



League of Women Voters of Washington

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

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

Legislative Newsletter, Vol.40, No.3

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ACTION PRIORITY

February 2 - February 9, 2008

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

SUPPORT local option public campaign financing

SSB 5278—Public Campaign Financing: the “Local Option”

Restoration of the local public campaign financing option is much closer to becoming a legislative reality this session with passage of House Bill 1551 on January 25. *Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of that bill. We are focusing now on the companion bill, Substitute Senate Bill 5278 and find ourselves at another CRITICAL moment in the legislature’s consideration of lifting the ban on local public campaign financing.*

The House and Senate bills are quite similar: Both allow the option of public financing for all local jurisdictions (cities, towns, counties, districts), with school districts exempted in the House bill. Both bills require voter approval prior to implementation of a local public financing system. Both bills stipulate that only local funds be used for local public campaign financing. And neither bill mandates local public campaign financing—either bill would merely restore the option of creating public financing programs at the local level. In both bills, no state monies are involved—only local funding sources would be used.

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 Public Disclosure Commission should implement laws pertaining to these limitations.

Status—SSB 5278 moved out of the Senate Rules Committee last week. It is now in line for floor debate and a vote, probably on Wednesday or Friday of this week. HB 1551 passed the House and has gone to the Senate, where it rests in the Rules Committee as Engrossed House Bill 1551.

Action—Please contact your senators IMMEDIATELY and ask their support for SSB 5278 when it comes up for a floor vote. Also, note your appreciation for the senators who have worked, over many sessions, to bring about public campaign financing and elimination of the local ban. These senators include **Sen. Rosa Franklin, Sen. Jim Kastama, and Sen. Joe McDermott.**

Contact— Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, bcchamberlin@harbornet.com
Please email Chris with your Senator’s response.

Kudos to all who participated in Lobby Day on Friday and to all who are contacting your legislators on the League’s issues.

We are making a difference. Here’s an additional step that would really help your Lobby Team members: **When you call or email a legislator on any issue, please take a minute to send an email to the Lobby Team Contact letting them know you have done so, and letting them know of any reply.** It adds to our effectiveness to know, as we walk into a legislator’s office, that she or he has heard from a number of our members.

Thanks to all for your good work!

Barbara Bush, Action Chair.

Other ACTION ITEMS

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

OPPOSE—HB 2904—Prohibiting county and city incumbent candidates from appearing on publicly funded television during election

Passage of this bill into law would mean that from June 1 through November 30 in an election year, an incumbent county or city legislative member or executive could not appear on a publicly funded television station except during a meeting of the county or city legislative body. No incumbent for these offices could be part of any televised political election forum on a publicly funded station.

League Position—Support an informed electorate using every means of communication available.

Status—This bill is scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on February 5 at 10am. LWVWA president Barbara Seitle testified against this bill at a public hearing held by the committee on February 1.

Action—Contact your representatives on this committee and ask them to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Committee members are Hunt (chair); Appleton (vice chair); Chandler; Armstrong; Kretz; Liias; Miloscia; Ormsby

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

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

This bill would require that the state Employment Security Department and the state Department of Social and Health Services provide voter registration services when an individual applies in-person for public assistance or disability services, or makes an in-person report of an address change. It would also require that the governor designate new agencies as appropriate to offer voter registration services, and that all state agencies' websites link to the Secretary of State's voter registration webpage. State agencies providing voter registration services would be required to keep records of voter registration activity, and the Secretary of State would be required to compile an annual report (by county, and with performance measures) using these records.

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

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

Action—Contact your representatives if on House Appropriations Committee and ask them for their support in making voter registration available at state agencies. 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

SUPPORT —HB 2807—Providing for judicial candidate information in voters' pamphlets

This bill would require that, if a primary voters' pamphlet is published in an even-numbered year, it must contain statements, if submitted, advocating the candidacies of nominees for justice of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals. Candidates could submit photos and other contact information as well. The Secretary of State and county auditors also would be required to make this information available on a website.

League Position—Support for voters' pamphlets.

Status—Had public hearing on January 29. Scheduled for consideration in executive session in House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on February 5 at 10am.

Action—Contact your representatives on this committee and ask them to support this bill. Committee members are **Hunt (chair); Appleton (vice chair); Chandler; Armstrong; Kretz; Lias; Miloscia; Ormsby**

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

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 policy committees and have been referred to House Appropriations (HB 2815) and Senate Ways & Means (SB 6516). The House bill is scheduled for public hearing Tuesday Feb.5 at 3:30pm.

Action—If your legislator is on either committee, call or email him/her and ask that he/she vote the bill out of committee. 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.**

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**

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

SUPPORT—**HB 2426**—**High-efficiency lighting in state buildings**

This bill would require state agencies to purchase high-efficiency lighting, if technically feasible and cost-competitive. It would also set a goal for state agencies to purchase 100 percent of their indoor lighting in the form of high-efficiency lighting by January 1, 2010.

League Position—LWVUS Energy, element 3

Status—Hearing scheduled for Tuesday Feb.5 at 8:00am in House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government & Audit Review.

Action—If your representative is on the subcommittee, call or email to express your support: **Linville (chair); Ericks (vice chair); Armstrong; Skinner; Alexander; Blake; Chandler; Kretz; Lantz; Lias; Miloscia; Morris; Nelson; Van De Wege**

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

SUPPORT—**SB 6746 & HB 2847**—**Tax exemptions for materials and services used in weatherization assistance program**

This legislation would save energy and reduce greenhouse gases which cause global climate change

League Position—LWVWA Energy, element 6

Status—House Bill 2847 will be heard Monday Feb.4 in House Finance Committee. Senate Bill 6746 will be heard Monday Feb.4 in Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Action—If your senator is on Senate Ways & Means Committee, call or email and ask for support. If your representative is on the House Finance Committee, call and ask her/him to support the bill.

Senate 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 Finance Committee members are **Hunter (chair)**; **Hasegawa (vice chair)**; **Orcutt**; **Condotta**; **Conway**; **Ericks**; **McIntire**; **Roach**; **Santos**.

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

SUPPORT—**HB 3234 & SB 6809**—**Creating a Working Families Credit (WFC) equal to 10% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

In Washington State, low-wage families pay 17% of their household income in taxes – five times more than our state’s wealthiest residents. This credit would help make our state tax system less regressive.

League Position—LWVWA believes that inequities in the distribution of the tax burden in Washington state should be removed, and that ability to pay is an important criterion for the tax system.

Status—SB 6809 will be heard Monday, Feb 4 at 3:30pm in Senate Ways & Means Committee. HB 3234 will be heard Wednesday, Feb 6 at 8:00am in House Finance Committee.

Action—Call or email your senator if she/he is on Senate Ways & Means and ask them to support SB 6809. Call or email your representative if she/he is on House Finance Committee and ask them to support HB 3234. 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**. House committee members are **Hunter (chair)**; **Hasegawa (vice chair)**; **Orcutt**; **Condotta**; **Conway**; **Ericks**; **McIntire**; **Roach**; **Santos**.

Contact—Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, omi.bush@verizon.net

SUPPORT—**HB 3154 & SB 6822**—**Reductions in vehicle miles traveled (VMT)**

This legislation would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to adopt benchmarks for reducing the per capita vehicle miles travelled (VMT), and require it to seek ways to achieve these benchmarks. The proposed reductions are 18 percent by 2020; 30 percent by 2035; and 50 percent by 2050. DOT also would be required to establish and convene by July 1, 2008, a collaborative process to develop mechanisms and practices to help state, regional, and local entities make progress toward these VMT reduction benchmarks. Relevant, successful VMT reduction strategies currently used in Washington and other jurisdictions would have to be identified, as would potential revenue options for local governments to finance VMT reduction efforts. This legislation is an effort to meet the governor's executive order to decrease annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by 50% by 2050.

League Position—LWVWA Transportation, element 10

Status—Senate bill was heard in Senate Committee on Transportation on January 29.

Action—If your senator is on Transportation Committee, call or email and ask to have the bill voted out of committee as soon as possible. Committee members are **Haugen (chair)**; **Marr (vice chair)**; **Murray (vice chair)**; **Swecker**; **Benton**; **Berkey**; **Delvin**; **Eide**; **Holmquist**; **Jacobsen**; **Kastama**; **Kauffman**; **Kilmer**; **King**; **Pflug**; **Sheldon**; **Spanel**

Contact—Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, mwineman@comcast.net or Pat Matteson, 206-232-8028, patricialpm@cs.com

SUPPORT—**SHB 1773**—**Enabling tolls on transportation corridors**

This legislation would enable Washington state to use tolling to encourage use of the transportation system itself to provide a supplementary source of transportation funding. It would allow tolling in corridors when the cost of a project cannot be funded solely with existing sources, or to optimize the performance of the system. For instance, the 4 billion plus dollars SR-520 bridge replacement could be tolled years in advance of the project's completion, and tolls could remain in place beyond the initial construction to help with maintenance and operation.

Rates could be set as variable pricing to optimize system performance during rush hours.

League Position—LWVWA supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue for our transportation infrastructure.

Status—The bill is now in House Rules Committee.

Action—Contact your legislators and urge their support. Rules 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**

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

SUPPORT—**Funding for Civics Education and Assessments**

The 2006 Washington State Legislature passed HB 2195, which mandated CBAs (civics classroom-based assessments) at three grade levels for each student, namely, 4th or 5th grade, 7th or 8th grade, and 11th or 12th grade.

League Position—LWV's mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government.

Status—Rep. Pat Lantz submitted a budget request for funding of professional development for teachers on the CBAs (civics classroom-based assessments), and LWVWA testified before the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Education in favor of the request. However, the funding is not included in the subcommittee's proposed K-12 budget.

Action—The next step in the budget process will be with the full House Appropriations Committee. If your representative is a committee member, please contact them and ask that they support Rep. Lantz's budget request. Please let us know how your legislator responds to your contact. 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**

Talking Points—Emphasize the importance of civics education for students, that civics education helps maintain a strong democracy, and that teachers need training in the CBAs to meet the legislature's 2006 mandate in the next school year.

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

SUPPORT—**HB 3168**—**Creating a Washington State Head Start program**

This bill directs the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to develop a plan to implement a Washington State Head Start—currently known as Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)—with federal Head Start program eligibility criteria, guidelines, and standards of care. The bill aligns funding levels for ECEAP to improve program quality, and would improve school readiness measures and achieve administrative efficiencies. Washington State Head Start would be more easily recognizable and accessible to parents and families eligible for the programs. The DEL would have to deliver a report with plan recommendations to the governor and legislature by December 1, 2008.

League Position—LWVWA Children's Services.

Status—Bill heard January 29 in House Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services. Passed out of committee in executive session January 31.

Action—Contact your representatives on the committee to thank them for committee’s support: **McAuliffe (chair); Tom (vice chair); King; Brandland; Eide; Hewitt; Hobbs; Holmquist; Kauffman; McDermott; Oemig; Rasmussen; Weinstein; Zarelli**

Contact—Pat Dickason, 360-753-7647, p.dickason@comcast.net

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

This bill would create a nine-member citizen work group representing various interests to be impacted by health care reform.

Status—As reported last time, the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness amended HB 2536 to include a single-payer plan option (along with some other amendments) and passed the bill out of committee. This bill will be heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, February 4. SB 6333, the companion bill, is scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care on Monday, February 4 at 1:30pm. It is not known at this time whether the Senate version will be amended to include a single-payer plan option.

Action—Please make the call to your senator and ask her/him to contact committee members requesting the inclusion of a single-payer plan option in the list of plans to be included in the study, and a “do pass” vote out of committee with that amendment. If your senator is on the Senate committee, your call is especially needed: **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 commercial or marketing purposes absent prescriber consent**

This legislation is part of the legislature’s commitment to promote evidence-based practices and cost containment.

Status—HB 2664 was passed out of the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness. SB 6241 is scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care on Monday, February 4.

Action—There is significant opposition to these bills, so our legislators need to hear from all of us supporting these bills. Please contact your representatives and senator and ask them to vote for these bills. Senate committee members are **Keiser (chair); Franklin (vice chair); Pflug; Carrell; Fairley; Kastama; Kohl-Welles; Marr; Parlette**. House committee members are **Cody (chair); Morrell (vice chair); Hinkle; Alexander; Barlow; Campbell; Condotta; DeBolt; Green; Moeller; Pedersen; Schual-Berke; Seaquist**

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—**ESSB 5261**—**Granting the state insurance commissioner authority to review individual health benefit plan rates**

This bill would restore the authority of the state insurance commissioner, held prior to 2000, to review premium rates for the individual insurance plan market. The legislation was initially introduced in the 2006-2007 legislature as HB 1234 & SB 5261. It passed the Senate, made it to the third reading in the House, but was not voted on in the House. It has been re-introduced in this session as ESB 5261.

League Position—“Quality health care at an affordable cost” is a basic goal for our health care system as described by the LWVUS. The rate increases in premiums charged by insurers in the individual market warrants the review by the insurance commissioner’s office.

Status—ESSB 5261 passed the in Senate on January 30. The vote was along party lines, with one exception. It will be heard in the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:00pm.

Action—Contact your representatives and urge them to ask their colleagues on the Health Care & Wellness Committee to vote for this bill and move it along to a floor vote. Also, ask for a commitment from your representatives for their support when the bill comes to the floor. And if your representative is on the Health Care & Wellness Committee, please contact him/her and ask for a vote approving this bill: **Cody (chair); Morrell (vice chair); Hinkle; Alexander; Barlow; Campbell; Condotta; DeBolt; Green; Moeller; Pedersen; Schual-Berke; Seaquist.**

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

SUPPORT—**SB 5981 & HB 1847**—**Prevention of lead poisoning**

These bills 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 Position—Reduce toxic exposures in homes

Status—SB 5981 received hearing in Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care on January 28, and is scheduled for executive session on Monday Feb.4. HB 1847 is in House Appropriations Committee.

Action—If your senator is a member of Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care, please contact the senator and ask that SB 5981 be allowed to move forward: **Keiser (chair); Franklin (vice chair); Pflug; Carrell; Fairley; Kastama; Kohl-Welles; Marr; Parlette.** If your representative is a member of House Appropriations Committee, please contact them and ask that HB 1527 receive a floor vote: **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.**

Talking Points—

- It is estimated that around 5,000 small children in Washington State have blood lead levels above 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood which is the current standard for intervention. However damage to intelligence occurs at one-fifth that level, and we may have many times as many children in this group.
- Low income children who live in old housing are most at risk but remodeling in any old house can create a high risk for an infant.
- Only 1.1% of Washington's children are being screened for lead poisoning compared with 4.6% and 16.6% in Oregon and California. This amounts to a tragedy for many of Washington’s children, families, and society in lost potential.

Contact—John Roberts, 425-868-9439, jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org

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

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 would be required to identify other high priority chemicals of concern for exposures to children, and manufacturers would be required to identify chemicals of high concern in their products. The Washington Secretary of Health would establish an education campaign regarding such chemicals.

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

Status—The House bill passed out of the House Select Committee on Environmental Health, while the Senate bill is still in the Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

Action—Contact your legislator on these committees and urge support for this legislation. House Select Committee on Environmental Health: **Campbell (chair); Hudgins (vice chair); Sump; Chase; Hailey; Hunt; Morrell; Newhouse; Wood**

Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications: **Rockefeller (chair); Murray (vice chair); Honeyford; Delvin; Fraser; Hatfield; Holmquist; Morton; Oemig; Pridemore; Regala**

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

SUPPORT—**HB 2798 & SB 6483**—**Local Farms, Healthy Kids**

This is a "Priorities for a Healthy Washington" bill that would facilitate purchase of Washington-grown food by schools and state agencies; create a Farm-to-School Program in the state Department of Agriculture; create a fresh fruits and vegetables grant program in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; facilitate access of locally-grown foods into food banks; and provide for use of food stamps at farmers' markets.

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

Status—SHB 2798 passed out of House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources on an 8 to 4 vote. It is now in House Committee on Appropriations. Action in the Senate remains in the Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

Action—If your legislator is a member of Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development, please contact him or her immediately to urge support for this bill and speedy passage out of committee: **Rasmussen (chair); Hatfield (vice chair); Schoesler; Jacobsen; Morton; Shin**. If your legislator is a member of House Committee on Appropriations, contact him or her urging funding for this bill: **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—Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

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, and remind them that the funding will save the state between \$32M and \$60Million in medical costs later. 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—Scheduled for executive session Feb.4 a 1:30pm in House Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

Action—Ask your representative to work to bring this sensible bill forward for a vote on House floor: **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

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**FOR REFERENCE**

**K**ey 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 SB)

**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

**C**ONTACT LISTS

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

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

Legislative Committees – [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx)  
Representation by legislative district – [www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf)

## **L** LEAGUE POSITIONS

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

## **R** 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.