.2007

UTAH STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX, EAST OFFICE BLDG., SUITE E325 • P.O. BOX 142325 • SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-2320
TELEPHONE: (801) 538-1041 • FAX: (801) 538-1133

THE LEAGUE NEEDS HELP!

All of the House and half of the Senate for the state of Utah will be up for election in 2008.

I am putting together a committee that will inspire all candidates to want to be included on the new and improved Voters Guide on our web site. We will also post information on the web about the State School Board candidates.

This committee will start in February 2008. We will be able to determine which seats are up and we will write questions for the candidates to answer that will be posted along with their pictures and bios.

In addition to the usual letters and phone calls asking them to participate, some League members and the state president will visit the chairs of the Republican and Democratic parties. This would be to introduce ourselves and ask if they would include our material in the packet they give to all candidates at their conventions. As an additional incentive, we will offer to include the candidates' web links on our pages.

In late May after party conventions, when we know the candidates, we will send our request by snail mail to all primary candidates. Two weeks later, we will follow up with phone calls and emails. As all of this is happening,

we will be working with Jessica Mathewson our Communications Director to get out publicity about the web site and election information to the public. Then we will moderate debates and find other ways to inform the voters.

We have lots to do and if this interests you, please email me at kmd1965@msn.com.

Each year since the web site has been up, we have had increasing participation, but we need to stay positive and focus on getting even more information about candidates to the public.

Kathy Dorn, Voter Service Chair

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

✿ VISIT the CAPITOL - Utah State Capitol Open House

"After three and a half years of being closed for renovation, the Utah State Capitol will be opening again to the public! The Capitol has been seismically retrofitted and restored to the original architect's specifications. In order to celebrate this event, the Capitol Preservation Board has planned a week-long open house, January 5-12, 2008. Thousands are expected to attend and reacquaint themselves with the Capitol and take part in the events during this historic week." from the Capitol volunteers website

Dates: Saturday, January 5th to Saturday, January 12th
Hours: 8:30 am - 8:30 pm

Docents will be stationed around the capitol building to help the public in self-guided tours. Since large numbers are expected we would suggest going on a day early in the week. Publicity will swell the crowds as the second Saturday approaches.

If you would like to volunteer as a guide for the occasion, below is the contact information. You will be given training, a particular location to host, and a three and a half hour shift.

Contact:

Capitol Volunteer Task Force
Commission on Volunteers
324 South State Street, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801-538-8697 office
www.regonline.com/capitol-volunteers or link form: www.volunteers.utah.gov

✿ League Legislative Priorities 2008

The Board of the LWVUT has adopted the following priorities for the upcoming legislature. What this really means is that we have listed the areas we expect to be watching. In some areas many, many bills have already been filed. In others there is still a great void. And it almost always happens that something pops up that we were not expecting but which we simply cannot ignore.

We divide our priorities into first and second tiers. I am not sure why but I interpret the two levels as saying we expect to spend more time and energy on first tier topics than we will on the second. It does not mean that the items in the second tier are less important. And it doesn't mean we will not work very hard on them if that is what

is required. But I think anyone would predict that we will be heavily involved in education. Also keep in mind that these choices are very much influenced by the interests of the board and the lobby corps, AND OTHER ACTIVE LEAGUE MEMBERS. That is a hint!

FIRST TIER

- Education
- Clean air
 - Support alternative energy technology
 - Support conservation
 - Restrict power from coal
 - Support mass transit; limit roads
 - Restrain sprawl

SECOND TIER

- Water conservation
 - Support conservation programs
 - Oppose further diversions of waters
 - No dam on the Bear Rivers
 - No Utah water to Las Vegas
 - Sustainable management for Utah groundwater
- Good government issues
 - Support redistricting commission
 - Lobby reform
 - Oppose changes to election of the State School Board and Selection of the State Superintendent. (Education issues but we will only be able to oppose these on good government grounds.)
- Nuclear power
 - Oppose weakening of the current approval process
 - Question the environmental and economic viability of the proposed nuclear power plants.
- Tax policy
- Health Care

✿ Lobbying Plans for the 2008 Legislative Session

Anyone who has lobbied at the Utah Legislature understands that the above title has no relation to reality. Each legislative session takes on a pattern of its own, and all too often the best we can do is react to events as they happen. Even so we try to prepare. League members have been attending Interim Legislative Meetings and are beginning to comb through bill lists in preparation for 2008. But we still can't be sure of much.

The State Legislature can be one's whole life but the LWVUT does not quite ask that much of our members. You can design any sized task you would like and be amazingly helpful. Here is a list of possibilities:

1. Follow an issue in the media that is important to you and the League and report to the Lobby Corps members who follow that area.
2. Keep track on line of a particular committee's agendas and let the Lobby Corps know what bills have been scheduled for a hearing so we might be able to cover the meeting.
3. Peruse the bill lists, perhaps by topic or look for ones sponsored by a particular legislator you favor or find appalling.
4. Listen to committees and sessions on line, and report what you hear.

5. Spend part or all of a day attending meetings and Senate or House sessions. Wander the halls and listen and watch. Get to know the players. Choose a day of the week, go when you can.
6. Apprentice yourself to someone who is already involved. Some of these people are described below.
7. If you are working on legislative issues for another organization, keep the League informed. We are most effective when we work in coalitions.
8. Adopt a League area of interest and learn by doing. It is my personal opinion that we are all happiest when our League activities support a cause we already care deeply about.

Patti O'Keefe and Gigi Brandt try to keep track of education issues for us. It is more than possible that two Leaguers are not enough so would someone else like to help with education? With so many bills, some of them will be heard by committees other than Education so there will be a need for more of us to watch this process. Remember paid lobbyists often come in very large teams. MSOK@earthlink.net, gigibrandt@att.net

Kathy Van Dame represents the Utah Clean Air Coalition and keeps us apprised of what happens in the Public Utilities and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committees, energy and clean air issues particularly. We are all hoping this will be a major legislative focus this year. dvd.kvd@juno.

Sherilyn Bennion is concentrating on budget matters but will be cruising the South Pacific for part of the session. She needs an assistant. The League needs to pay more attention to finances because we try to represent the public good. Most who do understand and follow the process have special interests, and even though we may even support those interests (say money for low income housing), I think we bring a more balanced, analytical approach. Lcbscb@mstar2.net

Stuart Gygi keeps track of transportation. He could use help. Transportation bills come in many forms so this also is an area where bills come before many different, seemingly unrelated, committees. Sgygi@xmission.com

Sandy Peck will follow bills on elections and government, mostly on-line. She would like help so this is an opportunity not to be missed. If you apprentice yourself to Sandy you will learn more about Utah State politics and the LWV than anyone else could possibly tell you. lwvut@xmission.com

I (**Ann O.**) will follow the NR/AG/ENV Committees and perhaps, NR Appropriations, and the ongoing water development committee (not a legislative committee) if I can squeeze it in. I could easily delegate truly interesting pieces like a proposed dam on the Bear River, water conservation (Work with the Utah Rivers Council) so we don't need to build dams, the Las Vegas Water Grab for growth in Las Vegas (Work with Cecil Garland?), the St. George pipeline for growth in St. George, and how about water for a nuclear power plant on the Green River. oconnell@xmission.com

We are deficient in social services and tax policy. Is anyone inspired?

**It is no excuse that the weather is bad or you are taking a wonderful trip.
You can make some time to help the League.**

A Note on Training :

- I will arrange to take you on a tour but will not be able to do so until after the middle of January when the capitol is reopened. I will commit to tours and a counseling sessions on Tuesdays, the 22nd, and 29th of January starting at noon in the Capitol Cafeteria. Other times by arrangement.

Weekly Meetings:

- Saturday at 9:00 at the League office. Can't seem to get around that.
- I am very much afraid we will need to start on Jan. 26th due to the large number of education bills.

- These meetings are not required, but if you want to ensure that the League or its members work on your bills, you might consider coming to plead your case.
- We often meet informally in the Capitol Cafeteria. Much important business gets done there.

Some Rules of Behavior:

- Remember you do not speak for the League unless we have discussed your doing so.
- Watch, listen, take notes, report.
- Wear your League button and use common sense if the press approaches. Most of them understand the League and will not ask you to say something you shouldn't. You can always comment on what you as a citizen observer hear and see.
- Send difficult questions to Sandy Peck, especially when it is about a League position. However, you will find yourself speaking and networking with other organizations no matter how much you try to restrain yourself so have some fun.

How to Get There:

Bus 500 goes from downtown to the legislature. Right now it drops you off at the Capitol Cafeteria door but it may have a slightly different route after the Capitol reopens.

TRAX to the Capitol

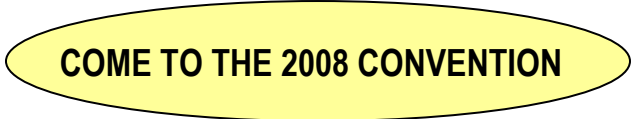
- from Sandy get off at the Courthouse Station and catch Bus 500 on the southside of 4th South;
- from the University Line get off at the City Center stop (the one north of Gallivan and walk through Temple Square to the remainder of Main Street that goes up Capitol Hill. The bus stop is right at the bottom of the hill.

By car

- It is said that parking at the Capitol will be somewhat better. Bus 500 no longer passes by the Energy Solutions parking lot so that must be out for this year. I can give you no other advice.

Ann O'Connell, Legislative Chair

occonnell@xmission.com (801) 363.9046



Sandy Peck, Ann O'Connell, Pat Nielson, Anne Zeigler, Patti O'Keefe and Kathy Dorn were in the small group of Utah League of Women Voters who attended the June 2006 national League convention in Minneapolis. During our three days there, we attended workshops, learned about thriving communities and how to use vote411, a new education web site. During the plenary sessions, we watched as comments about the League budget and program were worked out and votes were cast. We voted for a new national president and several new board members. We ate great meals and met our National League of Women Voters board representative for Utah. We learned how to bring groups together to find some consensus on "hot topics." It was exciting to see the many booths of "wares" to purchase, things brought from local leagues to sell to help their bottom line.

Anne Zeigler went to many meetings about membership and brought back lots of great ideas to increase our numbers. She has already implemented many of them.

Why are we sharing this with you over a year later? All six of us are attempting to get all of Utah LWV excited about the opportunities at a national convention. The **NEXT** convention is in June 13-17, 2008 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, Portland, Oregon. Portland is close enough to drive and many more of the members could see and feel the excitement of a national convention. Please talk to your fellow members about

the opportunities of a close-by convention and help your board members find reasonable ways for many of them to attend.

We are putting out the idea early so that all the details may be worked on and MANY, MANY can attend. It would be fantastic to see you at a National CONVENTION in 2008. We will be carpooling, so send information and requests to the League office c/o Kathy Dorn and we will include you in any plans made here in Salt Lake. We are also looking at housing that would be cheaper than the Hilton. If you want to stay informed let the State office know www.lwvut@mail.xmission.com

Kathy Dorn, Voter Service Director

LWVUT PROGRAM ISSUES

Gigi Brandt – The state board appointed Gigi Vice President/Program at the December Board meeting. She has agreed to return to the position she had several years ago to update the state position handbook, “*Impact on Issues*.” We welcome Gigi and consider ourselves lucky that she has again offered her experience and expertise to the state board.

She joined the League in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1967. She has been a local and state study chairperson (education, public transportation, water and energy), voter service chair, a board member in Massachusetts and Utah; Salt Lake president, state vice president/program and State President. She has edited the Salt Lake *Voter* for what she describes as “too long.” Gigi served on two LWVUS committees, the energy study committee and the nominating committee.



For the past 15 years she has worked for the Salt Lake School district as a computer lab manager in an elementary school; she is now retired. However, she will be back in the classroom for 10 weeks as a student in USU's master gardener program. She and her husband have two adult children and two grandchildren. Her son is an urban vintner in Berkeley. She belongs to two book groups, and enjoys knitting, sewing and gardening. Lately gardening has consisted of zeriscaping their front yard. She enjoys spending summer time at the family cabin in Wyoming outside Yellowstone Park.

☀ Program Planning for LWVUS

March 1, 2008 is the deadline for LWVUS Program Planning. League members participate in the LWVUS Program Planning by making recommendations concerning program issues. League program starts at the grassroots local level. After receiving recommendations from members, the National Board formulates a recommended program. Convention delegates approve the program. This is especially pertinent in 2008 because LWVUS Convention is scheduled for Portland, Oregon and we are hopeful that many Utah League members will plan to go.

According to LWVUS, “The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues a chance to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially via e-mail and discussion lists - to organize support based on factual materials”...before the deadline. To know what some League members are thinking, members can join list serves on a variety of topics, including program planning, to communicate with League members all through out the country. Go to www.lwv.org and click on the member site. If your League is not planning a meeting on program planning and you are interested in a topic, let the State Board know so your views can be included in our recommendations.

Reminder: the Immigration Study Consensus from local Leagues is due to LWVUS by February 1, 2008.

✿ Education News

Vouchers were resoundingly defeated in the November election but the efforts of some to diminish or eliminate, public schools will continue. The efforts for education reform will also continue. Aid to private schools has not gone away in the Utah Legislature —it is likely to surface in scholarships for low-income students. But the simple fact remains: Utah spends less money per pupil than any other state. Utah's test scores on national exams have been average or slightly above; we could achieve these results when our school population was fairly homogeneous; we are not going to be able to continue this as our population becomes more heterogeneous.

In October the Utah Foundation released a study, *School Testing Results, 2006 & 2007*. This time the Foundation did not compare Utah results with the national average but looked at Utah's demographic peers,¹ Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. When compared with these states in the National NAEP 8th grade math, reading and science tests, Utah is the lowest scoring state among these peer states. When the Foundation looked at the Iowa tests given in 3, 5, 8, and 11th grade Utah did not do well compared with its peer states. The report states, "*Clearly, something is limiting Utah's ability to perform at a level that would be expected with its demographic profile. One possible limiting factor is the significantly lower resources available to Utah's education system on a per-pupil basis.*" The peer states on the average spent \$3000 more per pupil than Utah does. The report noted that; "other limiting factors could include teacher quality and training, curriculum differences, or even other non-school factors such as cultural attitudes toward educational achievement", concluding that more research is need to focus on which factors might contribute the most to Utah's poor rankings among these peer states. The report can be found at www.utahfoundation.org .

We can expect many education bills in the 2008 legislative session. Some focus on teacher retention, training and pay, but most are connected to education governance. It seems that some members of the education interim committee (and the legislature) view themselves as a super state board of education. If there is an educational issue, the best way to deal with it is to bring it to the attention of the Legislature. It should be noted as well that certain legislators were concerned that the State School Board spent more time discussing vending machine issues than looking at the review of math standards by a noted mathematician.

In addition, the majority of legislators on the education interim committee continue their work on the committee agenda without much public input. For examples, several bills, including those on home school and extracurricular activities, appointment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction by the Governor rather than the State Board of Education (requires a constitutional amendment), participation in extracurricular activities by on-line and charter school students, changing the number in the Board of Education from the current 15 to 29, (districts conforming to current Senate districts), and electing them in partisan election, and the formulation of a task force on mathematics, science and technology were brought to the November 14 interim meeting from a subcommittees and were sent out for consideration in the 2008 legislative session without public comment. The only discussion was among committee members and other legislators. Apparently, there had been no public comment on the bills as they were discussed in the subcommittee. Co-Chair Greg Hughes promised those who were there that there would be time for public comment during the session. When one remembers how the voucher bill was handled in the 2007 session, the public should be concerned.²

People who are interested in educational policy should be concerned about the proposed change of electing state school board members in partisan elections and expanding the school board to conform to Senate districts.

¹ The demographic factors were the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches (a common measure of poverty in schools), the percentage of students with at least one parent who graduated from college and the ethnic makeup of state measured by the number of white students taking the NAEP exams. NAEP means National Assessment of Education Progress.

² The handling of voucher bills included limited time for public comment and the fact that the public couldn't leave messages by calling the Legislature at that time.

Proponents argue that it will be easier to be informed about school board candidates if parties are responsible for recruiting them and if candidates have to appear before county conventions. Citizens who are cognizant of what partisan redistricting in 2001 has done to the makeup of the legislature in this decade can only imagine what a 29 member state education board might do to public education. There is no evidence that partisan education boards do a better job of formulating educational policy—look at the history of the Kansas state board of education when dealing with evolution. When one remembers the strong-arm tactics used to pass vouchers, one can only shudder to think about this method of determining education policy. The legislators who were responsible for vouchers will be promoting this—it is important for citizens to contact their legislators well before the 2008 session.

The Math Wars: Math educators vs. mathematicians; revision vs. total rewrite, Utah professors vs. California professors. American students do not do well in math on international tests. Utah students do not well on international tests. In fact, according to testimony given at the October Interim Committee almost two-thirds of the students who graduate from Utah County high schools and enter Utah Valley State College require remedial math classes. All Utah citizens should be concerned about math education. The Education Interim Committee passed a resolution in November 2006 that endorsed a full review of math standards by the Utah State Board of Education. The board has finished its work. The results of the revisions by a committee appointed by the State Board of Education were reviewed by mathematicians from Stanford University and CAL Berkeley and found wanting. Indeed, in e-mail Dr. R. James Milgram, Stanford University, wrote;³ "...they (the math standards) are among the worst proposed state standards that I have ever seen in grades K-7." The end result will be a proposed bill creating a task force composed of 6 members of the Utah Senate, 7 members of the Utah House, a governor's representative, 2 state school members and 2 local school board members. Stay tuned for this interesting discussion.

A footnote: In a yet to be released longitudinal study involving students from several countries, the research found that there is a higher correlation between math levels in kindergarten and later academic success than there is between reading levels and success. Utah has been focusing on reading skills.

Gigi Brandt, Vice President/Program

"May peace be more than a season, may it be a way of life."

-Unknown

✿ Immigration: What next?

By February 1, each Local League must submit its consensus conclusions: To do this, log in to the LWV *Member Database* and follow the instructions using the link provided. Sandy Peck can assist you with access to the member database and provide you with your Local League's identification number, which is required. The Consensus Form will accept only one set of responses per League (Leagues using multiple ways to take consensus must compile these responses and fill out the online Consensus Response Form *just once*). February 1, 2008 is the deadline for submission. Please note that these materials will only be available online; hard copies are not being sent to Leagues.

³ Milgram wrote the email to Howard Stephensen, Margaret Dayton and Greg Hughes. Milgram is a mathematician who has been a reviewer/advisor for Mass., New York, and Georgia on their math standards. His objections stated that Utah's math standards for 7th grade were those in other developed countries in 5th grade and that some of the standards were mathematically wrong.

For League members interested in educating themselves further about immigration, The League of Women Voters of Utah is continuing its involvement in the issue with participation in two events planned in the community.

January 8, 7:00 p.m.: *De Nadie*, a film telling the story of a Central American immigrant's difficult journey to the United States will be shown at the Salt Lake City Library by the Salt Lake City Film Center. It is the winner of the 2006 Sundance Audience Award in World Cinema and a Mexican Arielle award for Best Feature Documentary.

February 28-29: The Barbara and Norman Tanner Center for Nonviolent Human Rights is presenting "Migration, Rights and Identities," a two day conference on the University of Utah campus. The League of Women Voters of Utah has been asked to talk briefly about why the U.S. League has decided to address immigration reform and why the Utah League decided to educate the community about this issue this past year. The website for the conference is: <http://www.humanrights.utah.edu/forum>

Alice Steiner, co-president.

✿ The Electoral College—Time for it to Go!

We* said it in 2000 and we'll say it again:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.

It's a simple concept—let the vote of the people decide the next president. But why are we re-visiting this position right after an election where electoral votes *did* reflect the popular vote? Shouldn't we be relieved that the Electoral College worked properly this time?

Yes...and no. Yes, the electoral outcome matched the popular vote. However, as the New York Times recently observed, our country could easily have experienced "2000 déjà vu" by a different tally of only 136,000 Ohio ballots! Senator John Kerry could have won the presidency by winning the electoral vote, while losing the popular vote to President George W. Bush. Sound familiar?

For decades, writers, historians, politicians, and special interest groups have disagreed on the pros and cons of the college. The League of Women Voters maintains that this archaic institution undermines the principle of one-person, one-vote and too often fails to reflect the will of the people. Because of each state's automatic two electoral votes *in addition to* at least one more determined by its total population, voters from small, sparsely populated states have more electoral clout than those from more populated states. Moreover, the Electoral College system confers significant rewards for insignificant margins of victory and opens the door to the terribly divisive statistical political anomalies that occurred in the 1824, 1876, 1888 and 2000 Presidential elections when the presidency was won by those who were not the people's choice.

On the other hand, supporters argue that the Electoral College has generally served us well through out our history. It protects the powers of the states to determine certain aspects of the electoral process. The system protects small states—and their favorite issues—from being overshadowed by the concerns of more populous states. Finally, they say that the will of the majority should not be the deciding factor in a presidential election: well-distributed support across the country should be the trump card.

How did the LWVUS reach its current position? In the late 1960s, the LWVUS initiated the Electoral College Reform Study. For two years, League members did their homework, with the LWVUS Board providing resources. Local leagues studied the Electoral College's history and the rationale for its existence, the snafus over the past 2 centuries, alternate proposals for reform, and the likely effects of its abolishment. More than a thousand local Leagues participated in this two-year effort. In the end, *all but four* of the 1065 local Leagues wanted change: either direct vote or a state-based reform. More than 75% of the participating Leagues preferred the direct-popular-election method of electing the President. You can read the actual comments of several Leagues on the LWVUS Web site, www.lwv.org in the Electoral Process section. Also, they overwhelmingly favored total abolition of the Electoral College over other piecemeal reform alternatives!

After the study, the League went public with our position. On January 15, 1970, the LWVUS president, along with several national board members, held a press conference in the national office. Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana, chairman of the Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments of the Senate Judiciary Committee was present. Representatives from the Associated Press, almost all the major national news publications, and radio news outlets also attended. With broad bipartisan and popular support, the House of Representatives successfully voted to abolish the Electoral College the following year. Unfortunately, a Senate filibuster killed it. Since then, hundreds of bills have been introduced to abolish or reform the Electoral College, none successfully. Undaunted, the LWVUS has pushed hard for election reform by testifying, educating, and lobbying.

The New York Times, in its recent series Making Every Vote Count, has now endorsed the idea of abolishing the Electoral College because of the violation of the one-person, one-vote principle. They believe that it's bogus to buy the argument that the Electoral College protects the interests of small rural states. Think of all the rural states that were bypassed during the campaign season in the rush to woo swing state voters. What was wrong with Kansas? The editors observe that President Bush's recent outpouring of support from rural states cannot be ascribed to the Electoral College, but instead to his message. Like the League of Women Voters, the NY Times editors urge future candidates to focus on issues that matter to the general public wherever they may reside. Forget the national obsession with undecided voters in swing states and with regional, special interest voting blocs. Abolishing the Electoral College will help us engage in a national dialogue on the issues.

Can we do abolish the Electoral College, speaking practically? We nearly did it once, and that was *before* the 2000 electoral crisis. Poll after poll indicates popular support for abolishing this antiquated system. No longer do we need the Pony Express to spread campaign news—we've got the Internet, cable TV, and talk radio! No longer do we need a college of electors interpreting the voters' pick for president. All adult citizens have the hard-fought right to vote and to have their votes count.

So... Let's change the dialogue. Let's engage the nation as a whole with discussion of universal concerns: peace around the globe, healthcare, education, security, the economy, and, last but not least, fully democratic elections. The time is right to latch onto the League's mantra—one-person, one vote.

*from the Wilton, Connecticut League of Women Voters (2004)

Did You Know that.....

- The Electoral College awards 538 total electoral votes and 270 of these are needed to win the Presidency?
- If no candidate wins 270 electoral votes, then the House of Representatives decides a presidential election? Each state then gets one vote - one for California's 3.5 million people as well as one for Wyoming's 500,000.
- That there are no Electors for residents of U.S. Territories?
- Washington D.C. has 3 electoral votes but no votes in case of a House decision?

Ann O'Connell, Legislative Chair

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

Caveat:

The following article on voting electronically in Utah has been written by a Salt Lake League member who has been researching this subject extensively. Kathy has a passion for this subject and has lobbied for reform at our state convention and the delegates voted to have this issue presented as an article in the 'Voter.' However, this is not a formal league study, it does not represent league positions because we haven't studied all these issues, and it has not gone through our editing process.

Nanette Benowitz, Voter Editor

✿ Ten Precepts of Election Administration,



The State of Utah's Voting, Technology, and Legislative Requests for Changing Utah Election Law

I thank the League of Women Voters of Utah for this opportunity to present my observations concerning the state of voting technology in Utah. There are ten overriding precepts that should govern the administration of elections in a democracy. Election administration should preserve ballot secrecy and be convenient, accessible, accurate, reliable, transparent, secure, accountable, verifiable, and economical. While we must safeguard elections to achieve all of these results, this article focuses on ballot secrecy⁴, transparency, verifiability, accuracy; and voter access; and outlines legislative

requests for Utah to achieve these principles of election administration.

The U.S. Constitution provides a right to vote for US Congressional Members and Federal case law establishes that this right to vote includes the right to have votes counted accurately. The 1970 LWV-US Convention adopted a bylaws amendment enabling the League to act "to protect the right to vote of every citizen" without the formality of adopting voting rights in the national program. This unusual decision reflected member conviction that protecting the right to vote is indivisibly part of the League's basic purpose.⁵ It gave the League needed authority to take legislative action on the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

⁴Much of this information is taken from *A Brief Illustrated History of Voting* by Iowa University Professor Douglas Jones <http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting/pictures/>

⁵In response to threats to voting rights, the League has actively pursued litigation and administrative advocacy. The 1976 Convention's adoption of Voting Rights as an integral part of the national program and the 1978 confirmation of that decision underlined the already existing authority under the Principles for the League to act on this basic right. In May 1982, the LWVUS board made explicit the League's position on Voting Rights, and the 1982 Convention added Voting Rights to the national program. The 1986 Convention affirmed that a key element of protecting the right to vote is encouraging participation in the political process. The 1990 Convention affirmed that the LWVUS should continue emphasis on protecting the right to vote by working to increase voter participation. See <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home§ion=ImpactIssues&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=2061> Finally, in 1993, the many years of concerted effort by the League and other voting rights organizations paid off, when both houses of Congress passed voter registration reform legislation. President Clinton signed the National Voter Registration Act in May 1993 and gave one of the pens used to sign the historic legislation to the LWVUS.

Historically the United States did not always have ballot privacy. Yet today state and federal laws require ballot privacy including privacy for voters with disabilities. To maintain voter privacy, voters must be allowed to insert their own paper ballots into the ballot box or ballot secrecy envelopes must be provided. It is particularly difficult to ensure ballot secrecy for mail-in ballots.⁶

Some of Utah's county procedures violate paper ballot secrecy by not using privacy envelopes or by using procedures that do not ensure privacy for absentee or Election Day paper ballots. For instance, a ballot identifier is recorded next to a voter's name on the poll books and the same identifier may be left attached to the ballot, or poll workers may take ballots from voters which are not in privacy envelopes to deposit into the ballot box; or with mail-in ballots, the same county staffer who verifies the identity and legality of the voter may remove the unshielded ballot from the envelope and prepare the ballot for machine counting.

Utah's use of touch-screen electronic ballot voting machines with paper roll ballot records is incompatible with strict ballot secrecy because:

- Timestamps are used on both the electronic and paper roll ballot records: the paper roll ballot records are stored sequentially in the same order as voters vote, and electronic ballot records are stored sequentially, which make it possible to reconstruct a link between the paper or electronic ballots and the voters by using pollbooks or by observing the order of voters voting.⁷
- The paper roll ballots of voters with disabilities are segregated and stored together on one specially-outfitted voting machine in each poll location.
- Voters in wheel chairs can typically not vote privately and unassisted and blind voters cannot privately verify their ballots using Utah's Diebold/Premier Election Systems touch-screen DREs.
- Use of DREs for provisional voting show that it is possible to reconstruct a link between a particular electronic ballot and the voter in order to approve or disapprove the ballot after the election.

Ballot secrecy requirements create challenges to ensuring transparent, accurate, and accountable elections. The greatest weakness of the secret ballot is in the counting because voters can no longer verify that their own and others' votes are accurately counted. Iowa University Computer Scientist Doug Jones notes that manually counting the paper ballot "requires a subjective interpretation of each mark on the ballot, so if corrupt officials cannot control the ballots that land in the ballot box, they may try to control how they are counted. Typical manual counting procedures attempt to prevent miscounting, first by allowing observers at the count so that any bias will be out in the open, and second, by requiring that each tally team be composed of representatives of opposing parties, each monitoring the other."

Today, paper ballots are typically machine-counted by optical scanners so incorrect counts can result from innocent or deliberate programming errors, procedural errors, and electronic failures, as well as from ballot tampering, or from voter markings which the optical scan machines cannot read.

The counting problems created when using secret paper ballots can be largely overcome by:

- Sufficient security for ballot and election records to prevent ballot tampering, ballot substitution, ballot box stuffing, and failure to count ballots
- Public release of election records, reports, logs, and detailed summary vote counts for each type of voting (absentee, early, Election Day, provisional, etc.) for each precinct and voting device

⁶ See Doug Jones' Jan. 15, 2007 letter to Colorado SOS http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting/colorado_postal.pdf

⁷ Shown in Ohio where a voter was able to compare pollbooks with DRE paper ballot rolls and successfully determine how voters voted. <http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/hp/content/oh/story/news/local/2007/10/22/sns102207voterprivacy.html>

...

- Manual audits (hand counts of randomly selected machine counts) to verify the accuracy of the machine counts
- Strict accounting requirements, specifically, by the requirement that the official election canvass include not only the counts of the votes that all agreed were acceptable votes for one or another candidate, but also counts of the numbers of undervotes and votes not counted because of improper marking. If the latter number exceeds the margin of victory of the winning candidate, there is good reason to request a careful manual recount, and if these numbers add up to a number in excess of the number of voters who came to the polls, a ballot box has been stuffed or pollbooks and voter registration records are inaccurate
- The preservation and manual audit and reconciliation of unused, used, and spoiled paper ballots
- Public transparency and verifiability of all of the above

Utah does not employ any of the methods listed above to resolve counting problems in a way that the public can transparently verify.

Conclusion: In Utah, strict ballot privacy is not preserved and the counting problems associated with attempts to preserve ballot privacy are unresolved. Utah needs to pass legislation if it wants to ensure ballot secrecy and convenience, accessibility, accuracy, reliability, transparency, security, accountability, verifiability, and economy in its voting systems.

So How Could Utah Achieve Ballot Privacy and Verifiable, Transparent, Accurate, Accessible, Convenient Elections?

In order to achieve the ten precepts of elections, we need to change Utah's statutes. See <http://utahcountvotes.org/legislature/UtahVotersLegislativeRequests.pdf>

Legislation Utah needs to pass now if we want transparency, security, verifiability, accuracy, convenience, and ballot secrecy in our voting system includes:

- Transparency, Verifiability, Accuracy & Security – Bill for
 - Public Oversight over Security Procedures for Ballots and Election Records
 - Public Access to Election and Voter Registration Records - The LWV-US was instrumental in passing the National Voter Registration Act, which requires public access to voter registration records. All information that an auditor needs to inspect to verify the integrity of election processes should be available to the public.
 - Voting System Requirements – Eliminate Federal Certification Requirement (because it prohibits routine security upgrades and bug fixes to voting systems and decreases voting system security) and implement Utah State Certification & Testing by experts of Utah's Universities' Computer & Engineering Departments, with substantial waivers of testing and certification fees for open source voting systems which are owned by Utah or by the public and could be built and maintained at lower cost locally by Utahns.
 - Public Posting of Polling Place Vote Totals on Election Night See <http://utahcountvotes.org/legislature/PublicAccess2ElectionRecords4Utah.pdf>
- Ballot Secrecy – Bill to require voting systems and election procedures that ensure ballot secrecy. Parts of this bill would require replacing Utah's DRE voting system (which is outdated anyway) so would have to allow for a long-term timeline to implement. <http://utahcountvotes.org/legislature/BallotSecrecy4Utah.pdf>

- Accuracy – Bill for Routine Independent Vote Count Audits See <http://utahcountvotes.org/legislature/ElectionAudits4Utah.pdf>
- Convenient Access to Voting – Bill to Require Ballot Access even in cases of electronic or power failures and to allow Election Day Voter Registration (approximately 7 other states do this and Utah’s provisional ballot envelopes already provide a process for Election Day voter registration forms to be filled out and evaluated) See <http://utahcountvotes.org/legislature/VoterAccess4Utah.pdf>

Your suggestions for or criticisms of these legislative requests are sought. Please contact me if you could help with an effort to improve election administration in Utah or help pass legislative changes to require ballot secrecy and ensure accessible, convenient, transparent, verifiable, secure, accurate elections in Utah.

kathy.dopp@gmail.com 435-658-4657

Kathy Dopp, a member of the Salt Lake League

Thanks to Douglas Jones and Douglas A. Kellner⁹

☀ THREATS TO GREAT SALT LAKE

Great Salt Lake Minerals Expansion

The Great Salt Lake and its wetlands will always be under climatic stress even without human activities. It is a terminal lake in a desert, a relict of the ice age, and totally at the mercy of an unstable and diminishing water supply. It will eventually disappear. If western civilization had not arrived on its shores, lake levels would have been expected to decline over thousands if not millions of years, hopefully enough time for the bird populations that depend upon it to find other places to survive. However, we humans are not allowing the lake to dry up over a geologic time scale. We are doing our best to make it uninhabitable for birds right now. We intercept the waters that feed the lake and assault it with roads, industry, a pipeline, and airport expansion.

Most of you in Utah’s local leagues know that the LWV of Salt Lake joined in the suit against the Legacy Highway. That is past history now but currently the League is involved in an effort to protect the lake from a new threat. Great Salt Lake Minerals wants to expand its evaporation ponds in Bear River Bay and on the northwest side of the lake just north of the railway causeway. The company evaporates lake water to extract table salt and other salts of economic importance, especially phosphates for fertilizer.

You probably have read in the newspaper about the possibility that the expansion on the western shore might allow predators to reach the nesting colonies of American White Pelicans on Gunnison Island. The pelican is the charismatic megafauna of this part of the Great Salt Lake and the colony is one of the few prospering white pelican nesting sites in North America. But at this point in history, any new construction or extraction is a threat to all of the lake’s inhabitants. It would amaze if not horrify you to see the extent of GSL Mineral’s ponds in Bear River Bay. And consider that at some time, probably now, our assaults on the lake will reach a point from which the lake cannot recover. Therefore the LWV of Utah and the LWV of Salt Lake, with many others ranging from the National Audubon Society to Ducks Unlimited, are asking the Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to grant us a hearing on its decision to allow Great Salt Lake Minerals to expand its operations in the lake. Our purpose is to present more evidence and ask the division to reconsider its action. So far the co-signing groups have had no response but we do expect to be allowed a hearing. The hearing request is only one of three strategies devised by Joro Walker of Western Resource Advocates. A concurrent step is an appeal to the Army

⁹ Douglas A. Kellner is co-chair of the New York State Board of Elections and Doug Jones is a professor of computer science/voting systems expert at Iowa University who helps Iowa certify voting systems. <http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting/pictures/#dre>
<http://electionmathematics.org/em-voting-systems/DKellnertestimony070505.pdf>

Corps of Engineers who must issue a permit to Great Salt Lake Minerals if they are to be allowed to expand. The courts have declared that the Great Salt Lake belongs to the navigable waters of the United States and therefore is under the Corps jurisdiction. We would like to present our case for denying the permit.

The Holly Pipeline

And there is another construction project, the Holly pipeline. It will run next to an already existing pipeline through wetlands south of the lake in the vicinity of the airport. The real question is why are we digging up these wetlands yet again and threatening them with future oil spills for a fossil fuel pipeline that will surely support more oil consumption and CO2 emissions just when we are trying to agree on policies that will result in a lower carbon footprint for Utah and the West? And we can be suspicious of the timing of the project. Are our beloved gas plants north of Salt Lake City hurrying to expand markets and capacity in order to avoid the more stringent regulations awaiting them in the near future?

Airport Runway Expansion

And yet another, the Salt Lake Airport Authority is planning to build a third runway. This project brings to mind the same questions. Why are we destroying wetland habitat in order to facilitate more heavily fossil fuel dependent travel and commerce? And under Mayor Rocky Anderson's watch.

It is not at all unreasonable to think that we have reached the point where we should step back and reconsider how we treat the Great Salt Lake.

I have the privilege of associating with interesting people from other organizations who support the same environmental goals as does the LWV. They very much respect the League and value our participation in environmental causes. However, there are more issues than one person can follow alone yet be expert in. For example, the Great Salt Lake Alliance is involved in mercury and selenium poisoning in the Great Salt Lake along with the above threats to the lake. Currently no one in the Salt Lake League is keeping close watch on the health of the Jordan River in the Salt Lake Valley. I am sure there are similar issues in other Local Leagues areas that would benefit from LWV attention. For example the Bear River could certainly use some help. If your Local League does not have an environmental chair, you should. It is an area that may seem a bit out of the usual League agenda but we have been heavily involved since the environmental movements of the 1970's. Most of our positions come from that era. We gain much good will among fellow activists and sometime public recognition, but most important, our members care.

Ann O'Connell, Natural Resources Chair LWVSL

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, lwvut@xmission.com, as soon as possible.

By *Janice Gygi*, Vice President/Local Leagues



THE LEAGUE WEB SITE



This fall the LWVU web site had a face-lift. Our communications director, Jessica Mathewson, chaired a diverse league and professional design committee that looked at how we could improve our web site; our look, the navigation, and the information available. Take some time to review what we have done. Let us know what you think.

We have hired an executive assistant who will spend time keeping the site current. We are excited about the possibilities it will provide for the legislative pages this winter and the Voter Guide during the presidential election. Below is a summary of her resume.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A high-energy, enthusiastic and dependable individual who excels in challenging and competitive environments. Have developed

multiple lucrative business relationships with clients by concurrently managing several top accounts. Skilled in problem solving and troubleshooting, also skilled in negotiation and conflict mediation. Have established competence in a wide range of business oriented computer technology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Researched and implemented a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement
- Maintained and renewed all software contracts for Huish
- Researched and consolidated vendors for Huish printing needs
- Single handedly implemented the entire freight for the 2nd largest client to be integrated by Data2Logistics
- Autonomous troubleshooter for conversion to new, web based, platform
- Principal individual for resolving and debugging accounting allocation coding errors

EMPLOYMENT

- 2007 to Present *Salt Lake Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners* SLC, Utah
- 2007 to Present *Planned Parenthood Action Council* SLC, Utah
- 2005 to 2007 *Huish Detergents* SLC, Utah
- 2003 to 2005 *Traffic Specialist*
- 2000 to 2003 *Data2Logistics* Murray, Utah

EDUCATION

- Salt Lake Community College Salt Lake City, Utah **Business**

Marcie will also be helping Local Leagues by inputting any information they would like to have on their pages on the website. Take a look at your local league page. What information would you like to see there? Marcie can load whatever information you provide us. Just send the information to Sandy at lwvut@mission.com.

This is the face of the league that people see when they come to us for information. It is what our members see when they are searching for information. We want you to feel comfortable using this site and welcome your comments.

Nanette Benowitz, web master

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.

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

Anonymous	Maxine Haggerty	Jane Neuschwander
Alma Anderson	Barbara Hale Fife	Ann O'Connell
Joyce Barnes	Emily Hall	Marilyn Odell
Ralph & Reggie Benowitz	Anne Hatch	Mary Olsen
Steve & Tink Benowitz	Tina Hose	Dorothy Owen
Scott & Heidi Benowitz	Mary House	Kay Papulak
Barry & Nanette Benowitz	Boyer Jarvis	Jill Petersen
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Kathy Fitzgerald	Jessica Mathewson	Nancy Young
Mary Fogg	Nancy Melling	Patricia Zeigler
Phyllis Frankel	Jan Miller	
Joyce Green	Michaela Mohr	

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

Winter 2008

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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!