



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters
of Utah

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May 2021

League to Focus on Redistricting, Recruiting, Action



By Jeanine Kuhn-Coker, LWV-SL President

As I look out my window while I write this, flowers are blooming, grass is greening up, trees are budding out, and the League is COMING ON STRONG! Salt Lake County observers keep us informed so we can make our voices heard regarding the advantages of

ranked choice voting and contacting our representatives and mayors.

We are coming on strong in opposition to gerrymandering and in support of Better Boundaries! The Independent Commission held their initial meeting and we will be watching to see what happens next! April 29 was a national "People Powered Day of Action," with the League focused on increasing awareness of the upcoming redistricting cycle.

Lastly, we are coming on strong with plans to register new voters and recruit new members at upcoming tabling events, street fairs, and festivals! As always, the focus will be on staying safe, wearing masks and social distancing while outside enjoying warmer temperatures.

The League is hard at work making democracy work!

"Volunteers are League and League is volunteers, so take a moment to reach out to other Leaguers and League partners with a special thank-you for giving their time and dedication to empowering voters and defending democracy." - LWVUS President Deborah Ann Turner

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2021 Call to Convention

By Catherine Weller, LWV-UT Co-President

The 2021 League of Women Voters of Utah Convention will be held Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15. Due to ongoing Coronavirus concerns, the convention will again be virtual.

This year's convention will kick off Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. with a presentation from Dr. Leah Murray titled "Who Writes our Laws? Model Legislation, Outside Groups, and Citizen Legislatures." The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) immediately comes to mind when considering model bills, but it is not the only group providing draft legislation to state governing bodies and the reasons for model legislation are multifaceted. Dr. Murray is the Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor in the Department of Political Science and Philosophy at Weber State University and a member of the Weber County League. This one-hour event is open to the public. You can always find all the information, including links and registration, on our website calendar. You may also [use this link](#) with passcode 434469 to hear Dr. Murray's presentation on May 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m..

Convention proper will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 15. This year's business includes proposed changes to bylaws as well as approval of the Utah League Board and budget. We will also consider and approve the Utah League's program and studies. Register for convention at <https://www.lwvutah.org/convention-registration>. There is no fee for this year's convention. The League is a grassroots organization. Our directions for the year's program and studies come from you, the membership. Please join us to help direct the League's work for 2021-2022.

Legislative Interim Begins in May

Legislative Interim Committees begin meeting on Wednesday, May 19. If you would like to see committee assignments, you can find those at house.utah.gov and senate.utah.gov under the 'Resources' tab on either site. The interim schedule and interim study items can be found on the Legislative Management Committee page at le.utah.gov.

Due to COVID-19, meeting rooms and the cafeteria are still not available to the public for normal activities. Legislative Lunch will be via Zoom until adequate meeting spaces open to the public. If you choose to attend interim in-person you will still need to wear a mask at the Capitol even though the mask mandate has been lifted.

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100% GREEN INTERNET

If you would like to join the Legislative Action Committee Google group, email office@lwvutah.org. - *Emily Walsh, LWV-UT Legislative Action Director*



Independent Redistricting Commission Holds First Meeting

by Gigi Brandt, LWV-UT Redistricting and Money in Politics Adviser

The first meeting of the Independent Redistricting Commission ended quickly after an unfortunate Zoom-bombing. The executive director has not been chosen nor does the commission have a website.

The commission is the first step in the process, and they will ultimately send their recommendations to the Legislative Redistricting Committee. We have asked you to think about your communities of interest and you may let the commission know your thoughts now. The address for comments is uirccomments@utah.gov.

The commission did replace former State Sen. Pat Jones, who resigned, with Karen Hale, Salt Lake City. Hale represented Salt Lake City's Senate District 7 in the Legislature for two terms and worked in the administrations of Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams.

The Legislative Redistricting Committee, which will make the final decision on districts, has been announced. Those members are:

Senate Majority Assistant Kirk Cullimore, R-Draper
Senate Minority Caucus Manager Gene Davis, D-Salt Lake City
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore, R-South Jordan
Senate Budget Vice Chairman Don Ipson, R-St. George

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Rep. Sandra Hollins, D-Salt Lake City

Rep. Brad Last, R-Hurricane

Rep. Steve Lund, R-Manti

Rep. Ashlee Matthews, D-West Jordan

Rep. Merrill Nelson, R-Grantsville

Rep. Val Petersen, R-Orem

Rep. Candice Pierucci, R-Herriman

Rep. Robert Spendlove, R-Sandy

House Minority Caucus Manager Andrew Stoddard, D-Sandy

The chairs previously announced are Sen. Scott Sandall and Rep. Paul Ray.

Sens. Gene Davis and Ipsom served on the 2011 legislative redistricting committee and Davis was a member of the 2001 legislative redistricting committee.

Even though preliminary census data has been released, citizens are being advised to wait before trying their hands at map-drawing. Both the Better Boundaries counsel and LWVUS have advised that such maps might constitute the basis for a lawsuit challenging final maps.

Here is what you can do now:

1. Attend a meeting virtually or in person of the Independent Redistricting Commission.
2. For current information about redistricting activities consult the Utah League's redistricting page: <https://www.lwvutah.org/redistricting-2> and if you didn't attend the webinars with David Daley and the commission conversation scheduled for April 29, listen to them now.
3. Find out how many levels of government will redistrict in your area. For example, local governments may or may not redistrict depending on whether members are elected at large or in districts. School districts that cover more than one municipality depend on county bodies to redistrict. Salt Lake County has three school districts to be redistricted by the county; Utah County has two.
4. Then, think about how the body to be redistricted has changed in the last 10 years. How might boundaries be changed to reflect those changes?
5. Each body that redistricts should develop and define standards for the map making. SB200 has "shalls" and "mays" in its standards. Independent of the law, the Legislature's redistricting committee will

Public Invitation: Save Our Canyons Presentation

Thursday, May 20
6:30-8 p.m.
Zoom

You are invited to a presentation by Carl Fisher, Executive Director of Save our Canyons

(www.saveourcanyons.org)

. Fisher, who is also a member of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholder Council, will bring the League up to date on activities of the Central Wasatch Commission. He will report on progress on the EIS for Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons, the transportation alternatives being discussed and analyzed, and other issues and activities relevant to the Wasatch Canyons and their future.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click this URL to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88662057683?pwd=R3Mrejl4ZnNEdGhna250UGE1TWo1dz09>

Passcode: 959848

develop standards for its redistricting process. Do you have standards that you think should be incorporated?

6. Begin talking to elected officials and friends about redistricting. If you are involved in school PTAs or community councils, ask them their ideas about redistricting the school board districts. Ask about their plans for public participation.
7. Start playing with available software to draw the lines in Utah's four congressional districts. Under preliminary population estimates, the current Congressional District 4 will have to shrink its boundaries because of population increases. How might you draw the lines? Moa
8. Ask your local league for a lawn sign promoting redistricting made for the National Day of Action on April 29.
9. Write a member of the legislative redistricting committee about your concerns for being represented in the current redistricting boundaries.

The League is part of a coalition, Redistricting Roundtable. The group will publicize each other's redistricting activities and support training in drawing maps, preparing testimony and monitoring activities. The commission itself did agree on meetings every two weeks.

League Wins Big Victory for Ranked Choice Voting

By Kathy Biele, LWV-UT RCV Committee Member

The League in action! That's what happened this week as municipalities across Salt Lake County weighed the pros and cons of Ranked Choice Voting and League members rose to the challenge.

In the end, Salt Lake City — Utah's largest municipality — voted 6-1 to try out this innovative voting method. Sandy City, the sixth largest city in the state, also voted 5-2 in favor. It was unfortunate that the state's second largest city, West Valley City, decided to hold off.

Still, it was LWV-SL's incomparable Observer Corps led by Shauna Bona and the efforts of countless League members who answered our Action Alert that tipped the scales. Many sent in written comments. Among those who spoke at Salt Lake City's meeting were five who not only sought support for RCV, but also mentioned the League as a place to further educate the public. And that will be our task for the next several months.

As of publication date, we now have 20 cities that will participate in RCV this November! You can see who they are and find more up-to-date information on our Ranked Choice Voting web page:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/ranked-choice-voting>.

Cities Committed to RCV for 2021

Sandy
Salt Lake City
Draper
Bluffdale
Riverton
Magna Township
South Salt Lake
Millcreek
Genola
Lehi
Payson
Vineyard
Goshen
Woodland Hills
Springville
Elkridge
Moab
Newton
Nibley
Heber

(Cottonwood Heights and Centerville are likely to approve RCV at their upcoming meetings)

League Honors Student for 'Making Democracy Work'

The Salt Lake League has honored Dhati Oommen, a West High School student and LWVSL board member, for her years-long efforts defending democracy. She is a very active junior in the International Baccalaureate program and has worked on Erin Mendenhall's mayoral campaign in 2020. She currently is an active participant on the Salt Lake Policing Commission. She plans to go to Germany this summer as an exchange student.



During the 2021 legislative session, Dhati, with the help of Rep. Joel Briscoe, D-Salt Lake, brought forward a bill to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local

School Board elections. Although it didn't pass, she plans to bring it forward again next year. For this reason, the Salt Lake League has honored her with the Making Democracy Work Award!

She is Me - Carey Dabney

An ongoing feature about LWV volunteers

I became acquainted with the LWV after moving to Moab in 1991 from Washington, D.C., where my husband had been Chief Ranger for the



National Park Service. Moab was in the midst of a recession due to the collapse of the uranium industry. His new job was general superintendent over Arches, Canyonlands, Natural Bridges and Hovenweep. It was "all hands on deck" to try and revitalize the local economy, and travel and tourism were a natural fit for a county with so much public land.

Our daughters were 3 and 6, so I became active in a local church community, in the Parent Assisted Classroom program, and in the PTA. I

grew up believing that public education is the cornerstone of a successful democracy and still do. In 1998, I was elected to the Grand County Board of Education.

'Tea for Three' Lady Bird, Pat & Betty

This year, the Salt Lake League's State of the Community Luncheon will be a virtual screening of a delightful play, Tea for Three.

The play brings three first ladies-Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford - together in a deeply moving and witty performance.

Send in a donation for a link to the play, which you can watch any time on Friday, May 21.

At 5:30 p.m., Elaine Bromka, the author and actress, will conduct a Q&A for our guests on Zoom.

Make your donation now online at:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/lwv-sl-community-luncheon-2021>

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When we first moved to Moab I also joined a book club whose participants included members of the LWV. They asked me to help with a voter registration drive in front of the post office. Not long after we started registering people, and with a long line forming, I had an experience I will never forget. An older gentleman came up and after several minutes asking questions and keeping the conversation going long after it was finished, it became apparent that his goal was to stop anyone else from being able to register to vote. I joined the League that afternoon.

In 1999, we moved to Texas where my husband became Director of State Parks. I joined the board of directors for Texas PTA and focused on creating a Healthy Lifestyles Initiative to combat sodas and junk food in schools, support struggling school food service operations, and to keep P.E. and recess as part of the school day. As a founding member of Texas Action for Healthy Kids, a collaborative effort between local, state, and national organizations with the same mission, I worked with an amazing group of individuals from the American Cancer Society to the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living.

After retirement in 2014, we moved back to Moab because of the friendships we had made and because there was no public land in Texas. I rejoined the LWV, got on the board and took up where I left off with organizing the Candidate Forums. However, pretty quickly we became aware of political talk of transferring U.S. public lands to state ownership. In 2018 my husband created a program on The History of U.S. Public Lands and a year later I worked on a LWV educational study on the Transfer of Public Lands Movement.

In 2021 the LWV of Grand County created a Public Lands Project webpage to make available to the public the Transfer of Public Lands Movement Educational Study, introductory video power points based on the study, and the research documents and related materials. Recently, I came across the existence of an alternative interpretation of the U.S. Constitution used to support the legal arguments to transfer U.S. public lands. Look for future postings of this information on the Public Lands Project webpage. Without the League of Women Voters, none of this would have been possible. You are my heroes! Over the next several years as a member of the board, I helped with many different projects, but pretty quickly gravitated to chairing the Candidate Forum Committee, where I had a ringside seat to the Change in County Government effort, which in 1992, swept out the three commissioner form of government for a non-partisan seven member county council.

It was grassroots work at its best.

Salt Lake Program Planning

Thursday, May 13
6:30-8 p.m.

The Salt Lake League of Women Voters' May General Meeting will be important to setting our agenda for the coming year. We will be meeting on Zoom to plan the 2021-2022 Program and to discuss Studies for the same time period. If you would like to make a suggestion for the Program or if you have ideas for Studies, please send them to: program@lwvsl.org. Include in your email your willingness to lead or be on the committee you have suggested.

We need your input!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83210587703?pwd=c1FHbW1HTi9CM0xMMHdIM2FoZmJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 1058 7703

Passcode: 229988

Learn Virtual Meeting Tips and Etiquette

By Tina Hose, LWV-UT Board Leadership Advisor

We are all looking forward to the time when it is once again safe and responsible to meet face-to-face. For the foreseeable future, however, including our State Convention in May, the Utah League of Women Voters will continue to utilize virtual meetings. Whether it is for a short, targeted working session or the upcoming State Convention, being able to participate in a successful virtual meeting has both its benefits and challenges. Virtual meetings require more attention to detail to overcome the technical and interpersonal challenges posed by not having face-to-face participation.

This article discusses how to make League virtual meetings, large or small, productive and rewarding for organizers and attendees.

Virtual Meeting Organizers

Preparation is key to successful virtual meetings. The 2020 LWV-UT State Convention Workbook used many of the best practices mentioned below, and the 2021 Convention Workbook will do the same. Consider using these techniques for virtual League meeting of any size.

Have a clear agenda. Knowing the direction of the meeting keeps attendees focused and engaged. An agenda sets out the specific topics to be covered, the individual that is responsible for presenting, time allotments for topics as well as outlines and opportunities for attendee input (i.e. discussion, decision, vote, etc.). At the start of the meeting, be sure to discuss up front how attendee discussion and input will be accepted, through breakout “rooms,” chat box, etc.

Know who will attend. In Zoom meeting notifications, there is a response option to attend, possibly attend, or not attend. Encourage attendees to use the response to help organizers understand who is attending and possibly alter content and attendee participation to be more inclusive. It is recommended that meeting reminders and Zoom links be sent again to attendees one to two days prior to the actual meeting.

Use visual focus aids. The most commonly used visual aid is desk-top sharing where the meeting screen is replaced with PowerPoint slides, short videos and/or reference documents. The LWV-UT Zoom expert of visual focus aids is Office Manager Peggy Carrico (801-699-0625). She can facilitate screen sharing (as she has done at Convention) or she can help organizers learn how to use visual focus aids for their League



**Nancy Young,
1935-2021**

Longtime League member and activist Nancy Young has died, leaving a legacy of service and contribution. Her obituary says it well – that she always preferred to be the organizer and supporter rather than the leader. Her degrees in Political Science and Library Science served her well as Chief of Staff to Utah First Lady Norma Matheson and later as head of the Marriott Library’s Manuscript Division of Special Collections. Nancy was a member of the League’s State of the Community Luncheon Committee and the Town Club Unit. Read [her obituary](#).

meetings.

Engage attendees. Look at the agenda and decide which items require or benefit from input and which tools would best support engaging attendees. Highlighting on- screen text and/or online polling (as facilitated by Peggy at last year's Convention) can be used to ensure all participants are active contributors. At the beginning of the meeting, notify attendees how comments or questions will be accepted and how to participate in a discussion, poll or vote.

Make sure everyone has materials ahead of time. This is protocol for each year's Convention; a Workbook is emailed out early to attendees. The workbook includes the Convention agenda, proposed Program, budget, slate of officers for election, LWV-UT Bylaws, etc. Likewise, organizers for other virtual meetings should make sure that participants have the agenda and accompanying documents early. Attendees of any virtual meeting should review the agenda and accompanying documents to ensure that they are prepared to participate.

Virtual Meeting Attendees

Organizers can use Zoom technology and planning techniques to ensure a successful meeting, but virtual meeting attendees have some responsibilities as well.

Respond to meeting notices. As mentioned above, Zoom meeting notices are accompanied by a response option to attend, possibly attend, or not attend. Your electronic response helps organizers adjust topic times accordingly and quickly acknowledge those who are in the Zoom meeting "waiting room" and allow attendee entrance. If you are presenting, response to meeting notices helps the organizer know that you will be in attendance and available to present.

Arrive early. Log in or call in to the meeting early to ensure that all your software and connections are working. Sometimes this allows for pre-meeting small talk and the building of relationships.

Limit background noise. Be aware of background noise or the possibility of noise (your cell, family interruptions, dog barking, etc.) and mute yourself when not speaking. For larger meetings, participants may all be muted by the host by default and unmuted as allowed for discussion.

Identify yourself. This is most easily done by adding your name to your video attendee screen. To do this, click on the three dots in the corner of your video screen. Click on the option to change/enter your name and fill in the information accordingly. Just as an FYI, at Convention, the protocol

Studies - the Heart of the League

As the state and local leagues prepare for a new year, members are being asked to suggest and participate in studies. Year in and year out, the men and women of the League are committed to providing fact-based information and open discussion forums to help voters make their own decisions.

The League tracks studies from around the country. Check them out through the [Clearinghouse](#).

Let your state or local league know if you'd be interested in working on a study for 2021.

is to also identify yourself and the League to which you belong each time you make a comment.

Speak clearly. Virtual attendees do not have access to body language and other nonverbal cues to help determine intent, meaning, interest, or agreement. The only way for virtual attendees to know others' opinions is for attendees to clearly articulate their point. Speakers should pause to allow others an opportunity to ask questions, ask for clarification, or voice their opinions. Do not speak while others are talking and avoid interruptions which usually result in neither party being heard and the need for commentary to be repeated.

Make your presence known. Good manners are especially important as people work to overcome some of the challenges of meeting virtually. Become familiar with and use the Chat Box and/or the Q&A box (usually found at the bottom of your meeting screen). These tools are offered to minimize interruptions and allow for attendee questions and input.

Summary

Virtual meeting attendance is here to stay. Careful construction and facilitation of a meeting can be very helpful in including members state-wide as well as keeping the Leagues' priorities moving.

'Activism Matters'

For the fourth year, the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake is preparing for another 5K Fun Run. This year, it will be held both virtually and in-person at Liberty Park on Saturday, Sept. 18.

Want to help with the fun?

Contact us at

commteam@lwvsl.org

Will Utah Be Gerrymandered?



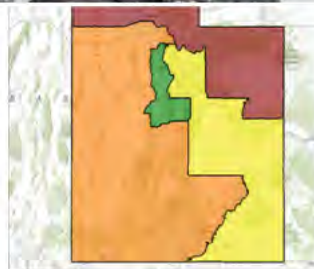
It happens only once every 10 years. State voting districts are realigned based on population and politics. Join the League and three members of the Independent Redistricting Commission to hear about this important process and how Utah citizens will have a chance to weigh in on their electoral districts.

Former Chief Justice Christine Durham, independent member Jeffrey Baker, and Commission Chair Rex Facer spoke at our Day of Action on **Thursday, April 29** about their expectations and how you can be involved to ensure that YOU choose your representatives rather than they choose their voters.

If you missed it, check out our video page at

<https://www.lwvutah.org/league-videos>

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POWERED
FAIR MAPS**



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that encourages informed and active participation in government.