



# League of Women Voters of Washington

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

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

Legislative Newsletter, Vol.40, No.2

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

## ACTION PRIORITY

January 26 - February 1, 2008

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

**SUPPORT local option public campaign financing**

### **PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING: The Local Option Bills**

### **SHB 1551 Passes House**

Thanks to all for your responses to last week's Actions Alerts! SHB 1551 passed the House on Friday, 56 to 38 (4 excused). The measure applies to all local jurisdictions and requires a referendum or advisory ballot as a condition for implementing a local public financing system.

**Status**— SSB 5278 is in Senate Rules, and the floor vote could come at any time. The senate version also requires voter approval of any local public financing system but language limiting the use of public funds for local campaigns to cities only was eliminated. If passed by the Senate, this bill, like the House bill, will allow all local jurisdictions the option.

**Action**— Contact your Senators asking their support for SSB5278 when it comes to the full Senate for a vote, and ask them whether you can count on their support of the local option bill. Passage of this bill will simply allow local jurisdictions the option of using public funds for local political campaigns. It does not mandate public campaign financing. This bill merely restores the local public financing option that was eliminated by passage of I-134 in 1992.

**Contact**— Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, [bcchamberlin@harbornet.com](mailto:bcchamberlin@harbornet.com)  
Please email Chris with your Senator's response.

## Other ACTION ITEMS

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

### **SUPPORT**—**HB 1419** & **SB 5393**— **Ensuring the cleanup of certain hazardous waste sites**

These companion bills, introduced last session, will see action this session. The intent is to clarify the Hanford Initiative of three years ago which the League supported and the voters approved with an over-whelming majority. The initiative was challenged in court by the US Department of Energy ( the party responsible for the cleanup of Hanford) and the department's contractors. The language of these two bills should clarify the issues which the court has raised with regard to constitutionality and the state's authority.

The bills direct that hazardous waste sites (including Hanford) must be cleaned up and in compliance before any waste from another site can be imported. They also ensure that the public involvement

process which has been in place will be funded and maintained. These two provisions were the directives of the Hanford Initiative.

**League Position**—Hazardous Waste

**Status**—SB 5393 is in Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. Committee members are [Rockefeller \(chair\)](#); [Murray \(vice chair\)](#); [Honeyford](#); [Delvin](#); [Fraser](#); [Hatfield](#); [Holmquist](#); [Morton](#); [Oemig](#); [Pridemore](#); [Regala](#)

**Action**—Contact your legislator and let them know that it is important to clarify the Initiative before more waste is imported into Hanford.

**Contact**— Betty Tabbutt, 360-956-9287, [tabbutte@netzero.net](mailto:tabbutte@netzero.net)

**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**—Both bills have been heard in their respective committees. HB 2815 is scheduled to be heard in executive session in the House Ecology & Parks Committee on Wednesday, January 29 at 10:00am.

**Action**—If your legislator is on the House committee, call or email him/her and ask that he/she vote the bill out of committee: [Upthegrove \(chair\)](#); [Rolfes \(vice chair\)](#); [Sump](#); [Dickerson](#); [Dunshee](#); [Eickmeyer](#); [Kristiansen](#); [O'Brien](#); [Pearson](#).

**Contact**—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net) or Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, [mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT**—[HB 2798](#) & [SB 6483](#)—**Local Farms, Healthy Kids**

This is a "Priorities for a Healthy Washington" bill that would increase the ability of local farms to get their products into schools and other state entities that purchase food. At the bill's public hearing on Thursday, thirty-one people signed in, ALL FOR the bill. For the first panel of speakers, the Farm Bureau, the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, and the Priorities for a Healthy Washington all testified in favor of the bill.

By easing state purchasing restrictions, schools will be able to buy more locally grown fresh produce. One change from the original bill is the inclusion of locally raised meat and poultry, and seafood. The bill establishes a farm to school program; a grant program that would provide free fruit and vegetable snacks for schools with high percentage of low income students; a program to facilitate use of food stamps at farmers' markets; and a program to provide more locally grown and raised food for Food Banks.

**League Positions**—LWVWA Agricultural Lands. LWVUS Land Use, Federal Agricultural Policy, Early Intervention for Children at Risk.

**Status**—Public hearing held on January 24.

**Action**—If your legislator is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources, or the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, please contact him or her immediately to urge support for this bill and speedy passage out of committee. House committee members are [Blake \(chair\)](#); [Van De Wege \(vice chair\)](#); [Kretz](#); [Warnick](#); [Eickmeyer](#); [Grant](#); [Hailey](#); [Lantz](#); [Loomis](#); [McCoy](#); [Nelson](#); [Newhouse](#); [Orcutt](#). Senate committee members are [Rasmussen \(chair\)](#); [Hatfield \(vice chair\)](#); [Schoesler](#); [Jacobsen](#); [Morton](#); [Shin](#).

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

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

**SUPPORT**—**SB 6379**—**Sales tax incentives for highly-efficient appliances**

Provides a two-year sales-tax exemption on purchases of super-efficient appliances—furnaces, heat pumps, water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, etc.—for homes, restaurants, and institutional kitchens.

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

**Status**—SB 6379 will be heard Monday, Jan. 28 at 3:30pm in Senate Ways & Means Committee and has already been heard in the House's Technology, Energy and Communications Committee.

**Action**—Call or email your senator if she/he is on the Senate's Ways & Means Committee and ask them to support SB 6379. The Senate 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**

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

**SUPPORT**—**SB 6515**—**Tax treatment of energy-saving performance contracts**

Provides a sales-tax exemption to state and local governments that engage in "performance-based" contracts for energy efficiency projects. Under a performance-based contract, a single company determines how much energy (and water and solid waste) can be saved in a particular building, finances and installs the efficiency improvements that will achieve those savings, and is paid primarily from the money those improvements save the building owner—in this case a state agency or local government.

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

**Status**—Will be heard Monday, Jan. 28 at 3:30 in Senate Ways & Means and has been heard in the House's Technology, Energy and Communications Committee.

**Action**—Call or email your senator if she/he is on the Senate's Ways & Means Committee and ask them to support the bill. The Senate 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**

Also, call or email your representative if she/he is on the House Finance Committee and ask for support of HB 2888 (companion bill). Members of the House Finance Committee are: **Hunter (chair); Hasegawa (vice chair); Orcutt; Condotta; Conway; Ericks; McIntire; Roach; Santos**

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

**SUPPORT**—**HB 2904**—**Incentives for renewable energy**

Provides incentives to customer owned utilities for the generation of electricity from renewable energy.

**League Position**—(LWVUS) Energy, element 5

**Status**—To be heard before the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on Tuesday, Jan.29 at 10am

**Action**—Call or email your representative if she/he is on the House committee: **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](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net)

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

This bill would require the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to conduct a study to determine how well the department's hydraulic permitting process protects fish and wildlife. During the study, WDFW could not approve or renew permits within the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve for commercial, industrial, or barge-loading facilities. League supports the study by WDFW and the prohibition relating to Maury Island permits.

**League Position**— Based on our support of SSB 6011 last session regarding Maury Island Aquatic Reserve and its unique aquatic resources.

**Status**— Bill is in House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources and may be voted on in executive session next week.

**Action**— Please contact your legislators on the committee and urge them to vote for the bill with no amendment to section 6 regarding Maury Island Aquatic Reserve. 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](mailto: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**— **Success!!** The House Health Care and Wellness Committee amended HB 2536 to include a single payer plan option (along with some other amendments) and passed the bill out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation. **More to do:** The companion bill in the Senate, SB 6333, was heard in the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on January 23.

**Action**— Contact your representatives AND the members of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee to thank them for adding the single payer plan amendment. House committee members: **Cody (chair); Morrell (vice chair); Hinkle; Alexander; Barlow; Campbell; Condotta; DeBolt; Green; Moeller; Pedersen; Schual-Berke; Seaquist.** It is imperative that we again contact our senators and ask

them to contact committee members and request that a single-payer plan option be included in the study, and urge them adopt a “do pass” vote out of committee with that amendment. If your senator is on the senate committee hearing health care bills, your call is especially needed. 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](mailto: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 Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee. There was strong opposing testimony from pharmaceutical company lobbyists and data mining interests. HB 2664 was heard in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee on January 21 and is scheduled for executive session in the committee on Monday, January 28.

**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 legislation 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 for HB 2664 & SB 6241 :**

- 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 a great benefit for Washington's health care consumers in passing this bill, and no downside.

**Contact**—Ann L. Brand, 206-922-2659, [anklbrand@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com)  
or Nancy Jander, 253-851-9260, [nancyjander@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**—Was heard January 23 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](mailto:docmartin934@aol.com)

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

These bills ban the sale, manufacture, or distribution of any children's product that contains more than trace amounts of lead, cadmium, or phthalates after January 1, 2009. "Children's product" includes toys, cosmetics, jewelry, clothing, feeding products, sleep-related products, and car seats. The Washington State Department of Ecology must develop a list of high priority chemicals having adverse human effects, and a list of products containing these chemicals. Manufacturers must file an annual notice with Department of Ecology identifying which of their products sold in Washington contain any of these chemicals.

**League Positions**—LWVWA Toxics in the Home; LWVUS Early Intervention for Children at Risk.

**Status**—An excellent hearing on this bill was held this week in which most of the people and organizations present testified in favor of the bill. Primary opposition came from the American Chemical Council with three speakers opposed to inclusion of phthalates on the list. Bill will be considered in executive session January 29, 30, and 31.

**Action**—If your legislator is on the House Select Committee on Environmental Health, please contact him or her immediately to urge support for this bill and speedy passage out of committee. Committee members are **Campbell (chair); Hudgins (vice chair); Sump; Chase; Hailey; Hunt; Morrell; Newhouse; Wood.**

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

**SUPPORT —HB 1363—Making voter registration available at state agencies**

Voter registration services are now provided at state Department of Licensing offices that provide public assistance, those that provide services to persons with disabilities, and by mail-in form. This bill would require that all state agencies have a link to the state Secretary of State's voter registration webpage, that the Secretary of State publicize the agencies furnishing these services, and that the governor designate new agencies as appropriate to offer voter registration services. State agencies providing voter registration services would be required to keep records of all voter registration activity, and the Secretary of State would be required to produce an annual report with performance measures. The actual names of persons served would not be reported.

**League Position**—"Registration should be simple and convenient for voters. . ." Program in Action, page 12.

**Status**—HB 1363 was referred to House Appropriations during the 2007 regular session and has been retained in that status by resolution.

**Action**—Contact your representatives and tell them to support keeping this bill alive. If you have a representative on House Appropriations Committee, let them know that you would like this bill to have a vote. Committee members: **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**— Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, [jaybetty2@msn.com](mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com)

**SUPPORT —HB 1527 & ESB 5738—Modifying absentee ballot and related provisions**

These bills would enable an overseas or service voter to return a voted ballot and signed envelope electronically. The original ballot and envelope would not need to be returned. A political party could request by 8:00pm on Election Day a manual recount of up to 500 ballots for one race or issue. More detailed procedures for verification of mail ballot signatures and curing a mismatched signature are also addressed with these bills.

**League Position**—Program in Action, Page 12, "Voting procedures should serve the voter with a maximum of convenience, simplicity and efficiency while insuring that the requirements of secrecy, accuracy, and impartiality are maintained."

**Status**—HB 1527 was voted out of committee to Rules on January 23. ESB 5738 was reintroduced from the 2007 session, retained in its present status, and made eligible to be placed on third reading on the House floor.

**Action**—If your senator is a member of Senate Rules Committee, please contact and ask that ESB 5738 be allowed to move forward. If your representative is a member of House Rules Committee, please contact them and ask that HB 1527 receive a floor vote. Senate Rules members: **Franklin (vice chair); Hewitt; Brown; Eide; Fraser; Haugen; Keiser; Kline; Kohl-Welles; McAuliffe; Murray; Parlette; Pflug; Regala; Schoesler; Spanel; Stevens; Zarelli** House Rules members: **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**

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

**SUPPORT**—**HB 2019**—**Requiring signature gatherers of ballot measure petitions to sign petition declarations under oath**

A related bill which passed the legislature in 2006 did not require a signature gatherer to actually sign the petition, according to the State Attorney General. This bill provides that the following be printed on the back of each petition: signature, date, name, and address lines. Failure of signature gatherer to sign the declaration on each petition page will be grounds for Secretary of State's refusal to file petition page. HB 2019 is supported by the Secretary of State and many groups that do signature drives.

**League Position**—"Place restrictions on paid signature gathering." Program in Action, p.13  
**Status**—Referred to House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

**Action**—Ask your representatives on the House committee to vote in support of this bill. Committee members are **Hunt (chair); Appleton (vice chair); Chandler; Armstrong; Kretz; Lias; Miloscia; Ormsby**

**Talking Points**—This bill will help ensure the integrity of the initiative process and hold all signature gatherers accountable. This bill helps to improve transparency of the process. Petition campaigns are big business and need to adhere to good business practices.

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

**SUPPORT**—**HB 2145**—**Providing for voter registration on election day**

See also SB 5561, which would allow voter registration up to and on election day.

**League position**—LWVWA supports same-day voter registration.

**Status**—Last session, SB 5561 passed the Senate, went to the House, passed out of policy committee and got to Rules. It was reintroduced in the House this year and made eligible for third reading. HB 2145 was introduced last year, reintroduced this year, and referred to House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

**Action**—Please urge your representatives on House Rules Committee or House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs to support this bill. 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.** State Government committee members are **Hunt (chair); Appleton (vice chair); Chandler; Armstrong; Kretz; Lias; Miloscia; Ormsby.**

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

**SUPPORT**—**HB 2473 & SB 6582**—**Eliminating requirement that auditors send ballot (or application to receive a ballot) to inactive voters**

At the present time, county auditors must send either an application for a ballot or the ballot itself to each inactive voter at least eighteen days before an election. This is a very costly process. HB 2473 and SB 6582 are primarily housekeeping bills—they promote efficient government and eliminate needless paperwork. Even more important, this legislation would eliminate the risky consequences of sending ballots to bad addresses.

**Status**—The House bill is in Rules on second reading suspension calendar. The Senate companion bill will be heard in the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Action**—If your legislators are in either of these committees, ask them to move these bills. Members of Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections are **Fairley (chair); Oemig (vice chair); Roach; Benton; Kline; McDermott; Pridemore; Swecker.**

House Rules: **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.**

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

---

## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

### ➤ K-12 Public Education Bills

It seems that bills have been introduced this session to address every possible aspect of K-12 public education including the arts, recess, librarians, nurses, K-3 class size, reading, math, English language learners (ELL), remediation, world language, the achievement gap, etc. If you have a particular interest in one of these areas, contact us and we'll give you the bill number and status.

Discussion and debate has occurred regarding the WASL, new math standards, and graduation requirements. We have attended hearings on all these issues but remain neutral on specific bills because of LWVWA's position: The state has the responsibility to determine uniform education standards and the means to evaluate performance.

Contact—Catherine Ahl, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com), 360-697-7924 or Nancy Jander, [nancyjander@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjander@comcast.net), 253-851-9260

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

SB 6361 would grant to pharmacists the right to refuse to fill lawful prescriptions on the grounds of a moral/religious objection. League **OPPOSES** this bill.

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

### ➤ Restoration of voting rights to former felons

LWVWA has a long history of supporting the expansion of ex-felon voting rights. HB 1473 & SB 5530 would change the requirements for restoring the right to vote for people convicted of felonies. So long as a person is not in "total confinement", his/her right to vote would be restored. The Secretary of State would compare the list of registered voters to a list of felons in confinement at least twice a year. In the 2007 regular session, this legislation was heard in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs. In 2008, SB 5530 was reintroduced and retained in present status, in the Senate Rules Committee "X" file, and should be considered dead for this session.

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

### ➤ Family Leave Insurance Program

A framework for a Family Leave Insurance Program (FLIP) was established in the 2007 legislative session in the form of ESSB 5659. This legislation required formation of a joint legislative task force to study the financing and administration of a FLIP, with a report of study results to be made in 2008. The FLIP framework that was the subject of study includes benefits of \$250 per week for up to five weeks for individuals on leave for a birth or adoption of a child. It also includes job protection for individuals who have worked at least twelve months for employers who have more than twenty-five employees, and who have worked for at least 1,250 hours over the past twelve months.

This session, HB 2665 implements the recommendations of the joint legislative task force by directing the WA Employment Security Department (ESD) to administer the FLIP and directing the WA Department of Labor & Industries to enforce job protection provisions of state law. Specifically, the ESD is to study the impacts of the FLIP, if any, on the unemployment compensation system, and is to appoint a state advisory committee to formulate policies related to administration. Short term funding for the program is to come from the state's general fund.

Contact—Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net)

### ➤ **Kindergarten Readiness Assessments**

Several years ago (in 2004), WA state's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) sponsored a survey of kindergarten teachers on the issue of student readiness for kindergarten.

Survey results:

- 44% of students are adequately prepared for kindergarten
- 79% of teachers routinely screen or assess incoming students for purpose of adapting instruction to student

Although no statewide standardized readiness assessment exists, many districts do assess students' knowledge of numbers and sounds. Districts' assessment procedures vary, however. HB 2597 requires the WA State Department of Early Learning (DEL), in consultation with OSPI, to develop a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and to field-test it during the 2009 - 2010 year. The DEL must deploy the KRA in the 2010 - 2011 time frame.

**Contact**—Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net)

### ➤ **Establishing a project to improve asthma care for Medicaid-eligible children**

HB 2481 would provide \$366,000 over two years to help 640 low income Medicaid children with moderate to severe asthma in Pierce County. It is estimated that there would be a total saving of \$585,000 in reduced visits to hospitals and emergency rooms, and in other medical expenses. It may be necessary to introduce a budget proviso if this bill cannot be given a hearing in this short legislative session. League supports this bill.

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

### ➤ **Lead poisoning prevention education and screening**

HB1847 and SB5981 provide for lead poisoning prevention education and screening for target populations that include all Medicaid children at age 12 months and 24 months and all children residing in buildings where there is a significant risk of elevated blood lead levels. Federal law requires that all Medicaid children be tested at these two ages but this law is not followed because of lack of information or opposition by medical personnel. Low-income children in California and Oregon get much greater protection from lead poisoning because a higher percentage of their children are screened. League supports these bills.

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

### ➤ **Transportation**

SB 6355 is a tolling bill similar to but not technically a companion bill to **HB 1773**. The 10% cap on any tolls going for transit was removed from SB 6355 on Thursday. Since the Senate Transportation Committee may use the House tolling bill HB 1773 rather than SB 6355, the League will support SB 1773 when it is reported out of committee without the 10% cap on tolls going for transit. It should be noted that tolls on corridors such as the SR 520 Lake Washington bridge are not expected to pay for all the costs of replacing the bridge. Another bill, HB 3096 is designed to finance the SR 520 bridge replacement project. League positions support adequate financing of our infrastructure, but the bill includes a specific plan for six lanes across Lake Washington, and since the mitigation for finalizing a bridge design is not complete we are neutral on this bill at this time.

**Contact**—Pat Matteson, 206-232-8028, [patricialplm@cs.com](mailto: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.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)

### LEAGUE POSITIONS

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

### RESOURCES

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.