



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

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of Utah

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April 2019

Chance Meeting Led to Longtime LWV Commitment

by Kathy Stockel, LWV-Davis County Co-President

I had just finished my Master's degree and boarded a plane for home when I saw my seatmate. A thrill ran through me. I had finally stumbled upon an opportunity to introduce myself to a woman I had wanted to meet for a long time. I was a bit nervous. She spent the flight working on forms, signing letters, and catching up with other paperwork. I couldn't resist glancing at her letterhead, which read "League of Women Voters." When the pilot announced that we were beginning our descent, I realized I had to take advantage of this opportunity.

"Pardon me for interrupting, but I noticed your letterhead. Are you a member of the League of Women Voters?"

"Yes, I am. Are you a member?"

"No, but I have noticed so many valuable things that the LWV does. I don't want to be pushy, but can you tell me about your group and how to join?"

She laughed and said, "We definitely want interested people to join. If you give me your phone number, I will call you tomorrow with the location of our next meeting and you can attend. If you like it, we'd be happy to have you join. I also recommend you attend our state convention next month. You'll have fun and learn about the League at the same time."

I did join, and also attended state convention. What a delight! I knew only a few of the members, but I quickly realized that I didn't have to worry. When

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I didn't understand something, others would explain it to me. I was intrigued by a proposed study about groundwater, so much so that I volunteered to be on the committee.

That was 1980, in North Dakota.

Like most years, this year I will attend the League of Women Voters Utah State Convention. I know it will be informative. I will meet new members, make new friends, and connect with members I haven't seen recently. Who knows? I might even volunteer for a state study.

We'll see you at Convention at the Radisson Country Inn at 999 N., 500 West, in Bountiful, at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3. We will enjoy light refreshments as we socialize and learn about the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. The following day, May 4, is the day of the convention's business meeting. Bring new League members with you, come by yourself, or carpool with friends! If you ride the Frontrunner, get off at the Woods Cross stop and take the courtesy van to the Radisson Country Inn. If you want to spend the night, rooms start at \$84.

The meeting on Saturday will be filled with interesting League business. We will elect new officers, set the program for the year, consider new studies, recap the year for each local League, touch base with our membership, and even find some time to chat with new members and greet our friends from local Leagues. Lunch will be catered. Join us!

2019 Legislative Session Brings Progress, Challenges

by Emily Walsh, LWV-UT Legislative Action Committee Director

Wow! The 2019 Legislative Session is over. A huge thanks goes out to everyone who participated this session by observing committees, testifying, strategizing, doing outreach, advocacy, or directly lobbying your own legislator. I hope you realize you made a difference this session. The League of Women Voters of Utah is dedicated to making a long-term difference in Utah and this takes time.

We tracked 150 bills during the legislative session. We had positions supporting 100 of those bills and opposing 12 of them. The Utah Legislature voted in line with the League's positions on 75 percent of the bills we had positions on. This is great! The remaining 38 bills we watched because we either had no position for those bills or we became neutral due to the ways they were modified. Our watch list is an important resource for indicating where we may need to do future studies. The majority of our



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watch list involved ballot initiatives; as a result ballot initiatives have been recommended for study.

Medicaid Expansion. We started the session off with the fight to defend Proposition 3 (full Medicaid expansion). Thank you for attending rallies, contacting legislators, and attending strategy meetings. Ultimately, the Legislature passed a bill (SB 96) that Rep. Joel Briscoe, D-Salt Lake, aptly compared to a Rube Goldberg Machine, because it moves from one Medicaid waiver application to the next through July 1, 2020. The good news regarding the bill is that because of advocacy efforts made by our membership and other organizations, there is no longer a health care coverage cliff on July 1, 2020. If the second and third waivers are denied, then full Medicaid expansion will go into place on July 1, 2020. (Note: around the time this edition of The Voter is published we should know whether the first waiver has been approved.)

Constitutional Convention. The resolution calling for an Article V Constitutional Convention (SJR 9) unfortunately passed. Thank you for calling and sending notes onto the floor of both the Senate and the House. Sometimes bills regarding political processes make for strange alliances and such was the case as we teamed up with the Eagle Forum to fight this resolution.

Taxation. Taxes were a bigger issue this session than even the Legislature expected. We know from years of observing Revenue and Tax Committees that our tax structure needs to be modified and stabilized. The House attempted to wrap four separate tax bills into one omnibus bill (HB 441). The bill was so large it consumed 135 minutes and only 40 of those were public testimony.

The bill claimed to be a net tax reduction for the “typical” Utahn of \$640. A “typical” Utahn was defined here as: being 31 years old, having one dependent, married and filing jointly, with an income of \$65,325, spending 40 percent on taxable items pre-change and spending 48 percent on taxable items post-change. The bill was held due to public backlash over the taxing of services.

As a result a bill (HB 495) establishing a “Tax Restructuring and Equalization Task Force” was passed. Taxes will be studied over the interim by this task force at a cost of \$96,000 to Utah’s taxpayers. The Task Force is comprised of five members of the House, five members of the Senate, and four experts. We need to keep an eye on this task force to ensure transparency and public involvement. The findings of the task force could be implemented in a special session this year or during the 2020 session.

Voting. Straight ticket prohibition was left on the board to die in the Senate

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at Sine Die on day 45. We hope to work this again to encourage more Utahns to vote on nonpartisan items down ticket.

Carbon Pricing. Carbon pricing has been referred to Interim for study. We will find out at May Interim if it was prioritized by legislative management or the Interim Committee Chairs.

Inland Port. The Inland Port Modification bill (HB 433) was modified four times. By the time the bill finally passed, there was no longer a prohibition on who could sue the state, entities desiring to be a part of the hub and spoke design would have to apply to the Inland Port Authority, renewable/clean energy provisions were added, a provision was added encouraging emissions standards for heavy trucks and semis, and adjustments were made to how taxation would be distributed between political subdivisions. Since the Utah League is neutral on the existence of an Inland Port, but has positions relating to its impact, our position on the bill changed multiple times through the legislative process and ended up being listed as a watch on the bill tracker.

Affordable Housing. Encouraging gains were made in affordable housing by a bill (SB 34) tying transportation funding from the state to how much land municipalities and counties zone for mixed income housing. However, no new funding was appropriated to address the affordable housing crisis.

Water. Secondary water metering is now mandatory on all new construction thanks to SB 52. Water retailers and the Water Task Force are mandated to bring studies on statewide implementation of non-agricultural secondary water metering to the Legislature by November interim.

Women's Rights. We also supported two resolutions regarding women in politics. The first was Women's Voter Registration Day being designated as February 12 (HCR 16). The second was a Resolution Reaffirming the Value of Women (HJR 21), which highlights the portion of the Utah Constitution mandating political equality and emphasizes the accomplishments of Utah women such as Martha Hughes Cannon, Christine Durham, and Rosie Rivera.

Guns. We also spoke in favor of some great gun bills and against some bad ones. "Gun rights" legislators sponsored most of the gun bills that passed this session, the exception being a great domestic violence weapons bill (HB 325) sponsored by Rep. Brian King, D-Salt Lake. And, I am happy to report that the resolution stating Utah has enough gun bills (HCR 7) died in Senate Rules.

Great work everyone! If you would like to join the Legislative Action Google Group to participate in observing or to get reports on all of the committees we observe call 801-272-8683 or email actioncorps@lwvutah.org

Call to Convention: Utah League of Women Voters

The 2019 Annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Utah is Friday-Saturday, May 3 and 4 at the Country Inn, 999 N. 500 West, Bountiful. Business at Convention will include approval of the LWV Utah annual budget and incoming Board of Directors, adoption of Program, and consideration of League studies.

Convention is open to everyone and all members are encouraged to attend.

Members Launch Successful Donation Drive for Refugees

by Jill Lesh, LWV-Park City Unit Leader



The generosity of League members and friends shone brightly during a recent community service project. You donated supplies to create 49 kits to give to the Utah Refugee Connection, which surpassed our expectation of 30 kits.

We took on this project after being inspired by Amy Harmer's presentation at the LWV-Salt Lake Holiday Social in December. Thanks to Shirley Wright for being the determined point person on this effort. Thanks to Meredith Reed for the

delightful lunch and assembly party. Most of all, thanks to our members for every item donated.

Salt Lake New Member Orientation to be Held on April 13

by Anne Zeigler, LWV-Salt Lake Vice President

Salt Lake's Spring Orientation for new and prospective members will be held on Saturday morning, April 13, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 261 S. 900 East, in Salt Lake City. The League of Women Voters has been around for almost 100 years, and we are still carrying out our mission as a nonpartisan political organization that studies issues and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

On Saturday, a light brunch will be served followed by a short presentation by speakers from the Salt Lake League and the State League. This will be an opportunity to understand the diversity of the League of Women Voters: members will hear from the directors on subjects such as voter services, naturalization, the environment and the idea of a carbon tax, health and human services, education, and the state Legislature. It will be fun to meet and visit with new and prospective members; we hope you will join us!

Donors Honor Roll February-March

The League of Women Voters of Utah expresses its deepest gratitude to all of our loyal donors. Our amazing work is accomplished by hundreds of hours of volunteer labor with the invaluable help of our part time office manager, but we depend on our generous donors.

Kathryn and Gene D
Fitzgerald

Donnetta Davis

Joyce Dolcourt

Marilyn O'Dell

Patti O'Keefe

Jean Roestenburg

Paul VanDenBerghe

Susan Aldous

Diana Allison

Evelyn Bertilson

Ruth Brown

Bonnie Miller

Emily Hall

Dixie and Robert Huefner

Mimi Levitt

Kathryn MacKay

Norma Matheson

Wendy Molteni

Pat Steele

Norma Wills

Nancy Wingelaar

Marilee Yerkovich

Jackie Biskupski

Nicola Nelson and John

Logan

Trudy Whitehead

Rosemarie Russo

Michael Suarez

-Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWV-UT
Development Director

Beth Gurrister (1926-2019)

by Gigi Brandt, LWV-UT Vice President of Programs



A recent obituary honored Beth Gurrister of Brigham City. Beth was an enthusiastic member of the Brigham City League of Women Voters (which, when I moved to Utah in 1971, had a handful of passionate members) and a fervent support of the ERA, when League members and others worked on the unsuccessful attempts to ratify the ERA in 1972 and 1975 over the fierce opposition of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the John Birch Society.

Beth was active in establishing the Brigham City League and served on the Utah LWV Board. She was elected to the Brigham City Council for four terms. She served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, including as Chair. Her awards include the Brigham City Area Chamber of Commerce Total Citizen Award, 1984 Woman of the Year in Politics from the Ogden YWCA, a 1978 Susan Young Gates Award, the 1978 Utah Women's Political Caucus and Outstanding Elected Municipal Official, and a 1986 honor from the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

Her obituary described her as a "civic adventurer and political trailblazer, advocate for those in need and generous educator, kindly feminist, loving matriarch, homemaker extraordinaire, and civility zealot."

Join LWVSL Meeting on Surprising State Recycling Study

by Nicola Nelson, LWV-UT Vice President of Programs

In the past, we have recycled much of our used paper, plastics and other scrap materials, secured it into bales, and shipped the bales to China for processing. But as part of [a broad anti-pollution campaign](#), China announced last summer that it no longer will import "foreign garbage." Since Jan. 1, 2018, it has [banned imports of various types of plastic and paper](#), as well as tightened standards for the materials it does accept.

While some waste managers already send their recyclable materials to be processed domestically or are shipping more to other countries such as India and Tibet, others have been unable to find a substitute for the Chinese market. "All of a sudden, material being collected on the street doesn't have a place to go," said Pete Keller, vice president of recycling and sustainability at Republic Services, one of the largest waste managers in the country.



Hinckley Forums

are held in the old College of Law Building, 332 South 1400 East, Bldg. 73 Room 101, in the Moot Courtroom, at the University of Utah. All forums are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/calendar/>

Utah recyclers are facing issues of finding new markets. Waste managers and recyclers have to deal with mixing of recyclables with materials that cannot be recycled (called contamination). Contaminated recyclables are given to the local landfill, because labor costs to separate non-recyclables (such as when a non-recyclable plastic bag is used to hold aluminum cans) are high. Often the home recycler does not know which articles belong in the recycle bin and thus “wish-cycles,” placing anything they think “might” be acceptable in the recycle bin. Further complicating things, different waste management recyclers accept different items to be recycled.

A recent League study attempted to make sense of the different methods of waste management with a focus on recycling along the Wasatch Front. Rather than a comprehensive report of each recycling company, we visited two cities and an Air Force Base as well as several recycling companies, with a view toward understanding the broad aspects of recycling in the current international and local situation from several perspectives. We also found information online. This was an educational study for the Utah League of Women Voters and for interested members of the public as well as the Utah Legislature. The study did not address hazardous materials.

On April 20, the Salt Lake League will be holding an open meeting to discuss the State Study on Recycling, at 9 a.m. at the Girl Scout Building, 445 E. 4500 South #125, Murray, UT 84107.

Exciting Progress on Carbon Tax Bill

by Carole Straughn, LWV-Salt Lake Climate Action Team Chair

Due to the impressive efforts of climate advocates from all over the state, including many League members, I am pleased to tell the story of a most amazing and highly improbable success regarding the urgent need for state action on climate change.

In this year’s Legislature, Utah inched closer to taxing the carbon emissions that drive climate change, raising hopes that a market-based solution to global climate catastrophe could arise in one of the most conservative states in the Union. On Friday, March 8, members of the House Revenue and Tax Committee voted unanimously to keep Rep. Joel Briscoe’s HB304 alive for study in the interim leading up to the 2020 Legislative Session.

The “Fossil Fuels Tax Amendment” bill slipped onto the committee agenda after the mammoth tax reform HB441 was delayed by pushback from service industries. Climate Utah, the Utah League’s partner for state climate action succeeded in getting a favorable hearing for HB304 on the fifth day from the end of the session. Carbon tax supporters, including a dozen League members, virtually packed the audience area of the committee room. When Vice Chair Tim Quinn asked who wanted to speak

27th Annual State of the Community Luncheon

**Empowering Voters,
Defending Democracy**

Tuesday, April 9
Little America Hotel,
Ballrooms C & D
500 S. Main Street,
Salt Lake City

The 27th Annual State of the Community Luncheon will hear from our keynote speaker, retired Chief Justice Christine Durham, the first woman to serve on the Utah Supreme Court. The Making Democracy Work award will be presented to Catherine Kanter and Noah Rosenberg. Community Service awards will be presented to Pat and Dan Jones and Erin Albany and a team from the Salt Lake Tribune.

Reserve here now:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/shop/2019-community-luncheon/>

in favor of the bill, 14 people raised their hands. None were opposed. Rep. Quinn quipped, “Why don’t I have that kind of success in my bill?”

Rep. Quinn allowed everyone to speak, but limited the time for each to 90 seconds.

Committee members listened intently to all the proponents who included:

- Jean Hill of the SLC Catholic Diocese, Don Albrecht, Director of USU’s Western Rural Development Center, and Catherine Eslinger from Mormon Women for Ethical Government. Each showed ways that a carbon tax would help clean the air, stabilize the climate, or transition rural Utah away from its dying extractive industries;
- Piper Christian and Anders Hart, who last year, as high school students, led the successful passage of HCR07 (the Economic and Environmental Stewardship Resolution), argued cogently for HB304 as a market-based solution to climate change, making Utah a leader in energy innovation;
- Four members of the League spoke—Kathy Van Dame, who urged legislators to continue the good progress they had already made for cleaner air, Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz, who spoke as a constituent of Committee member Ken Ivory, Jesse Cox, who told his personal experience of how poor air quality had worsened his asthma, and myself, who stressed the League’s position that carbon pricing is the simplest and most effective strategy for reducing carbon emissions;
- Still other pleadings for HB304 were offered by Salt Lake high school student Ronan Carrier, Logan climate activists Brad Croft and Charles Ashe, University of Utah Climate Scientist Logan Mitchell and ski instructor and water manager Miranda Menzie.

The League of Women Voters of Utah partners with Climate Utah, a statewide network of climate advocates associated with Citizens Climate Lobby. Climate Utah Director Tom Moyer did an amazing job of directing the effort to advance the carbon tax bill this year as part of a three-year action plan to get the measure passed by 2021.

Just as in our partnership with Better Boundaries members of the League’s Climate action team are coordinating with Climate Utah to advance a common cause. Since summer last year, climate team members have joined the Legislative Action Committee to monitor House Committees on Natural Resources, Public Utilities, Transportation and Revenue and Taxation, have sat in on Rep. Briscoe’s carbon tax bill drafting sessions, have reached out to their own representatives about clean air and climate, have organized informational meetings on carbon pricing, and much more.



Thanks to the [Girl Scouts of Utah](#) for their generous in-kind donations to the League of Women Voters of Utah and the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake.

Kudos to: Gigi Brandt, Tali Bruce, Teresa Carlson, Dona DiSario, Naomi Franklin, Rashna Ghadialy, Jane Johnson, Jeris Johnson, Mary Kish, Jill Lesh, Margie McCloy, Linda Menasco, Jill Merritt, Helen Moser, Dorothy Uherka, Kira Wallace, Norma Wills and Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz. Thanks also to Ann O'Connell, LWVSL Natural Resources Director, for creating the climate team and steadfastly supporting its mission.

The League offers almost infinite ways of making a difference—defending democracy, working for social justice and a healthy environment and more. We all have a role to play. If your passion is saving climate stability, please join the Climate Action Team.

You can start by calling the office (801-906-0488) to be added to our discussion group at lwvut-climate@googlegroups.com. Or I would love to hear from you at climate@lwvutah.org or by text or phone call at 801-664-5897.

League Seeking Suggestions for Programs, Studies

by Nicola Neson, LWV-UT Vice President of Programs

Most of you know that our League advocates to achieve public policies consistent with League positions. These positions are derived from member studies and consensus positions on selected issues. We promote or oppose specific pieces of legislation based on these positions.

Each year at our annual state convention, we set our priorities for the coming year, including new or updated programs and studies. As we prepare for the 2019 State Convention on Saturday, May 4, we need two inputs from you:

1) Suggestions for new programs. We have one, from Ann O'Connell to "...promote a concurrence on Voter Representation/Election Process, based on the language of LWVUS and 14 state Leagues." This will develop a national position on how we elect our representatives. Do you have one to suggest?

2) Suggestions for studies. Have you ever wished that the League of Women Voters had a position on a specific issue? The Utah League is collecting ideas for studies to develop or upgrade our state positions. We need your ideas, *even if you don't want to lead or participate in the study yourself*. Once we have a running list of potential studies, we will prioritize them and look for volunteers.

Some ideas we've heard lately are ballot initiatives (Kathy Fitzgerald has volunteered to participate); modern firearm safety, an update on Utah election laws including campaign finance, educational governance

Comeback: The E.R.A.

Did you think the E.R.A. is a dead issue? Far from it.

Women around the country are working on several strategies to bring equal rights for women into law.

Join this important discussion in any of the Salt Lake League's unit meetings. We have amazing speakers and a brief video from two of our members who participated in the effort during the '70s.

Join us!

Tues. March 26 - Park City

Wed. March 27 - Bench Bunch

Thurs. March 28 - Sandy and Anderson-Foothill Library

Mon. April 1 - Nite Owls (Changed location - please call Gigi Brandt - 801-582-1102.)

Wed. April 10 - Town Club

For information on times and exact locations:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/unit-meetings/>

(specifically, partisan school boards), Utah boards and commissions (the Legislature will be studying this also), and a follow-on to the recycling study (we need team members for this).

Please email me at nickie.nelson@gmail.com with your ideas or bring them to convention. Again, we need ideas even if you can't lead or participate.

Research Effort to Examine Social Determinants of Health

by Carolyn Erickson, LWV-Salt Lake Health and Human Services Director

Under the category of "Social Policy" in "Impact on Issues," a summary of public positions adopted at the 2016 Convention of the League of Women Voters, was the goal "promote a healthcare system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all United States residents, including behavioral health."

"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition." These words were adopted in the constitution of the World Health Organization almost 70 years ago.

The right to health for all people in Utah means that everyone should have access to the health services they need when or where they need them, without suffering financial hardship. Good health is clearly determined by other basic human rights. This idea is referred to as social determinants of health: those economic and social conditions that influence individual and group differences in health status and the risk for disease or injury, and that determine the length and quality of life. These include access to safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious foods, adequate housing, education, and safe working conditions, among others. The right to health also means that everyone should be entitled to control their own health, including access to sexual and reproductive information and services, and that everyone should be free from violence and discrimination.

Recognizing that Americans lifespans are shortening and that they rate poorly on many health indicators despite the high per-capita expenditure on health care compared to other industrialized countries, the Utah Alliance for the Determinants of Health was formed several months ago. This alliance is a collaborative effort led by Intermountain Healthcare and is also supported financially by the Leavitt Group and Zions Bank. It will be a research effort over three years in two communities: Ogden and St. George. State, county and city governments and community-based organizations will be involved and the focus will be on Select Health Medicaid members in each community. These beneficiaries will be screened for social needs i.e. the

How do I... check out and use media equipment?

The League currently has a microphone and speaker set (includes two microphones), a projector and laptop for use. To use our media equipment for events, you will need to notify the office when you will need media equipment, for how long and what you will be using.

We will then write your name on the checkout list and let you know what is available and when it will need to be returned by.

When setting up the microphones, remember to charge them before the event!

Salt Lake has a media specialist, Shelly Pace, who will help with any of your needs. Please contact her at commteam@lwvsl.org.

non-medical factors that affect their health. It is expected that these will include housing instability, utility needs, food insecurity, interpersonal violence, and transportation. Participants will be assisted and will have identified unmet social, economic, and environmental needs addressed.

The distributions of things that are the non-medical drivers or social determinants of health in the U.S. in general and in Utah specifically are often shaped by public policies that reflect prevailing political ideologies. As the 2019 Legislative Session draws to a close, it is a good time to take stock of this year's accomplishments and shortcomings and make plans to improve the health of Utahns.

Moab League Hosts Talk on Recycling

by Barb Lacy, LWV-Grand County Co-President

A panel of local government officials and recycling business owners and two regional industry experts provided information to the League on the complex issues of recycling. The ways in which recycling falls short in addressing the degradation of our environment was a main topic of the panel discussion.

Kate Baily of Eco-Cycle Inc. in Boulder, Colorado talked about the ways that worldwide recycling efforts are failing. She highlighted changes in the economics of recycling as other countries have stopped buying them. In the future, recyclables and recycling will likely not pay for itself.

"This is especially true in rural areas," said Baily Grace Szczepaniak, a representative from Renewology, a Salt Lake company that focuses on developing technological solutions for renewing and reusing waste. One of their innovative technologies offers a means to convert low value plastics into fuel. Because plastics are made from petroleum, this conversion is possible. Renewology's vision is to keep plastics out of the world's oceans and out of landfills.

City Council member Kalen Jones and the Moab Sustainability Director were also present to address local concerns and answer questions about the new system in Moab. The city will continue to have two options; curbside single stream and the Moab Recycling Center, a source-sorted facility. Both emphasized that we also need to look at the consumer side of the picture by buying fewer products that are single-use or difficult to recycle.

The information presented provided a look at the complexity of these issues and highlighted some of the possible solutions; the League will continue to work to advance the strong position we take on climate issues.

League Takes Issue with Executive Overreach

The League of Women Voters U.S. CEO Virginia Kase issued the following statement:

"By declaring a state of emergency, the president abuses his national emergency powers and undermines Congressional authority — all for a wasteful, ineffectual border wall that will not make our nation safer.

"The American people expect the president to fulfill his executive responsibility for sound management of public funds, not sidestep Congress in order to force funding for a border wall that the American people have not sanctioned.

"The league objects to this abusive declaration of a national emergency."

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that encourages informed and active participation in government.