



League of Women Voters of Washington

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

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

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March 8 thru March 13, 2008

SUPPORT - SSB 6241 - Prohibiting sale or use of prescriber-identifiable prescription data for commercial or marketing purposes

This legislation is part of legislature's commitment to promoting evidence-based practices and cost containment.

League Position - (LWVUS) "Quality health care at an affordable cost" is a basic goal. The practice prohibited by this bill drives the cost of prescription drugs and influences prescribing practices that may not be in the best interests of health care consumers.

Status - This bill passed in the Senate on a vote of 26 to 22 on February 18. As this report is being written, the bill is in House Rules Committee. If it does not receive a vote in the House by the end of the day Friday (3/7), it is dead for this year.

Action - You have probably received an urgent action request about this bill. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the bill will have been passed in the House or not. Hopefully, we can contact our representatives who voted for the bill and thank them (here's how). There will be more specific information available with our wrap-up report which will come out next month.

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

SUPPORT - SB 6333 - Establishing citizen's work group on health care reform

SB 6333 would create a nine-member citizen work group representing various interests to be impacted by health care reform. This bill includes a single-payer option, the Washington Health Security Trust. This is the single-payer bill that we supported last year. The bill has been amended to complete the study of four different plans, including a single payer model of health care coverage, in late 2008 and begin work groups after that. This is later than was originally expected. This may delay any legislation in 2009 on health care reform.

League Position - "LWVWA will work to improve access to health care in Washington by supporting legislation that funds and analyzes a comparison of costs to be borne by individuals, business, and government of 3 to 4 models of health care delivery."

Status - ESSB 6333 passed in the Senate on a vote of 31 to 17 on February 18 and has been passed back to the House for action. This is another bill, like **SSB 6241**, that as of Friday morning (3/7) had not yet been passed out of the House Rules Committee for a floor vote.

Action - Again, you may have received an urgent action request about this bill. By the time you read this, the fate of the bill will have been determined. **Please accept our thanks for all you have done in lobbying for this bill and SSB 6241.**

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

We are in the last few days of the legislature, with lots of last minute action happening in Olympia.

Thanks to all of our members who called in to their legislators!

Watch for our wrap-up report which will come out next month.

SUPPORT - ESB 5261 - Review individual health benefit plan premium rates

This bill restores the authority of the state's elected insurance commissioner to review premium rates for the individual market. The commissioner held this authority before 2000.

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 - This Senate bill passed the House on February 29.

Action - A message of appreciation to representatives and senators who voted for this bill would be well received.

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

SUPPORT – Funding for Cover All Kids Act of 2007 (SB 5093)

One of the priorities included in our list of the League's legislative priorities this year was to support legislation that provides full implementation of the Cover All Kids Act of last year. The children's lobby has identified \$4 million for mental health coverage for children as absolutely necessary to keep the system moving forward toward its goal of adequate health care coverage for all kids.

Status - The supplemental operating budget passed out of the House Appropriations Committee does not include any funding deemed by advocates as essential to move this initiative forward.

Action - Contact your senator and urge him/her to have the Senate's version of the supplemental operating budget include \$4 million for children's mental health care.

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

SUPPORT - SB 6328 — Enhancing campus security

Requires institutions of higher education to create campus safety plans and task forces to review planning processes; develop agreements with local jurisdictions which delineate responsibilities and include shared use of equipment and technology; and conduct and report biennially on self-studies assessing institutions' ability to ensure safety of people on campus.

League Position — Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons.

Violence Prevention: Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Status — Passed unanimously in both houses and is awaiting governor's signature.

Action — Thank your legislators for passing this bill.

Contact – Peggy Saari, 206-525-0132, peggyaari@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 - The House budget (operating supplemental appropriations bill **HB 2687**) has an increase from \$5 million to \$6.9 million for family planning. While this is not the needed \$8 million, any increase is better than nothing. The Senate budget is out and has only \$4 million for family planning.

Action - Ask your legislators, especially your senators, to work to increase the funding at least to the House level of \$6.9 million.

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

SUPPORT - SHB 1534 - Modifying provisions affecting candidates for elective office

This bill would change procedures for minor party and independent candidate nomination. Some of the changes are:

- Eliminate the requirement for minor party and independent candidates to have a nominating convention
- Change the number of signatures required to qualify for the ballot
- Reduce the filing fee for minor party and independent candidates to one-half that of major party candidates
- Eliminate the requirement that precinct committee officers (PCOs) receive 10% of the votes cast in the precinct for the highest vote-getter in the precinct

League Position - Improved access to the ballot by minor party candidates.

Status - This bill is on second reading in Senate Rules.

Action - Please ask your Senator in Rules to vote this bill out of Rules and to support a yes vote on the Senate floor: **Franklin (vice 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 —HB 2473—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 bill would eliminate the risky consequences of sending ballots to bad addresses. The repeated mailings are costly for state and local governments, and receive a minimal response—less than 1 percent.

League Position—Efficiency and increased economy in the use of government resources.

Status—On second reading in Senate Rules.

Action— Please ask your senator in Rules to vote this bill out of Rules Committee and to vote in favor of the bill on the Senate floor.

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

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

This bill would require the Secretary of State and county auditors to post an online voters' pamphlet for primary and general elections. The website would include information on candidates for justice of the State Supreme Court, judge of the State Court of Appeals, and judge of the County Superior Courts, in addition to other candidates, if such material gets submitted. (The original bill was written to provide information on judicial candidates for primary elections, as many judicial elections are decided in the primary.)

League Position—Citizen's right to know and to participate in elections.

Status—On second reading in Senate Rules.

Action— Ask your senator in Rules to vote this bill out of Rules and to support a yes vote on the Senate floor.

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

SUPPORT - HB 2917 - Voter registration at institutions of higher education

This bill requires institutions of higher education to make voter registration forms available in prominent places around campus. It also requires that these institutions develop and implement policies regarding distribution of voter registration forms. Higher education institutions would collaborate with their student government associations to conduct nonpartisan voter information activities.

League Position - Support of voter education for all potential voters. Support of ballot access for

young voters.

Status – On second reading in Senate Rules.

Action — Ask your senator in Rules to vote this bill out of Rules and to support a yes vote on the Senate floor.

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

SUPPORT - **SSB 5628** - **Adopting interstate agreement for election of president of the United States by national popular vote**

This bill would allocate electoral votes to Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates according to who receives the most popular votes in the country as a whole. The original bill would have allocated the votes based on who received the most popular votes in the state. The act would only go into effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes in the country entered into the same agreement.

League Position – (LWVUS) Electoral College should be abolished. Support for election of US president and vice-president by means of direct popular vote.

Status — On second reading in House Rules.

Action — Ask your representatives on House Rules Committee to vote this Senate bill out of committee and to support a yes vote on the House floor.

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

SUPPORT - **HB 2815** - **Climate Action and Green Jobs**

All the key pieces of the bill are intact, including:

- the requirement that the state limit emissions of greenhouse gases to reach the emission reduction goals set by SB6001 last year
- the requirement that Ecology bring the design for a market-based system back to the legislature by December(and that it be designed to start no later than Jan.2012)
- mandatory emissions reporting
- green-collar jobs labor market research and the creation of a green-collar jobs training fund
- periodic review of the state emissions reduction goals in light of the latest climate change science
- periodic review of the state emissions reduction goals in light of the latest climate change science
- vehicle miles travel reduction goals

League Position - *National Voter*, Oct.2007

Status - This bill has passed both houses and is now awaiting adequate funding and the governor's signature.

Action - If your legislator is one of these five – **Kessler; Dunshee; Prentice; Pridemore; Sommers** – please call them and ask them to fully fund HB 2815.

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

SUPPORT - **E2SHB 2844** - **Evergreen Cities**

The bill would offer assistance to cities in protecting and restoring the trees in cities, including vest pocket areas where lots of kids live.

League Positions - LWVWA Forests; LWVUS Natural Resources.

Status - HB 2844 is still alive and moving. The Senate on Thursday (March 6) passed the bill along party lines, albeit without the modest funding called for in the House version, without which the work called for could not get started. BIAW has been working hard against this bill, for reasons that remain a mystery to me. Now the fate of the measure rests with the conferees, Sommers,

Kessler, and Dunshee in the House; and Pridemore, Brown, and Prentice in the Senate.

Action - Constituent calls to the conferees are probably not helpful at this point, but we can urge our own friendly legislators to talk up the measure to them. Your message for them is: This bill is important. Keep it moving with the \$400,000 appropriation called for in the House version of the budget.

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

SUPPORT - SB 6483 - Local Farms, Healthy Kids

Funding remains the big issue here: the original estimate was \$5 million. The House version of the supplementary operating budget only provided \$1 million; the Senate budget provided \$1.5 million. This bill facilitates purchase of Washington-grown food by schools and state agencies; creates a Farm-to-School Program in the state Department of Agriculture; creates a fresh fruits and vegetables grant program in the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; facilitates access of locally grown foods into food banks; and provides for use of food stamps at farmers' markets.

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

Status - The bill has now passed both houses with only one dissenting vote! It is back in the Senate for concurrence due to some amendments in the House.

Action - Please contact your senator and representatives with thanks for their support for the bill and to urge support for full funding for this bill.

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

SUPPORT - HB 2647 - Children's Safe Products Act

Prohibits the sale, manufacture, or distribution of children's products and toys containing lead, cadmium, or phthalates after January 1, 2009; requires state Department 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 state Secretary of Health to establish an education campaign regarding such chemicals.

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

Status - Although Children's Safe Products passed the House in February by a vote of 95 to 0, it is now hanging by a thread in the Senate. Lobbyists for the chemical and toy industries have made a major effort in the past weeks lobbying against this bill. Its fate will have been determined on Friday before you receive this newsletter.

Action – Everyone whose senator supported this bill should thank them for their support.

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

SUPPORT Priorities for a Healthy Washington

First victory for the environmental priorities is the Climate Action Green Jobs bill, which passed both houses and is on its way to the governor. The other three priorities have been passed by both houses, and are either awaiting a floor vote or concurrence by the opposite house due to amendments having been made in the other house. For updates on the priorities, see articles by:

Ann Aagaard for Local Solutions to Global Warming;

Toni Potter & Marian Wineman for Climate Action Green Jobs;

Peggy Bruton for Evergreen Cities;

Elizabeth Davis for Local Farms, Healthy Kids.

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

Mitigating impacts of climate change through GMA

SSB 6580 (the "local solutions bill") passed in the House late Thursday evening with **58 yes votes** and **35 no votes** and **46 amendments**. It would have added a climate change element to larger counties' comprehensive planning processes, and a goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA), all of which would have been an important first step to help local governments reduce their climate impact through land use and transportation plans. However, the bill as passed does **not** include a new goal in GMA requiring local jurisdictions to address global warming. Nevertheless, it does set in process the steps for developing a modeling program and, with the help of an advisory committee, instructs the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) to provide cities and counties with a tool to inventory, measure, and estimate greenhouse gas emissions related to land use decisions (advisory climate change response methodologies). Also, if monies are included in the House budget, a competitive grants program will be established to fund cities and counties interested in addressing climate change through transportation and planning, or who are already addressing climate change. Voting Yea: Representatives Appleton, Barlow, Campbell, Chase, Clibborn, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Dickerson, Dunshee, Eddy, Ericks, Flannigan, Fromhold, Goodman, Green, Haigh, Hasegawa, Hudgins, Hunt, Hurst, Jarrett, Kagi, Kelley, Kenney, Kirby, Lantz, Lias, Linville, Loomis, McCoy, McIntire, Miloscia, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Nelson, O'Brien, Ormsby, Pedersen, Pettigrew, Priest, Quall, Roberts, Rolfes, Santos, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, Sells, Simpson, Sommers, Springer, Sullivan, Upthegrove, Wallace, Williams, Wood, and Mr. Speaker Chopp
Voting Nay: Representatives Ahern, Alexander, Anderson, Armstrong, Bailey, Blake, Chandler, Condotta, Crouse, DeBolt, Dunn, Ericksen, Grant, Haler, Hankins, Herrera, Hinkle, Kessler, Kretz, Kristiansen, McCune, McDonald, Newhouse, Orcutt, Pearson, Roach, Rodne, Ross, Schindler, Schmick, Smith, Takko, Van De Wege, Walsh, and Warnick
Excused: Representatives Eickmeyer, Hailey, Hunter, Skinner, and Sump

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

Mineral rights on Maury Island (SSB 6777)

As of Friday the 7th, the necessary votes to pass the amended bill out of the House are just a few short. It does not look like it will pass this session. Possibly monies for the JLARC review can be included in the governor's budget.

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

Transportation Successes

As of 10:30 3/7/08 all of our high priority bills have passed and are on the way for the Governor's signature. It was not that easy, and the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees deserve our thanks along with the hard work and long hours put in by other members. Rep. Judy Clibborn, Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen, and Rep. Fred Jarrett deserve special credit for their efforts.

2SHB 1773, referred to as the tolling bill for the State of Washington, passed 29 yeas 19 nays. It clarifies how the tolls can be used and includes maintenance and operation for the first time along with financing construction of a facility. Only the legislature can authorize the imposition of tolls. The rates are set by the Washington State Transportation Commission.

2SHB 3096 provides some funding for the replacement of the State Route 520 floating bridge by specifying that the design include six lanes (four general-purpose and two for transit and HOV travel) and connections for transit to light rail at the University of Washington. It authorizes the collection of tolls on the existing SR-520 bridge or on the replacement bridge. Like 2SHB 1773, it passed with 29 yeas and 19 nays.

2SHB 3224 is a study to assess the feasibility of commuter rail services along the Burlington Northern rail north/south route on the eastern side of Lake Washington. The analysis is to be collaboration of

Sound Transit and the Puget Sound Regional Council. They will report to the transportation committees of the state legislature by February 2009. We hope they will retain the \$100,000 included in the House Transportation Budget for this effort. This bill passed unanimously .

HB 2815 is groundbreaking legislation that creates a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our state. It passed with 29 yeas and 19 nays and was supported along with a similar bill, SB 6822. With this bill, the transportation sector requires Washington State Department of Transportation to adopt statewide goals to reduce by half the annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by 2050.

HB 2730 allows funds to come to the Port of Kingston for passenger-only ferry service. This assures the award of a \$3.5 million federal government grant for capital needs. It passed with 41 yeas, 6 nays.

Please thank your representatives and senators for voting and working for all of this vital and worthwhile transportation legislation. And a big thank you to you members for calling and e-mailing to convey the League's support of these issues.

Contact - Pat Matteson, 206-232-8028, patricialpm@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 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.