



# League of Women Voters of Washington

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

[www.lwvwa.org / advocacy](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy)

Legislative Newsletter, Vol.39, No.4

League office: 4710 University Way NE #214, Seattle 98105 / 206-622-8961 / 800-419-2596 / [lwvwa@lwvwa.org](mailto:lwvwa@lwvwa.org)

~~~~~

## ACTION PRIORITY

February 2 - 8, 2007

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

### **SUPPORT eliminating toxic flame retardants (PBDEs)**

#### **SHB 1024 / SSB 5034 —Phase Out Toxic Flame Retardants (PBDEs)**

This is one of the four **"PRIORITIES FOR A HEALTHY WASHINGTON"**.

**League Positions:** LWVUS Environmental Protection & Pollution Control, LWVUS Early Intervention for Children At Risk, LWVWA Toxics in the Home

**Status:** Both bills will be coming up for floor votes today, tomorrow, or next week.

**SSB 5034** is in the **Senate Rules Committee**.

**SHB 1024** is in the **House Rules Committee**.

**Action:** *If you have not already done so, please contact your representatives and senator urging their support. We are very close to finally passing this important legislation to phase out these toxic chemicals. The bill to phase out the toxic flame retardants (PBDES) is about to come to a floor vote, probably first in the Senate, then the House. We need one final push to get the job done. THE REQUEST AT THIS TIME IS FOR CALLS AND EMAILS TO ALL LEGISLATORS ASKING FOR SUPPORT FOR THE PBDE BILL.*

#### **Talking points:**

- There is growing evidence that PBDEs accumulate in living organisms.
- PBDEs have been found in air, land, and water; in mothers' breast milk, orcas, and household dust.
- These chemicals may cause liver, thyroid, and neuro-developmental damage.
- Alternative flame retardants are available.

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

~~~~~

## Other ACTION ITEMS

"If you can make another call or two..."

#### **SUPPORT—HB 1014—Encouraging safe storage of firearms**

Declares that, except as otherwise provided in the act, a person is guilty of reckless endangerment if the person stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access, and a child obtains possession of the loaded firearm.

**League Position:** Government should regulate the ownership and possession of firearms and limit their accessibility.

**Status:** Referred to **House Judiciary Committee**

**Action:** Call or write your legislators and let them know you support this common-sense measure to prevent gun violence.

**Contact:** Peggy Saari, 206-525-0132, [peggysaari@comcast.net](mailto:peggysaari@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT—SB 5197 / HB 1026—Regulating the sale of firearms at gun shows and events**

**League Position:** Government should regulate the ownership and possession of firearms and limit their accessibility.

**Status:** Public hearing scheduled for February 8 at 3:30pm, in the **Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development**.

**Action:** Attend the Senate public hearing if you can and sign in as being “Pro” SB 5197. Visit your senator and let him/her know you support this common sense measure to prevent gun violence.

**Message:** In 2005, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gave the State of Washington a grade of **D+** on our laws for preventing gun violence. We have no laws to prevent gun access by children, and we have no laws to prevent buying a gun at gun shows. At gun shows, sellers are not required to do background checks on buyers the way licensed gun dealers must. We need gun control laws in our state.

**Contact:** Peggy Saari, 206-525-0132, [peggysaari@comcast.net](mailto:peggysaari@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT—SB 5226 / HB 1589 and HB 1186—Clean Elections Bills: Modifying provisions in judicial campaigns**

The Senate bill would establish a pilot public campaign financing system for appellate judicial positions in order to reduce the impact of special interests in judicial campaigns. HB 1589 is SB 5226's companion bill in the House. HB 1186 would create a public financing system for appellate court positions and is similar to the Senate bill but also contains provisions for contribution limits on independent expenditures and for prohibiting use of the general treasury funds of corporations, limited liability partnerships, and associations or labor organizations for the purpose of influencing an election for an appellate court judicial position.

**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.
- **Campaign Financing:** Campaign contributions should be limited. These limits should apply to both 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:** SB 5226 was discussed in executive session of the **Senate Committee on Government Operations and Elections** on February 1. Public hearings before the **House Committee on State Government and Tribal Affairs** are scheduled for HB 1589 and HB 1186 on Wednesday, February 7.

**Action:** *Contact House committee members urging their support for a judicial candidate public campaign financing bill.*

**Contact:** Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, [bcchamberlin@harbornet.com](mailto:bcchamberlin@harbornet.com)

**SUPPORT—HB 1297 and SB 5297—Medically and scientifically accurate sexual health education in schools**

These bills require that sexual education programs in the schools provide medically and scientifically accurate information using guidelines developed by the Washington State Department of Health and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The survey, Sex Education in Washington Public Schools, is available on line at [www.healthyyouthalliance.org](http://www.healthyyouthalliance.org). It details what is occurring at present.

**League Position:** LWVWA Reproductive Rights

**Status:** A public hearing was held on January 25 in the **House Committee on Health Care & Wellness**. I think it went well. The opponents were subdued.

**Action:** If your representative is a member of this committee, please ask that he/she vote in support of this measure.

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

**SUPPORT—HB 1303—Encourage the use of cleaner energy**

Use would be encouraged specifically through replacement of polluting diesel engines, especially school buses; incentives for development of in-state clean feedstock/fuels; reducing fossil fuel consumption by state fleets; development of new technologies for displacing petroleum with electricity; and accounting procedures for Washington to respond to global warming impacts.

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

**Status:** There will be a vote on this bill in **House Agriculture & Natural Resource Committee** on February 5 at 1:30 PM

**Action:** If you are a constituent of any of the following committee members, call and ask your representative to support HB 1303: Morris, McCoy, Crouse, McCune, Dunn, Eddy, Hankins, Hudgins, Hurst, Takko, Van De Wege

**Contact:** Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, [mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT—HB 1360 and HB 1362 (amended)—Clean Elections Bills: Comprehensive Public Financing of Campaigns**

These bills would create a system of full public funding of campaigns for all statewide and legislative offices similar to public financing systems currently operating in the states of Maine and Arizona.

**League Positions:** See SB 5226

**Status:** A public hearing before the **House Committee on State Government and Tribal Affairs** is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7. This legislation is unlikely to pass in the 2007 session but is important for legislative and public education purposes and as an opportunity for the public to voice its support for limiting the influence of special interest money in Washington state political campaigns and refocusing them on issues important to voters.

**Action:** Although not a priority action item, HB 1360/1362 provides an opportunity for LWVWA to get on the legislative record as a strong supporter for a system of public campaign financing similar to those in place in Maine and Arizona. Call your legislators, especially those on the House committee, and urge them to support this legislation.

**General Call to Action:** *The House Committee on State Government and Tribal Affairs has scheduled hearings for all public financing bills, i.e., HB 1186, HB 1360, HB 1362, HB 1551, HB 1589, on Wednesday, February 7, beginning at 1:30 p.m. A strong show of support from League members could be important in gaining legislative momentum for these bills. Please consider being in Olympia on February 7 and signing in at these hearings.*

**Contact:** Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, [bcchamberlin@harbournet.com](mailto:bcchamberlin@harbournet.com)

**SUPPORT—HB 1460 and SB 5446—Mental Health Parity**

HB 1460 and SB 5446 extend existing mental health parity requirements to individual and small group plans. Parity for the small group and individual insurance markets would match the existing schedule now in place for the large group market. Beginning January 1, 2008, copayment requirements and maximum out-of-pocket limits would go into effect; on July 1, 2010, arbitrary day/visit limits would be removed and a single deductible for mental health services and other health services would be introduced.

**League Positions:** The State League has been a member of the Washington Coalition for Insurance Parity since 2000 and was a strong supporter of the bill that passed last year to achieve parity for mental health coverage in the large group insurance market. The goal has always been to include people insured through individual and small group insurance plans under the parity requirements.

**Status:** Hearings are scheduled Thursday, February 8 in the **Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee**, and tentatively for Monday, February 12 in the **House Health Care and Wellness Committee**.

**Action:** If your legislature is on either of these committees, call them in advance of the hearing and ask them to vote for this important bill. If you have an opportunity to visit your legislator, use the talking points included in this newsletter in the "Background" section.

**MESSAGE FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

*I respectfully urge you to vote "yes" on Senate Bill 5446 (House Bill 1460), the mental health parity bill, and to pass the bill out of committee. It is time to end insurance discrimination against people living with a mental illness! Mental health parity will result in only minimal increases to insurance premiums in the small group and individual insurance markets. These small increases to insurance premiums are more than outweighed by the benefits to small businesses and individuals in terms of reductions in other health care costs, increased productivity, less absenteeism, and fewer claims for disability and unemployment insurance. Please vote "yes" on the mental health parity bill.*

**Contact:** Ann Brand, 206-533-6269, [anklbrand@comcast.net](mailto:anklbrand@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT—SB 5278 and HB 1551—Clean Elections Bills: Financing Campaigns for Local Office**

These bills would lift the ban on use of public funds to finance political campaigns for local elective offices which was imposed in 1992 by Initiative 134. In the 2006 legislative session, an identical local option bill failed to get a floor vote in the House, although the Senate passed an amended version.

**League Positions:** See write-up for SB 5226

**Status:** The League testified for the Senate bill at a public hearing in the **Senate Committee on Government Operations and Elections** on February 1. A hearing in the **House Committee on State Government and Tribal Affairs** is scheduled for HB 1551 on Wednesday, February 7.

**Action:** Contact legislators on both committees to urge their support for these local option bills.

**Contact:** Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, [bcchamberlin@harbornet.com](mailto:bcchamberlin@harbornet.com)

**Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee**

**Karen Keiser** - Chair (D)  
**Rosa Franklin** - Vice Chair (D)  
**Cheryl Pflug** - Ranking Minority Member (R)  
**Mike Carrell** (R)  
**Darlene Fairley** (D)  
**Jim Kastama** (D)  
**Jeanne Kohl-Welles** (D)  
**Chris Marr** (D)  
**Linda Evans Parlette** (R)

**House Health Care & Wellness Committee**

**Eileen Cody** - Chair (D)  
**Dawn Morrell** - Vice Chair (D)  
**Bill Hinkle** - Ranking Minority Member (R)  
**Gary Alexander** (R)  
**Don Barlow** (D)  
**Tom Campbell** (R)  
**Cary Condotta** (R)  
**Richard Curtis** (R)  
**Tami Green** (D)  
**Jim Moeller** (D)  
**Jamie Pedersen** (D)  
**Shay Schual-Berke** (D)  
**Larry Seaquist** (D)

**SUPPORT with concerns—SB 5627 and HB 1661—Financing Basic Education**

SB 5627 is the best bill introduced so far that addresses Basic Education funding. It would require the WA State Institute for Public Policy to develop a new K-12 funding structure by Jan. 1, 2008. The Institute would be required to review reports completed for or by the Washington Learns K-12 advisory committee. HB 1661, on the other hand, would require a study of the cost for the state to deliver Basic Education (the state paid \$800,000 for this to be done as part of **Washington Learns**), with a final report by Nov. 1, 2008, almost a year later than SB 5627.

**League Position:** The state has the responsibility for amply funding education through the Basic Education Act. All programs mandated by the legislature should be fully funded by the state.

**Status:** A public hearing was held on SB 5627 in the **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee** on January 25 and by the **House Education Committee** on HB 1661 on February 2.

**Action:** Contact your legislators and ask that they support full funding of basic education. We are requesting that some immediate relief be provided for school districts for the 2007-08 school year and that the provision for automatically granting a request for additional time be removed from the bill.

**Contact:** Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com)

**SUPPORT—SB 5304—Providing Exemption from Special Fuel Taxes for RTAs**

This would expand the exemption of special fuel taxes to include vehicles operated by the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs). This would encourage more public transit. Companion bill is HB 1294.

**Position:** (LWVUS) Air Quality, element 1

**Status:** Public hearing in **Senate Transportation Committee** on February 6 at 3:30 PM

**Action:** If you are a constituent of any of the following committee members, call and ask your senator to support SB 5304: Haugen, Marr, Murray, Swecker; Benton; Berkey; Clements, Delvin, Eide, Holmquist, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer, Pflug, Sheldon, Spanel

**Contact:** Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, [mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT—SB 5749—Relating to Brassica Seed Production**

Promotes good management of farm crops and seeds of Brassica (i.e. mustard or rapeseed), which is one of the primary and a more efficient source for production of alternative biofuels. Companion bill is HB 1888.

**Position:** (LWVUS) Energy, element 5

**Status:** Public hearing in **Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development**, February 6 at 9AM.

**Action:** If you are a constituent of any of the following committee members call and ask your senator to support SB 5749: Rasmussen, Hatfield, Schoesler; Jacobsen, Morton, Shin

**Contact:** Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, [mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT—Increased Funding for Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP)**

This is one of the four **"PRIORITIES FOR A HEALTHY WASHINGTON"**. The **WWRP** develops sites for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation including local and state parks, water access, trails, critical wildlife habitat, natural areas, urban wildlife habitat, farmlands, riparian areas, state parks development, and state parks restoration.

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

**Status:** This is a capital budget request of \$70 million in the governor's budget. There are no related bills for this priority at this time. The environmental priority is to increase the funding for the WWRP program to \$100 million for the biennium.

**Action:** Please contact your legislators urging their support for WWRP funding. In addition to the general expression of support to your legislators for the WWRP program, here is a very specific thing each of you can do. Go onto the website for [WWRP](#). Click on “my backyard.” There you will find WWRP programs arranged by cities, countries and legislative districts. When you click on any of these, you will see lists of “places at risk”, which are the projects that are included in the WWRP biennial program IF the requested funding increase is enacted by the legislature. Also, there are lists in each category of “funded projects,” which name WWRP projects already funded and completed or nearing completion in your area. When you contact your legislator, you can call attention to what WWRP has already in your area and what is proposed in urging support for this program.

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

~~~~~  
**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

**Initiative and Referendum**

Some bills relating to initiatives and referenda have been scheduled for hearings in the **Government Operations and Elections Committee of the Senate**. They are:

- SB 5181 – would require that signature gatherers wear identification. The identification would state whether the person is a paid signature gatherer and, if so, who is paying the person. If the person is an unpaid volunteer, this would also be stated.
- SB 5182 – would require that initiative and referendum petitions include a place for signature gatherers to sign their name, address, city, and county in which the signature gatherer is registered to vote. This information would appear on the reverse side of each page of the petition, along with an oath that no person was paid to sign the petition.
- SB 5356 – would prohibit paying the signature gatherers on a per-signature basis.
- SB 5392 – would increase the initiative filing fee from \$5.00 to \$100.00. The filing fee would be refunded in full upon the initiative being certified by the Secretary of State for the general election ballot.
- SJR 8205 – would remove the powers of initiative and referendum from the State Constitution. Sponsor is Sen Jacobsen.

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

**Home Visitation Services for Families**

HB 1365, providing home visitation services for families, was heard in the House Early Learning and Children’s Services Committee on Thursday, January 25 and was scheduled for a vote in executive session January 30.

This bill would authorize the **Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect** (WCPCAN) to fund evidence-based and promising home visitation programs to improve parenting skills and outcomes for children, primarily prenatal through age three. It is believed that the best way to reach young families is to bring services to them in their home environment. This eliminates barriers such as transportation, time, and strange environments for the child. Research reveals that these programs reduce incidences of maltreatment and associated risk factors. Several panels testified about the importance of outcomes for their home visiting programs. Testifying were First Steps from the State Health Department, Children’s Home Society, Docs for Tots, law enforcement members of Fight Crime:

Invest in Kids, King County United Way, and the Business Partnership for Early Learning (BPEL) that awards grants to Neighborhood House and Atlantic Street Center.

Several years ago the concept of home visiting was a top priority for the LWVWA. The First Steps program in the state health department was the result of our efforts. With the establishment of the new Department of Early Learning, we are again witnessing an interest and commitment to parents as the first teachers of their child. The governor's budget has \$1 million in her budget for home visiting.

**Contact:** Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net)  
and Pat Dickason, 360-725-4680, [pdickason@earthlink.net](mailto:pdickason@earthlink.net)

### Home Visits for Medicaid Children with Asthma

Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles has taken the lead in the Senate for funding a pilot project to demonstrate the cost savings and better health of Medicaid children with moderate to severe asthma who receive home visits from medical practitioners. We can save the most money by helping the sickest children. On January 19, Senator Kohl-Welles met with representatives from the LWVWA, American Lung Association of Washington, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and King County government to discuss the issue. The senator has personal experience with asthma in a family member. Sens Rosa Franklin and Cheryl Pflug have also been contacted, as have Reps Glen Anderson, Jay Rodne, Tom Campbell, Eileen Cody, Ross Hunter, and Larry Seaquist. Rep. Shay Schual-Berke, MD, has taken the lead on this issue in the House. Hearings may be announced at a later date.

**Contact:** John Roberts, 425-868-9439, [jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org](mailto:jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org)

### Ballot Title Declarations of Tax Impact

The **Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee** held a hearing this week on SB 5418, introduced by Sen. Pam Roach (R, District 31). SB 5418 would require that a statement describing the amount any local referendum or other measure would increase or decrease taxes be included in the 75-word ballot title for that local referendum or measure. In opposing the bill, the witness for the **state school board association** expressed the concern that it is difficult to accurately predict the tax impact of levies and bond measures, and that putting something which turned out to be erroneous in the ballot title would invalidate the levy or bond measure. Sen. Roach expressed her willingness to work with the school board association to address their concerns.

**Contact:** Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, [omi.bush@verizon.net](mailto:omi.bush@verizon.net)

### Review of Tax Preferences

The 2006 legislature established the **Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences** and directed it to develop a schedule for review of all of the state's tax preferences at least once every ten years. The **Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee** (JLARC) is supposed to review the preferences according to the schedule developed by the commission. There are two forms of review – either a **full study** or an **expedited review for those that have an estimated biennial fiscal impact of \$10 million or less**. Omitted from review are several categories of tax preferences identified by statute (for example, tax preferences required by constitutional law). Any tax preference that the commission determines is a critical part of the structure of the tax system may also be omitted.

For each tax preference, JLARC is supposed to provide recommendations to (1) continue, (2) modify, (3) add an expiration date and conduct another review prior to that date, or (4) terminate the preference. According to the schedule adopted by the commission, sixteen preferences will get an expedited review this year while the following six will get a full review:

| Preference                           | Year Enacted |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cemeteries                           | 1854         |
| Churches, parsonages and convents    | 1854         |
| Household goods                      | 1871         |
| Nonprofit hospitals                  | 1886         |
| Nonsectarian organizations           | 1915         |
| Refund of fuel tax for exported fuel | 1923         |

Each year, in conducting the studies, JLARC answers a series of questions adopted by the legislature. After review and comment by Washington state's OFM and Department of Revenue, the reports first go to the commission for comment and then get passed to the legislature.

**Contact:** Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, [omi.bush@verizon.net](mailto:omi.bush@verizon.net)

## Mental Health Parity

Here are some TALKING POINTS to use if you have a chance to visit with your legislator:

- “Mental health parity” means mental health services are covered in a manner comparable to other health services. Parity means insurers must provide the same annual or lifetime dollar limits, copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, out-of-pocket maximums, and day/visit limits for mental health services as for other health services.
- Parity results in minimal premium increases. In December 2006, Milliman Consultants and Actuaries published an actuarial analysis of the proposed parity legislation for the small group and individual market in Washington State. The analysis concluded the legislation would produce premium increases between 0.5 and 0.9 percent for the small group plans and between 1.2 and 1.5 percent for individual plans.
- Parity saves businesses money. The cost to businesses of absenteeism, lost productivity, and claims for disability and unemployment insurance due untreated mental illness is greater than the cost on mental health parity. In 1999, the US Surgeon General reported the indirect costs of mental illness imposed an estimated \$79 billion loss on the US economy in 1990. According the US Department of Labor, the \$79 billion would be worth more than \$123 billion today.
- Small businesses support parity. According to a 2006 statewide survey of 388 small businesses by the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations and the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, “...more than three-quarters of respondents say that mental health services should receive coverage equal to that given other services in an insurance plan.” Six states have enacted mental health parity laws requiring comparable mental health insurance for small businesses. The experience from those states demonstrates that parity does not result in significant cost increases, nor in small businesses dropping health coverage.
- Many organizations and small businesses all across Washington support this legislation: 142 organizations, more than 110 small businesses, and the Greater Seattle Business Association (representing more than 900 additional small businesses) support extending the existing Washington State mental health parity law to the small group (small business) and individual insurance markets (lists of these organizations and businesses are available from the office of the Washington Coalition for Insurance Parity).
- It is time to end discrimination against mental illness. The mental health parity law enacted in 2005 does not protect 540,000 Washington residents covered in the individual and small group insurance markets. All health plans for small groups in Washington State include arbitrary treatment and financial barriers to mental health services that are unfair, discriminatory, and unnecessary. The individual insurance market does not provide any mental health benefits.

**Contact:** Ann Brand, 206-533-6269, [anklbrand@comcast.net](mailto:anklbrand@comcast.net)

-----

## 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 HB)

**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.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf](http://www.lwvwa.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.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf)

### **L**EAGUE POSITIONS

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

### **R**ESOURCES

League action website – [lwvwa.org/advocacy](http://lwvwa.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 – [twv.org](http://twv.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.