



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters
of Utah

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October 2020

We Should Care that Local Elections Matter



By Nickie Nelson, President, LWVUT Davis County

We're all excited about the presidential election, and rightly so. But how excited are you about your state Senate race or who will be your state representative? What about the county commissioner's race, or the recorder, or the surveyor (why is surveyor an elected position anyway)?

Our state and county elected officials affect our lives every day, making decisions on taxes, schools, roads, air quality, water rights, green space, etc. And our tax dollars are paying their salaries and benefits. League members may know this, but friends, families, neighbors and others may not be so aware. How can League members increase this awareness?

Find out about your local races from your county election website. If the information is not current (my experience as of mid-September) call their office and remind them that voters need current information soon. Talk to people you know about the importance of learning about and supporting local candidates. Set up a discussion with your local League unit about issues and candidates.

The League's [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) is a very useful site for learning about candidates who may answer our questions in their own words. Support efforts to help voters understand their choices, especially at the local level: Meet the Candidate forums, debate panels, or social media events. Davis County League is embarking on a series of Meet the Candidate forums using Zoom in late September and early October. Those and others are on our website <https://www.lwvutah.org> for you to view at your convenience.

And support a local candidate—as an individual, NOT as a League member. **The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.** Support can be a yard sign, a social media posting, a

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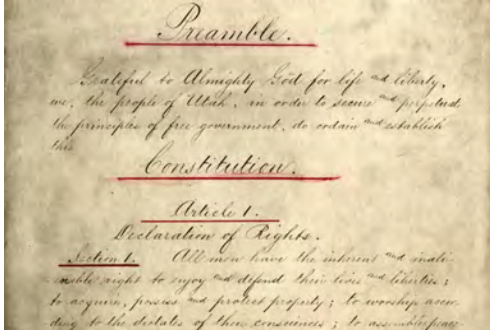
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positions on government transparency and regressive taxation. The Utah Citizens' Counsel also has a [position](#), which you may want to read.

You can find the exact wording of these amendments in the [2020 General Election Ballot Certification](#).

Mail-in Ballots—Vital Information



By Shelly Jackson, State Director of Voter Services
Just like everything pumpkin spice, signs of the election are everywhere. Ballots will be arriving in mailboxes across Utah in mid-October. Here is what you need to know to make sure your vote counts.

For specific information relative to your county, check your county clerk's website. Each clerk's office is linked from [our website](#).

A few things are consistent statewide. Ballots will be mailed out to every active registered voter. You can verify your registration at voter.utah.gov.

Once you get your ballot, there are many resources to research the candidates and issues. The League has compiled a comparison of candidates in their own words at VOTE411.org/Utah. Other resources are available at lwvutah.org.

Once you have voted, return your ballot in person or through the mail. Most county clerks have secure ballot drop boxes located throughout their county, also linked on our website. Mailed ballots must have a legible postmark no later than Monday, Nov. 2. If you are mailing it at the end of October, make sure you walk into the post office to insist on a date stamp.

As long as the Clerk can identify a valid date stamp no later than Monday, Nov. 2, your vote will be counted and added to the final election results.

County Clerks have two weeks after the election to complete and finalize election results. They count every ballot received with a valid postmark.

Finally, as a fail-safe, each county clerk is required to have at least one in-person voting location on Election Day. Check your County's website for details. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 8 pm.

Don't delay! Vote and return your ballot today!



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VOTE Equality: Minding the Gaps for Utah Women



By Vickie Samuelson, Co-President,
LWVUT

Join the League of Women Voters of Utah, Utah ERA Coalition, Equality Utah, for VOTE EQUALITY: MINDING THE GAPS FOR UTAH WOMEN.

Headline speaker Jeanetta Williams of the NAACP will describe existing

barriers to voting and the still pressing need for equity under the law for Utah women. When we leave behind the "Year of the Women," how will we continue the fight for fairness and move the needle for Utah Women in 2021?

Ermiya Fanaeian, newly appointed director of diversity and Inclusion for the Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU), will speak to an inclusive feminism. How do we remedy the mistakes of the past and ensure that all women are part of this important move for Constitutional equality?

Watch for details about additional speakers and musical guests. This is a family-friendly celebration, so bring the kids to customize an equality flag at 11:30 a.m.

We will dance our way into the election, support equality candidates, and celebrate great gains for women while pushing forward for better.

Masks available & required. Social distancing a must. VOTE EQUALITY car magnets and masks available. Don't miss this terrific event! And be sure to use these hashtags as you promote the event:

**#vote #utahwomenvote #votequality
#equalmeansequal #utaheracoalition**

We are aware of the possibility of cities dropping back to status orange and the fact that our COVID cases count is up, so we have a plan B for this event.

We will keep you posted and you can find more information on the [Facebook page](#).

Save the Date Vote Equality:

Minding the Gaps for Utah Women

Date: Friday, Oct. 16

Time: 12-1:30 p.m.

Where: Utah State Capitol Steps



2020 Fun Run Was Still Fun, Just Different

By Kathy Biele, LWV Salt Lake Fun Run Committee

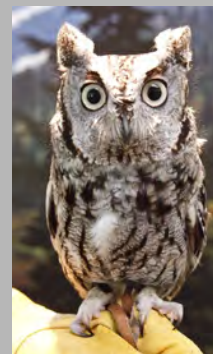
We saw, we ran, we conquered. In true League fashion, members and friends split the difference between fun and education during our third annual 5K Fun Run—100 Years Running.



The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to regroup before the run, which had been scheduled for Liberty Park on September 19. Good thing we changed course because sadly hurricane-force winds hit Salt Lake just at that time and toppled many of the century-old trees in the park, which closed in the aftermath.

Instead, the League took our 5K online, allowing participants to choose any time and any 5K between September 11 and 20. We also had mapped out a suggested route around Liberty Park, with 13 stakes and QR codes leading participants to brief stories about our voting history. Despite the pandemic, we had 78 participants, each of whom received a League-branded Fun Run face mask.

We even had a member of the U.S. League, Alicia Gurrieri, and her mom participate in Washington, D.C. You can see their photos and their route on our website along with the other [participants' photos](#).



Night Owls Update

By Shauna Bona

The League's evening small-group unit, the Night Owls, has a new home. For new and long-term League members who are busy during the day—whether working, child rearing, online schooling, or enjoying the canyons—we will continue the tradition of evening meetings.

We plan to meet via Zoom for the rest of 2020, with hopes of finding a new physical space in the mid-Salt Lake Valley when circumstances allow.

When: Fourth Monday of the Month, 7 p.m.

Where: Zoom

For more information, a Zoom invite, or help logging on, email shauna@lwvsl.org.

You can still scan through these historical highlights and see photos of participants on our website. If you haven't answered our [questionnaire](#) yet, please do and enter for prizes from our sponsors:

The Coffee Garden, the Park Café, Café Amour, Beans & Brews, Brass Smoothies, 7-11, Cummings Studio Chocolates, and Weller Book Works.

Check out our [photos](#) and the [13 Stations of Voting History](#). And if you participated, don't forget to fill out our [brief questionnaire](#).

Census Update



**By Catherine Weller,
Co-President LWVUT**
Utah League presidents Vickie Samuelson and Catherine Weller sent letters in September to Sens. Mike Lee and Mitt Romney requesting support for extending the 2020 Census deadline. The COVID-19 emergency has disrupted

and delayed the decennial count of every person in the United States. This constitutionally mandated process, the Census, is essential for appropriation of federal funds to the states and for reapportionment and redistricting. An inaccurate count or an undercount would endanger funding for Utahns for programs ranging from Medicaid/Medicare and student loans to funding for highways and rural development.

Though Utah's overall response rate is admirably high, it is quite low in several rural Utah counties and on tribal lands. Utahns cannot afford to lose the opportunity to be counted—to count, really—for economic opportunities. Nor can we afford to have an inaccurate picture of the state's composition when it is time to reapportion political boundaries.

In April, Career Census Bureau employees recommended an extension of operational timelines for data delivery. The League supports that request as well as additional emergency funding to ensure the Census Bureau will have the resources needed to collect and process the data properly. League members can help by contacting friends in areas of the state with low response rates (you can use the Response Rate Map [here](#)), encourage them to be counted, and ask their friends and neighbors to do the same.

We Are Moving Offices

The LWV Utah/Salt Lake office moved to a different suite at our current location in September. This reduces our monthly costs without a significant impact in operations. It will mean when we are able to get back together in the future, larger meetings will need to be held off-site or we can reserve a meeting space in the building. We also took this opportunity to reduce our telephone line expenses, but it does mean we have a new number - 801-938-4308.



COVID-19 and The League - We are Masked But Undaunted

By Janice Mosby

COVID-19 has presented a multitude of challenges not only personally but for the League of Women Voters as a whole. A typical year would include



in-person tabling affairs along with voter registration events. Although these have been curtailed for the time being, we have still been busy in our efforts to reach unregistered citizens. The VOTE 18 Democracy Class has developed a new virtual curriculum that is being presented to high school classes with the cooperation of the teachers. It is a short civics course followed by online voter registration aimed at 16 and 17 year olds.

The SL League was invited by Laura Redford, a professor of U.S.

History at BYU, to create a learning experience for her students that would complement the course theme of expansion of democracy by grounding them in the history of voting rights, voter suppression and the importance of voting while giving them practical application in registering new voters. Jan Brock, an experienced Democracy Vote18 facilitator, teamed up with fellow League member and Executive Director of Voterise, Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz, to design and deliver a comprehensive program. Following the class, students joined Voterise's "2020 Challenge Ambassadors" in supporting a voter registration drive held on the BYU campus on National Voter Registration Day. This hands-on learning experience was followed by students undertaking a reflection activity about the basic democratic right to vote and the importance of ensuring full participation in our democracy. Jan hopes to again partner with Hope in offering additional pilots of the class, which could have the potential of expanding the League's Democracy educational offering to include students at the college level.

Voter registration opportunities were offered to residents of the Bodhi affordable housing apartments and patrons at the SaltFire Brewing Company. We also partnered with the Westside Coalition and the National Tongan-American Society for a drive-through voter registration event at the Day-Riverside Library.

A lot of effort was directed toward registering students at the University of Utah in conjunction with the Associated Students at the University of Utah (ASUU). Although the planned in-person events were cancelled by the administration, efforts to hang Becoming Vote-Ready posters in dorms

Local Debates for Local Candidates on Local Issues

The League of Women Voters Utah was asked to be a non-partisan partner in a debate series with Better Utah Institute (formerly Alliance for a Better Utah). We accepted and with the help from our Salt Lake local league, we have held three debates which are:

[HD 54 — Meaghan Miller / Mike Kohler — Summit County](#)

[SD 8 — Kathleen Riebe / Brian Zehnder](#)

[HD 49 — Siamak Khadjenoury / Robert Spendlove](#)

(Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.)

The debates went very well and were informative and our moderators were excellent. Thank you to everyone who helped on this debate series.

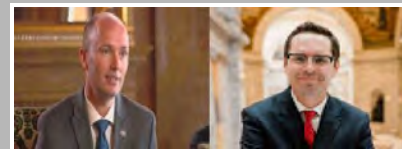
and public areas was accomplished. Also flyers were put into Vice Presidential debate student watch packets with information on how to register to vote, directing them to the VOTE 411 platform and One Stop Shop for election information.

Opportunities may be upcoming with our partnership with Westminster College to help at a tabling event in October. Plans for that are still being worked out with the Westminster Civic Engagement Group. A call for volunteers will be sent out as it gets closer to the date (October 12-15).

The League also partnered with the Better Utah Institute to moderate a virtual Utah Senate District 8 Debate which was held Thursday, September 24, between candidates Brian Zehnder (Rep) and Kathleen Riebe (Dem).

Another opportunity of helping pre-election is with another LWV partner, Salt Lake Indivisible (SLI). SLI is working with the Mormon Women for Ethical Government (MWEG) to place non-partisan door hangers between October 5-12 on neighborhood doors. This will take place between October 5-12. Anyone interested in doing this can contact Joanne Slotnick at slindivisible@gmail.com.

COVID-19 may have put a damper on certain aspects of League activity, but it certainly has not stopped the League from participating in and pushing forward with an aggressive agenda for pre-election activity.

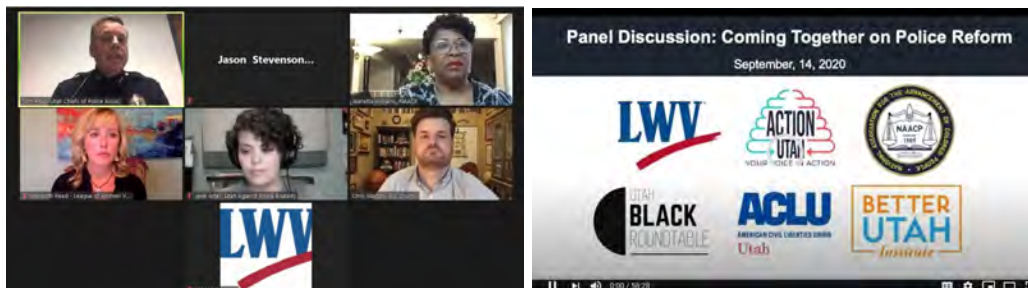


Candidate Forums Available on Website

The League of Women Voters has conducted several forums and events with candidates, including for governor of Utah.

Browse through them at your convenience. And check out all of our election information on the website lwvutah.org.

SLC League Launches Coalition for Virtual Panel Series



By Shauna Bona, LWVSL, Local and County Government Committee Chair
As Salt Lake County and the nation experienced unprecedented protests in response to police shootings—and as government, law enforcement, and civil rights organizations released competing reform proposals—LWVSL President Jeanine Kuhn-Coker recognized that the League of Women Voters could play an important role bringing citizens together in meaningful dialogue.

With her guidance, Salt Lake League members reached out to the Utah Black Roundtable, Better Utah Institute, Action Utah, NAACP Salt Lake Branch and ACLU of Utah to discuss a potential collaboration.

The result was a series of Zoom panel discussions, “Coming Together on Police Reform,” which began September 14 and will continue until the start of the 2020 legislative session. [Click HERE for a video of the first event.](#)

The purpose of the panel discussions is to provide an opportunity for informed, civil discourse on policing reform, in hopes of achieving these goals:

- Helping citizens make sense of competing visions for reform (understanding the issues, terms, and impact on election decisions)
- Supporting our organizations’ shared values of education, accountability, transparency, and social justice
- Maintaining citizen interest and engagement to sustain and drive reform after the election and into the legislative session

The September 14 event was moderated by Meredith Reed from the Park City League and was attended by more than 100 community members. Featured speakers included Jeanetta Williams, President of NAACP Salt Lake Branch and Tri-State Conference of Idaho, Nevada, and Utah; Tom Ross, President of Utah Chiefs of Police Association; Chris Wharton, Chair, Salt Lake City Council; and Jade Arter, Utahns Against Police Brutality Organizer.

More than 70 people who registered for the event asked to learn more about the League of Women Voters.

Future panels will focus on reform bills being introduced in the January Utah Legislature, along with other issues raised in the audience Q&A.

Weber County Presents on Police Reform

By Susan Skordos, LWV-Weber advisory board member

The Weber County League of Women Voters sponsored a discussion concerning police reform at Weber County Library, Main Branch at 2464 Jefferson Avenue, Ogden, at 7 p.m., on Sept. 21. Because of COVID restrictions, many from the community attended by Zoom.

The discussion was led by Leah Murray and included Ogden Police Chief, Randy Watt; Weber County Sheriff, Ryan Arbon; Ogden City Council member Angela Choberka; as well as Diana Lopez from Ogden City Outreach. Questions to the panel were provided by audience attendees.



Membership Renewal Process Changed

Our first mailing for annual membership renewal statewide has gone out. Anyone signed up for auto-renewal through PayPal will not receive a notice. If you think you should have gotten and didn't, contact the office. A second notice reminder will go to those who have not renewed later in October.

Additionally, we are asking that you also take a moment to complete a member interest survey you can link to from the email. Your feedback helps us find opportunities for you to get most from LWV membership.

The panel was asked how police make a positive contribution to the community. They view their primary responsibility is public safety. They stressed that body cameras are essential for the protection of both officers and the community. Body cam videos are made available when necessary. The county attorney requests these for investigations and the sheriff must lead intense, internal investigations, particularly when the use of force occurs. The “Black Lives Matter” issue that has recently come to our attention has increased the dialogue.

The issue of choke holds has become controversial. It is only to be used as a last ditch effort to prevent endangerment to police or the detainee.

Another question focused on the officers’ duty to intervene in a dispute or escalation of a perceived dangerous environment. Even though Salt Lake City Police “may” intervene, Ogden Police “will” intervene.

The subject of no-knock warrants also was introduced. Only by judicial authorization can these occur. Police may apply for these in writing because of the risk involved. To be considered, there must be the danger of individuals in question destroying evidence of the crime or fleeing the premises when officers arrive. However, regular knocks and announcements by police occur more often.

The technologies available to officers were also of interest. In addition to the use of body cam videos, drones are available for surveillance of community areas or neighborhoods. Drones must follow FAA rules and state laws.

Mental health has become a major focus. Impact teams are used to direct individuals toward mental health evaluation, particularly in cases of threats of suicide. This approach has a potential for a better outcome.

The sheriff and police say they are not aware of any systemic racism, but outside scrutiny is available from Weber State Criminal Justice Department. Gathering input from ethnic groups or members of the Black community is particularly important.

Diana Lopez added that Ogden City has a resource center to offer community information by dialing 211 or going online to Dianalopez@ogdencity.com. Additionally, police policies are available on the Ogden City Police website where 75 policies can be reviewed.

Looking forward to 2021-2022, police are adjusting and researching plans which they will offer to the Ogden City Council. Officers will submit detailed plans but they may change because of COVID. Jails have often become hospitals due to mental and other health issues. Officers will continue to try to cut red tape in order to resolve problems more quickly.

League Fights for Accessible Elections

The League of Women Voters Education Fund launched the [COVID Elections Fund](#) to reduce the crippling impacts of the coronavirus on voters.

Support the COVID Elections Fund to ensure safe and accessible Elections

[learn more](#)

Voter Registration, Education Major Goals in Grand

Barbara Lacy, President, LWV of Grand County

Grand County LWV continues to march on with our mission. Regardless of the various barriers 2020 has thrown our way, we are committed to showing up, providing education, getting people registered and getting the



vote out!

Our activities include:

Student voter registration—Unable to visit civics classes in person this year, we created an information packet that details how students may register, timelines for registration, and how and when to vote. The school will distribute the packets to any student who will be 18 and eligible to vote this year.

Partnering with [Voterise](#), we've distributed "[Do It 4 Grandma](#)" campaign flyers to seniors at the Care Center, clubs and church groups.

We're partnering with local organizations to get information out to groups that may not have had access to information about voters rights. The Spanish language information packet is available from the Multi-Cultural Center and several churches. [Our website](#) has a link to information regarding online registration.

For the first time in years, we are not able to host the candidates forum in person. Our October 5 Candidates Forum will be broadcast from our Moab local public radio station KZMU, with the option to listen and watch via Facebook live stream. Board member, Bo Kolb, will moderate, covering local and state races, initiative and amendments.

We mourn the loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her voice that lifted up so many during her tenure on the Court. We are working with the library to see if we might host a free outdoor screening of "On the Basis of Sex" and I'll ask the library to choose [A Woman of No Consequence](#) as a book club selection this fall.

Our programs will continue via zoom until we can once again meet in person, but it's been surprisingly easy to gather in this way.

Protect Our 2020 Elections

Demand action from Congress to protect the 2020 election.

Call your senators today!

[learn more](#)

Ogden City Council Honors Women's Equality Day



By Terri McCulloch, President,
LWV-Weber

On August 11, the Ogden City Council declared August 26, 2020 as Women's Equality Day. The Weber League was presented with a plaque to commemorate the work done for the community and the fact that we represent and were born from the women's suffrage movement. The Ogden City Council is always supportive of voting and educating the public.

The League of Women Voters has given thought over the years to changing the name as a way to diplomatically encourage inclusion—we are not an organization solely for women only to benefit women. And yet, there are still many

barriers to women.

The League was formed to pass the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, and our 100-year history includes many men who helped us get there. Much of the public back then didn't believe women were smart enough to participate in elections. The League, founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, made sure that didn't remain the public opinion.

Take a moment to reflect on what the world would be had the event not taken place! After 100 years, the League of Women Voters will include members of all races, genders and ethnicity whose goal is to support women in the public arena.

Not the Time to Rush Confirmation

"Supreme Court justices serve for life and make decisions that impact every American. They require a thorough vetting process that is transparent to the American people. Such a process would be undermined if rushed through. Now is not the time to rush a lifetime appointment to the United States Supreme Court." [Read more](#) from the LWVUS.

**"We cannot all
succeed
when half of us are
held back."**

—Malala Yousafzai

Politicians Join League to Support Passage of the ERA

The Utah ERA Coalition talked to and directly asked incumbents during the 2020 session about their support of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Utah. After the session, they reached out to candidates running for office in Utah in the two main political parties to gauge their support of fundamental equality under the law. This list is the result. It does not show every lawmaker who supports, but rather it shows those who are running for election or re-election who do. The League does not support or oppose candidates, but offers this list for members to reach out to their representatives on this important subject.

ERA CANDIDATES		Utah State Senate.	Salt Lake County Assessor
Utah House Representatives		Luz Escamilla SD1.	Jennifer Fresques
Holly Gunther, HD3	Mark Wheatley HD35	Erika Larsen, SD6.	
Mary Dasilva, HD4	Doug Owens HD36	Kathleen Riebe SD8.	Salt Lake County Treasurer
Karen Mayne, HD5	Carol Spackman Moss HD37	Dan McClellan, SD10.	Michael McDonald
Oscar Mata, HD8	Eric Hutchings HD38	Katy Owens SD19.	
Steve Olsen, HD9	Ashlee Matthews HD38	Nancy Huntly, HD25	
Lou Shurtliff HD10	Lynette Wendel HD39		
Jason Allen HD11	Stephanie Pitcher HD40	Governor	Lt. Governor
Olivia Jaramillo HD14	Wendy Garvin HD41	Chris Petersen,	Karina Andelin Brown
Cheryl Nunn HD16	Sam Winkler HD42		
Katherine Nicholson HD18	Diane Lewis HD43	State Attorney General.	Salt Lake County Recorder
Ray Ward HD19	Andrew Stoddard HD44	Greg Skordas	Rashelle Hobbs
Melissa Ballard HD20	Wendy Davis HD45		
Clare Collard HD22	Gay Lynn Bennion HD46	US House	
Sandra Hollins HD23	Jaren Davis HD46	Kael Weston, District 2	
Jen Dailey-Provost HD24	Scott Bell HD47	John Curtis, District 3	
Joel Briscoe HD25	Siamak Khadjendoury HD49	Devin Thorpe, District 3	
Angela Romero HD26	Catherine Voutaz HD52	Ben McAdams, District 4	
Brian King HD28	Cheryl Butler HD53		
Mike Winder HD30	Meaghan Miller HD54	Salt Lake County Mayor	
Robert Burch HD30	Marsha Judkins HD61	Jenny Wilson	
Elizabeth Weight HD31	Carl Albrecht HD70		
Suzanne Harrison HD32	Jessica Obladi O'Leary HD70	Salt Lake County Council	
Craig Hall HD33	Lonnie White HD72	Deborah Gatrell, District 2	
Fatima Dirie HD33	Kenzie Carter HD74	Ann Granato, District 4	
Karen Kwan HD 34	Rebecca Sullivan HD75	Terri Tapp Hrechkosy, District 6	
		Shireen Ghorbani, Member at Large	



“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”

*—Ruth Bader-Ginsburg
1933-2020*



UTAHERACOALITION.ORG **Utah ERA** @ERAUTAH

Constitutionalizing Equality

The Equal Rights Amendment as a Catalyst for Change

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is back in the headlines with new ferocity. Following Virginia’s ratification earlier this year, the House of Representatives moved swiftly to grant the amendment a new lease on life, by removing the previous 1982 deadline for ratification. Though questions remain as to whether the time has run out, one thing is clear: ratification of the ERA would incontrovertibly advance gender equality, both at home and abroad. Read more from this post by [Women Around the World and Women and Foreign Policy Program](#).

League Remembers Joyce Barnes



Joyce Barnes, a longtime member of the League of Women Voters and beloved past president of the Salt Lake League, has passed after a sudden illness not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"She was one of the most pleasant, intelligent and accommodating co-presidents, and I have very fond memories of her," said Sharon Walkington, who served with Joyce in 2005.

Joyce was a resolute supporter of the First Amendment and the League's long participation in Sunshine Week.

"She was so positive and a tireless worker," said Gigi Brandt. "When she became president, her mother was in her 90s in Denver, and Joyce would fly every other week to Denver to see her. I admired her energy and commitment to her mother."

Members had just celebrated Joyce's 90th birthday with her this past January. Please note that Joyce's family is requesting donations in her memory to the League. You may mail a donation or go [here](#) and click on the "Joyce Barnes Memorial Fund."

Her obituary may be found [here](#) and a lovely memorial with lots of pictures can be found at jbarnesmemorial.com.



Check [our website calendar](#) for up-to-date information on events.

Transition to Clean Energy:

A League Study

The Utah League's Transition to Clean Energy educational study was the topic of the LWVSL general meeting in Sept. The study focuses on four broad areas; why a transition to clean energy is necessary, where things stand now, how to achieve the transition and what individual and collective actions can affect the transition. To avoid catastrophic warming, climate scientists agree that global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions must be cut in half by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050, making the transition to clean energy imperative.

Suggested reading:

- Transition to Clean Energy Study [Full Version](#)
- Transition to Clean Energy Study [Abridged Version](#)
- Kem C. Gardner Institute report, [The Utah Roadmap](#)

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that encourages informed and active participation in government.