



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

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January 2019

## Join Us and Get Active in 2019

by Catherine Weller, LWVUT co-president

What did you resolve to do in the new year? Since you're League members, I'm betting education and action figure in your goals. They certainly are part of mine. The League of Women Voters of Utah has a full slate planned so following up on those resolutions shouldn't be difficult.

The national League has been in meetings and on Capitol Hill helping shape the language in HR1. This piece of legislation is a comprehensive package of reforms aimed at issues the League has been fighting for decades, some since its inception. In the words of LWVUS President, Chris Carson, *"The League of Women Voters is very excited at the prospect of HR1 because it aims to include elements that align with many of the League's long-held positions, like election modernization and redistricting reform."*

Key pieces of the legislation include expanding automatic and online voter registration, implementation of fair redistricting practices, elimination of voter roll purging, restoration of the Voting Rights Act and creation of a public finance system for elections. The LWVUS blog addresses the main elements of HR1. You can read it [here](#).

As you can see from the bill number, HR1 will be the first bill introduced in the 2019 session of the U.S. House of Representatives. You can and should act on this immediately by telling your representatives you'd like them to support HR1. When the bill moves to the Senate, reach out to your senators as well.

On Saturday, January 19, I encourage you to not just march, but to run. The Utah Women's March is that morning. The League doesn't have

### INSIDE:

Election Trenches/p2-4

Vote411/p4-5

Legislative Preview/p4

San Juan votes/p5-6

Data Privacy/p6-7

Pollution Pricing/p7-8

Legislative Action/p8-9

Davis Social/p9

Ranked Choice/p10

Weber/p10-11

Ag Position/p11-12

Civics Ed/p12

Refugees/p13

Legacy Campaign/p14

enough information at this time to determine League support of the march. Nevertheless I hope you all, as individual citizens, stand up and show your support of women's issues.

Real Women Run will conduct its popular Winter Training workshop on the 19th as well. This full-day event features workshops for everyone: current candidates and campaign managers, future candidates looking for information on where to start, and women who want to get more involved in public service. The number of women in 2019 Utah legislative session is at a historic high, 25 with seven of them newly elected. Of those seven women, six were Real Women Run participants. Make this the year you take your leadership to the next level. Visit their website here to sign up or get more information.

Finally, the 2019 Utah State Legislature begins its session on Monday, January 28. The League was on the hill during the monthly interim sessions. Now it's time for us to join the fray for 45 days, observing hearings and votes, disseminating the information we learn, and testifying if necessary. There are plenty of opportunities to join the League's Legislative Action Committee and assist in that process. You'll read about them in this newsletter. I hope you'll also watch your email inbox for Action Alerts. We send these notices during the session to let you know when the Legislature is considering policy that will affect League issues.

The key to the effectiveness of the Action Alerts, and everything the League does, is taking informed, thoughtful, and deliberate action. Whether you're marching, running, observing or contacting an elected official, your action is essential. I truly believe an active and informed citizenry is the best defense of democracy. Join me in the new year as I and League members throughout the state and nation empower voters and defend democracy.

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## Working Election Trenches Gives Sense of Pride

by Tina Hose, LWVUT Leadership Consultant

On the same day the Salt Lake County Clerk sent out half-a-million mail-in ballots to active, registered voters, I went to work as a full-time temporary Elections Office Specialist. As a cog in the election machinery before, during and after the recent midterm election, I had an insider's view. On the last day I worked, and since then, I carry with me a sense of pride in the Salt Lake County election process, confidence in its reliability, and a commitment to share what I had done, seen and learned.

As Election Office Specialists, we worked with databases and provided voter information. The ballot handling and counting was done in a separate area, the Ballot Processing Center. The first few weeks of work for myself, and other Election Office Specialists, focused on creating and updating electronic voter records from voter registration campaigns, motor-voter



### Local League Leadership

#### Davis County

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registrations, walk-in voter registrations and online registrations. In the creation and updating of those voter records, we electronically “captured” signatures and placed those inside the voter’s record. After the Ballot Processing Center had scanned in images of the signatures on ballot envelopes, we would compare the signatures to verify a match.

The following weeks, we would associate all prior records with the latest Elections Office records to eliminate multiple registrations. This process also allowed staff to fulfill requests to send a ballot to a temporary address while the voter is living at another short-term location. I also learned that military personnel, and only military personnel, can receive their ballots online through a request on a federal website. Families sometimes requested a ballot for an absent military member to forward, but requests have to be made by the military person themselves. Ballots are sent to the email address of the requesting military person.

While doing daily updating of voter records, we also began taking calls from voters, many who were concerned about the status of their mail-in ballot. Because the voter information was also updated by the Ballot Processing Center, we could access a caller’s individual voter data and tell them the date their ballot was sent, the address to which it was mailed, the date the ballot was received back, and the ballot status (if counted). A sample of calls received and responses given illustrates the wide range of voter questions and voter services:

*“What’s going to be on my ballot?”*

Voters were referred to [www.got.vote.org](http://www.got.vote.org) for sample ballot. Elections staff could also file an electronic request to mail the voter a hard copy of the State’s Voter Information Pamphlet.

*“I’ve moved to a Senior home and have voted in every election since Franklin Delano Roosevelt and I am not going to miss this one. Can I get my ballot sent here?”*

Yes. The ballot sent to her home was “spoiled” (cancelled), and a new mail-in ballot was generated and sent to her new residence. Two weeks later the database indicated that her ballot had been mailed back and counted.

*“Wow, I don’t think my signature is exactly the same as last time I voted — how does that work?”*

Staff is trained to look for signature similarities. Questionable signatures are sent on for review by at least four other election workers. If questions remain, the voter is contacted by text and/or phone to sign an affidavit verifying that the signature is theirs.

*“Do I have to fill in circle by circle if I want to vote for a candidate outside of my straight ticket preference?”*

Voting circles filled in for candidates outside of a straight party vote are counted as indicated.

## **Utah League Leadership**

### **Co-Presidents**

Catherine Weller  
& Vickie Samuelson  
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*"My return ballot envelope has water stains and is ripped; it's wrecked. Now what do I do?"*

If a ballot envelope was still usable, the voter could tape it and send. Voters could also get a replacement envelope at any Early Voting Location or Voting Center.

*"It doesn't look like my local grade school is going to be my place to vote. Where do I go?"*

Depending on date of call, Early Voting locations were provided as an option, as well as the location of 43 Election Day Vote Centers. Callers were pleased and surprised to learn they could receive a ballot associated with their residential address and vote at ANY Vote Center throughout Salt Lake County.

*"I like to vote in person on Election Day. Can I just take my mail-in ballot to the polls?"*

Yes. You can go right up to the front of the line and drop off your filled out, signed and sealed mail-in ballot at any Voting Center.

Election Day itself was a 17-hour work day. We helped callers verify the status of their mail-in ballot, understand Election Day voter registration requirements, and provided addresses and hours of Voting Center locations. Post-election, a separate, secured office space was set up and staff worked to process the 16,000+ Provisional Ballot forms filed on Election Day.

Walking out of the Elections Office on my last day, I found that Salt Lake County's voting informational resources, registration options, voting method alternatives and process validations gave this temporary insider a sense of pride in the election process and confidence in its reliability.

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## **VOTE 411 Soars in 2018**

**By Jane Harrison, LWVUT Voter Services Director**

This year VOTE411 educated more voters than during any other election, including the 2016 Presidential cycle – something that has never happened before in VOTE411's history!

Nationally this year, VOTE411 had nearly 7 million sessions from January 1 through Election Day, and more than 5.5 million of those sessions included the online voters guides. That represents a 100 percent increase in sessions nationwide to voters guides on VOTE411 as compared to the 2016 cycle, and a 490 percent increase over the 2014 midterm election cycle (the most comparable election cycle). These numbers show just how much the voters turn to the League to find the information they need on Election Day.

## **Much to Learn at Legislative Preview**

The annual Legislative Forum sponsored by the AAUW and the LWVSL will be held on Saturday, January 12 at 9 a.m. at the Girl Scout office, 445 E. 4500 South. Light refreshments will be served and the panel will begin at 9:30. This year's panelists are Sens. Stuart Adams and Luz Robles Escamilla and Reps. Rebecca Chavez-Houck and Stephen G. Handy. The moderator will be LWVSL member Lisa D. Olken. Please join us to hear what will be happening in the Utah Legislature this year and to have your questions answered.



In Utah, according to the 2018 Google analytics, it cost 1 cent per user to publish and distribute the voters guide on VOTE411. There were new users in almost every city in Utah. Between January 1 and November 6, VOTE411 reached 44,400 new voters, an increase of about 34,000 voters over 2016, and recorded 53,994 sessions, an increase of almost 42,000 sessions. The League educated the most voters ever in Utah's VOTE411's history.

Between January 1 and Election Day, VOTE411 was mentioned in nearly 1,900 news clips across the country. The League also secured several prominent partnerships with organizations such as ProPublica. Through outreach to national partners and media, more than 5,200 different websites were linked to VOTE411. A Google Grant provided VOTE411 with approximately \$440,000 worth of free search-term advertising on Google Search. The League was able to target these ads to focus on the various parts of the election cycle (registration, absentee/early voting, candidate information published, Election Day, voter ID rules, etc.) depending on where each state fell in that cycle.

Prominent celebrities to promoted VOTE411 in the weeks leading up to Election Day. America Ferrera posted about VOTE411 on her Instagram page. John Oliver used the last two minutes of his HBO show to promote VOTE411. Amy Schumer promoted VOTE411 right before Election Day on her Instagram post showing a video of her baby's ultrasound, ensuring that the story and VOTE411 would be picked up by other entertainment news sources.

All told, 2018 was an exceptional year for VOTE411 both nationally and in Utah.

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## **San Juan Voting Inspires Nadia's Song**

**by Margie Lopez Read, Grand LWV Member**

I had some experiences over the past eight or nine months that have had a powerful impact to my soul. A recent redistricting ruling, a connection made, my activism in human rights and public lands protection all combined to give me this. I feel so fortunate.

In short, I had been putting a lot of effort into helping register voters for the November elections. In Utah that focused on San Juan County where the redistricting took place. Removal of the crooked gerrymandered boundaries finally gave the population in that area – primarily Navajo -- their own voice.

## **A Win for Women & the League**

(November 6) was a historic day. More women elected to office than ever before. The first Muslim and Native American women, the first black woman from New England, the first Latina women from Texas—all elected to Congress. Record high voter turnout for a midterm election. Voting rights expanded, with redistricting reforms and expanded registration passed in at least six states.

All year long, League volunteers across the country have been registering voters, reaching out to tens of thousands of candidates to provide more information on VOTE411.org than ever before, and hosting hundreds of debates and forums so that voters could learn about the issues and engage with the politicians looking to represent them.

And on Tuesday we turned out the vote!

— **Chris Carson**  
**President, LWVUS**



Yet, the accomplishment that hundreds of new voters made it to the polls pales in comparison to the wealth I felt in meeting so many who live there – Aneth, Monument Valley, Montezuma Creek. I observed a sweet, intelligent generosity, sense of humor and an absolute kindness that I was not expecting. I needed to commemorate that in my mode of keeping a diary – painting.

It was heartwarming to see the photograph of elder John Kinsel, Sr. – a Navajo Code Talker – proudly hanging in the Monument Valley Visitor Center. I painted young Nadia because to me she seemed to embody so much of Navajo pride and beauty. I had a chance to meet her at a Voter Registration event held in Monument Valley in September. There were candidate speeches, dancing, mutton stew, voter registration tables and lots and lots of attendees. All of that ceremony started with Nadia Armago. Her beautiful strong voice surrounded the crowd with the Star Spangled Banner sung in Navajo. I cried.



There is power in the Original People. I was honored to have witnessed that first hand, however briefly.

[www.margies-art.com](http://www.margies-art.com)

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## You Can Protect Your Voter Data

by Peggy Carrico, LWV-UT past president

A lot was accomplished in the 2018 legislative session with the passing of HB 218, Modifications to Election Law. Sponsors Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck and Sen. Deirdre Henderson included Election Day registration and voter registration when individuals renew their driver license or state identification card. Utah can be proud to have moved voter access forward.

One of the concerns raised about changing voter registration to opt-out at the DMV rather than opt-in was an unintentional impact for individuals who have privacy concerns - like domestic violence victims or law enforcement or anyone else. The bill addressed the concerns by providing an easy way for voters to have their information made private at the time they register or at a later date through an easy online link. You can protect your data by

## Sara Michl ...

Longtime League members will remember Sara Michl who passed away on Sunday, November 25 in Boulder, Colorado. While she lived in Salt Lake Sara was an active member of the League who especially worked on environmental issues. The first issue I remember Sara and I were involved in was the air quality legislation which required emissions testing. (The EPA had to threaten withholding of sewer and water funds to encourage the Legislature to act.) We later worked together on water studies and a NSF-funded conference dealing with water management issues. She continued to work on League issues in Austin, Texas, and Boulder. She served on the Boulder Planning Commission.

A memorial service and reception are scheduled in Salt Lake on Monday, January, 21. For more information:

<https://www.saramichl.com>.

— Gigi Brandt, LWVUtah

going to [secure.utah.gov/voterreg](https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg). This is the same site you can use to update your voter registration. Near the bottom of the page you can elect to make your record private. No reason is needed. This does not remove any voter information that has already made its way on the web, but it will protect your Utah information going forward.

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## Can A Carbon Tax Pass the Utah Legislature?

by Carole Straughn, LWVSL President-elect

Do the Leagues of Utah want to work for climate stability? Here are essential signs that they do.

1. The Weber County League helped tweak the Utah Carbon Pricing Bill that they discussed Monday, October 8 with two presenters from Weber State University. In dialogue with WSU Sustainability Manager Jennifer Bodine and Economics Assistant Professor Matt Gnagey, the audience urged that some revenue from the Carbon Fund be put towards rural economic development. That input has now made it into the nearly-final draft of the bill. (See President Terri McCulloch's article in the November Voter.)
2. Climate solutions presenters at four Salt Lake League Unit meetings have drawn 64 members and friends, about half again the usual number. Does this indicate special interest in climate, or is it part of the citizen activation from the midterm elections? Or something else? Still, a couple of dozen of them have already signed up to help pass a carbon pricing bill for Utah. Two more units will host carbon tax presenters in January.
3. After a Davis County League member Hilda Brown reached out to her Republican representative, Steve Handy, to ask him to work on climate, he agreed to speak at the upcoming AAUW/LWVSL Legislative Forum, Saturday, January 12.
4. The Grand County League co-hosted a Carbon Tax Debate with the Grand County High School Debate Team as part of a fundraiser for the students to travel to competitions. After the debate, a representative from SLC's Citizens Climate Lobby talked about the bipartisan carbon tax bill that will be introduced in the Utah Legislature this session.

No wonder this is happening. Concern about climate among Utah Leagues goes back years. For example, In 2013 the Salt Lake League hosted a Clean Air (read "Climate") Forum for SLC Council Candidates. Prior to both the 2016 and the 2018 conventions, the Salt Lake League Board empowered Natural Resources Director Ann O'Connell to submit requests to the United States League that it add climate solutions to their biennial program. On Sunday, July 1, eight Salt Lake League members witnessed the overwhelming vote of the Convention to make working for carbon pricing throughout the country a part of the LWVUS Program through 2020.

## Learn More About Pollution Pricing

There's still time to learn how pollution pricing can help clean our air and stabilize climate while eliminating state taxes on food and utilities and assisting members of carbon-energy-dependent communities with retraining and education.

Hear Tom Moyer, founder, Climate Utah; Logan Mitchell, climatologist, UofU; Yoram Baumann, Ph D. Economist at a Salt Lake City or Park City Unit Meeting or contact the League office to schedule them to speak to your own group anywhere in Utah.

Here's where to join the next carbon conversation early in 2019:

Town Club Unit  
Wed. Jan. 9- 11a.m.  
Town Club  
1081 E South Temple  
Salt Lake City  
RSVP to unit leader Alice Steiner at 801-363-9193

Park City Unit  
Tues. Jan. 22 -11 a.m.  
Park City Public Library  
1255 Park Avenue, P.C.  
RSVP to unit leader Jill Lesh at 435-655-1965

What's next? While riding Amtrak home from this Chicago Convention, Ann O'Connell and I talked about how to help carbon pricing happen in Utah. We decided we needed a LWVSL Climate Action Team and she named me chair. So far, we have recruited team members by way of the Weekly Briefing, personal conversations and Unit Meetings. Most who join the effort are either brand new members or people, like Naomi Franklin and Jill Merritt already deeply involved in climate efforts. This week, Margie McCloy, who presented the carbon pricing bill to Nite Owls and Library Unit, joined the committee and joined the League. She is one of three who joined the League this fall because of its work on climate. Several climate committee members have joined the LWVUT Legislative Action Committee (LAC). If you would like help, call the League office and ask to get on the climate email list.

Since the carbon tax is essentially a state issue, the LWVSL Climate Committee submitted a proposed [Carbon Tax Advocacy Plan](#) to the LWVUT Board and LAC, and awaits their response.

At the LWVUT Board meeting Wednesday, December 12, LAC co-director Emily Walsh and the Board agreed to send a survey statewide to all Utah League members asking for their priorities for the upcoming session of the Legislature. The League's core mission and program is "Making Democracy Work," a tall order in today's political climate. We believe our League members have the bandwidth to take on another big issue like Climate Change. We have seen Leaguers take on many important matters successfully. That's what the League does.

Let our leaders know the many places you want them to put our resources. Watch for the priorities survey.

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## Legislative Action Committee Ready to Rumble

**by Emily Walsh, LWV-UT Director of Legislative Action**

The League had great presence on Capitol Hill for Interim and Special Sessions in 2018. We are told legislators are aware of and appreciate our presence at the Legislature, and we are excited for the 2019 session.

Our first January event is the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) pre-session meeting on Wednesday, January 23 at noon in the League's office.

The second is our first Legislative Lunch of the session, which will include more training for LAC members. This meeting will be held in the Seagull room of the Senate building at 11:30 a.m. Please, bring your lunch. All are welcome to attend. We will be discussing observations, bills, how to send notes to your legislators (while at the capitol) and any other questions you might have about the legislature.

## How About Those Unit Meetings?

Salt Lake Leaguers: How do you find out about our always-informative and topical unit discussion meetings? They are listed on our website and in the Weekly Briefings you receive, as well as through a link in the Utah Voter. This month, we are adding the list to the last page of the Voter. We would like to know if it would help to have a meeting reminder sent to you on a monthly postcard. Please do let us know by emailing: [president@lwvsl.org](mailto:president@lwvsl.org) or calling me: Kathy Biele, 801-243-1185.

We don't want you to miss out on a thing we do!



We have videos on how to find information on and listen to the Legislature on our Facebook page and at Davis League on YouTube. These should be helpful for those unable to attend, but interested in the Legislature.

We will post updates regarding the session on the League of Women Voters of Utah's Facebook page and of course on our Google group. 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 the office or email [actioncorps@lwvutah.org](mailto:actioncorps@lwvutah.org).

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## Davis County Celebrates and Learns

by Ann Johnson, LWV-Davis County Co-President

At Davis County's Holiday Social, Leaguers learned that North Salt Lake

City is cooperating in a pilot project to convert food waste into methane and we heard about some new bills our legislators are preparing for the 2019 session. It wasn't all food, fun, and stimulating conversation.

This year three state legislators, two county commissioners, one mayor and one city council member dropped in—most

with family members. We even received an invitation to visit the Davis County Animal Shelter. (We think our county commissioner sees League members as being soft touches for adopting homeless pets). We thank Nickie Nelson and John Logan for being gracious hosts at our annual event.

Weber League is joining with us for a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 12 at the Weber South West Library in Roy. Rep. Tim Hawkes will tell us how the Northern Utah Caucus works to promote legislation to benefit the northern counties of Utah. He will also give us a preview of what to expect in the 2019 Legislature and, of course, answer questions.



  
**girl scouts**  
of utah

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.

## LWVUT Takes Position on Ranked Choice Voting

by Catherine Weller, LWVUT co-president

A committee (Lola Britton, chair; Aubrey Hanks and Emily Walsh) of the League of Women Voters of Utah completed a Ranked Choice Voting study in October of 2017. The intent of the study is to provide background information about Ranked Choice Voting. The study does not offer solutions or proposals for change, nor does it assume that changing the current system is necessarily desirable. This study is focusing solely on current Utah voting practices and how Ranked Choice Voting, if used in Utah may either be helpful or unfavorable to the State's elections.

The Salt Lake League units and local Leagues around the state discussed the study in November 2017 and January 2018. Following those meetings the LWVUT board approved the following position:

1. *The League of Women Voters believes Ranked Choice Voting could be a fair and representative election system in Utah.*
2. *The League believes that Ranked Choice Voting would give more voters a larger voice throughout election campaigns and in the selection of final winners in the voting process.*
3. *The League supports Ranked Choice Voting and believes it could be a better option than the current system.*

The Ranked Choice study can be found on the League [website](#).

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## Weber Discusses Changing Election Trends

by Susan Skordos, Weber County LWV

The Weber County League of Women Voters presented an election wrap-up on Monday, November 19 at the Hurst Center, Weber State University.

Dr. Leah Murray, political science professor at Weber State University and a member of the League, offered engaging and well-researched information concerning the mid-term election of 2018.

She explained the general trend for 2018 highlighted a gender gap with women preferring Democrats 59



## Judge Rules in Favor of RCV

In the most recent Maine election, ranked choice voting received an A+ for its success and effectiveness. A lawsuit filed in hopes of invalidating the vote was rejected by a federal judge who said the U.S. Constitution gives states considerable flexibility in holding elections. The Constitution grants states broad discretion to run elections and "there is nothing inherently improper about an election that requires a contestant to achieve victory by a majority," including by the use of the ranked-choice runoff system endorsed twice by Maine voters, the judge ruled. Read more about this crucial ruling [here](#).

percent to 40 percent and men showing a preference for Republicans 51 percent to 47 percent. Additionally, there will now be 101 women holding House seats and the Senate will now boast 13 women.

- Two Native American women and two Muslim women will also now be in Congress.
- Younger voters turned out at the highest rate in 25 years. This group preferred Democrats by more than a 31 percent margin.
- Whites, overall, prefer Republicans by ten percent. Asians prefer Democrats by +54 and Hispanics prefer Dems by +41.
- College graduates prefer Democrats at +13 and Evangelical Christians prefer Republicans by 70 percent.

In Utah, Republicans continued to be favored: Mitt Romney received 62.9 percent of the vote, Rob Bishop, 62 percent, Chris Stewart, 57 percent, and John Curtis, 68 percent. However, Democrat Ben McAdams flipped the U.S. House seat formerly held by Republican Mia Love and squeaked out a victory by less than 700 votes.

Voters mostly favored propositions: Medical marijuana use, expansion of Medicaid and the appointment of a redistricting group to redraw political boundaries, all passed.

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## LWVUtah Approves Agriculture Position Statement

by Ann O'Connell, LWV-SL Director of Natural Resources

The development of the new LWV Agriculture statement is an example of how the league arrives at a new position. To start, the topic — agriculture in Utah — was researched by a committee with members from the Davis, Salt Lake, and Weber leagues, a study written, consensus questions composed and approved by the Utah board. Then local league members in the Davis County, Grand County, Salt Lake County, and Weber leagues discussed and responded to the consensus questions, the study committee compiled and summarized these responses, and then wrote a position statement that reflected what league members told us. Last, the Utah board considered and approved the position statement.

The board does have the final word, but the league listens carefully to all members who chose to participate. Now the LWVUT can use this position for lobbying at the state Legislature and local leagues can apply it locally to local governments and to any entity where decisions are made that affect farmland, agriculture, food sustainability, or land use policies.

*League of Women Voters of Utah Statement of Position on Agriculture*

## What Does Consensus Mean?

Consensus, or membership understanding and agreement, is the basis of the grassroots character and effectiveness of the League of Women Voters. The League is a study and action organization. Therefore it is important to have a clear expression of member views to determine what action to take. Consensus-taking is a complex procedure at the local, regional, state and national levels; it is puzzling to new members and challenging to experienced leaders

"Consensus/group discussion is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The 'consensus' reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall 'sense of the group' as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions."

— *League Basics*

*The League of Women Voters of Utah supports the preservation of Utah farmland and agriculture using planning, zoning and funding strategies at the state, county, municipal, and local levels. We realize that to do so may mean use of public monies (taxes). Preservation of farmland and agriculture protects open space and promotes a sustainable local food supply.*

*Measures for promoting farmland preservation and food sustainability must not conflict with League positions on water needed to protect wildlife and natural areas. The LWV believes conservation by all water users will help protect farmland and food production.*

*We also believe that educational programs about food sources and healthful diets are critical to preserving Utah farms and ranches and a reliable local food supply. There are programs available through the Agricultural Extension Service and the public school curriculum.*

*We think that farmland should be a consideration in all government policies and planning.*

If you were unable to access the study on the LWVUT website at the time of the October meetings, you can find a link to the study and the consensus questions under What We Do→Study The Issues. The Ag Study is the first in the list. You may also [click here](#) to access the page. If you only have time for a quick survey of the study, study the graphs that summarize what Utah grows. There are surprises there.

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## **Salt Lake Unit Meetings Focus on Civics Education**

**by Loren Attwood, LWVSL Education Director**

Come and find out what is going on in our country and learn about how our government was intended to function.

Each unit meeting will have a guest speaker from the University of Utah. All of the speakers are professors that teach political science. Each one will try to focus on our current situation and help us understand where our democracy has come from and where we are headed.

James Curry a professor at the UofU in political science, will lead discussions on Thursday, Jan. 31 at Sandy Senior Center and Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Whitmore Library. John G. Francis, also a U professor whose emphasis is Europe and Turkey, will lead discussions on Thursday, Jan. 24 at the Anderson-Foothill Library, and Tuesday, Feb. 12 in Park City. On Monday, Jan. 28 Bruce Landisman, professor of Political Science and Author of "How Democracy Fails," will lead the Nite Owls unit. Check the schedule on the final page of this newsletter for more information.

## **Civics Ed Sadly Lacking**

Only one quarter of Americans can name the three branches of government. "Three out of 10 people can't name any of the three branches of government, according to a [2016 study](#) by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Another question found 40 percent of Americans believe Congress could forbid the news media from "reporting on any issue of national security without first getting government approval," despite the First Amendment guarantee to freedom of the press," the Deseret News reported. In the fall of 2018, the Utah state government rolled out updated standards for government and citizenship

Annenberg:  
<http://bit.ly/2CBBHmF>

Take U.S. civics test:  
<http://bit.ly/2Vcy7GN>

Utah Civic & Character  
Education:  
<http://bit.ly/2TjHRgM>



## Refugee Services Create Productive Community Members

by Amy Dott Harmer, Director, Refugee Center

When refugees settle in the United States, life is still difficult. With support, they can become critical and essential members of our community. On a daily basis, I am reminded of the gift it is to live in a country where I have a voice, access to education and basic human rights. Many of refugees here in Salt Lake have experienced and seen unimaginable atrocities. They are capable, resilient and have unique perspectives. As we help them become more of who they were meant to be they will add much to our community. Advocating, supporting and welcoming refugees will make our world a better place.

Currently, more than 65 million people have been displaced by war and natural disasters. Many seek refuge in secondary countries and a hope to receive refugee status. And many of those displaced people are found in refugee camps around the world. Only 1 percent of those who live in refugee camps will ever be resettled with refugee status in a secondary country.

Once given refugee status and assigned to a new country, a new life begins. The United States has historically taken 65,000 refugees annually. In the last few years those numbers have dropped to 35,000. Despite the change with President Trump, there are many people around the world waiting for a safe home.

In Utah, we typically receive 1,200 refugees a year. With the changes in the presidential administration numbers have dropped to 300 annually. Once they arrive, they are legal and expected to work. They pay back their airfare and start making their way immediately. Resettlement agencies and local refugee programs play a critical role in this effort. Many refugee families are still waiting for loved ones in their unsafe homelands to be able to come. We have about 65,000 refugees along the Wasatch front making their way. They come from over 20 countries and speak more than 40 languages. Many are thriving. Some struggle on a daily basis.

I have discovered that creativity, intelligence and ingenuity are universal and found around the world. However, opportunities are not universal. Giving these refugees opportunities to tap into resources and education expands their capacities to learn and excel. Many were never given this chance in their homeland and in refugee camps.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake for the opportunity to speak at the holiday social. I was impressed by your kindness and concern for making your communities better places to live. Your advocacy makes a difference.

Read more at [www.serverrefugees.org](http://www.serverrefugees.org)

## LWVUS Immigration Position

Immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet economic, business and employment needs; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.

## Legacy Campaign Begins Rolling Out

by Kathryn Fitzgerald, Development Director

The League of Women Voters of Utah has successfully launched its Legacy Campaign in celebration of our upcoming 100th anniversary. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage members to include The League of Women Voters of Utah in their will or trust as we celebrate our accomplishments and prepare for a second century of citizen action.

We already have members enrolled on our Legacy Campaign Honor Roll:

Janice Miller  
Sharon Walkington

Thank you, Sharon and Janice! Because of this decision, your loyal support of the League will extend far into the future and your example will encourage others to join the Legacy Campaign.

It's easy to include the League of Women Voters of Utah when you are writing or updating your will. Just mention your wishes to your lawyer or financial planner and he/she will take you through the simple steps. All you need to provide is the League's tax exempt number: 87-6121782.

When you make the change, we would appreciate it if you would let us know (just call the office) so we can add you to the Legacy Campaign Honor Roll, encouraging others to join and sustain the work and growth of the League. However, if you prefer to remain anonymous, that's fine.

Let's keep building on this great start! Especially now, as you review your finances at the end of the year, please remember the League of Women Voters of Utah!

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## League Website Updated

The League of Women Voters has updated its website to better serve the needs of its members and the public. At this time, some of the features are incomplete, and we would appreciate your patience — and help.

If you see any errors or if you would like further information on a topic, please let us know at [webmaster@lwvutah.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvutah.org).

Our thanks goes to James Burris and Lichthaus Media for donating his technical expertise and for hosting the League website over many years. We also thank Melissa Nelson-Stippich for her intense work on our newly revised website.

Visit us at [lwvutah.org](http://lwvutah.org).

## Donor Honor Roll Fall 2018

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 to pay office expenses like phone, computers, office rent and salary. Thank you to this month's donors:

Emily and Chauncey Hall  
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— Kathryn Fitzgerald,  
LWV-UT Development  
Director

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake  
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**TOWN CLUB UNIT**– Second Wednesday – 11 a.m.  
Town Club - 1081 East South Temple  
Unit Leader: Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193  
tc-unit@lwvsl.org

**NITE OWLS** – Fourth Monday – 7:30 p.m.  
862 East Harrison Ave.  
Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387  
nite-owls@lwvsl.org

**BENCH BUNCH (combined with the Girl Scout Unit)** –  
Fourth Wednesday – 10 a.m.  
Whitmore Library – 2197 E. Fort Union Blvd.  
Unit Leaders: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118  
Anne Zeigler 801-944-4163  
bench-bunch@lwvsl.org

**SANDY UNIT** – Last Thursday – 10-11:30 a.m.  
Sandy Senior Center – 9310 So. 1300 East  
Unit Leader: Janice Gygi - 801-550-3585  
sandy-unit@lwvsl.org

**LIBRARY UNIT** – Fourth Thursday – 12:30 p.m.  
Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 So. 2100 East  
Unit Leaders: Kathy Fitzgerald – 801-521-5790  
Jan Striefel – 801-200-2312  
library-unit@lwvsl.org

**PARK CITY UNIT** – Fourth Tuesday – 11 a.m.  
Park City Public Library - 1255 Park Avenue, Park City  
Unit Leader: Jill Lesh – 435-655-1965  
pc-unit@lwvsl.org