

League of Women Voters of Washington

Linnea Hirst, President // Kim Abel, Action Chair // Newsletter edited by Stasha McBride

www.lwvwa.org/advocacy

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Action Priority

18 January - 24 January 2010

"If you have time this week to make only two phone calls..."

Support - Safe Baby Bottle bill – **SB 6248, HB 1180**

Priority of Environmental Priorities Coalition.

This bill would phase out BPA in baby bottles, cups or other containers (except for metal cans) intended for food or drink for children three and under (the committee removed sports water bottles from the bill). More and more evidence shows that the industrial chemical bisphenol A (BPA) is harmful to children's health. Laboratory studies have linked BPA to cancer, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems, and hyperactivity; yet, manufacturers can still legally use BPA in products such as baby bottles and cups, infant formula cans, and other drink and food containers. Alternative non-BPA containers are now readily available. Significantly, the action of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) last Friday reversing an earlier decision that BPA in food and drink containers was not a health hazard. From the FDA website here is part of their statement: "...on the basis of results from recent studies using novel approaches to test for subtle effects [from low levels of human exposure to BPA] both the National Toxicology Program at the National Institutes of Health and FDA have some concern about the potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and young children." Please see Issue Background Items at end of this Newsletter for more from the FDA statement.

League positions - LWVWA supports this bill based upon the LWVUS positions, *Early Intervention for Children at Risk*, and the general premise in our Natural Resources positions of support for prevention of harm before the damage occurs.

Bill status - The bill moved out of committee on January 18, one week after the contentious hearing a week earlier. It is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

ACTION - Please contact your senator, especially if he/she is a member of the Senate Rules Committee (**Owen, Franklin, Hewitt, Brown, Eide, Fraser, Haugen, Kauffman, Keiser, King, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Murray, Parlette, Pridemore, Regala, Schoesler, Stevens and Zarelli**) urging support for this bill by bringing the bill to a floor vote.

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

Support - **HB 1738/SB 5912** - Providing public funding for Supreme Court campaigns

League position - The League of Women Voters supports campaign finance reform and a public campaign finance option.

ACTION - All league members please contact Rep. **Sam Hunt**, the Chair of the State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee and ask that this bill be scheduled for public hearing. If you live in districts of members of the committee (**Appleton, Armstrong, Alexander, Flannigan, Hurst, Miloscia & Taylor**) please contact them and ask that they support this bill.

All league members are encouraged to contact Senator **Darlene Fairly**, the Chair of the Government Operations & Elections and ask that **SB 5912** be scheduled for public hearing. If you live in districts of members of the committee (**Oemig, McDermott, Roach, Benton, Pridemore, Swecker**) please contact them and ask that they support this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Katy Sheehan, katysheehan@gmail.com, 360-250-0431

Action Items

Support - HB 2731 - Creates an early learning program for educationally at-risk children within the definition of Basic Education.

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Goodman. The voluntary program must provide comprehensive services to eligible 3 and 4 year olds and their families. Funding for the program will be appropriated to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on a per eligible child basis. The Department of Early Learning will contract with school districts and community-based, DEL approved early learning providers to deliver services. The program will be phased in beginning with the 2011-2012 school year in school districts with the highest number of children eligible for free and reduced price lunch. There is no funding appropriation in this bill.

*Note: The Governor vetoed a similar section in **HB 2261** last session stating that at-risk children should not be singled out, but that all 3 and 4 year olds should have access to early learning programs and should not be included in the definition of Basic Education.*

Bill Status - HB 2731 was heard in Public hearing in the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee on January 19, 2010. It passed executive session on January 22, 2010 and is scheduled to be heard on Monday, January 25 in the House Ways & Means.

ACTION - Contact your legislator if s/he is on the House Ways & Means Committee House Ways & Means (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, and Schoesler**) to pass **HB 2731**.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Margie Reeves 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net; Pat Dickason 360-753-7647 p.dickason@comcast.net; Karen Tvedt, 360-915-7243, tvedtkl@msn.com

Support - HB 2418 - Making the names and addresses of persons signing initiative or referendum petitions public records

League position - The League of Women Voters supports openness and transparency in government and to further open government, the initiative process must remain open to public oversight.

ACTION - Please contact members of the House's State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee (**Hunt, Appleton, Armstrong, Alexander, Flannigan, Hurst, Miloscia & Taylor**) and ask them to pass this bill out of the committee.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Katy Sheehan, katysheehan@gmail.com, 360-250-0431

Support - SB 5476 - Abolishing the Death Penalty.

League position - The League supports the abolition of the Death Penalty. The Death Penalty is not fairly administered and disproportionately affects the poor and minorities, it is more expensive than a life sentence, the risk of executing the innocent exists, many families of victims do not wish for a death sentence, every other Western Democracy except for Japan has abolished the death penalty, and there is nothing to show that it deters violence.

ACTION - Please contact members of the Senate's Judiciary Committee (**Kline**, chair; **Regala, McCaslin, Carrell, Gordon, Hargrove, Kohl-Welles, Roach**) and ask them to support **SB 5476** by passing it out of their committee.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Katy Sheehan, katysheehan@gmail.com, 360-250-0431

Support - HB 2622 - This bill concerns protecting consumers from unfair practices by establishing criteria for the dissemination of credit and court record information contained in a consumer's tenant screening report

It would regulate tenant screening reports to ensure affordability, accuracy and transparency. Tenants currently pay for these reports and often have to pay for multiple reports in the course of a housing search, adding hundreds of dollars to their costs. But the tenants don't even have a right to see what the reports say, or to correct any inaccurate or misleading information. This bill will allow a tenant to purchase their own report, which they could offer to multiple prospective landlords.

League Position—League has positions on the importance of meeting basic human needs and supporting policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for all. **HB 2622** is a consumer protection bill designed to assist those who are searching for housing.

Bill Status - There was a hearing in Financial Institutions & Insurance on January 19th. It had been scheduled for executive session in FI&I for January 21st, but that was taken off the schedule.

ACTION - Ask House members to request that a vote be taken on this bill and that committee members be asked to vote yes. Call the FI&I Committee (**Kirby, Kelley, Bailey, Parker, Hurst, McCoy, Nelson, Roach, Rodne, Santos & Simpson**) and request an executive session and a positive vote on this bill.

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

Support - EHB 2138 - This bill concerns the use of surplus property for the development of affordable housing

The Department of Commerce is required to administer a program for the statewide identification and cataloging of under-utilized, state-owned real property that is suitable for the development of affordable housing for very low-income, low-income and moderate-income households. **EHB 2138** adds to the state agencies required to participate in the surplus lands inventory program and requires counties, cities, towns, and code cities to participate in the program. This act adds additional regulations, procedures, and guidelines for the operation of the Department of Commerce's surplus property inventory program.

League Position—League supports land use planning and coordination among levels of government and state agencies.

Bill Status - EHB 2138 has been reintroduced and referred to Local Government & Housing. It has not yet been scheduled for executive session.

ACTION - Ask House members to request that a vote be taken on this bill and that members of the House Committee on Local Government & Housing (**Simpson, Nelson, Angel, De Bolt, Fagan, Miloscia, Short, Springer, Upthegrove, White, & Williams**) be asked to vote yes. Contact Chair Simpson or other committee members and request that **EHB 2138** be scheduled for executive session and that they vote yes.

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

Support - HB 2388 – relating to public health financing using a sales tax on candy

Public health financing in local health jurisdictions has steadily declined during the past two or more years. Public health needs a more stable dedicated funding system by providing a dedicated state revenue stream. This bill eliminates the sales and use tax exemption on candy and dedicates those funds for public health. Even though the sales tax is a regressive tax, the exemption from sales tax of candy as a food, may not be health producing for people of Washington. Taxing candy would provide an adequate and sustainable source of revenue for public health. This proposed tax increase would require voter approval, so the fact that it is defensible is important.

League Position - LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services regardless of one's health status or financial status. LWVWA believes any tax exemption proposal should be carefully evaluated for purpose, benefit and cost; and, all tax exemptions should be periodically reviewed.

Bill Status – A public hearing was held on January 22 in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee.

ACTION - Contact members of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee who represent you (**Cody, Driscoll, Ericksen, Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell, Pedersen**) and ask them to request that this bill be brought up for a vote of the committee.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harboret.com, 253-572-9305, Lounette Templeton, lounettet@wavecable.com, 360-504-2060

Support - SCR 8409 – relating to the implementation of Federal Health Care Reform

Senate Concurrent Resolution **8409** would create a joint select committee of Senate and House members who would work together to determine how best to implement Federal legislation in Washington State. This is proactive legislation to improve the access of health care to all residents of Washington State.

League Position - LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and

affordable set of health services regardless of one's health status or financial status.

Bill Status – An executive session or vote on this bill has not been scheduled.

ACTION – Contact members of the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee who represent you (**Keiser, Franklin, Pflug, Becker, Fairley, Marr, Murray, Parlette**) and ask them to request that this bill be brought up for a vote of the committee. If Senator **Karen Keiser** is your Senator, thank her for being proactive in introducing this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com, 253-572-9305, Lounette Templeton, lounettet@wavecable.com, 360-504-2060

Support - EHB 2561 – Funding construction of cost-saving improvements to public facilities.

League Position - The League's position in terms of energy policy includes establishing incentives for the efficient use of energy sources and the greater use of alternative energy sources. The League also supports state government programs that increase job opportunities.

Bill Status - This bill passed the House on January 20th and will be heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee within the next week.

ACTION – Contact members of the Senate Ways & Means committee who represent you (**Prentice, Fraser, Tom, Zarelli, Brandland, Carrell, Fairley, Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Parlette, Pflug, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, and Schoesler**) to voice your support of this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Mary Moore at 360-357-3712, mymtrain@comcast.net

Support - HB 2591 Recovering the actual cost of processing applications for water right permits

In this economic climate the need for funding options to cover the cost of the technical, analytic and administrative processing of water permits are needed. This bill offers an alternative.

League Position - “Strict enforcement of laws affecting water quality and quantity management in WA state. Enforcement requires emphasis upon corporation and coordination among the many agencies as well as the funding levels adequate to accomplish effective controls”.

Bill Status - Executive Action taken in the House Agricultural & Natural Resources committee on January 22

ACTION - Please call your legislator if s/he is a member of the House Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee (**Blake, Ormsby, Chandler, Smith, Jacks, Kretz, Liias, McCoy, Nelson, Pearson, Rolfes, Van De Wage, and Warnick**) in support of this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Denise Smith, groundwatersmith@msn.com

Oppose - HB 2468 Permit exempt well metering

Although exempt wells are not water claims in use before 1945, their number and impact within watersheds can be significant and should be taken into consideration managing waters of the state. This bill prohibits the department from requiring meters on wells constructed prior to the date of this bill. That would give two categories of a right to use water, those who have their use measured and those older users that are assumed to have the use of 5000 gallons or less. Metering is important for reliable and equitable management of the resource and we believe all users should meter.

League Position - “Strict enforcement of laws affecting water quality and quantity management in WA state. Water claims under the jurisdiction of the state should be quantified”.

Bill Status – in the House Agricultural & Natural Resources committee.

ACTION - Please call your legislator if s/he is a member of the House Agricultural & Natural Resources committee House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee (**Blake, Ormsby, Chandler, Smith, Jacks, Kretz, Liias, McCoy, Nelson, Pearson, Rolfes, Van De Wage, and Warnick**) and ask her/him to oppose this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Denise Smith, groundwatersmith@msn.com

Support - HB 2542 Comparative review of water availability in local governments land use plans

This bill is long overdue. Water, unlike transportation and other utilities, was not included within the original structure of the growth management act. This has caused significant water management issues within rapidly growing suburban areas and rural population centers and has put watersheds under great pressure. A

coordinated approach to development and water management is needed for sustainable land use.

League Position –“Strict enforcement of laws affecting water quality and quantity management in WA state. Enforcement requires emphasis upon corporations and coordination among the many agencies as well as the funding levels adequate to accomplish effective controls.”

Bill Status - in House Agricultural & Natural Resources committee

ACTION - Please call your legislator if s/he is a member of the House Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee (**Blake, Ormsby, Chandler, Smith, Jacks, Kretz, Liias, McCoy, Nelson, Pearson, Rolfes, Van De Wage, and Warnick**) in support of this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Denise Smith, groundwatersmith@msn.com

Oppose - **HB 2532** - Regarding a pilot program for the withdrawal of water in a cluster development.

Exempt wells were intended to provide water for small family farms. Over the years exempt wells have been used with current water conservation codes and technology to provide water for multiple homes in some communities up to six homes on a 5000 gal per day limit. This was an aberration of the exemption and was addressed in an AG decisions a few years ago. This bill would bypass the AG decision by establishing a pilot program. There are several issues with this approach involving watershed resource capacity and ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the systems for quality as well as limiting quantity.

League Position - “Strict enforcement of laws affecting water quality and quantity management in WA state.”

Bill Status – in the House Agricultural & Natural Resources committee

ACTION - Please call your legislator if s/he is a member of the House Agricultural & Natural Resources committee House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee (**Blake, Ormsby, Chandler, Smith, Jacks, Kretz, Liias, McCoy, Nelson, Pearson, Rolfes, Van De Wage, and Warnick**) and ask her/him to oppose this bill.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Denise Smith, groundwatersmith@msn.com

Support - **PSSB 5279, 2SHB 1165** – Secure Medicine Return

What does one do with old meds - unused, unwanted, and/or expired? Not down the toilet, not into the landfill, we now know. When they collect in homes, the chances of improper or accidental use increase. These bills provide for a producer provided and funded product stewardship program. Producers of drugs sold in WA 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. (If this bill sounds familiar, it is; it had public hearings in the legislature last year, but did not get to a floor vote in either chamber.)

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.

Bill Status - The House bill (**HB 1165**) has been pulled from the Rules Committee, which means it can have a floor vote at any time.

ACTION - Now is the time to contact your representatives to urge their support for this bill!

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

Oppose - Proposed Reductions in 2010 Supplemental Budget

Senators and Representatives are working on the 2010 Supplemental Budget. The governor released her all cuts budget in December and released a letter on the budget in January. The governor’s letter contained fewer proposed reductions, but health care access was cut substantially in 2009 and more cuts are recommended for 2010. Currently there are more people on the waiting list for the Basic Health Plan (BHP) than there are people on the BHP. General Assistance – Unemployable (GAU) may be limited to six months of lifetime benefits per person. For the BHP to remain at its current level, \$160.6 million of revenue needs to be appropriated. For GAU to remain at its current level, \$118.9 million of revenue needs to be appropriated.

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

Bill Status – On Jan 26th and 28th work sessions will be held in the House Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee. On January 26th this committee will hear testimony on the effects of budget reductions and proposed reductions on the mental health system and on the alcohol and substance abuse programs in the 2009-2011 biennium. On January 28th this committee will hear testimony on the effects of budget reductions and proposed reductions on the health care system in the 2009-2011 biennium.

ACTION – Contact members of the House Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee who represent you ([Pettigrew](#), [Seaquist](#), [Schmick](#), [Alexander](#), [Appleton](#), [Cody](#), [Dickerson](#), [Fagan](#), [Johnson](#), [Miloscia](#), [Morrell](#), [O'Brien](#), [Roberts](#), [Walsh](#), [Wood](#)) and ask them to preserve the health care safety net by not making reductions in the Basic Health Plan, GAU, public health, children's health, family planning, and mental health. Give your representatives, who serve on this committee, suggestions for raising more revenue in a fair, progressive manner.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact – Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com, 253-572-9305, Lounette Templeton, lounettet@wavecable.com, 360-504-2060

Continuing Action - Please ask your legislators to restore the full \$88.5 million funding for Working Connections Child Care! The Governor's December budget proposes cutting \$88.5 Million from Working Connections Child Care (WCCC). Targeted to low-income families, WCCC helps pay for childcare for parents who need it to find or keep jobs. We need the WCCC funding restored by \$88.5 million to meet these critical child care needs for children, their parents, and child care providers and so no working families lose the child care services they are already using.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Margie Reeves 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net; Pat Dickason 360-753-7647 p.dickason@comcast.net; Karen Tvedt, 360-915-7243, tvedtkl@msn.com

Watch – SB 6452 – Limited Service Pregnancy Centers

This bill is now a consumer protection bill. It provides several protections to their clients and requires that "All reproductive health information by a limited service pregnancy center, whether provided orally or in writing, must be medically and scientifically accurate." I will attend the hearing on Jan 27 at 8 AM. We will then decide whether or not to support it.

League Position - Support Reproductive Rights

Bill Status - Hearing by the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee.

ACTION - None at present.

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

Watch - HB 2867 – Promoting Early Learning

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Kagi, by request of Governor Gregoire. Creates an All Start voluntary preschool program to make preschool universally available to all 3 and 4 year olds to begin in 2013 and available to all children by 2020. The bill requires the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to establish certification for all preschool programs serving 3 and 4 year olds, and to establish a timeline for requiring all to be certified. DEL would be required to charge certification and renewal fees to defray certification costs and to develop, coordinate, and implement services for children from birth to three that already exist but will become a focus for the Department. This legislation is outside the definition of basic education.

Status - **HB 2867** was heard in Public Hearing in the Early Learning & Children's Services Committee on January 19, 2010. It has not been scheduled for an Executive session. The companion bill **SB 6517**, prime sponsor Sen. McAuliffe, is scheduled for a Public Hearing in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on Wednesday, January 27, 2010.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Margie Reeves 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net; Pat Dickason 360-753-7647 p.dickason@comcast.net; Karen Tvedt, 360-915-7243, tvedtkl@msn.com

Issue Background Items

EDUCATION

LWVWA does not have positions on the “Race to the Top” priority areas: standards and assessments, teacher/leader quality, data collection and use, and struggling schools support. Therefore we are not supporting or opposing **SB 6696**, which contains the policy changes necessary for WA State to apply for “Race to the Top” federal funds. If the state is awarded one of these grants, it could receive between \$150-250 million. The biggest issue this year, of course, is the Budget. I encourage each of you to contact your local school district’s financial director, ask what state funding is most critical to their students, and then contact your legislators.

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

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Bills to Watch:

E2SSB 5138 – Creating an integral climate change response. Originally introduced last year, this bill has been reintroduced and is scheduled for a third reading.

HB 2853 – Authorizing a local financing tool to fund energy efficiency upgrades and removing financial barriers to implement energy conservation programs.

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Mary Moore at 360-357-3712, mymtrain@comcast.net

TAXES/REVENUE

\$11 billion dollars of revenue have been lost this biennium (primarily loss of sales taxes money from the economic downturn) and the legislature is looking at even more drastic cuts to balance the budget as well as ways to raise revenue. As of this week’s report, the shoe has not dropped with legislative proposals for revenue in other words: taxes. But it will. It is a short session (60 days). Keep tuned to this legislative report. You will need to read fast and act fast when it comes!

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact - Nora Leech, nleech2002@yahoo.com, 206-328-0445

Safe Baby Bottle bill - **SB 6248**

Food & Drug Administration statement re bisphenol A (BPA):

While the FDA has committed to further studies regarding the effects of BPA on health, the agency set forth some recommended interim steps until those studies are completed. Those steps are: "supporting the industry's actions to stop producing BPA-containing baby bottles and infant feeding cups for the U.S. market; facilitating the development of alternatives to BPA for the linings of infant formula cans; supporting efforts to replace BPA or minimize BPA levels in other food can linings. FDA is supporting a shift to a more robust regulatory framework for oversight of BPA. FDA is seeking further public comment and external input on the science surrounding BPA. FDA is also supporting recommendations from the Department of Health and Human Services for infant feeding and food preparation to reduce exposure to BPA. FDA is not recommending that families change the use of infant formula or foods, as the benefit of a stable source of good nutrition outweighs the potential risk from BPA exposure." The complete statement and further reports on BPA can be found on the FDA website: www.fda.gov.

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

Tip of the Week

BILL SEARCH

It’s easy to use the legislative website to search for a bill. Start by going to the Legislative website, www.leg.wa.gov and click on Bill Search, which appears at the top of the page. You will be given a choice of searching by bill number or by bill subject.

If you search by subject, you may have to make several attempts to get what you want. Ex. Early childhood education, early learning, and preschool may pull up slightly different lists of bills.

What you do next depends on what information you need. On the left side of the Washington State Legislature page is a listing of related sites. Agendas, schedules and calendars, Bill information (with more bill-related choices), and Legislative Committees are some of the subjects that you can click on for further information.

The best way to learn is simply to click on the various offerings and see what turns up!

For Reference

KEY SESSION DATES

The 61st Washington State Legislature opened its short session on Monday, January 11. The 2010 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 11 to March 11. 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.

Feb. 5 – Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

Feb. 9 - Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.

Feb. 16 - Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

Feb. 26 - Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

March 1 - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

March 5 - 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).*

March 11 - Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After the 54th 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

[Legislators](#)

[Legislative Committees](#)

LEAGUE POSITIONS

[LWWA positions](#)

RESOURCES

League action website - <http://www.ckwebsites.com/lwwa/positions.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.