



League of Women Voters of Washington

Barbara Seitle, President // Barbara L. Bush, Action Chair // Newsletter edited by Stasha McBride

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

Legislative Newsletter, Vol.41, No.5

League office: 4730 University Way NE #720, Seattle 98105 / 206-622-8961 / 800-419-2596 / lwvwa@lwvwa.org

Action Priority

14 February - 20 February 2009

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

Support - **SB 5912** & **HB 1738** The Supreme Court Fair Elections bill

Establishing a program of optional public financing of campaigns for the Washington State Supreme Court, thereby allowing candidates the option of financing their campaigns solely or primarily on public financing.

League Positions – The League of Women Voter of the United States (LWVUS) believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

Status - **SB 5912** was referred to Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. **HB 1738** was referred to House State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee. **Neither committee has scheduled the bill for a hearing.**

ACTION - Contact the members of the House and Senate committees and ask them to schedule the bill for a hearing. (House: **Hunt**, chair; **Appleton**, **Armstrong**, **Alexander**, **Flannigan**, **Hurst**, **Miloscia**, **Newhouse**. Senate: **Fairley**, chair; **Oemig**, **McDermott**, **Roach**, **Benton**, **Pridemore**, **Swecker**.)

Contact - Barbara Seitle, bseitle@whidbey.com, 360 221 3792

Action Items

Support - **HB 1943** – Requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce.

Requires the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to develop recommendations for a comprehensive statewide system of professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce. This work will be done by the Professional Development Consortium, which is charged to map current resources, define core competencies, and recommend a plan to implement the system. The DEL and the Consortium must provide a status update to the Legislature by 9/14/09 and final recommendations by 12/31/10.

League Position – The League of Women Voters of Washington State (LWVWA) supports “professional development programs and adequate compensation for child care providers.”

Status - The bill was heard in the House Early Learning and Children’s Services Committee on 2/12/09. Prime sponsor is Kagi, with Walsh, Goodman, Probst, Quall, Rolfes, Kenney, Dickerson, Kelley and Santos.

ACTION - If you have representatives **Kagi**, **Roberts**, **Haler**, **Walsh**, **Angel**, **Goodman** or **Seaquist** please contact them to express support for passing the bill out of committee.

Contact - Pat Dickason, p.dickason@comcast.net, 360 753 7647
or Margie Reeves, mpreeves@comcast.net, 360 866 7507

Support - **HB 1944** - Regarding the development and implementation of a kindergarten assessment

Directs DEL’s Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to continue collaborative work on a kindergarten assessment to be piloted during the 2010-2011 school year and implemented statewide beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. ELAC and OSPI are to convene a representative workgroup to define the assessment requirements, methodology, and data collection as well as opt-out procedures. A training plan and implementation strategy must be developed, pilot sites selected and

the pilot evaluated and adjusted. The assessment is to provide parents and teachers information about the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities and provide feedback to early learning programs about needed improvements, support the child's transition from early learning to kindergarten, and improve alignment between early learning and kindergarten. The assessment is to be developmentally appropriate and culturally and linguistically relevant.

League Position - LWVWA supports "policies and programs that promote the well-being and safety of all children."

Status - The bill was heard in the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee on 2/12/09. Prime sponsor is Kagi, with Walsh, Sullivan, Haigh, Carlyle, Quall, Kenney and Ormsby.

ACTION - If you have representatives **Kagi, Roberts, Haler, Walsh, Angel, Goodman** or **Seaquist** please contact them to express support for passing the bill out of committee.

Contact - Pat Dickason, p.dickason@comcast.net, 360 753 7647
or Margie Reeves, mpreeves@comcast.net, 360 866 7507

Support - **HB 2132** - Relating to instruction in civics

The State Board of Education establishes high school graduation requirements. This past year it proposed "Core 24" – the 24 credits required for admission to state universities. A half-credit was added to the required social studies credits without designating what course that should be. **HB 2132** would make that half-credit a civics class.

League Positions - LWV believes that democratic system of government depends upon informed and active participation in that government.

Status - The House Committee on Education will hold a public hearing on **HB 2132** on February 17, and LWVWA will testify in support.

ACTION - Contact members of the House Committee on Education (**Quall, Probst, Priest, Hope, Cox, Dammeier, Hunt, Johnson, Liias, Maxwell, Orwall, Santos, and Sullivan**) and ask them to pass **HB 2132** out of committee before the February 20th deadline.

Message - Preparation for citizenship is as important as preparation for college and a career and should take its place as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma.

Contact - Catherine Ahl, cathahl@hotmail.com, 360 697 7924

Support – **SB 5534 & HB 1517** Restoration of Voting Rights

Creating a system to automatically restore the right to vote for people who were convicted of felonies and who have come out of the criminal justice system.

League Positions - LWVUS believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. LWVWA believes that registration should be simple and convenient for voters while ensuring accuracy.

Status - Both bills were heard in committees this past week. LWVWA testified at both hearings. **SB 5534** was reported out by the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and has been sent to Senate Rules. **HB 1517** is scheduled for Executive Session in House State Government & Tribal Affairs on Thursday, February 19.

ACTION - If your Representative is on the State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee, (**Hunt** – Chair, **Appleton, Armstrong, Alexander, Flannigan, Hurst, Miloscia, Newhouse**) please call or email and urge them to report the bill.

Message - Please report the bill out of committee. This is a "good government" bill because it simplifies a complicated, costly and ineffective process. It provides a bright line for elections officials and is less costly to administer than the current system. Restoring the right to vote encourages people to reconnect with their communities and become good citizens.

Contact - Barbara Seitle, bseitle@whidbey.com, 360 221 3792

Support - **SB 5476** - A bill to abolish the death penalty.

League Position - The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Status - **SB 5476**, co-sponsored by Senators **Murray, McDermott, Kline, Regala**, and **Kohl-Welles**, was the

subject of a hearing in Senate Committee on Judiciary on February 10. LWVWA signed in to testify, but because of time constraints were not able to do so.

ACTION - Contact the sponsors and thank them for sponsoring the bill. If your Senator is on the Judiciary Committee, (**Kline** - Chair, **Regala**, **McCaslin**, **Carrell**, **Hargrove**, **Kohl-Welles**, **Roach**, **Tom**) urge her/him to vote to report the bill out of committee.

Contact - Barbara Seitle, bseitle@whidbey.com, 360 221 3792

Support - **HB 1747** - Reducing climate pollution in the built environment

This is an energy efficiency bill that will create jobs and provide us with more clean energy for a cheaper price.

League Position - The League supports action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of energy conservation.

Status - Will be voted on by the House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communication on Monday, February 16 at 1:30 p.m.

ACTION - If your representative is on the above committee, (**McCoy**, **Eddy**, **Crouse**, **Haler**, **Carlyle**, **Condotta**, **Finn**, **Hasegawa**, **Herrera**, **Hinkle**, **Hudgins**, **Jacks**, **McCune**, **Morris**, **Takko**, **Van De Wege**) ask him/her to vote for this bill. Federal stimulus dollars will soon be coming to the state. The state department of Community Trade & Economic Development anticipates a sizable increase in federal funds available for energy efficiency from the federal government and Washington needs to be ready to utilize them quickly.

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

Support - **HB1133** - Modifying provisions of Initiative 937

This is the best of the many bills seeking to modify Initiative 937. This bill increases the amount of renewable resources that certain electric utilities must use and expands the geographic region from which they may be derived. Specifies that certain electric utilities must pursue all available conservation related to energy end-use, production, and distribution.

League Position - The League supports action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation.

Status - Will be voted on the House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications on Monday, February 16 at 1:30 p.m.

ACTION - If your representative is on the above committee, (**McCoy**, **Eddy**, **Crouse**, **Haler**, **Carlyle**, **Condotta**, **Finn**, **Hasegawa**, **Herrera**, **Hinkle**, **Hudgins**, **Jacks**, **McCune**, **Morris**, **Takko**, **Van De Wege**) ask him/her to vote for this bill. This has a modest fiscal note so remember to say that the League does not favor making further cuts to the state's general fund to finance it, but suggest that it may fall under the federal stimulus fund supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency, so it should be kept alive.

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

Support - **HB 1994** - Informing electric customers of the carbon dioxide emissions associated with the customer's electricity consumption.

Requires utilities to inform electric customers of the carbon dioxide emissions associated with their electricity consumption.

League Position - The League supports a state energy policy formulated with particular regard to encouraging changes in lifestyle to preserve the environment.

Status - Will be heard in the House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications on Monday, February 16 at 1:30 p.m.

ACTION - If your representative is on the above committee, (**McCoy**, **Eddy**, **Crouse**, **Haler**, **Carlyle**, **Condotta**, **Finn**, **Hasegawa**, **Herrera**, **Hinkle**, **Hudgins**, **Jacks**, **McCune**, **Morris**, **Takko**, **Van De Wege**) call him/her and ask for support of the bill. This bill requires no new money.

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

Support - **PSSB 5282 / PSHB 1180** Safe Baby Bottle Act

This bill bans sale, after 7/1/10, of any plastic bottle, cup or other receptacle intended to hold a liquid, food or beverage for consumption by children age 3 or younger which contains bisphenol A (BPA). It also bans any

sports water bottle made with BPA. These two bans remain in the bill. The original bill also banned the sale of any liquid or food containing BPA at .5 parts per billion if the product was intended for children three and under. This section is now added to the process established for the Department of Ecology to assess alternatives to BPA in other food and beverage containers before enacting any further restrictions.

League Positions - LWVUS Early Intervention for Children at Risk: support for action to reduce or eliminate threats to young children's full growth, development and safety.

Fiscal provisions - The bill provides that the administrative costs to set up the program shall be paid from the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) account. Penalties for non-compliance are also assessed; they are paid into the MTCA account.

Status - In the House, the bill passed out of its committee of origin and is now in the General Government Appropriations Committee; it will be heard on February 17. The bill was heard in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on February 4 and is still in that committee.

ACTION - Contact your House Representatives urging their support for this bill. If your legislator is on the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee, (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) please contact him/her to urge support for this bill, and to move the bill out of committee.

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

Support - **SB5279 & HB1165** - Providing for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted medicines.

This bill provides for a producer provided and funded product stewardship program. Producers of drugs sold in Washington must prepare a plan for these unwanted drugs by 1/1/12. The plans must provide for a collection system from residential sources in all counties of the state. Fees will be charged to the producers for the costs of administering the program. There will be no charge to consumers to dispose of these drugs at the collection places.

Fiscal provisions - The initial costs for Department of Ecology to establish the program are under \$50,000, and would be paid as a loan from the state's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) fund. That loan would have to be repaid within two years.

League Positions - LWVUS Natural Resources: support for protection and improvement of water quality, and reduction of pollution. LWVUS Early Intervention for Children at Risk: support for action to remove threats to the health and development of very young children.

Status - After passing out of its House committee of origin, this bill will be heard in the House General Government Appropriations Committee on February 17. The Senate Health & Long Term Care committee held its public hearing on **SB5279** on February 4.

ACTION - Contact your representatives urging support for this bill. If your senator is on the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee, (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) contact him/her urging passage of the bill out of committee.

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

Support - **HB 1612 & SB 5629** - Pregnancy Prevention Programs

These bills remove the requirement that the Department of Health (DOH) apply for abstinence only funds and allows DOH to apply for comprehensive sex education funds.

League Position - LWV supports reproductive rights.

Status - **SB 5629** was heard in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on Wednesday, February 11. There was no opposition, so only the sponsor and a panel of three testified.

ACTION - If your Senator is a committee member (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) please ask him/her to support this bill and vote it out with a **do pass** recommendation.

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

Support – **HB 1412** Neurodevelopment Disabilities Insurance & **SB 5203** Autism Spectrum Insurance

Both require that insurance coverage be included in health insurance and both are worthy of our support. The differences are that **HB 1412** includes all neurodevelopment disabilities while **SB 5203** is limited to autism spectrum disorders. However **HB 1412** will come into force in 2011 while **SB 5203** appears to come into effect

earlier. We prefer the broader definition and the earlier effect date but will support whichever is passed.

League Position - Accessible and affordable health care.

Status - Both bills have had their Committee hearing.

ACTION - If your Representative is on the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (**Cody, Driscoll, Ericksen, Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell, Pedersen**) or your Senator is on the Health & Long Term Care Committee, (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) please ask her/him to bring these bills to a vote and pass them out with a **do pass** recommendation.

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

2009-2010 Budget - Health Care Budget Items - As you well know there are many health care programs that may be cut in the 2009-2011 budget.

League Position - Ensure universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services...regardless of one's health status or financial status.

Status - On February 17 the House Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee has a work session to discuss the value of health care items in the budget.

ACTION - Please call or email your representatives on this committee (**Pettigrew, Seaquist, Schmick, Alexander, Appleton, Cody, Dickerson, Ericksen, Johnson, Miloscia, Morrell, O'Brien, Roberts, Walsh, Wood**) and tell them that you **do not want cuts** to Basic Health, General Assistance Unemployable (GAU), Public Health, Long Term Care, and Mental Health.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbournet.com, 253 572 9305

Support - SB 5730 - Relating to federal financing of health coverage

This bill is a request to the federal Department of Health & Human Services to expand and revise the medical assistance program to include low-income adults at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

League Position - Ensure universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services...regardless of one's health status or financial status.

Status - **SB 5730** had a hearing in the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on February 12.

ACTION - If your senator is on the Health & Long-Term Care Committee, (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) ask them to pass this bill out of committee with a **do pass** recommendation.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbournet.com, 253 572 9305

Support - SB 5945 - Creating the Washington health partnership plan

The Washington Health Partnership plan was one of the health care reform plans studied by Mathematica last year. The plan is a public-private entity that would provide comprehensive health coverage to all residents of the state of Washington. The plan has a goal of covering all Washington residents by 2012 at an affordable cost.

League Position - "Quality health care at an affordable cost" is a basic goal for health stated by the LWVUS. This bill is designed to provide quality health care to all Washington residents at an affordable cost.

Status - **SB 5945** had a hearing in the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on February 12.

ACTION - If your senator is on the Health & Long-Term Care Committee, (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) ask them to pass this bill out of committee with a **do pass** recommendation.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbournet.com, 253 572 9305

Support - HB 1892 - Concerning health care financing

HB 1892 is an update of the Washington Health Security Trust (WHST) bill that was introduced in 2007. This legislation creates a single financing entity, which would provide financing for comprehensive health care services for all Washington residents. See last week's newsletter for more details (**Legislative Newsletter Vol.41 No. 4**).

League Position - "Quality health care at an affordable cost" is a basic goal for health stated by the LWVUS. This bill is designed to provide quality health care to all Washington residents at an affordable cost.

Status - **HB 1892** has been referred to the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness and is awaiting a

hearing.

ACTION – If your representative is on the House Health Care & Wellness Committee, (**Cody, Driscoll, Ericksen, Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell, Pedersen**) ask them to have a hearing on this bill.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com, 253 572 9305

Support - **HB 1493** - Prohibiting the use of patient health care information for prescription drug marketing

HB 1493 would prohibit sale or sharing of any health care information for the purpose of marketing prescription drugs to patients. This legislation is part of the legislature's commitment to promote evidence-based practices and cost containment.

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

Status – House Health Care & Wellness Committee had a hearing on this bill on February 3.

ACTION – If your representative is on this committee, (**Cody, Driscoll, Ericksen, Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell, Pedersen**) encourage her/him to pass this bill out of committee with a **do pass** recommendation.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com, 253 572 9305

Support – **SB 5480 & HB 2012** – Creating the Washington health care discount plan organization act

This bill establishes standards for discount plan organizations, to protect consumers from unfair or deceptive marketing, sales, or enrollment practices, and facilitates consumer understanding of the role and function of discount plan organizations. The Insurance Commissioner requested this bill.

League Position – "Quality health care at an affordable cost" is a basic goal for health care stated by the LWVUS. The regulations contained in this bill will influence marketing practices that may not be in the best interest of health care consumers.

Status - **SSB 5480** received a do pass by the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on February 10 and referred the bill to Ways & Means. The companion bill, **HB 2012**, was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Care & Wellness Committee and is awaiting a hearing.

ACTION – If your senator is on the Senate Ways & Means Committee, (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, and Schoesler**) ask her/him to support **SSB 5480**.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com, 253 572 9305

Support - **SB 5923** - Funding affordable housing programs through interest accrued on residential landlord/tenant security deposits

At the time that a rental or lease agreement is signed, the landlord would deposit the security deposit in a trust account. The interest accrued on trust account deposits would be deposited monthly in the Affordable Housing For All account and would be used to fund housing programs for low-income households.

League Position - League believes that all levels of government and the private sector share the responsibility to help alleviate the housing shortage in the low-income sector. Policies should . . . encourage the participation of industry, business, local and nonprofit groups in meeting housing needs.

Status - This bill, sponsored by Senators Kline and Fairley, had its first reading on February 6th and was referred to the Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee.

ACTION: If your State Senator is on the FI,H&I Committee, (**Berkey, Hobbs, Benton, Franklin, McDermott, Parlette, and Schoesler**) ask that this bill be scheduled for a hearing. A new funding source (interest on trust accounts) is contained in the bill.

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

Watch - **SB 5470** - Providing sales and use tax exemptions for senior residents of qualified low-income

senior housing facilities

The tax exemption would eliminate sales and use tax for “service packages” which may include meals, housekeeping, recreation, laundry, and transportation. Currently, Washington’s sales and use tax law provides that when multiple goods and services are offered for one non-itemized price, the entire transaction is subject to sales or use tax, if any of the component goods or services are subject to sales tax.

League Position - League believes that any tax exemption proposal should be carefully evaluated for purpose, benefit and cost; and all tax exemptions should be periodically reviewed.

Status - This bill, sponsored by Senators Stevens, Carrell, Parlette, Swecker, McCaslin, Hewitt, Schoesler, King, Holmquist, Pflug, Roach, and Delvin, received a first reading on January 22 and was referred to Ways & Means.

ACTION: If your State Senator is on the Ways & Means Committee, (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, and Schoesler**) ask her/him to request a hearing for this bill.

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

Support - HB 2103 - Concerning the taxation of adult entertainment materials and services

The state sales and use tax of these adult entertainment items would increase to 18.5%, in addition to the current state sales and use tax of 6.5%. This tax would apply to any “X” rated motion picture, videotape, cable television service, or other visual medium, as well as other materials and services. Revenues from this tax would be dedicated to crime victims’ compensation, with an emphasis towards providing services, support, or therapy to those children who are victims of sexual abuse.

League Position - LWVUS has a position which states: “Support policies & programs that promote the well being, development & safety of all children.”

Status - This bill, sponsored by Representatives Miloscia, O’Brien, Hasegawa, McCoy, Kessler, Chase, and Conway, had a first reading on February 10th and was referred to the Finance Committee.

ACTION - Ask your representative to request that a hearing be held on this bill and that he/she support the bill.

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

Watch - HB 1321 & SB 5390 Concerning the tax on cleaning up radioactive waste and other byproducts of weapons production and nuclear research and development

These bills would reduce the business and occupation tax rate from 1.5% to .471% for identified activities such as information technology and security that support the performance of cleaning up radioactive waste and other byproducts of weapons production and nuclear research and development for the United States. The Tax Fairness Coalition estimates that this exemption would take \$2.16 million in revenue away from the 2009-11 biennial budget.

League Position: League believes that any tax exemption proposal should be carefully evaluated for purpose, benefit and cost; and, all tax exemptions should be periodically reviewed.

Status - **HB 1321** was sponsored by Representatives Kenney, McCoy, Haler, Chandler, Ericks, Ormsby, Hasegawa, Pettigrew, Walsh, Klippert and Armstrong. The bill was first read on January 19th and was referred to the Finance Committee. There was a public hearing in the House Committee on Finance on February 3rd. No report is available as of Thursday, February 12th.

ACTION - If you have a representative on the House Finance Committee, (**Hunter, Hasegawa, Orcutt, Parker, Condotta, Conway, Ericks, Santos, and Springer**) ask that a vote be taken on the bill.

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

Support – SB 5687 & HB 1490 Transit Oriented Communities

Take a moment now and call your legislators and urge their support on the transit oriented communities bill. This would create communities that are walkable, affordable and well connected by transit. It is one of the four priority bills of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, a priority that League has endorsed.

League Position - LWVUS position on Natural Resources gives "special attention to maintaining and improving the environmental quality of urban communities."

Status- **SB 5687** will be heard in Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections February 19th at 3:30 P.M. (February 19 is Environmental Lobby Day). **HB 1490** has a fiscal note attached ([view here](#)).

ACTION - Senators in the 11th ([Margarita Prentice](#)) and 37th ([Adam Kline](#)) districts need to be contacted. If you live in the 11th or 37th district call and ask him/her to support the bill.

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

Support – **SB 5518 & HB 1614** Reducing the amount of petroleum pollution in storm water (Invest in Clean Water)

These companion bills relate to petroleum pollution in storm water. Cleaning up and preventing storm water pollution requires building new infrastructure. The bill would raise significant new funds for public work projects by providing grants to local governments for retrofit projects. The funds come from a fee on oil companies. Low-impact developments are prioritized for grant monies when sites can accommodate low-impact development techniques.

League Position – LWVWA supports the State providing adequate funding levels to accommodate enforcement of laws affecting water quality. This bill generates a new source of dedicated revenue and moves towards a system where everyone is paying their fair share.

Status - The House version of the bill will be addressed in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources Executive Session on Thursday, February 19 (Environmental Lobby Day) at 8:00 A.M.

ACTION - Contact your legislator if she/he is a member of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee ([Blake](#), [Jacks](#), [Chandler](#), [Smith](#), [Kretz](#), [Liias](#), [McCoy](#), [Nelson](#), [Ormsby](#), [Pearson](#), [Van De Wage](#), and [Warnick](#)) and ask her/him to move the bill out of the Committee.

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

Support – **SB 5768** – Concerning the state route number 99 Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project

The final design for the state route number 99 Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project as a deep bore tunnel and includes four general-purpose lanes in a stacked formation. State funding is not to exceed \$2.4B and must also include \$400M in toll revenue. These funds must be used solely to build a replacement tunnel and to remove the existing viaduct structure. State funding may not be used for central seawall or water front promenade improvements. The City of Seattle must bear all utility relocation costs associated with the state work on the viaduct replacement project. We commend the Governor for finally reaching an agreement with King County and the City of Seattle to finalize this plan and encourage adoption.

League Positions – Transportation projects and programs should be prioritized to develop a balanced and seamless transportation system taking in account population, topography, location of transportation facilities, community livability and character, jobs/housing, environmental impacts, social factors, energy consumption and political realities. State transportation policy should...manage and reduce single occupant vehicle use on highway facilities and shift solo trips to alternative modes.

Status - This bill is sponsored by Senators [Haugen](#), [Murray](#), [Jarrett](#), [Swecker](#) and [Kohl-Welles](#).

ACTION – If your Senator is a member of the Senate Transportation Committee and is not a sponsor, ([Marr](#), [Becker](#), [Benton](#), [Berkey](#), [Delvin](#), [Eide](#), [Jacobsen](#), [Kastama](#), [Kauffman](#), [Kilmer](#), [King](#), [Ranker](#), [Sheldon](#)) contact him/her urging passage of the bill out of the committee. A thank you call to sponsors is always appropriate.

Contact – Luella Wells, lawells@wavecable.com, 360 598 3267



Issue Background Items

BASIC EDUCATION FINANCE

All the bills, **SB 5444/HB 1410** and **SB 5607/HB 1817** have been heard by the Education Committees. Now the work continues to put together the best parts of both bills to come up with a full-funding bill that will best serve our students.



For Reference

KEY SESSION DATES

The 61st Washington State Legislature opened its long session on Monday, January 12. The 2009 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 12 to April 26. Every day (including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays) is counted in the 105-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. 12 – First day of regular session

Feb. 25 – Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees

Mar. 2 – Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.

Mar. 12 – League Lobby Day

Mar. 12 – Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.)

Mar. 30 – Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

Apr. 6 - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

Apr. 17 - Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).*

Apr. 26 - Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After the 96th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

CONTACT LISTS

Portfolios / Lobby Team – <http://www.lvwwa.org/about/officers.html>

Legislators – <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

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

LEAGUE POSITIONS

LWVWA positions – <http://www.lvwwa.org/advocacy/Program%20In%20Action%20website.pdf>

RESOURCES

League action website - http://www.lvwwa.org/advocacy/advocacy_index.html

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 – tvw.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 (follow "Legislators" link above). 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.