



League of Women Voters of Washington

Barbara Seitle, President // Barbara L. Bush, Action Chair // Newsletter edited by Laura McCarty-Johnson

www.lwvwa.org / [advocacy](#)

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ACTION PRIORITY

January 19 - January 25, 2008

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

SUPPORT local option public campaign financing

SSB 5278 & SHB 1551 would restore the option of using public funds for financing local political campaigns. The substitute version of Senate Bill 5278 eliminates the prohibition on use of public funds for local campaign financing but restricts the local public financing option to cities only. After a public hearing on the bill, Sen. Darlene Fairley (chair of senate committee) amended the bill to require a local referendum or advisory ballot from voters prior to the actual implementation of any local public funding system. The substitute version of House Bill 1551 removes the prohibition on using public funds for financing local political campaigns with one restriction: only local funds are to be used in the public financing mechanisms.

League Position—*Representative Government - 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—Both bills were introduced last session and retained their status by resolution. Public hearing on Substitute SB 5278 held this session (Jan. 17) in Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections, and a committee vote in executive session is scheduled for Jan.21. Substitute HB 1551 received a public hearing last session, was voted out of committee, and was sent to House Rules Committee. This session, the bill is in Rules awaiting a floor vote. Prospects for House Speaker Frank Chopp bringing SHB 1551 to a floor vote and its subsequent passage are favorable but by no means certain.

Action—Contact your representatives requesting that they ask Speaker Chopp to call for a vote on SHB 1551, and contact Speaker Chopp directly with this request. House Rules committee members are **Chopp (chair); DeBolt; Armstrong; Bailey; Ericks; Ericksen; Grant; Green; Hudgins; Hurst; Kelley; Kessler; Kristiansen; McCune; McDonald; Moeller; Morrell; Morris; Newhouse; Ormsby; Santos; Springer; Sump; Williams**

Also, with a committee executive session vote on SSB 5278 scheduled for Monday, contact your members on the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections asking for their support for an unrestricted local options bill, preferably without restrictions, but in whatever form it emerges from committee. Committee members are **Fairley (chair); Oemig (vice chair); Roach; Benton; Kline; McDermott; Pridemore; Swecker**

Contact—Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, bcchamberlin@harboret.com

Legislative Session Begins Your Voice Is Needed

One week of the short (60-day) legislative session is already behind us—eight weeks to go before they wrap up for the year. Three features stand out in this session. First, it's short, so everything will happen very quickly. Second, the economic picture isn't so rosy, so there won't be much new spending. Third, it's an election year and that will color all the action. Your Lobby Team (nineteen volunteers and our paid lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown) are already hard at work representing the League on all the issues we care about. But YOUR VOICE IS ALSO NEEDED. This newsletter serves two purposes: to keep our members informed each week *and* to request that you take action. Call or email your legislators on the League's priority issues for the week and any other issues that are dear to your heart. The newsletter will give you the information you need along with the League position.

— **Barbara L. Bush, LWVWA Action Chair**



*Come to Lobby Day, February 1.
See the Winter Voter for information.
Make appointments to see your legislators that day. Learn about the issues and then go talk to them.*

**We are 2300 strong.
We can make a difference.**



Remember— If a legislator gets 10 emails or telephone calls on a particular issue from voters in their district, they will begin to notice. They know that League members vote! It is YOU they will listen to.

Other ACTION ITEMS

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

SUPPORT—SB 6516 & HB 2815—Climate Action and Green Collar Jobs

These high-priority bills address greenhouse gas emissions and provide for green collar jobs. They would create a structure and timeline for implementing the state’s global warming pollution reduction goals, and would create a competitive grants-based training program (to be funded and implemented in 2009) to train and transition workers to clean-energy jobs.

League Position—(LWVUS) Energy, elements 3 and 5

Status—SB 6516 will be heard in the Senate’s Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee on Tuesday, January 22 at 10am. HB2815 will be heard in the House’s Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on Wednesday, January 23 at 1:30pm.

Action—If your legislator is on one of these committees, call or email him/her and ask that he/she vote the bill out of committee: The senate committee members are **Rockefeller (chair); Murray (vice chair); Honeyford; Delvin; Fraser; Hatfield; Holmquist; Morton; Oemig; Pridemore; Regala**. The house committee members are **McCoy (chair); Eddy (vice chair); Crouse; McCune; Ericksen; Hankins; Herrera; Hudgins; Hurst; Kelley; Morris; Takko; Van De Wege**.

Contact—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net or Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, mwineman@comcast.net

SUPPORT—SB 6309—Disclosure of greenhouse tailpipe emissions

Starting with the 2010 models, all new vehicles would have posted on them the amount of greenhouse gases that particular model emits.

League Position—(LWVUS) Energy, elements 3 and 5

Status—Has been heard in committee. Needs to be voted out.

Action—Call or email your senator if she/he is on the Senate’s Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee and ask them to support the bill: **Rockefeller (chair); Murray (vice chair); Honeyford; Delvin; Fraser; Hatfield; Holmquist; Morton; Oemig; Pridemore; Regala**

Contact—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net or Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, mwineman@comcast.net

SUPPORT—SB 6308—Climate change research, preparation, and adaptation

Authorizes a study that will recommend the elements of a comprehensive plan of climate change research, preparation, and adaptation.

League Position—(LWVUS) Energy, elements 3 and 5

Status—Has been heard in committee. Needs to be voted out.

Action—Call or email your senator if she/he is on the Senate’s Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee and ask them to support the bill: **Rockefeller (chair); Murray (vice chair); Honeyford; Delvin; Fraser; Hatfield; Holmquist; Morton; Oemig; Pridemore; Regala**

Contact—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net or Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, mwineman@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**HB 2424**—**Relating to grocery checkout bags**

Bans thin plastic grocery bags and allows a tax credit to grocery stores amounting to the difference between the cost of other bags they sell to customers and what the store paid for them.

League Position—LWVWA & LWVUS positions on waste, litter, and recycling

Status—Has been heard in committee and needs to be voted out of committee

Action—Call or email your legislator if she/he is on the House's Select Committee on Environmental Health: **Campbell (chair); Hudgins (vice chair); Sump; Chase; Hailey; Hunt; Morrell; Newhouse; Wood**

Contact—Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

SUPPORT—**HB 2423**—**Relating to food service packaging**

This bill prohibits take-out food providers from distributing single-use food service packaging unless it can be composted or recycled. It requires take-out food providers to recover 25 percent of packaging for composting or recycling. It requires take-out food providers to provide containers to collect compostable or recyclable packaging.

League Positions—LWVWA & LWVUS positions on recycling, litter and solid waste

Status—Has been heard in the Select Committee on Environmental Health and needs to be voted out of committee.

Action—Call or email your representative if she/he is on the Select Committee on Environmental Health: **Campbell (chair); Hudgins (vice chair); Sump; Chase; Hailey; Hunt; Morrell; Newhouse; Wood**

Contact—Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

SUPPORT—**SB 6580 & HB 2797**—**Addressing impacts of climate change through the growth management act (GMA)**

This legislation would add a climate change element to larger counties' comprehensive planning processes.

League Position—Land Use positions support considering all known factors in making land use decisions including state planning and technical assistance to local governments.

Status—SB 6580 to be heard in Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 1:30. Its companion House Bill to be heard in House Committee on Local Government on Friday, January 25 at 1:30.

Action—Contact your legislators on these committees and request that the bills be moved out of committee. Members of the house committee are **Simpson (chair); Takko (vice chair); Warnick; Schindler; Eddy; Nelson; Schmick**. Member of the Senate committee are **Fairley (chair); Oemig (vice chair); Roach; Benton; Kline; McDermott; Pridemore; Swecker**

Contact—(Land Use interim chair) Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

SUPPORT—**HB 2530**—**Protecting fish and wildlife affected by hydraulic permits**

This bill would require the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a study to determine how well the department's hydraulic permitting process protects fish and wildlife.

League Position—During last session we supported SSB 6011 implementing the intent of the aquatic reserve adjacent to Maury Island.

Status—Heard last Thursday in House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Action—Contact your legislator on this committee and urge that the bill be moved out of committee with section 6 intact which limits approval or approval renewal within Maury Island aquatic reserve until the evaluation has been completed. Members of the committee are **Blake (chair); Van De Wege (vice chair); Kretz; Warnick; Eickmeyer; Grant; Hailey; Lantz; Loomis; McCoy; Nelson; Newhouse; Orcutt**

Contact—Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

SUPPORT — **HB 2531** — **Limiting leases on aquatic lands**

This bill would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from renewing or entering into new leases “adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, an active or proposed operation to remove sand, gravel, or other minerals” until the DNR conducts a thorough study of all sand and gravel resources on all state lands.

League Position—During last session we supported SSB 6011 implementing the intent of the aquatic reserve adjacent to Maury Island.

Status—In House Committee on Ecology & Parks.

Action—Contact your Representative on this committee and urge that the bills be scheduled for a hearing. Members are **Upthegrove (chair)**; **Rolfes (vice chair)**; **Sump**; **Dickerson**; **Dunshee**; **Eickmeyer**; **Kristiansen**; **O'Brien**; **Pearson**.

Contact— Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

SUPPORT — **HB 2532** — **Environmental analysis to endangered marine species**

This bill would require any state permitting agency to conduct a full analysis of potential impacts on endangered marine species;

League Position—During last session we supported SSB 6011 implementing the intent of the aquatic reserve adjacent to Maury Island.

Status—In House Committee on Ecology & Parks.

Action—Contact your Representative on this committee and urge that the bills be scheduled for a hearing. Members are **Upthegrove (chair)**; **Rolfes (vice chair)**; **Sump**; **Dickerson**; **Dunshee**; **Eickmeyer**; **Kristiansen**; **O'Brien**; **Pearson**.

Contact—Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

SUPPORT — **SB 6307** — **Marine Managed Areas Plan**

This bill would require the new Puget Sound Partnership to prepare a Puget Sound marine managed areas plan to coordinate and strengthen all of the marine managed areas programs managed by state agencies and local governments. It would build onto the current aquatic reserve system and any areas added to the system. In addition, it would allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules governing the taking of fish, shellfish, or wildlife within or adjacent to a designated aquatic reserve, or other marine managed areas.

League Position—During last session we supported establishment of the Puget Sound Partnership. We continue to work on implementation of that legislation.

Status—Will be heard on Friday, January 25 at 1:30 in Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

Action—Contact your Senator and request that the bill be moved out of committee. Committee members are **Rockefeller (chair)**; **Murray (vice chair)**; **Honeyford**; **Delvin**; **Fraser**; **Hatfield**; **Holmquist**; **Morton**; **Oemig**; **Pridemore**; **Regala**

Contact— Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

SUPPORT WITH ADDENDUM — **HB 2536 and SB 6333** — **Establishing a citizen’s work group on health care reform**

This bill is a follow-up to the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Cost and Access. It creates a 9-member citizen work group representing various interests to be impacted by health care reform. The work group shall present information and seek public input about, direct the economic

analysis of, and review up to five plans. Four of these plans are specified in the bill and are plans that have been put forward by legislators and one by the Insurance Commissioner. The fifth option is not specified. None of the specified plans is a single-payer plan, an omission that the League finds incomprehensible. The LWVWA supports this bill but considers it crucial that a single-payer plan be included, such as the single payer proposal contained in HB 1886 and SB 5756, the Washington Health Security Trust.

League Position—“LWVWA will work to improve access to health care in Washington by supporting legislation that funds and analysis and comparison of costs to be borne by individuals, business, and government of 3-4 models of health care delivery,” LWVWA 2008 Legislative Priorities.

Status—HB 2536 was heard by the House Health Care & Wellness Committee last week. It will be heard in the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on January 23.

Action—Contact your representatives and senators and ask them to contact committee members requesting the inclusion of a single-payer plan option in the list of plans to be included in the study. If your legislator is on the House or Senate committee hearing health care bills, your call is especially needed. House committee members: **Cody (chair); Morrell (vice chair); Hinkle; Alexander; Barlow; Campbell; Condotta; DeBolt; Green; Moeller; Pedersen; Schual-Berke; Seaquist**. Senate committee members: **Keiser (chair); Franklin (vice chair); Pflug; Carrell; Fairley; Kastama; Kohl-Welles; Marr; Parlette**

Contact—Ann L. Brand, Ph.D., 206-922-2659, anklbrand@comcast.net

SUPPORT —**HB 2664 & SB 6241**—**Prohibiting sale or use of prescriber-identifiable prescription data for marketing purposes without consent**

This act is part of the legislature’s commitment to promote evidence-based practices (quality outcomes) and cost containment. Currently, pharmaceutical companies buy physicians’ prescribing records in order to use the information to target their marketing to physicians. The Washington Coalition for Prescribing Integrity notes that, “The overwhelming conclusion of academic studies is that pharmaceutical company detailing of physicians clearly influences physician decision-making and leads to inappropriate prescribing...”

League Position— “Quality health care at an affordable cost” is a basic goal for health stated by the LWVUS. The practice prohibited by this bill is a cost driver and influences prescribing practices that may not be in the best interests of health care consumers.

Status—SB 6241 was heard in the Health & Long-Term Care Committee. There was strong opposing testimony from pharmaceutical company lobbyists and data mining interests. HB 2664 will be heard in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee on January 21, where similar opposition is expected.

Action—If your legislator is on the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee or the House Health Care & Wellness Committee, call him/her and ask that this important bill pass out of committee. House committee members: **Cody (chair); Morrell (vice chair); Hinkle; Alexander; Barlow; Campbell; Condotta; DeBolt; Green; Moeller; Pedersen; Schual-Berke; Seaquist**. Senate committee members: **Keiser (chair); Franklin (vice chair); Pflug; Carrell; Fairley; Kastama; Kohl-Welles; Marr; Parlette**

TALKING POINTS:

- Data mining destroys privacy of the patient-physician relationship.
- Data mining drives up overall health care costs. The pharmaceutical industry spends \$3 billion each year purchasing physician specific prescription information that allows them to tailor their marketing directly to individual physicians.
- Physicians are overwhelmingly against the practice of data mining as reported in a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Washington can stop this data mining and maintain patient safety by passing this bill.
- There is no downside for Washington’s consumers of health care in passing this bill, and a great benefit to them.

Contact—Ann L. Brand, 206-922-2659, anklbrand@comcast.net

SUPPORT—Funding for Civics Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)

Funding for civics education and testing is one of LWVWA's 2008 legislative priorities. On January 16th we testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education in favor of a budget request to support professional development in Civics Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) for teachers.

League Position—League Principles.

Status—Rep. Pat Lantz made the request, but support from the subcommittee members is still needed.

Action—If your representative is a subcommittee member, please make initial contact with them about supporting this budget request. Emphasize just how important civics education is if we are to maintain a strong democracy. Please let us know how your legislator responds to your contact. Subcommittee members are **Haigh (Chair); Sullivan (Vice Chair); Priest; Anderson; Barlow; Crouse; Fromhold; Haler; Herrera; Hunter; Jarrett; Kagi; Kenney; Ormsby; Quall; Seaquist; Springer; Wallace**

Contact— Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, cathahl@hotmail.com
or Nancy Jander, 253-851-9260, nancyjander@comcast.net

SUPPORT—Funding for Family Planning

Federal funding for family planning has steadily dropped under the current administration. A supplemental appropriation of \$8 million is needed to maintain services at their present level.

League Position—Reproductive Rights

Status—Operating supplemental appropriations bills (**HB 2687** & SB 6378) have been heard in Ways & Means and House Appropriations.

Action—Ask your legislator to work for full funding for family planning. Ways & Means Committee members are **Prentice (chair); Fraser (vice chair, capital budget); Pridemore (vice chair, operating budget); Zarelli; Brandland; Carrell; Fairley; Hatfield; Hewitt; Hobbs; Honeyford; Keiser; Kohl-Welles; Oemig; Parlette; Rasmussen; Regala; Roach; Rockefeller; Schoesler; Tom**. House Appropriations Committee members are **Sommers (chair); Dunshee (vice chair); Alexander; Bailey; Haler; Anderson; Chandler; Cody; Conway; Darneille; Ericks; Fromhold; Grant; Green; Haigh; Hinkle; Hunt; Hunter; Kagi; Kenney; Kessler; Kretz; Linville; McDonald; McIntire; Morrell; Pettigrew; Priest; Ross; Schmick; Schual-Berke; Seaquist; Sullivan; Walsh**.

Contact—Wayne Martin, 425-746-9960, docmartin934@aol.com

SUPPORT—**HB 2698**—Granting Discretion to State Department of Health

HB 2698 would remove the requirement that the DOH apply for abstinence-only funds by changing the word "shall" to "may." If there is a change in policy, DOH could apply for funds; however they are not required to do so.

League Position—Reproductive Rights

Status—Hearing is scheduled for January 23 at 8:00am in House Health Care & Wellness.

Action—Ask your legislator to support this sensible bill. House Committee on Health Care & Wellness members are **Cody (chair); Morrell (vice chair); Hinkle; Alexander; Barlow; Campbell; Condotta; DeBolt; Green; Moeller; Pedersen; Schual-Berke; Seaquist**

Contact—Wayne Martin, 425-746-9960, docmartin934@aol.com

SUPPORT—**SB 6530 & HB 2647**—Children's Safe Products

This bill would ban the sale of children's products containing lead, cadmium, and phthalates after 1/1/09. Children's products include everything from toys to teething rings, from bibs to car seats, from jewelry to cosmetics, and generally are products intended for children under the age of 12.

Manufacturers of children's products would be required to report to WA State Department of Ecology what chemicals their products contain. The department would have to identify chemicals that are of high concern for children and report those findings, together with recommendations on how to regulate those chemicals, by 1/1/09.

League Positions—LWVWA Toxics in the Home; LWVUS Environmental Protection & Pollution Control, Early Intervention for Children at Risk.

Status—A public hearing on this legislation is scheduled for January 23, 6:00 pm, in the House Select Committee on Environmental Health, whose members are [Campbell \(chair\)](#); [Hudgins \(vice chair\)](#);

[Sump](#); [Chase](#); [Hailey](#); [Hunt](#); [Morrell](#); [Newhouse](#); [Wood](#)

Contact—Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

WATCH—[HB 1529](#)—**Modifying Voter Registration Provisions**

Requires among other things that voter registrations acquired from drives to be returned within five days of receipt of the completed application. This is a housekeeping bill, detailing procedures on many election issues. The bill lists fifty-four instances in which the Secretary of State would have authority to make rules regarding election procedures—including maintenance of records, evaluating, testing, and certifying voting systems, preparation of ballots, voting registration, and absentee ballots. The bill also includes specifics about procedures for cancelling and restoring a felon's voter registration.

League Positions—LWVWA Positions in **Action**—Election Laws and Procedures, Election Methods. LWVUS Impact on Issues—Citizen's Right to Vote.

Status—HB 1529 was originally introduced during the 2007 session. It was heard in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on January 16. No hearing is presently scheduled for SB 5664.

Action—Tell your legislators that the 5-day time limit for returning voter registration forms should be lengthened to at least 7 or 10 days. Committee members are [Hunt \(chair\)](#); [Appleton \(vice chair\)](#); [Chandler](#); [Armstrong](#); [Kretz](#); [Liias](#); [Miloscia](#); [Ormsby](#).

Contact—Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

➤ **Public Campaign Financing – More on Local Option Bills**

SSB 5278 and SHB 1551 would restore the option of using public funds for financing local political campaigns. This option was prohibited by the passage of Initiative 134 in 1992. The origins of the I-134 provision that eliminated this option are obscure, and prior to this prohibition local jurisdictions, e.g., Seattle and King County, had public financing systems in place that by available measures worked well in limiting special interest money and encouraging more participation in local political campaigns. Seattle, in 1978, became the first U.S. city to implement a system of partial public campaign financing.

With current and anticipated restrictions, SSB 5278 is not the local option bill LWVWA had hoped for. A local referendum requirement would likely be especially burdensome for local jurisdictions desirous of implementing a public financing system. LWVWA should continue to actively support this bill, however, because with prospects for passage of an unencumbered House bill favorable, the final Senate version could be less restrictive and, in any event, would be progress in achieving the reinstatement of the public campaign financing local option.

Contact—Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, bcchamberlin@harboret.com

➤ PRIORITIES FOR A HEALTHY WASHINGTON

League supports all four Priorities for a Healthy Washington. In part because this year is a short session, all four priorities will have their committee hearings next week. If your legislator is on any of the committees named below, please contact him or her and express your support for these bills.

- **Climate Action Green Jobs** - SB 6516, HB 2815
Hearings: January 22, 10:00 am, Senate Water, Energy and Telecommunications
January 23, 1:30 pm, House Ecology & Parks
Contact—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net
Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, mwineman@comcast.net
- **Local Solutions to Global Warming** - SB 6580, HB 2797 would add a goal of reducing climate pollution to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and identify reducing global warming pollution as an important aspect of comprehensive planning. This is a phased two year bill. This first year, the duplicate bills in the House and the Senate would provide Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) with funding for software to enable local governments to evaluate adaptations and emissions to reduce climate pollution. Competitive grants for local government early adopters would be available with requirements to report results by December 2008 to the legislature. Hearing: January 25, 1:30 pm, House Local Government
Contact—Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@vzizon.net
- **Evergreen Cities** - SB 6469, HB 2844
Hearing: January 22, Tuesday, 10:00 am, House Ecology & Parks
Contact—Peggy Bruton, 360-866-7165, gimletoye@comcast.net
- **Local Farms Healthy Kids** - SB 6483, HB 2797
Hearings: January 24, Thursday. 10:00 am, House Agriculture & Natural Resources 3:30 pm, Senate Agriculture & Economic Development
Contact—Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

➤ Regulating the Exercise of Religious Rights in the Practice of Pharmacy

SB 6361 appears to codify what has been the accepted but unwritten rules concerning this issue. I will have more information on this later.

Contact: Wayne Martin, 425-746-9960, docmartin934@aol.com

➤ Supplemental Budget for Department of Early Learning

Jone Bosworth, Executive Director of the Department of Early Learning testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education that DEL has three items in the Supplemental Budget which are essential for the operation of the department:

1. "Improve Child Care Safety" (\$435,000) which would contribute to the consistency of licensing decisions, establish quality improvement teams for case reviews, and improve documentation. Money will pay for five additional staff.
2. "Meet Federal Audit Requirement" (\$637,000). Each state receiving Child Care and Development funds are required to conduct audits to reduce risk of federal penalties.
3. Transfer of funds from DSHS to DEL (\$2,272,000) for these programs: Head Start Collaborative State Match (\$46,250), Homeless Child Care Subsidy Program (\$690,000), Seasonal Child Care Subsidy Program (\$1,035,265), Tiered Reimbursement Program (\$500,000).

Contact: Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net

➤ Basic Education

One of LWVWA's 2008 legislative priorities is creation of a plan to amply fund basic education. This past week we attended and testified at hearings regarding this issue. On January 11, the Joint Task Force on Basic Education held a daylong meeting consisting of more reports (what was supposed to be done in the past, WASL results, and so on). During the public hearing we spoke of the frustration

many feel that the task force is not doing its job. The legislation establishing the task force required that it produce a report by December 1, 2007 that describes options for school employee compensation and legislation required to support those options. Data was provided by December 1, but no plans. The final report of options for revising the K-12 funding structure is due by September 15, 2008. The task force's next meeting will be held in March.

Contact: Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, cathahl@hotmail.com
or Nancy Jander, 253-851-9260, nancyjander@comcast.net

➤ Election Laws and Procedures

HB 1529 lists fifty-four instances in which the Secretary of State would have authority to make rules regarding election procedures—including maintenance of records, evaluating, testing, and certifying voting systems, preparation of ballots, voting registration, and absentee ballots. This bill was requested by the Secretary of State and sponsored by Reps Appleton, Chandler, Armstrong, Kenney, and others. Here is a description of specific elements of this bill:

- A person or organization doing voter registration drives must transmit registration forms within 5 days of receipt of the completed form. The registration date will be the date received by the Secretary of State or Auditor. The short length of time is troubling, as some organizations may operate at a distance from the County Auditor and may find this provision a hardship.
- Publication of the registration deadlines will be done at least 35 days before the registration cut-off date. It was 5 days previously. The 35 day notice will give citizens more time to register/change an address before an election.
- A voter registration applicant who does not have a driver's license or Social Security number may vote a provisional ballot that will be counted only if identification is provided before certification.
- A death list will be sent monthly from Vital Statistics to the secretary of state. This list will be used to cancel registrations of deceased voters.

The bill also includes specifics about procedures for cancelling and restoring a felon's voter registration. Other issues dealt with at length include: voter registration list maintenance, change of address procedures, maintenance of a voter registration database, absentee ballots, and detailed information to be provided in the canvass report.

Contact: Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

➤ Transportation

At this time we are monitoring **HB 1773**, a tolling bill. It does not designate toll amounts to help fund the 520 bridge replacement. Therefore it does not fall within Initiative 960's cumbersome requirements. It does put a 10% cap on the amount of toll money that could be used for mass transit, and environmental groups are opposed to this. It is possible that the cap could be dropped before the final vote. Establishing tolls on the I-90 corridor is subject to federal exemptions, but that is not expected to be a problem as the details will be decided next year.

Contact: Pat Matteson, 206-232-8028, patricialplm@cs.com

FOR REFERENCE

Key Session Dates

The 60th Washington State Legislature opened its short session on Monday, January 14. The 2008 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 14 to March 13. Every day (including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays) is counted in the 60-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. 14 – First day of regular session

Feb. 1 – LWVWA Lobby Day

- Feb. 8** – Last day for any bill to be considered in **policy** committee of its “house of origin” (House for HB, or Senate for SB)
- Feb. 12** – Last day for any bill to be considered in **fiscal** committee of its “house of origin”
- Feb. 19** – Last day for bills to be considered on the floor of their “house of origin” (5 p.m.)
- Feb. 29** – Last day for bills to be considered in a **policy** committee of the opposite house (Senate for HB, or House for HB)
- Mar. 3** – Last day for bills to be considered in a **fiscal** committee of the opposite house
- Mar. 7** – 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.
- Mar. 13** – Last day of regular session

CONTACT LISTS

- Portfolios / Lobby Team – www.lwwa.org/about/officers.html
- Legislators – www.lwwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf
- Legislative Committees – www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx
- Representation by legislative district – www.lwwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf

LEAGUE POSITIONS

- LWVWA positions – www.lwwa.org/advocacy/prog_in_action05-07.html

RESOURCES

- League action website – lwwa.org/advocacy
- House Floor Activity as it happens – flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3
- Senate Floor Activity as it happens – flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov
- Public hearings as they happen – twv.org
- Bill information – text, analysis, status, committee action – apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo
- Bill room (legislative information center) – **360-786-7573**
- State budget information – www.ofm.wa.gov
- Governor’s website – governor.wa.gov
- Washington state’s official website – 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.