



# League of Women Voters of Washington

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

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## ACTION PRIORITY

February 15 - 21, 2007

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

**SUPPORT public funding of judicial campaigns**

**SUPPORT mitigating impacts of climate change**

**SUPPORT encouraging use of cleaner energy**

### SSB 5226 and HB 1589—Public Funding of Judicial Campaigns

The goal of public financing of campaigns is to reduce the impact of special interests in campaigns. The Senate bill would establish a six-year pilot program for public campaign financing for appellate judicial positions only. **HB 1589** is SSB 5226's companion bill in the House. (Compare this legislation with HB 1186 listed under "Other Action Items").

#### League Positions:

- 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 to both state and out-of-state contributions. The PDC should implement laws pertaining to these limitations.
- 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.

**Status:** No hearing yet scheduled for **SSB 5226** by **Senate Ways & Means Committee**.

**Action:** Contact **Senate Ways & Means Committee** members urging them to hear and move SSB 5226 forward in the Senate. (Senate appears 'friendlier' than House on a judicial bill.)

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

### SB 6001—Mitigating Impacts of Climate Change

The purpose of this bill is to reduce global warming. The bill would

- Establish state goals to reduce greenhouse gases emissions
- Require the Department of Ecology to establish a greenhouse gas emissions performance standard for electric utilities operating in the state
- Authorize the Department of General Administration to purchase 100 plug-in hybrid vehicles when commercially available
- Authorize municipal electric utilities and public utility districts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from their electricity operations and purchases
- Create the Office of Washington State Climatologist
- Create a public utility tax credit for consumer-owned utilities that invest in energy efficiency measures

**League Positions:** LWVUS Energy elements 3 & 5

**Status:** Bill was heard in **Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee**

**Action:** If your senator is on this committee, call him or her and request they support the bill. Committee members are **Poulsen** (Chair), **Rockefeller**, **Honeyford**, **Delvin**, **Fraser**, **Holmquist**, **Marr**, **Morton**, **Oemig**, **Pridemore**, **Regala**

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

**HB 1303—Encouraging Use of Cleaner Energy**

This is one of the environmental **Priorities for a Healthy Washington**. Under this House bill, and its Senate companion **SB 5586**, clean energy use would be encouraged by

- replacement of polluting diesel engines, *especially school buses*
- use of incentives for developing in-state clean feedstock/fuels
- reduction of fossil fuel consumption in state fleets
- development of new technologies for displacing petroleum with electricity
- establishment of accounting procedures for Washington State that respond to global warming impacts
- creation of the Clean Energy Incentive Account

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

**Status:** Public hearing for **HB 1303** is scheduled for the **House Appropriations Committee** on Tuesday, February 20 at 3:30 PM.

**Action:** If you are a constituent of any of the committee members, call and ask them to support this bill.

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

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**Other ACTION ITEMS**

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

**SUPPORT—HB 1886 and SB 5756—Creating the Washington Health Security Trust**

These bills would create a single-payer, universal-access system of health care for Washington state by creating a single financing entity called the Washington Health Security Trust. It would offer coverage for a comprehensive package of effective and necessary personal health services, independent of employment. It would integrate current publicly sponsored health programs into the Health Security Trust. It would preserve choice of providers, promote health care quality, control excessive health care costs, eliminate excessive administrative costs resulting from the current fragmented system of multiple insurers, and generate savings sufficient to ensure coverage for all Washington residents.

**League Position:** LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services. These bills offer a means of achieving universal coverage for all Washingtonians.

**Status:** HB 1886 has been referred to the House Health Care & Wellness Committee. A public hearing has not yet been scheduled in this committee. SB 5756 is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on February 22.

**Action:** If your legislator is a member of the **House Health Care & Wellness Committee**, contact him/her asking that a hearing on this bill be scheduled. Members of the House Health Care & Wellness

Committee are Cody (chair), Alexander, Barlow, Campbell, Condotta, Curtis, Green, Hinkle, Moeller, Morrell, Pedersen, Schual-Berke, Seaquist. If your legislator serves on the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee, contact her/him and urge support for SB 5756. Members of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee are Keiser (chair), Franklin, Pflug, Carrell, Fairley, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Parlette.

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

**OPPOSE—SB 5535—Relating to School District Boards of Directors**

This bill would authorize the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct a performance audit of school boards, create a new Office of School Director Training and Instruction in the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), require a certain number of hours of training each year for directors, and allow citizens to petition the county auditor to put on the ballot a change from elected to appointed school boards. Who shall appoint the board or who shall pay for an election is not addressed.

**League Position:** LWV believes in representative government and promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

**Status:** The Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee will hold a public hearing on SB 5535 on Feb. 22 at 10:00 am.

**Action:** If your senator is on the [Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education](#), please ask that he/she oppose this bill.

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

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

These bills extend the existing mental health parity requirements to individual and small group health insurance plans.

**League Position:** 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:** HB 1460 received a “do pass” recommendation from the House Health Care & Wellness Committee in executive session on February 14, and SB 5446 was heard in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on February 8.

**Action:** If your legislator is on the [Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee](#), call him/her and ask them to vote for this important bill and pass it out of committee. Committee members are Keiser (chair), Franklin, Pflug, Carrell, Fairley, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Parlette

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

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS—SB 5372—Puget Sound Partnership**

Sen. Rockefeller, at the governor's request, is sponsoring this Puget Sound governance bill. This version of the bill is more action and results-oriented—

- timelines are moved forward
- the need for a significant increase in funding is documented
- state agencies, local governments, and ports are required to use their authority to implement the plan to the fullest extent possible.

Companion bill in the House is HB 1374.

**League Positions:** Our Land Use positions support regional entities who have authority to resolve conflicts and implement plans of regional scope.

**Status:** Amendments will be considered next week in **Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications**. This Puget Sound Partnership bill is one of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington and of utmost significance for our Puget Sound region. League participates in the coalition Priorities for Healthy Washington that selected and are working together on the bill.

**Action:** League urges amendments in regards to establishing an independent science committee and adding more accountability measures. Contact Sen. Rockefeller and thank him for the strengthening amendments. Urge him to establish an independent science committee, augment the accountability measures, and pass the substitute bill out of committee.

**Contact:** Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, [aagaarda@nwlinc.com](mailto:aagaarda@nwlinc.com)

### **SUPPORT—HB 1855 and SB 5297—Regarding Sex Education in Schools**

These are companion bills which would require that all sex education programs presented in schools to be medically and scientifically accurate. The programs would also have to be comprehensive, i.e. abstinence would be included in the program but condoms and other contraceptives would also be included.

**League Position:** (LWVUS) Access to Health Care includes sex education programs

**Status:** HB 1855 has been passed out of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee and is to have a hearing in the **House Appropriations Committee** on February 15. The Senate bill had a hearing in the **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee** on February 14 which seemed to go reasonably well.

**Action:** If your senator is on the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee, please ask them to vote the bill out with a recommendation of “do pass.” Also, please continue to ask your representatives to support the House bill.

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

### **SUPPORT—SSB 5278 and HB 1551—Public Funding of Campaigns for Local Office**

These bills would lift the ban (imposed in 1992 by Initiative 134) on the use of public funds to finance political campaigns for local elective offices. (The ban on use of public funds to finance statewide campaigns would remain.)

#### **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.

**Status:** Executive session on February 15 for **SB 5278** was held in the **Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee**, which approved a substitute bill to apply only to cities, and then passed the bill on to Senate **Rules**. No action on companion **HB 1551** in the **House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee**.

**Action:** These local control bills may have a good chance of passing. They came close in 2006. Legislators on the Senate and House committees need their constituents to encourage them to move these bills along. Contact committee members urging their support for the local control bills.

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

### **SUPPORT—HB 1071 and SB 5093—Health Care Services for Children**

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) would be directed to design one seamless health coverage program for children under the age of 19 with family incomes at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Children with family incomes above 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level would have an opportunity to purchase coverage from DSHS (without state subsidy). Included in the bill are provisions designed to support wellness as well as health care (for example, assuring that children have an effective medical home, healthy food choices, and sufficient physical activity at schools).

**League Position:** LWVWA position on health care supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services. These bills move the system toward the goal of universal coverage for children.

**Status:** Second Substitute Bill 5093 was passed in the Senate (38 to 9) on February 14. It is scheduled for a hearing in House Appropriations on February 20.

**Action:** Thank your senator if he/she voted for the bill. Also, if your representative is on the **House Appropriations Committee**, please make contact and urge support for this bill. Committee members are Sommers (chair), Dunshee, Alexander, Haler, Anderson, Bailey, Buri, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Ericks, Fromhold, Grant, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kretz, Linville, McDermott, McDonald, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, P. Sullivan.

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

### **SUPPORT—HB 1827—Requiring a Tax Expenditure Report as Part of Biennial Budget Documents**

A tax expenditure report as part of the state's budget documents would provide current information about the fiscal impact of tax exemptions at the time the legislature is considering spending and revenue measures for the biennial budget. Under current law, the Department of Revenue prepares a tax expenditure report every four years, but preparation of the report does not coincide with the budget and does not contain complete fiscal information.

**League Position:** Any tax exemption proposal should be carefully evaluated for purpose, benefit, and cost; and, all tax exemptions should be periodically reviewed.

**Status:** I testified February 13 in the **House Finance Committee** in support of HB 1827. The bill is still in committee.

**Action:** If you have a representative on the House Finance Committee, call or write them to say you support this bill.

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

### **SUPPORT—HB 1186—Public Campaign Financing (Judicial Election Reform Act)**

The goal of public financing of campaigns is to reduce the impact of special interests in campaigns. HB 1186, which would create a public financing system for appellate court positions, is similar to Senate Bill 5226 but also contains provisions for contribution limits on independent expenditures and for prohibiting use of the general treasury funds of corporations, limited liability partnerships, associations, or labor organizations for the purpose of influencing an election for an appellate court judicial position. There is a proposed Substitute HB 1186 that would remove these prohibitions.

#### **League Positions:**

- 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.
- 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.

**Status:** Public hearing was held in committee, but no action has been taken on bill since then. **House Appropriations Subcommittee on Government** will hear testimony Wednesday and Thursday on budget, so contact committee members to include dollars for judicial bill. Note that HB1186 is more expensive than HB 1589 (listed under "Action Priorities", at approximately \$462,000 for biennium.

**Action:** Action by LWVWA members could make a big difference in the fate of these bills, so please contact committee members now. **House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee** members need to hear from constituents that they support HB 1186.

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

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### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

#### **Subsidy Rate Increases for Center-Based Child Care At Risk!**

The State of Washington subsidizes child care for children of low-income parents while parents are working or training for work. Child care providers who offer care in their homes are represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). SEIU negotiated rate increases for these providers; the increases are included in Gov. Gregoire's budget. Child care centers are not represented by a union. Gov. Gregoire's budget includes raises for centers at parity with the raises given to home providers.

Please contact your representatives today to urge them to support funding for increasing child care center subsidy rates as included in Gov. Gregoire's budget. Representatives who are members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and the House Appropriations Committee are particularly important contacts. Please mention that you support the governor's level of child care center funding. Also, please mention that you oppose diverting any of the child care center subsidy for other purposes.

**Contact:** Pat Dickason, 360-753-7647, [p.dickason@comcast.net](mailto:p.dickason@comcast.net)  
or Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net)

#### **Election Bills**

- **SB 5530**—Changing requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies. On February 13th this bill received a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections. A League representative testified in favor the bill. It has been scheduled for executive session February 19 in committee. The companion **House Bill 1473** was scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on January 31. No further action is recorded.
- **SB 5196**—Requiring no primary in non-partisan races for which only two candidates have filed. This bill was heard by the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections and has not been voted out. The Secretary of State's office testified in favor of the bill.
- **HB 1420**—Modifying provisions on primary election ballots. This bill, requested by the Secretary of State, was passed out of the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs, and has been placed on second reading by the House Rules Committee. **SB 5408**, its companion bill, was

heard in Government Operations & Elections and was passed to Rules Committee for a second reading.

- **HB 1653**—Modifying when a special election may be held, has had no action in the House since it was referred to State Government & Tribal Affairs on January 24. **Senate Bill 5271**, its companion bill, received a public hearing in Government Operations & Elections, executive action was taken on February 13, and the bill was passed by a majority vote. First substitute received a do pass, and the bill went to the Rules Committee for a second reading.
- **HB 1528**—Providing for electronic voter registration. This bill received a public hearing in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs, and was passed to Rules Committee for a second reading. No further action occurred. Companion bill SB 5663 was heard in the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections on Thursday afternoon.
- **SB 5420**—Requiring public agencies to post certain information to their web sites. This bill was referred to Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections, given a public hearing, and a substitute bill received a majority approval. The substitute bill defines “public agency” and specifies in detail the documents that must be posted on the website.
- **SB 5628**—Adopting the interstate agreement for the election of the president of the United States by national popular vote. This bill would authorize the governor to enter an agreement with other states that would require awarding Washington’s electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes in the country as a whole, instead of to the candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes in the state. The act would only go into effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes in the country entered into the same agreement. This would assure that the candidate with the largest number of popular votes would also receive the most electoral votes. This bill is in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and was heard on February 15. The companion bill is **HB 1750**, which was referred to the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs. No further action has been taken on the bill so far.

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

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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 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 CONTACT LISTS

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

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

## R RESOURCES

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 – [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.