



League of Women Voters of Washington

Barbara Seitle, President // Marilyn Johnston, Lobby Team Coordinator // Newsletter edited by Laura McCarty

www.lwvwa.org/advocacy

[Legislative Newsletter, Vol.39, No.12](#)

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ACTION PRIORITIES March 30-April 5, 2007

"If you have time this week to make only one phone call, choose one of these..."

SUPPORT Family Medical Leave



SUPPORT Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System

Family Medical Leave and Insurance — SUPPORT — E2SSB 5659

Bill provides for up to five weeks of leave for the birth or placement of a new child, or care of a seriously ill family member (child, spouse, domestic partner, or parent), but would no longer cover worker's own serious illness. Benefits are financed by a premium of 2 cents per hour worked (would be paid by worker), which is about \$40 per year for a full-time worker or \$3.50 per month (would be pro-rated for part-time workers).

League Position: Children's Services

Status: Public hearing on E2SB 5659 was held by House Appropriations committee on March 28th.

Action: Contact [your representatives](#) or your [House Appropriations](#) member and urge them to support E2SSB 5659: [Sommers](#) - Chair, [Dunshee](#) - Vice Chair, [Alexander](#), [Bailey](#), [Haler](#), [Anderson](#), [Buri](#), [Chandler](#), [Cody](#), [Conway](#), [Darneille](#), [Dunn](#), [Ericks](#), [Fromhold](#), [Grant](#), [Haigh](#), [Hinkle](#), [Hunt](#), [Hunter](#), [Kagi](#), [Kenney](#), [Kessler](#), [Kretz](#), [Linville](#), [McDermott](#), [McDonald](#), [McIntire](#), [Morrell](#), [Pettigrew](#), [Priest](#), [Schual-Berke](#), [Seaquist](#), [P. Sullivan](#), [Walsh](#).

Contact: Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net or Pat Dickason, 360-753-7647, p.dickason@comcast.net

SUPPORT Operating Budget Funding—Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System.

The final Operating Budget needs to include funding for the Quality Rating Improvement System for child care at the full House level of \$9.3 million. The funding was drastically reduced in the Senate Ways & Means budget. QRIS is designed to improve the quality of child care for all Washington children so that children will enter kindergarten more school ready, and thus more likely to succeed in school and in life. QRIS will provide parents with valuable information on the quality rating of child care they choose. QRIS will assign a rating based on evaluation of critical areas such as staff training and education, curricula and program, parent involvement, program assessment and management practices. Child care providers will receive technical assistance, training materials and scholarships, mentoring and grants for accreditation fee. From research we know that every dollar

[1]

invested in quality early learning brings a 16% return on investment. (Rolnick, Art, Grunewald, Rob, "Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return," Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, March 2003.)

League Position: Children's Services -- highest priority

Status: Full funding for this item is in the House budget but not in the Senate budget.

Action: Call [your Senator and Representatives](#) to include full funding of \$9.3 million for the Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS, in the Department of Early Learning) in the final budget.

Contact: Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net or Pat Dickason, 360-753-7647, p.dickason@comcast.net

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## Other ACTION ITEMS

“If you can make another call or two...”

### **SUPPORT**—[ESSB 5297](#)—**Sexual health education in schools**

requires that sexual education taught in schools be comprehensive.

**League Positions:** LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs (Access to sex education programs); LWVWA Reproductive Rights

**Status:** There was a public hearing in the House Appropriations committee on March 28. There is possible action to pass the bill today which will probably succeed. (The chair has been preoccupied with a kidney stone).

**Action:** Please ask [your representatives](#) to bring this bill to the house floor and pass it.

**Contact:** Wayne Martin, 425-746-9960, [docmartin934@aol.com](mailto:docmartin934@aol.com)

### **SUPPORT**— [ESHB 1024](#)—**Toxic Flame Retardants (PBDEs)**

The bill would ban two forms of PBDEs by January 2008, and phase out the most widely used form of PBDE, deca, in computers, televisions, and residential upholstered furniture by January 2011. It would also provide a safety clause if suitable and effective alternate flame retardants could not be found. This bill is one of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington.

**League Positions:** (LWVUS) Early Intervention for Children at Risk; (LWVUS) Environmental Protection & Pollution Control; LWVWA Toxics in the Home.

**Status:** No change from last week. It is looking like the bill will be voted on next Monday in the Senate.

**Action:** If you have not contacted [your legislator](#) on this bill recently, please see Action from last week.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, [elizabethd@whidbey.com](mailto:elizabethd@whidbey.com)

### **SUPPORT**— [SSB6011](#)— **Maury Island Aquatic Reserve**

**SUPPORT Senate version.** SSB6011 as proposed by the Senate, protects the integrity of the State's Aquatic Reserve Program and ensures that the only reserve in the State actually protects, restores, and enhances this critical shorelines and nearshore habitat. This legislation sponsored by Senator Erik Poulsen removes a loophole inserted into the reserve's management plan by the Department of Natural Resources. That loophole opens the reserve to an industrial barge loading facility. The Senate recognized the importance of the reserve program and approved this bill, with a vote of 26 in favor and 22 opposing.

**League Position:** Land Use: First consideration is given to effect on natural elements. Uniqueness or scarcity, importance to the community as a whole... as well as irreversibility of the decisions should be considered.

**Status:** On Wednesday, a last minute amendment in the House Select Committee on Puget Sound seriously damaged the intent of SSB6011 ( to remove the loophole in the DNR management plan opening the reserve to an industrial barge loading facility). The bill will be before the full house in the next few weeks. We need to work with the environmental coalition to ensure that the original intent of the Senate bill is restored in the House deliberations.

**Action:** Please contact [your Representatives](#) in the House and ask them to restore the original intent of the Senate bill-- to protect the aquatic reserve and manage the tidelands of the State in a manner consistent with their designation as a valuable asset for all the citizen of the State. Ask them to amend the the bill passed out by the Select Committee on Puget Sound to restore the original intent of the Senate bill.

**Contact:** Ann Aagaard Shorelines and wetlands chair [aagaarda@nwlink.com](mailto:aagaarda@nwlink.com) 425-488-8418

### **SUPPORT Capital Budget Funding INCREASE**—**INCREASE FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE & RECREATION**

**Update:** More great news: the Senate capital budget, released this week, includes \$100 million for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program. The same amount was in the House capital budget released two weeks ago. This is a capital budget request to increase the funding to \$100 million per biennium from \$50 million, the amount provided each biennium since the program was established in 1990. In 2005 two new areas—farmland and riparian habitat—were added, increasing the need for additional funds for this program under the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program.

**League Positions:** LWVWA Parks, Open spaces and Greenbelts

**Status:** Capital Budget process

**Action:** Please communicate your support for this program with this level of funding to your legislator, if you have not already done so. Also, see Legislative Newsletter for Feb. 2 - 8 <http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/LNL-39-4.pdf> to find out how to get a list of past WWRP funded projects in your area, and future proposed projects. Send that list to your legislator to urge his/her support.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, [elizabethd@whidbey.com](mailto:elizabethd@whidbey.com)

**SUPPORT**— SSB 1303—**Encouraging the use of cleaner energy.**

- (1) Incentives for replacement of the most polluting diesel engines, especially in school buses;
- (2) Transitional incentives for development of the most promising in-state clean fuels and fuel feedstocks, including biodiesel crops and ethanol from plant waste;
- (3) Reduced fossil fuel consumption by state fleets; (4) Development of promising new technologies for displacing petroleum with electricity, such as "plug-in hybrids"; and
- (5) Impact analysis and emission accounting procedures that prepare Washington to respond and prosper as global warming impacts occur and as policies and markets to reduce global warming pollution are developed Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to implement a school bus replacement incentive program.

**League Position:** (LWVUS) Energy, elements 3 and 5

**Status:** Passed the House 79-18. Has been heard in the Senate WET committee.

**Action:** If your Senator is on the Rules Committee, ask him/her to pull and vote for the bill. Ask your Senator to vote for the bill.

**Contact:** Toni Potter [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net) 206 365 8949

**SUPPORT**—HB1929—**Authorizing utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts.**

Grants municipal-owned utilities and public utility districts the statutory authority to engage in mitigation activities to offset their utility's impact on the environment.

**Status:** Passed the House 97-0. Now Senate Rules Committee for 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing

**Action:** Urge your Senator to pass HB1929

**Contact:** Toni Potter [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net) 206 365 8949

**HB 2379**—**Cancelling Presidential Primary**

cancels the 2008 presidential primary. It was given a public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on March 15<sup>th</sup> at which Barbara Seitle testified. The process in effect now calls for the presidential primary to be held on the fourth Tuesday of May, which everyone believes is too late. An earlier primary, probably in February, might increase Washington's importance in the national campaigns, since candidates would have a reason to visit the state.

Under current law, the Secretary of State may propose an alternative date for the primary. Last Friday, Secretary of State Sam Reed convened a panel consisting of members of both major political parties to pick a date for the presidential primary. The Republicans, including Sam Reed, supported February 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the same date that several other states are using. The Democrats on the panel supported March 19<sup>th</sup> as the date for the presidential primary. The meeting ended in a stalemate, as neither date got the required six votes.

The two parties differ on whether they would use the results of the presidential primary in assigning delegates to the national conventions. In 2000 (there was no primary in 2004) the Republicans used the results of the primary to allocate one third of the Washington delegates, with the remaining delegates chosen through the party's caucus system. The Democratic Party has never used the results of the primary to allocate delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Final party decisions are expected next month.

**League positions:** League supports a presidential primary only if the results play a decisive part in selecting party nominees. League also has strong positions in support of citizen participation in the electoral process.

**Status:** The bill has been heard in House Appropriations, but has evidently not progressed further.

**Action:** Contact your representatives or your member of the House Appropriations Committee and ask that the

parties **EITHER**:

- a. Agree on an early date for the primary and agree to use at least part of the votes in the primary to determine delegate selection and **OPPOSE** the bill, or
- b. **SUPPORT** the bill and cancel the presidential primary.

**Contact:** Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, [jaybetty2@msn.com](mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com)

### **SUPPORT Operating Budget— INCLUDE Funding—Study of Public and Traditional Financing of Campaigns**

Governor Gregoire has requested \$150,000 to study expenditures between public financing and traditional financing of campaigns. In addition, the study would provide an assessment of the amount of money necessary to adequately fund a public financing program for appellate judicial positions.

#### **League Positions:**

- Representative Government: Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and promote citizen participation in the election process. Administration of Justice: Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel.
- Campaign Financing: Campaign contributions should be limited. These limits should apply both to state and out-of-state contributions. The PDC should implement laws pertaining to these limitations.
- Administration of Justice: Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel.

**Status:** The proviso was not in the Senate Ways & Means budget, nor in the House Appropriations budget.

**Action:** Contact [your Senator and Representatives](#) to include the \$150,000 in the final budget.

**Contact:** Susan Sanders, 253-833-9376, [DavidAndSusan@Sanders.name](mailto:DavidAndSusan@Sanders.name)

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## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

### ESSB 6001—**Mitigating the impacts of climate change**

**Status:** This bill has been rewritten in the WET Committee of the House after the public hearing. We support ESSB 6001 as it passed the Senate. Negotiations are taking place.

**Contact:** Toni Potter [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net) 206 365 8949

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## FOR REFERENCE

### **K**ey Session Dates

The 60th Washington State Legislature opened its long session on Monday, January 8. The 2007 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 8 to April 22. Every day (including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays) is counted in the 105-day session. The Lobby Team will meet regularly during the session to talk with the League lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown, and to decide on priority action for the upcoming week.

**Jan. 8** – First day of regular session

**Jan. 19** – LWVWA Lobby Day

**Feb. 28** – Last day for any bill to be considered in **policy** committee of its “house of origin” (House for HB, or Senate for SB)

**Mar. 5** – Last day for any bill to be considered in **fiscal** committee of its “house of origin”

**Mar. 14** – Last day for bills to be considered on the floor of their “house of origin” (5 p.m.)

**Mar. 30** – Last day for bills to be considered in a **policy** committee of the opposite house (Senate for HB, or House for SB)

**Apr. 2** – Last day for bills to be considered in a **fiscal** committee of the opposite house

**Apr. 13** – Last day for bills to be considered on the floor of the opposite house (5 p.m.) except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implementing budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session.

**Apr. 22** – Last day of regular session

### **C**ONTACT LISTS

Portfolios / Lobby Team – [www.lwvwa.org/about/officers.html](http://www.lwvwa.org/about/officers.html)

Legislators – [www.lwwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf](http://www.lwwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf)

Legislative Committees – [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx)

Representation by legislative district – [www.lwwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf](http://www.lwwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf)

## **L** LEAGUE POSITIONS

LWVWA positions – [www.lwwa.org/advocacy/prog\\_in\\_action05-07.html](http://www.lwwa.org/advocacy/prog_in_action05-07.html)

## **R** ESOURCES

League action website – [lwwa.org/advocacy](http://lwwa.org/advocacy)

House Floor Activity as it happens – [flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3](http://flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3)

Senate Floor Activity as it happens – [flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov](http://flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov)

Public hearings as they happen – [tvw.org](http://tvw.org)

Bill information – text, analysis, status, committee action – [apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo)

Bill room (legislative information center) – **360-786-7573**

State budget information – [www.ofm.wa.gov](http://www.ofm.wa.gov)

Governor's website – [governor.wa.gov](http://governor.wa.gov)

Washington state's official website – [access.wa.gov](http://access.wa.gov)

### **Speaking to a Legislator**

Visit, write to, call, or email the legislator directly (see contact list for legislators). Or, use the toll-free Legislative Hotline available weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm:

**800-562-6000** / TTY: 800-635-9993

Legislative hotline operators will send your message to one of your legislators, all three of your legislators, the governor and lieutenant governor, or all of these, as you request. Language translation services are also available. Person placing the call needs to know enough English to understand "Please Wait" and to report the language needed.

### **Addressing a Letter to a Legislator**

Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Senator \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 40600 P.O. Box 404[leg district]

Olympia, WA 98504-0600 Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district]

### **Visiting Your Legislators**

Citizens are welcome to visit their legislators in Olympia on any day during the session. Making an appointment first is prudent but not always required. Later in the session, town hall meetings back in the legislators' home districts are good opportunities for talking to your legislators. Lobby day events provide organized support for visits.

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