



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters  
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November 2020

## Hold On - Election 2020 is Here!



By Vickie Samuelson, LWV-UT Co-President

We are at the threshold of the 2020 Election with November 3 almost here. If you haven't already voted, don't delay any longer. Please get it done.

Remember, if you need to know anything about voting or have questions you can check out [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). It's our one-stop shop for all things voting. Our Voter Services team has worked to get it going. Also the section on our website under the

heading [Voter Info](#) is full of great information.

National has really stepped up its voting information this year and has partnered with other organizations to provide the state presidents with some very good information on worst-case scenarios that may come up. They are expecting some states will have trouble.

Utah has a very good process when it comes to mail-in voting and we have done this for years with very few problems. According to Justin Lee, Utah State director of elections, our state post offices are very good at making sure all ballots are processed or postmarked by November 2. But if you do wait until the last minute to mail it, ask the clerk to date stamp it so you make sure it has the correct date. Dropbox ballots (find the locations on our website) are picked up daily.

Another area of concern has been social media messaging. Here are a couple of phenomena to watch for: misinformation is false information distributed without the intent to harm, while disinformation is the creation and sharing of false information deliberately with the intent to harm. This is

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the big one.

Here are some tips on how to spot disinformation online:

- **Does the URL look strange?** Check the “About” page on the website.
- **Check the date. Is the story old news?** Sharing out of date information may not match current events.
- **Cross check the information.** Are reputable news sources reporting the same story?
- **Read past the headline.** What’s the whole story? Sometimes a headline doesn’t match the content.
- **Question emotionally charged content.** Disinformation intends to sow division by getting us angry or sad through images or memes.
- **Don’t share what you can’t prove but do share accurate information.** If someone you know is sharing bad information message them privately and ask them to take it down.

Please note: if any of you want to be poll watchers you need to contact your county clerk’s office. Each office has its own process regulating this activity. Also if you do see any problems at the polls, please [contact Catherine or myself](#). We will report any issues to National.

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## Virtual ERA Rally Powered Ahead

By Vickie Samuelson, LWV-UT Co-President



The ERA rally on Saturday, October 16 was slated to be an RV tour. We partnered with Equality Utah and Utah ERA Coalition to work on the event. The vehicle was wrapped in film that explained all about the ERA and was decked out

in the colors of VoteEquality, the organization that came to Utah to promote the Equal Rights Amendment.

About two weeks before the date, the western tour was canceled due to pulled funding and the inability to find a bus or RV. As a committee, we decided to move forward with our plans without the vehicle. “Won’t Back

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Down,” a line from a song by Lyndi Perry, became the slogan of the day and may continue. There were many to choose from. Our speakers were Jeanetta Williams, Ermiya Fanaeian, Adrielle Herring (from U.S. Rep. John Curtis’ campaign), Rep. Ray Ward; and Kael Weston, a candidate for Congress. Lyndi Perry and Maria and Marissa Hopoate of the band Hasha performed. The entire event was live streamed and was a resounding success! Thanks to the team and our able assistants Shelly Pace, who operated the PA system, and Laura Jones from KRCL.

## Volunteers Distribute Thousands of Door Hangers

By Jill Lesh, LWV-SL Summit-Wasatch Unit Leader & Terri McCulloch, LWV-Weber County President

The League of Women Voters and VOTERISE volunteers collaborated to distribute voter information door hangers across the Wasatch Front in Weber, Summit, and Salt Lake counties.



The English/Spanish hangers give nonpartisan voter registration and election information compiled in consultation with the county clerks. Hangers were customized for each of the counties with locations of drop boxes and Election Day vote centers. In addition to being a get-out-the-vote tool, the door hangers are generating voter registrations (for English and Spanish speakers), counted via their QR codes.

Citizens picked up door hangers and each team selected an area of their county to canvas that had 70 percent or less voter turnout in the last election. In pairs of two, volunteers went door to door and hung the door hangers. Each team had 100 door hangers to distribute.



Volunteers delivered a total of 17,500 door hangers to neighborhoods with traditionally lower voter turnout rates (6,000 hangers in Weber County, 4,000 in Summit County, and 7,500 in Salt Lake County). Thank you to

## Utah League

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Elsa Gary, Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz, and Karen Thurber for their inspired effort in "Making Democracy Work."

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## League Registers Voters at Food Pantry

By Janice Mosby, LWV-SL Director of Voter Services

The League of Women Voters was graciously allowed to come to the St.



Paul's Emergency Food Pantry to register voters. One Saturday in early October netted five registrations, which we consider to be quite successful. The League has offered whatever help we can to those in need and aim to reduce barriers to their participation in the political process.

Many thanks to Cliff Taylor, who was a great help in setting us up with a table and chairs and making sure we had what we needed, and to the Rev. Kurt Wiesner for helping registration to happen.

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## League Registers Voters with Crossroads Urban Center

By Teresa Carlson, LWVSL volunteer



How many children become homeless each year in Utah? How many children are in families with extended or repeated experiences of homelessness? Thousands of children who become homeless are very young, age 6 and younger. [Crossroads Urban Center](#) is a nonprofit organization based in Salt Lake City whose projects include the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC). In October 2020, they released reports on the numbers of children homeless in Salt Lake County, Weber County, and Utah overall. The

## Utah Rocks the Vote



Look at the new registrations from last week and the past four weeks.

27,332 - last week  
78,006 - four weeks

reports can be [found here](#).

Crossroads Urban Center is committed to end child homelessness. CORC supports this mission by representing the poor at the Utah Legislature in the ongoing battle to eliminate the food tax, to build affordable housing, and to make sure children have medical and educational assistance. Homelessness affects a child's ability to keep up with peers and they are nine times more likely to be held back by one to two years.

These new reports reveal that 2020 has been an exceptionally challenging year due to the pandemic causing homeless families to stay in less-than-safe situations. In addition to experiencing housing insecurity, housing-insecure children often witness domestic violence. Crossroads Urban Center wants to focus on ways homeless services in Utah can better stabilize homeless families with children.

Crossroads was created in 1966 by the members and friends of the United Methodist Church, who turned the brick home at 347 S. 400 East (originally a boarding house for Methodist women) into a house where volunteers could help serve the homeless. Today, this multi-faith, community center depends on the broad support from many religious communities as well as businesses, individuals and foundations.



The LWV-SL secured opportunities in October to register voters and explain voting procedures. We are pleased to encourage this community to participate in the political process, and to let them know that their vote truly counts.



Crossroads Urban Center has two Emergency Food Pantries. One is located at 347 S. 400 East SLC (hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m, Monday-Friday); the Westside Food Pantry is located at 1358

## Learn About Crossroads' Mission

You can read more about Crossroads Urban Center and what they do - their two food pantries and their thrift store - on their website:

<https://www.crossroadsuburbancenter.org>

W. Indiana Ave. (hours 9 a.m. -2 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday). The pantries distribute a supply of three days' worth of food to hungry individuals. Since they are extremely concerned about homeless children and babies, they specialize in supporting infant needs with formula, diapers and baby food. They also depend on contributions of food, clothing, blankets, toiletries, and other supplies. Their thrift store is at 1385 W. Indiana Avenue (hours 12-5 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday).

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## **'She is Me' Profile: Helen Moser**

**By Helen Moser, LWV-SL Membership Chair**

After retiring from a career in financial services in 2017 and being freed from the demands of a working parent and caregiver to aging parents, I turned my attention to giving back to my community. I was drawn to the League of Women Voters because of its breadth of focus and influence as well as its support of grassroots advocacy. Beyond the environment and climate change, I could advocate for more compassionate social policies as well as play a role in broadening civic engagement in my community.

Attending my first unit meeting, I immediately felt at home surrounded by like-minded folks who were passionate about many of the same causes, sought deeper understanding of issues, and, empowered by the League, found ways to get involved.

Fast forward nearly two years, I am actively involved in organizing community tabling and voter registration events, participating in the Legislative Action Committee monitoring the House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee, and serving as chairman of the Salt Lake League membership committee.

I recently collaborated with a talented group of League climate activists to complete and present a study on transitioning to clean energy. Although the breadth of volunteer opportunities and ways to amplify my voice have been invigorating, it's been the privilege of working with and learning from such a passionate, intelligent,



## **League Kicks Off 'She is Me'**

The Salt Lake League will be offering profiles of our amazing volunteers in an ongoing series called "She is Me."

Our national League is exploring diverse stories of women who have shaped past and present progress for voting rights in celebration of 100 years of fighting for democracy.

The Utah Voter invites any local leagues to submit profiles for this series.

Send to:

[thevoter@lwvutah.org](mailto:thevoter@lwvutah.org)



and dedicated group of individuals that has been the greatest gift I've received from the League.

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## **'Stop the Polluting Port' Project Underway**

**By Ann O'Connell, LWV-SL Natural Resources Chair**

It may be called the *Utah* Inland port, but to be more specific, the residents of the Salt Valley and the wildlife of the Great Salt Lake will suffer the most ill effects from the Port. The League officially opposes the Port on the grounds of the harm it would do to the Great Salt Lake, its effect on Wasatch Front air quality, increased traffic, and harm to the wellbeing of the people who live in nearby communities. Furthermore, as a League member, you might consider the following wording at the very end of the LWV-US position on climate change: "Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address [climate change], while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global." These words from the League are a call to "think globally, act locally."

The Utah Inland Port is part of a global overconsumption network. It will be a major contributor to atmospheric carbon as well as many other pollutants. The developed world will most likely have to adjust to a simpler lifestyle and it is evident that the Salt Lake Valley cannot absorb more industrial growth, so our efforts to stop the Port are neither trivial nor hopeless.

### **'Stop the Polluting Port,' a Project You Can Join**

**Questions for the Inland Port's Landowners:** Who currently owns the land? Why are the owners so hard to identify? Where did Rio Tinto (formerly Kennecott) go?

**The Fossil Fuel/Satellite Port Connection:** This project aims to uncover the devious strategies of coal, gas, and oil producers. Since there is a strong legislative connection, it would be valuable to have a LWV member in this group.

**Air Quality:** The LWV-SL needs an air quality "expert" and the history of the air pollution in the inland port area is a good place to begin.

Furthermore, to keep abreast of Stop the Polluting Port projects, listen to the weekly meeting from 6-7 p.m., live via Zoom. To find the link, click on

## **Air Quality Expert Needed**

Are you interested in the air we breathe and how the Utah Inland Port will affect it? The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake is looking for an engaged volunteer to help us understand and keep up with the issues surrounding air quality.

If you can spare some time on this critical project, let Ann O'Connell know at:

801-363-9046, or

[oconnell@xmission.com](mailto:oconnell@xmission.com)

[the EVENTS tab](#) at the top of the opening page at the website [Stop the Polluting Port](#).

For more suggestions, contact Ann O'Connell, LWV-SL Natural Resources Chair, at 801.363.9046, or [oconnell@xmission.com](mailto:oconnell@xmission.com).

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## 'The Woman's Hour' Book Available



By Sherilynn Bennion, LWVSL

The Utah League is fortunate to own a copy of The Woman's Hour, an amazingly exciting and detailed story of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment by Elaine Weiss.

Although we may already know that the battle for women's suffrage was won by one vote in the Tennessee Legislature in 1920, reading about the events that led up to the victory and especially about women and men involved in the campaign, both suffragists and "antis," gives the flavor of a cliffhanger.

This was a fight that involved a cast of hundreds, from well-known names like Carrie Chapman Catt (who was criticized for bringing her non-Tennessee-native sensibility to Nashville) to hitherto-unknown figures like Catharine Kenny, a local suffragist who handled logistics.

The book also tells the story of Josephine Pearson, the Tennessee leader of the "antis." The campaign was sometimes brutal, involving racism, sexism, and constitutionalism, with ups and downs and no sure signs of success for the suffragists. This would be an excellent book to fill a few of the at-home hours imposed by COVID-19. If you'd like to borrow it, please let our office know at [office@lwwutah.org](mailto:office@lwwutah.org). Pickup will be from a member's home.

Note: In its small group unit meetings, the League has been reading books about racism and our nation's past. Here is [a good list](#). If you are interested in further reading, contact Millie Fletcher, [milliefletcher@gmail.com](mailto:milliefletcher@gmail.com).

## What's New on Our Website

We are trying to keep up with the ever-changing news and the League's part in it. Check out the latest (and send us more) under [NEWS](#).

We have also been videotaping candidates and League events. If you have missed them, we have them waiting on the website:

Election Events:  
<https://www.lwwutah.org/election-2020-events>

League Forums:  
<https://www.lwwutah.org/sl-recorded-meetings>



## First League Virtual 5K a Success

By Kathy Biele, LWV-UT 5K Committee

2020 marked the League's third annual 5K and the first virtual 5K that the



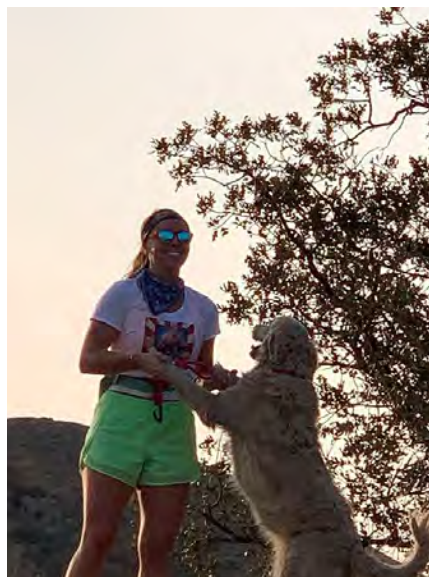
League has organized. The theme was "100 Years and Running," and what a success it was! The overall winners were Tina Hose and George Sumner, and the League extends them our congratulations!

Diane Hill won Best Picture for these beautiful photos below of her and her daughter Kira Hill-Filben:

Sherilyn Bennion and her husband Ben did their 5K around Liberty Park, while Linda Menasco walked her route with her grandsons, who were interested in learning about voting history. Walking led to many interesting encounters for

participants after Salt Lake City's recent wind storm. Ray Howze noted the big tree that had excavated the sidewalk near Beans and Brews, while Lynn Muller spoke to an artist near a fallen Osage Orange who talked about how the tree is used by Native Americans.

We look forward to holding future 5Ks in the traditional manner, but given 2020's extenuating circumstances, the "100 Years and Running" Virtual 5K was a big win!



## Never Too Late to Learn

You can still walk through the surprising voting history of the United States and view more of our 5K photos here:

Voting History:  
<https://www.lwvutah.org/voting-history>

Photos:  
<https://www.lwvutah.org/-5k-photos>

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