



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

## The League of Women Voters of Utah

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February 2019

### Weber League Changing, Thriving

by Terri McCulloch, LWV-Weber County President

The Weber League was started in 1963 and has been going strong ever since. I became a member in 1980. Our League was originally structured quite differently than the way that it is now. We have had to make changes to keep people involved and interested. In the '80s, we began breaking down specific jobs into smaller ones that would be more manageable. For example, instead of having a public relations person, we broke the job into specific tasks such as postcards, newspaper notifications, newsletter, etc. One person would take on each of these jobs. This helped people get involved, but didn't overwhelm them. We still operate using this approach. This is one of the major keys to the success we have had over the years.



We have a planning meeting at the beginning of each year to plan the year's activities. We also assign tasks to volunteers, ensuring that we have all bases covered for the activities we have planned. Also, the annual meeting is where we get ideas for the topics we address. By getting the whole year on the table and determining which specific actions need to be taken, we lighten the load for the Board and members. We can then focus on attending meetings and organizing and supporting community events.

Last year, we searched for ideas on how to attract and keep younger members (since our membership tends to be older). We met with Mike Vaughan from Weber State University, and he gave us a lot of excellent ideas that might reach young adults. With the help of political science professor Leah Murray, we now have a League student organization at

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Weber State University. They organized our National Voter Registration Day, have done a history of the Weber League, planned and implemented a lunch meeting on vaping and e-cigarettes, and will be doing a small study. This has helped get our name out to the younger crowd, and it is our hope that an increase in membership will come from it.

We also hired an intern, Kathryn Asay, who worked on communication techniques. She helped with our newsletter and has increased our presence on social media. She taught a technology class to us so that we would understand some of the new forms of social media. She also wrote press releases and social media posts. This was an awesome experience and one we hope we can repeat.

The Weber League hopes to continue to grow in size, but most of all, continue to grow in impact to help our community.



### **Legislative Preview Sets Tone for 2019**

Citizen initiatives were on the inquiring minds of those who attended the annual Legislative Preview, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake and the AAUW. More than 100 people came to hear legislators' views on upcoming bills and current issues.

Sen. Todd Weiler, R-Woods Cross, Rep. Luz Escamilla, D-Salt Lake and retiring Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, D-Salt Lake, fielded questions about air quality, Medicaid expansion, immigration and hate crimes legislation.

It was apparent that the Legislature will attempt to change the initiatives, if not the process itself. Hate crimes legislation still has to pass the hurdle of LGBT rights. And the Legislature will again tackle the issue of ballot access for party primaries.

### **Local League Leadership**

#### **Davis County**

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#### **Weber County**

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## The Fight For Proposition 4 Goes On

by Gigi Brandt, LWVUT

Ballot initiatives in Missouri, Michigan, and Colorado, along with Utah's own Proposition 4, were passed in November's election. Already, challenges are mounting in Missouri and Michigan—after all, many politicians will fight against efforts to take away any of their power. The Supreme Court will soon hear gerrymandering cases from North Carolina and Maryland.

Utah is not immune to these challenges. Already there is talk of challenges to Prop 4 in the form of a possible lawsuit by the Legislature and various proposals to change the language in the initiative. These challenges to Proposition 4 will persist for three legislative sessions—2019, 2020, and 2021—until the law takes effect in 2021. Also, as a result of the success of initiatives in November, there is talk of legislative changes to further restrict citizen initiatives.

Better Boundaries is formulating a strategy to monitor legislative developments. The League will keep you informed of developments.

The close results in Proposition 4 should remind us of the need to continue to educate citizens about the advantages of voters choosing their representatives, rather than representatives choosing their voters. I recently came across a quote from Harvard professor Theda Skocpol, who studies political movements. She says “extreme gerrymandering breaks up natural communities into bits and pieces separated into different districts. It contributes to confusing citizens about who is responsible for what — especially when policies impact entire cities or regions — and makes organizing much harder, because people literally have to learn about disparate local, state, and national legislative boundaries ... democratic organizing and accountability become much harder.” (You can read more [here](#).)

That message of accountability and participation should drive our support for Proposition 4.

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## League Readies for 2019 Legislative Session

by Emily Walsh, LWVUT Legislative Action Committee Director

The Utah League's legislative priorities for the 2019 session are to promote a representative, accountable, and responsive open government system, work for an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest, and pursue social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Utahns.

A big thank you is in order to everyone who participated in our legislative priorities survey. Your input was appreciated. We will most definitely be defending “the voice of the people” and the ballot initiative process during the session.

### Utah League Leadership

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We will be meeting every Wednesday during the session in the Seagull Room of the Senate building beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please, bring or purchase your own lunch in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there. A friendly reminder, the Capitol is easily accessible via public transportation. UTA offers a trip planner on its website at <http://www.rideuta.com>.



If you can't make it to a meeting and you are wondering what the League is up to at the Capitol during the session, watch for information via action alerts in your email inbox and on social media, and on our webpage via our new bill tracker. Also, we will be returning for the 2019 Session to RadioActive on KRCL 90.9 FM, Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m.

We have a few events coming up where we hope to see you. A Legislative Action Committee (LAC) pre-session meeting is on Wednesday, January 23 at noon in the state League office. We will be organizing coverage of the session. Please, bring your preferred internet-accessible device if you are able. Our first Legislative Lunch of the session will be Wednesday, January 30 in the Seagull Room of the Senate building at 11:30 a.m. Please bring your lunch — all are welcome. We will discuss observations, bills, and how to send blue/green notes to your legislators (while at the Capitol). We will also be happy to answer any questions. We will also have a quick conversation with Erin Jemison, the director of Public Policy at YWCA Utah, about potential bills impacting women and girls in Utah.

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## **Carbon Tax Bill, Climate Are League Priorities for 2019**

**by Carole Straughn, Chair, LWVSL Climate Action Team**

Rep. Joel Briscoe's carbon tax swap bill is nearing completion and should go public by the time you read this.

At about 50 pages, it taxes fossil fuels at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon emissions while cutting sales taxes on grocery-store food, electricity, and home heating fuels. Mining and manufacturing businesses would get an income tax credit of up to half of their carbon tax, encouraging them to stay in Utah while switching to greener energy sources. Low-income working families would get a 10 percent match on their Earned Income Tax Credit, and retirees would see their existing Retirement Tax Credit extended.

Ten percent of the carbon tax would target spending for air quality and rural

## **2019 State Convention!**

**Friday, May 3/Social  
Saturday, May  
4/Business  
Radisson Country Inn  
999 N. 500 West,  
Bountiful**

On May 3, you will have an opportunity to visit with fellow League members in a relaxing, convivial environment, enjoying conversation and light refreshments at 6 p.m. This is a chance to mix with League members from around the state and to make new League friends.

As delightful as spending time with League friends is, we also like to learn. This year our speaker's topic is Utah's Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. Jennifer Yim, JPEC's executive director, will demystify the process. She will explain the role of JPEC and how such reviews can guide voters in elections.

Should you wish to spend Friday night, the Country Inn rooms start at \$84. We urge those who can to use the Frontrunner train. A shuttle will be provided from the Woods Cross Frontrunner Station to the Country Inn.

**— Kathy Stockel, LWV-Davis  
County Co-President**

economic development programs. Rural development was added to the bill based on feedback from a public meeting sponsored by the Weber County League last October.

Last September, the Utah League voted to support the bill in principle based on the United States League's Resolution/Position endorsing carbon pricing at last summer's national convention. A survey sent to all Utah League members by Legislative Action Committee Chair Emily Walsh rated "Energy (Climate)" as one of the top three priorities for League action in the 2019 Session, so LWVUT Board support will likely continue.

The LWVUT Board expressed its support for climate action this month by voting to partner with Climate Utah and by creating off-board adviser positions, one of which is for climate. Climate Utah is a statewide network of activists working for carbon pricing legislation in the state Legislature. Climate Utah leader Tom Moyer recruited speakers for the last cycle of Salt Lake League unit meetings and for the Weber County and Grand County Leagues last year. Learn more at [climateutah.com](http://climateutah.com).

The Salt Lake League's climate action subcommittee (CAS), working with Natural Resources Director Ann O'Connell, has recruited about 30 League members to work on climate advocacy. They will begin by building relationships with their own state legislators as constituents (not representing the League). CAS members will express to their lawmakers their personal concerns for clean air and climate stability, especially when responding to action alerts from the LWVUT Board.

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## Public Meeting to Address Inland Port Controversy

by Ann O'Connell, LWVSL Director of Natural Resources

It is difficult to explain what the proposed inland port in Salt Lake City will look like. The legislators who voted for the enabling legislation and the members of the Inland Port Board are unsure of the final consequences. Certainly, residents of Salt Lake City and the impacted Northwest Quadrant neighborhoods can't tell you what is about to happen to our city and the Great Salt Lake. That is because no one really knows. There is no business plan, no schedule of development, no study of the environmental and social costs. The board claims to want to hear the public's suggestions, questions, and fears, but has admitted that it finds public testimony annoying and time-consuming. Is there something wrong here?

To learn about the port and its consequences for all Utahns, we invite you to attend a free, public community meeting, the Community Forum on Inland Port Reform. It will be held on Saturday, February 2 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Utah State Fair Park in the Zion Building, 155 N. 1000 West, Salt Lake City. Salt Lake League members were introduced to the port in their September 2018 unit meetings, when Kathy Fitzgerald arranged for presenters to attend from the Coalition for Port Reform (a good example of

## Unit Meetings Discuss Civics

Join any of the six Salt Lake unit discussion meetings in February to learn how civics education - or the lack of it - informs our democracy. These meetings will be led by various university professors. The public is welcome to attend and participate.

Check out the options and which meeting is convenient for you on our website:

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

what one League member can accomplish just by asking the right person for help).

The Community Forum will provide much more information about the proposed Utah Inland Port from local experts and, in addition, there will be speakers experienced with ports in other areas. We will post the forum schedule on the league website so you can see what might be of most interest to you.

Please contact Ann O'Connell at [natural-resources@lwvsl.org](mailto:natural-resources@lwvsl.org) if you would like to become a member of the Inland Port Google group where you can hear from all the League members who are working to follow the inland port. For more information, to to the [Coalition for Port Reform](#)

## Should We Repeal the 2nd Amendment?



by Kathy Biele, LWVSL President

Is the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution a sacred right and how does it inform gun culture in our nation? Wayne McCormack, professor of law at the University of Utah College of Law, will take us on a journey through time and across the continents. You will hear about Australia's success in disposing of non-hunting weapons and of the influx of weapons to Europe and Africa after the fall of the Soviet Union. The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will be front and center in the discussion of 2nd Amendment rights and its often conflicting

interpretations. Let's not forget about the National Rifle Association and revelations regarding Russia.

Professor McCormack teaches Constitutional Law, Counter-Terrorism, International Criminal Law, Torts, Judicial Process, and Civil Procedure. From 1997-2002 he coordinated the University of Utah's involvement with the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and that experience led to experience with security planning for major events and an interest in international legal issues, including the law as it relates to terrorism.

Bring your friends and come locked and loaded with your questions and views on this important topic.

**Thursday, Feb. 7  
6 p.m.  
Girl Scout Headquarters  
445 E. 4500 South  
Millcreek, UT 84107**

## Donor Honor Roll 2019

The League of Women Voters of Utah expresses its deepest gratitude to all of our generous 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 donors to pay office expenses like phone, computers, office rent and salary. A huge thank you to this month's donors:

Sheryl Allen  
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Thomas Moyer  
Gina Rieke  
Suzanne and Robert Rosenberg  
Pat Steele  
Andy and Leslie White  
Nancy Wingelaar  
Corinne Wunderli  
— Kathryn Fitzgerald,  
LWV-UT Development  
Director

## League Follows Mountain Issues Closely

by Jan Striefel, LWVSL

Are you interested in the Central Wasatch Mountains and their future? The League of Women Voters needs you.

In 2016, then-Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) introduced [bill H.R.5718](#), the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act, which proposed creation of The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area. The bill's objectives were to balance the need to protect drinking water, preserve recreational opportunities and traditions, enhance access, and accommodate future population growth.

While H.R.5718 failed to make it out of committee, stakeholders persisted by engaging the public for comment and have made changes to the legislation. The CWC staff and board are working with the Utah Federal Delegation to set a timeline for reintroduction of the legislation, with those changes. Check out their website at <https://cwc.utah.gov/>

This bill preserves approximately 80,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land including critical watershed, scenic ridgelines, treasured landscapes and recreation areas while facilitating ski resorts to own more land in their established base areas. In this bill:

- All existing recreational uses and permits will continue;
- Natural resources and watersheds will be protected;
- Existing Wilderness Area boundaries will be adjusted for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail alignment and for transportation improvements.
- Approximately 8,000 acres of wilderness will be added;
- The U.S. Forest Service will maintain ownership and management of the lands;
- Land exchanges between the U.S. Forest Service and the four Cottonwood Canyons ski resorts are authorized;
- Ski resort permit boundaries on U.S. Forest Service land will be fixed permanently after some adjustments through the existing permitting process;
- New roads for automobiles will be prohibited on U.S. Forest Service land;
- No restrictions will be placed on U.S. Forest Service management for fire suppression, vegetation maintenance, avalanche control or other emergency measures;
- Private land within the area or adjacent to the area being designated will not be affected;
- Future transportation improvements are anticipated. The legislation enables transportation improvements to meet growing demand. The League is looking for interested volunteers to attend CWC meetings to be a visible presence and to alert the League of any issues for which we have a position and can provide comment. Contact Jan Striefel [jans1029@icloud.com](mailto:jans1029@icloud.com) for more information.



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.





## Volunteer Registers a Community

Helen Rollins (pictured left) wanted to make some kind of a contribution to the democratic process, but wasn't sure what she could do from her senior living facility, Highland Cove. Then she looked around. Many of the residents had recently moved to Utah, and some had never been involved in anything political. On her own, she gathered voter registration forms and went about talking to her fellow residents. In the end, all 30 members of her community have been registered. And they vote!

If you know of a volunteer who should be recognized for Defending Democracy, let us know at [lwvutah@gmail.com](mailto:lwvutah@gmail.com).

## No Wall, Immigration Reform

Washington, DC – What will keep our nation secure is not a wall, but a comprehensive immigration plan executed through a fully funded government. The real threat to the safety and security of Americans is the loss of paychecks for hundreds of thousands of hard-working public servants during the ongoing shutdown.

Across the country right now, government workers are uncertain how they will pay their bills and feed their families if this shutdown persists. Critical government services including food assistance for needy Americans, agriculture subsidies for farmers, and health services on tribal lands are already threatened, causing anxiety for millions of our most vulnerable citizens

It is incumbent upon the House and Senate to work together across party lines to fund the government. We call on Congress to pass a bill that reopens the government without wasting taxpayer money on an unnecessary wall, and to defend it with a veto-proof majority.”

- Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO



## 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/>



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that encourages informed and active participation in government.