



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

February 10 - February 16, 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” bill

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. *Thanks to all of you who have contacted your senators to ask their support for SSB 5278 and who have reported back! We are continuing to focus on the companion bill, Substitute Senate Bill 5278, as the legislature continues to consider 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 is still in line for a Senate floor vote. All news this week relating to the local option bill is good. Sen. Rosa Franklin, prime sponsor of this bill, introduced a striking amendment that would change the Senate bill language to make it consistent with that of Engrossed HB 1551. Identical language in both bills should assure smooth handling in the House if and when Substitute SB 5278 is voted on and approved by the Senate and sent over to the House. Sources who spoke this week with a Senate Democratic caucus senior staffer reported that the Senate bill is now "a priority of leadership." This designation means that the Senate may push Sen. Franklin's bill. The outcome, however, remains uncertain.

Action—We need to keep the pressure on to assure that the bill gets a floor vote and Senate approval! Please contact **Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown** and ask her for prompt action on SSB 5278. Also contact **your senators** and ask for their support of the local option bill.

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

First cut-off was on Friday, February 8. Friday was the last day for any bill to be considered in policy committee of the bill's house of origin.

PRINTER-Friendly version of this newsletter is here!

Other ACTION ITEMS

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

SUPPORT—Substitute 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—League opposed this bill last week, and LWVWA president Barbara Seitle testified against this bill at a public hearing held by the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on February 1.

Subsequently, this bill was rewritten by the committee. The Substitute House Bill 2904 says only that "local government access channels shall develop policies to avoid preferential treatment of incumbent candidates for the county or city legislature or for city or county executive that apply beginning June 1st of an election year and continue through the general election in November." It has passed to House Rules and is on second reading.

Action—Contact your representatives on House Rules and ask them to support this substitute bill. 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.**

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

OPPOSE—SB 6542—Exempting heating oil from sales and use tax

Oil is a fossil fuel whose burning contributes to climate change. We want to discourage its use. League could support a bill that took the tax off for low-income people only, but this bill doesn't do that.

If heating oil were to become tax exempt, so should bio-fuel used for heating.

League Position—(LWVUS) Energy, elements 4 and 10

Status—Bill received a public hearing January 28 in Senate Ways & Means.

Action—If your senators are on Ways & Means Committee, call and email them and tell them you oppose this bill: **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

OPPOSE—SSB 6559—Exempting construction of noncommercial dock from permit review

League opposes this bill based on our League position. Exempting docks from permit review and from building or code regulations cannot be supported, as proliferation of docks on salt and freshwater shorelines is a major concern and has impacts on fish and wildlife as well as on the aquatic environment. The bill would allow certain noncommercial docks to be built without a shoreline development permit. Specifically, any dock located in fresh water and costing \$13,000 or less, or any dock located in salt water and costing \$10,000 or less, would be exempt from the permitting process.

League Position—Land Use: The effect on environmental quality must always be considered whenever state and local governments and their agencies make decisions.

Status—At time of newsletter deadline, the bill had not moved out of its policy committee by Friday's cut-off, although it received a hearing February 6 in the Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

Action—Please monitor this bill.

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

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

These 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. This legislation is one of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington.

League Position—LWVUS Energy, elements 3 and 5

Status—Senate bill will be heard Monday February 11 in Ways & Means. House bill has passed out of Appropriations.

Action—Call or email your senators if they are on Ways & Means and ask for their support of this bill. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives and ask them to vote for the House bill when it comes to the floor. 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 —SB 6379 & HB 2876—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. Supporting energy efficiency is cheaper than generating electricity.

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

Status—A vote on SB 6379 may take place at any time in Senate Ways & Means Committee. HB2876 is in House Finance 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**. Also, call or email your representative if she/he is on the House Committee on Finance: **Hunter (chair); Hasegawa (vice chair); Orcutt; Condotta; Conway; Ericks; McIntire; Roach; Santos**

Contact—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net

SUPPORT —SB 6515 & HB 2888—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—A vote on SB 6515 may take place at any time in Senate Ways & Means Committee. HB2888 is in House Finance 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. Also, call or email your representative if she/he is on the House Committee on Finance: **Hunter (chair); Hasegawa (vice chair); Orcutt; Condotta; Conway; Ericks; McIntire; Roach; Santos**

Contact—Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net

SUPPORT —**SSB 6255**—**Incentives for Solar Electric Power**

The termination date for electricity generated under the renewable energy cost recovery incentive program is extended from June 30, 2014, to June 30, 2020. The program is expanded to include community-based solar energy projects and a separate new incentive for commercial and industrial projects.

League Position—(LWVUS) Energy, element 6

Status—Heard in Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications. Now in Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Action—Call or email your senator if she/he is on Senate Ways & Means Committee and ask them to support SB 6255: **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

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. It would also reduce the cost of heating for low-income people.

League Position—LWVWA Energy, element 6 and 10

Status—HB 2847 in House Committee on Finance where it was heard February 4. Senate bill is in Ways & Means Committee, where it was heard February 4..

Action—If your senator is on Senate Ways & Means Committee, call or email and ask him/her to vote this bill out of committee. If your representative is on the House Finance Committee, call and ask her/him to vote this bill out of committee. 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 —**SSB 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. Transportation is the greatest source of global climate change in Washington state. Buyers of cars need to know which ones produce the fewest greenhouse gases

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

Status—Has been voted out of policy committee and is now in Senate Rules Committee.

Action—Everyone should call and email their senators and ask them to support SSB 6309.

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

SUPPORT —**SB 6733**—**Renewable energy**

This would extend sales and use tax exemptions to machinery and equipment used to produce

electricity using certain organic materials and byproducts of pulping or wood manufacturing processes.

League Position—(LWVUS) Energy, element 1

Status—Scheduled to be heard in Senate Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday February 12.

Action—Everyone whose senators are on Ways & Means should call and email them and ask for their support for SB 6733: **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

SUPPORT —**SHB 2797 & SSB 6580**—**Mitigating impacts of climate change through the growth management act (GMA)**

This legislation (the “local solutions bill”) would add a climate change element to larger counties’ comprehensive planning processes.

League Position—Land Use: Consider all known factors in making land use decisions including state planning and technical agency advice to local governments.

Status— SHB 2797 was heard Friday, February 8 in House Appropriations Committee, and is scheduled for executive session Monday. SSB6580 not yet scheduled in Senate Ways & Means.

Action— Contact your representative on House Appropriations and urge their support in the committee’s executive session scheduled for Monday, February 11. Also, contact your senator on Ways & Means and ask them to schedule the public hearing on SSB 6580. 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—(Land Use interim chair) Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, ann_aagaard@verizon.net

SUPPORT —**SHB 3202 & SSB 6784**—**Changing the state’s vesting laws**

In the context of land use law, the concept of “vesting” is used to determine the point in time at which the laws and regulations controlling the division, use, or development of real property become fixed with respect to the development of that property, thus preventing such use or development from being subject to subsequent regulatory changes. Currently, the State of Washington’s vesting laws favor earlier vesting relative to other states’ vesting laws. Generally speaking these bills set points in time for vesting that coincide with final approvals or final decisions (which should bring these decisions in line with local ordinances and comprehensive plans in effect at those later points in time), while allowing some earlier vesting for nonprofit affordable housing organizations and housing authorities.

League Position—Land Use: All local governments should be required to have a valid land use plan and to regulate land use consistent with such a plan.

Status—Both bills have received public hearings and have been passed out of their committees. Both are in second reading in their respective Rules Committees, and are awaiting floor action.

Action—Contact your representatives and senators on House or Senate Rules Committees and ask them to move these bills to a vote on the floor of the respective house. 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.** Senate Rules Committee members are **Franklin (chair); Hewitt; Brown; Eide; Fraser; Haugen; Keiser; Kline; Kohl-Welles; McAuliffe; Murray; Parlette; Pflug; Regala; Schoesler; Spanel; Stevens; Zarelli.**

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

SUPPORT—**SHB 3305 & SB 6280**—**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, which formed 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's legislation implements the recommendations of the joint legislative task force. It directs the Employment Security Department to administer the program, specifies that the job protection provisions must be enforced by the Department of Labor & Industries, and modifies the FLIP with respect to government efficiencies, unemployment compensation, and some task force recommendations.

League Position—Children's services.

Status—The House bill was heard in House Committee on Appropriations on February 8. The Senate bill is scheduled to be heard February 11 in Senate Ways & Means.

Action—Contact your legislators on these committees and ask them to pass this legislation into law. 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—Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**SB 6000**—**Allowing ranked choice voting by cities and local taxing districts**

This bill would allow local governments, in counties where ranked choice voting has been approved and implemented for county elections, to use ranked choice voting in the election of non-partisan candidates. This would eliminate the need for a primary election. In ranked choice or instant runoff voting (IRV) elections, candidates are required to receive a majority, rather than a plurality, of the votes cast to win. Voters may select more than one candidate and rank them in preferential order. The candidate who receives a majority of "first choice" votes wins. If no candidate receives a majority, then the candidate with the lowest total of first choice votes is eliminated and second choice votes will be counted. This process continues through each preferential ranking until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

League Position—Support state election laws that allow alternative election systems to be used in government jurisdictions at both the state and local levels. Support the concept of a majority vote requirement for winners of single offices such as mayor or governor, as long as this is achieved using a voting method such as the Instant Runoff Vote rather than a second, separate runoff election.

(Program in Action, page 13)

Status—The bill was heard in Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections on February 7, and is now in Senate Rules. A related House bill, HB 2202, was introduced and received a public hearing in the 2007 session, but has had no real action this session.

Action—Contact your senator on Senate Rules Committee and ask that he/she support SB 6000. Committee members are **Franklin (chair); Hewitt; Brown; Eide; Fraser; Haugen; Keiser; Kline; Kohl-Welles; McAuliffe; Murray; Parlette; Pflug; Regala; Schoesler; Spanel; Stevens; Zarelli.**

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

SUPPORT—**SB 6778**—**Providing for voter registration on election day**

This bill would gradually shorten the 15 day period for registering at the county auditor's office after the 30-day mail-in registration deadline. In year two, the cutoff would decrease to 10 days before a primary or election; in year three the cutoff would decrease to 4 days. In year four there would be registration on election day. After registering on election day, a person would have to vote an absentee ballot for that election.

League Position—LWVWA supports same-day voter registration, and registration at the polling place.

Status—The bill was heard in the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections on February 7, reheard on February 8, and sent to Ways & Means. I can report what happened in the February 8 hearing in the next newsletter.

Action—Ask your senators on Ways & Means to support this bill. 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—Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

SUPPORT—**Substitute 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—League opposed this bill last week, and LWVWA president Barbara Seitle testified against this bill at a public hearing held by the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on February 1. Subsequently, this bill was rewritten by the committee. The Substitute House Bill 2904 says only that “local government access channels shall develop policies to avoid preferential treatment of incumbent candidates for the county or city legislature or for city or county executive that apply beginning June 1st of an election year and continue through the general election in November.” It has passed to House Rules and is on second reading.

Action—Contact your representatives on House Rules and ask them to support this substitute bill: **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

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—Both bills (with amendments) have been passed out of committees with “do pass” recommendations and are in their respective Rules committees. **However, opposition is fierce.**

Action—There is significant opposition to these bills, so our legislators need to hear from all of us supporting these bills in the House and Senate. Please contact your representatives and senator and ask them to vote for these bills. When you do, you can use the talking points given below to help to shape your position. Please use your own words.

Talking Points—

- Pharmaceutical companies are spending billions each year to purchase data telling them every prescription that doctors (including yours and mine) are writing. I believe that my doctor should be

able to write prescriptions for me and others without having that information used to help drug reps make sales calls.

- I believe this data mining practice and the use of these data to influence the prescribing practices of physicians through aggressive marketing techniques based on these data threatens patient safety, drives up our health care costs, and violates the privacy of patients and physicians across our state.
- The prescription privacy bill (HB 3774/SB 6241) would stop the pharmaceutical companies from being able to obtain physicians' prescribing records **while still allowing all of the appropriate public health outcomes of data collection to continue uninterrupted. All legitimate uses such as health care research, compliance reviews, use by insurance and pharmacy benefit managers and law enforcement would remain intact. This bill will stop pharmaceutical companies from using this information for marketing purposes.**
- There is no downside for Washington's consumers of health care in passing this bill, and a great benefit to them.
- Can I count on your vote for this legislation?

Contact—Ann L. Brand, 206-922-2659, anklbrand@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. 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 with a "do pass" recommendation. The amendment to the Senate bill (SB 6333) calling for the inclusion of a single payer option (actually naming the Healthy Security Trust, an act we supported last year) was part of the "do pass" recommended substitute bill that was voted out of the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee.

Status—The House bill will either receive public hearing or be considered in executive session in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, February 11. As of this writing, I do not have a date when this item will be on the Senate Ways & Means agenda.

Action— Please make the call to your senator and representatives and ask them to contact committee members requesting that the respective committees move these bills out of committee and to a floor vote. If your legislator is on one of the committees, your call is especially needed. 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—Ann L. Brand, Ph.D., 206-922-2659, anklbrand@comcast.net

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

This bill restores the authority of the state's insurance commissioner, held prior to 2000, to review premium rates for the individual market. The legislation was initially introduced in the 2006-07 legislature as HB 1234 and SB 5261. It passed the Senate, made it to 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 review by the insurance commissioner's office.

Status—ESSB 5261 passed the Senate on January 30. The vote was along party lines, with one exception. It passed out of House Health Care & Wellness Committee with a “do pass” recommendation on February 7.

Action—Contact your representatives and urge that they support this bill and bring it to passage on the floor of the House.

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

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

It is estimated that around 5000 small children in Washington State have blood lead levels above 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter (ugPb/dl) of blood which is the current standard for intervention. However damage to intelligence occurs at 2 ugPb/dl and we may have many times as many children in this group. There is a possibility Sen. Kohl-Welles will introduce an amendment to change the definition of lead poisoning to 2 ugPb/dl which would be a tremendous advance that reflect current scientific research, to protect the potential of children. The finger stick machines can do a blood test for \$7 to \$10 that can screen children at 3 ugPb/dl. This a very cost-effective action to prevent very large future costs to children, families, and society.

League Position—Reduce toxic exposures in homes

Status—Senate bill is in Ways & Means.

Action—If your senator is on Ways & Means, please contact them: [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—John Roberts, 425-868-9439, jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org

SUPPORT—**SB 6852**—**Addressing presence of toxins in the home**

includes the requirement that the landlord notification to tenants on mold health effects, causes, and methods of control be available in the five top languages in the State. This bill would also establish a commission to make recommendation to the Governor and Legislature on next steps to reduce the large impact that dampness and mold have on health and the maintenance of buildings. Around 33% of homes in our State have mold or moisture problems.

League Position—Reduce toxic exposures in homes

Status—In Ways & Means.

Action—If your senator is on Ways & Means, please contact them: [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—John Roberts, 425-868-9439, jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org

SUPPORT—**HB 3064**—**Unwanted Medicines Take Back Program**

The issue is the accumulation in homes of unwanted and expired medicines. Such medicines can lead to accidental poisonings and improper use. The old method of flushing them down the toilet or disposing of them with the trash we now know leads to surface and underground water degradation. This bill establishes a program to collect and properly dispose of unwanted pharmaceutical products from residential sources. Every producer of such products sold in the state would be required to participate in a product stewardship program for unwanted products by 1/1/10.

Status—HB 3064 has passed out of its committee of origin, and has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

League Positions—LWVWA Toxics in the Home and Hazardous Waste Management; LWVUS

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control, Water Resources, Waste Management.

Action—If your representative is on the House Appropriations Committee, please contact him or her ASAP urging support for this bill and passage out of committee: **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—**SB 6530 & HB 2647**—**Children's Safe Products**

Prohibits the sale, manufacture, or distribution of children's products and toys containing lead, cadmium or phthalates after 1/1/09; requires Dept. of Ecology to identify other high priority chemicals of concern for exposures of children; requires manufacturers to identify chemicals of high concern in their products; requires Secretary of Health to establish an education campaign regarding such chemicals.

Status—Both bills have passed out of their respective policy committees. These bills are scheduled for hearing in the fiscal committees on Monday, February 11: HB 2647 in the House Appropriations Committee, SB 6530 in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

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

Action—If your legislator is on either of these fiscal committees, please contact him or her urging support for this bill and passage out of committee. 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—Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

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

A Priorities for a Healthy Washington bill. Facilitates purchase of Washington grown food by schools and state agencies; creates a Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture; creates a fresh fruits and vegetables grant program in the OSPI; facilitates access of locally grown foods into Food Banks; provides for use of food stamps at farmers' markets.

Status—Both bills have moved out of their policy committees. HB 2798 is scheduled for hearing with House Appropriations Committee on Monday; SB 6483 is scheduled for hearing in Senate Ways & Means on Monday.

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

Action—If your legislator is a member of either of the fiscal committees, please contact him or her immediately to urge support for this bill and speedy passage out of the committee. 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—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 legislators to work for full funding. However, given the state of the economy this appears unlikely. **Insist that, at least, Gov. Gregoire's request for \$5 million be enacted.** 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](#) & [SB 6305](#)—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—Both bills have cleared the policy committees. In the Senate the vote was 7 to 1 for the “do pass” recommendation. In the House the vote was 7 to 6 for the “do pass”. Both are in Rules and waiting for floor action.

Action—Ask your senator and your representatives to bring these bills to the floor and to support their passage.

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

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](#) was the subject of a hearing last week in Senate Ways & Means Committee. [HB 3234](#) was heard last week in House Finance Committee.

Action—Call or email your senator if she/he is on Senate Ways & Means and ask them to vote [SB 6809](#) out of committee. Call or email your representative if she/he is on House Finance Committee and ask them to vote [HB 3234](#) out of committee. Senate Ways & Means: [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—Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, omi.bush@verizon.net

Additional BACKGROUND

Evergreen Cities Bill Alive and Well

The "Evergreen Cities" bill, having undergone significant changes since it was first introduced, is alive and well after having been passed out of both House (SHB 2844) and Senate (SB 6469) committees. It includes modest budget items and will now move on to the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Ways & Means Committee on Monday.

The original bill, which would have required cities to participate, met a near solid wall of opposition from major players outside of the environmental community and was considered a non-starter. Once the proposal was amended to rely on incentives rather than mandates, much of the opposition evaporated; if passed, it would at least begin a process to make cities greener, and therefore healthier for humans and other living things -- and more resilient in the face of the inexorable impacts of global warming. The Audubon Bird's Eye legislative bulletin states: "To encourage cities to participate, incentives will be offered through bonus points in programs such as water pollution control and habitat acquisition. The Evergreen Cities act will also fund several pilot cities. Local governments participating in the pilots will engage in assessment, community outreach, planting, maintenance, and partnership development."

Contact— Peggy Bruton, 360-866-7165, gimleteye@comcast.net

Ensuring cleanup of certain hazardous waste sites

SSB 5393 would clarify the Initiative 297 of three years ago which has been stalled in the courts. It would give the state authority to condition hazardous waste permits so that a facility must be cleaned up before more waste is brought in from other sites. It applies to all hazardous waste sites but is important for Hanford where decisions will be made very soon about bringing in large quantities of mixed waste from other sites across the country. The League supports this bill based on our hazardous waste position which says, in part " Washington must enforce strict regulation of the treatment, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste..." Unfortunately, the bill did not meet Friday's cut-off to pass out of the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. There is still the possibility that it will re-surface. **Thanks to all League members who made calls to legislators after our urgent action request yesterday.**

Contact—Betty Tabbutt, 360-956-9287, tabbutte@netzero.net

Transportation

Second Substitute HB 1773. We continue to support this bill, which passed to the House Rules Committee before Friday's cut-off. The bill would provide a supplementary source of transportation funding for such mega-projects as the replacement of the SR 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington. It is still in its second reading in the House Rules Committee. The League position supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue for our transportation infrastructure.

HB 3096. We continue to monitor this bill, which is the SR 520 bridge funding bill, now in House executive action. No design replacement for the bridge has been determined, so the League is neutral on this and the companion Senate bill 6754. We must withhold support at this time until the requested eight lanes are reduced in number, and until guidelines are put in place ensuring that a new bridge would not harm such areas as the Arboretum. Other considerations also compel withholding League support at this time.

HB 2730. We support this bipartisan housekeeping bill, which passed to the House Rules Committee before Friday's cut-off and has no opposition. It would resolve the question of whether funds for

operations of a passenger-only ferry service can come to a port district, and would expand the designated area to include Puget Sound. The bill also would make possible a \$3.5 million federal government grant to the Port of Kingston for the capital needs of their passenger-only service plan. The state would need to provide \$900,000 over the next four years to make that plan self-sustaining. The League's new ferry transportation position supports passenger-only ferries.

HB 2718. We support this bill, which is in executive action in the House Transportation Committee. It would require the Washington State Transportation Commission to consider the desirability of reasonable fares for frequent ferry users. Our League position specifies that the fare box should not totally fund ferry operations.

HB 3224. We strongly support this bill, which authorizes a study of commuter rail services for southeast Snohomish County and east King County (the Burlington Northern rail sale to the Port of Seattle and planned uses). League support is based on our position for a multi-modal transportation system. Rep. Liz Loomis and Rep. Marko Liias, two legislators appointed to fill seats vacated by and John Lovick and Brian Sullivan, are two of the sponsors.

HB 3154 and SB 6822, which are bills we supported, attempted to establish goals to reduce by 50 percent the vehicle miles traveled by 2050. Emissions are now projected to grow more than 25% by 2020, and reductions in transportation-related emissions are required to meet climate pollution goals. The bills remained in House Transportation Committee after the Friday cut-off.

SB 6923, a bill that was just recently dropped and which we supported, would introduce a vehicle excise tax on all passenger vehicles (not commercial) based on EPA fuel mileage ratings. Seventy-five percent of the tax would go to cities and counties and 25 percent to the DOT for transportation projects including "green" alternatives. It remained in the House Transportation Committee after the Friday cut-off. This bill was sponsored by Sen. Edward Murray.

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

PRIORITIES FOR A HEALTHY WASHINGTON

Good news: all four environmental priorities have met Friday's deadline of passing out of their committees of origin. On to the next deadline of Tuesday, February 12, when bills must pass out of one of the finance committees, Appropriations in the House or Ways & Means in the Senate. For updates on these priorities, which League supports, see articles by:

Toni Potter & Marian Wineman on Climate Action Green Jobs;

Ann Aagaard on Local Solutions to Global Warming;

Peggy Bruton on Evergreen Cities;

Elizabeth Davis on Local Farms Healthy Kids.

Maury Island Mineral Rights

Here's an update on SHB 3171 & SB 6777 (Clarifying interests in certain state lands). Hearings were held in both houses and League testified in support of the original House bill while it was in Ecology & Parks, but now we cannot support the amendment to the bill made in that committee. However, we do support the Senate bill, which has passed out of the Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications and is now in Rules. The House bill is in the House Appropriations Committee. No action is requested of you at this time. We are monitoring the two bills as they move through the committees.

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



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 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

CONTACT LISTS

Portfolios / Lobby Team – www.lwvwa.org/about/officers.html

Legislators – www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf

Legislative Committees – www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx

Representation by legislative district – www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf

LEAGUE POSITIONS

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

RESOURCES

League action website – lwvwa.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.