



League of Women Voters of Washington

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

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ACTION PRIORITY

February 16 - February 22, 2008

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

SUPPORT local option public campaign financing

SSB 5278 & EHB 1551

Public Campaign Financing "Local Option" bills

With passage this week of SSB 5278 in the Senate, we celebrate another victory for legislative action to eliminate the ban on local public campaign financing. Again, many thanks to all members who have already taken action to further the local option bills. Your efforts have most certainly influenced the outcome in both the House and Senate. One more round of effort, and we should be able to celebrate the achievement of one of LWVWA's top legislative priorities for the 2007 session. An accomplishment, indeed, for the League and for the citizens of Washington state!!

Status - Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5278 moves to the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee for consideration. EHB 1551, as previously reported, passed the House on January 25 and now rests in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. Since the House and Senate local option bills are substantially identical, it is for the chambers to decide which will prevail. Both bills eliminate the ban on local public campaign financing for all local jurisdictions except school districts. Both bills stipulate that only funds derived from local sources can be used to fund local public financing programs. And both stipulate that local governments must submit any proposal for local public financing to voters for approval prior to implementation.

Action - We have more work to do to realize our goal of eliminating the ban on local public campaign financing. Neither legislative chamber is enthused about taking up the same bill twice, especially in a short session. For example, Rep. Sam Hunt, chair of the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee, publicly expressed concern for the fate of E2SSB 5278 in the House because of the possible time required to re-debate the bill. But with language identical to that bill having previously passed the House, we can remain optimistic that, with continued effort, we will see a local option bill on the governor's desk for her signature this session.

We need to let our legislators know that we see restoring the option of local public campaign financing as a top priority for this session. **Please, immediately contact your legislators in the House and Senate and urge them to take action to ensure that a local option bill gets to the governor this session.**

We just want a bill passed and moved along to the governor. The bill awaiting action in the House is now the Senate bill (E2SSB 5278) and the bill pending action in the Senate is the House bill (EHB 1551). You need only to reference the bill numbers in your correspondence. And, be sure to express your appreciation to legislators who voted in support of the local option bills in their respective chambers and especially to bill sponsors many of whom have worked diligently over several sessions to bring about a lifting of the local ban.

Contact - Chris Chamberlin, 253-761-1376, bcchamberlin@harbornet.com Please let Chris know how your legislators respond. And please feel free to contact the League if you need assistance in determining sponsorship or how your representatives voted.

Representatives Voting Yea:

Appleton, Barlow, Chase, Clibborn, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Dickerson, Dunshee, Eddy, Ericks, Flannigan, Fromhold, Goodman, Grant, Green, Haigh, Hasegawa, Hunt, Hunter, Jarrett, Kagi, Kelley, Kenney, Kirby, Lantz, Lias, Linville, Loomis, McCoy, McIntire, Miloscia, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Nelson, O'Brien, Ormsby, Pedersen, Pettigrew, Quall, Roberts, Rolfes, Santos, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, Sells, Simpson, Sommers, Springer, Sullivan, Upthegrove, Wallace, Williams, Wood, and Mr. Speaker Chopp

Senators Voting Yea:

Berkey, Brown, Eide, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Haugen, Hobbs, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kauffman, Keiser, Kilmer, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Marr, McAuliffe, McDermott, Murray, Oemig, Prentice, Pridemore, Rasmussen, Regala, Rockefeller, Shin, Spanel, Tom, and Weinstein

Other ACTION ITEMS

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

SUPPORT - SHB 3305 - Family Leave Insurance Program

SHB 3305 now includes a provision that says that temporary workers would not be eligible for family leave insurance. Another version of this legislation, HB 2665, was previously reported on but did not survive the legislative cut-offs. A framework for a Family Leave Insurance Program (FLIP) was established in the 2007 legislative session in the form of ESSB 5659, which formed a joint legislative task force to study the financing and administration of a FLIP, with a report of study results to be made in 2008. This session's legislation seeks to implement the recommendations of the task force. The FLIP framework that was the subject of study included benefits of \$250 per week for up to five weeks for individuals on leave for birth or adoption of a child, and included job protection for individuals who had worked at least 1,250 hours over the previous twelve months for employers who have more than twenty-five employees.

League Position - LWVWA Children's Services.

Status - In House Rules Committee.

Action - Ask members of House Rules Committee to move the bill to the House floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - House Bill 3168 - Creation of Washington Head Start Program

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

League Position - LWVWA Children's Services.

Status - This legislation passed the House unanimously (2 excused) on February 13. It is scheduled for public testimony in the opposite house on February 20 at 8am, in the Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

Action - Contact your representatives to thank them for their vote to support 2SHB 3168. Contact your senator if on the Senate committee, and ask them to vote to pass 2SHB 3168 from the committee:

[McAuliffe \(chair\)](#); [Tom \(vice chair\)](#); [King](#); [Brandland](#); [Eide](#); [Hewitt](#); [Hobbs](#); [Holmquist](#); [Kauffman](#); [McDermott](#); [Oemig](#); [Rasmussen](#); [Weinstein](#); [Zarelli](#).

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

SUPPORT - HB 3292 - Recording executive sessions under Open Public Meetings Act

This bill was requested jointly by the state attorney general and state auditor with support of the governor. It requires audio recording of executive sessions that must be verbatim accounts of the entire proceedings of the governing body, and requires retention of the recording for a period of two years. Recordings of executive sessions would be public records not subject to public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act except by court order or unless authorized by governing body.

League Position - LWVUS Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. "Democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. Governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible."

Status - In House Rules, and may be scheduled for a House floor vote at any time until legislative cutoff at 5:00 p.m. February 19.

Action - Ask members of House Rules Committee to move the bill to the House floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - SB 6328 - **Enhancing campus safety**

This bill requires each institution of higher education to 1) submit a self-study assessing its ability to ensure safety of students, faculty, staff, administration, and visitors on campus, including evaluation of effectiveness; 2) submit plan to address unmet safety and security needs on campus; 3) submit updates to plan, including assessment of results of actions undertaken under any previous year's plan.

League Position - Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Support the regulation of firearms for consumer safety. Violence Prevention: Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Status - Passed Senate on February 14 and was referred to opposite house. Scheduled for public hearing February 20 in House Committee on Higher Education. This is a bill requested by the governor. The fiscal requirements of this bill are provided for in the governor's proposed budget (about 14 million).

Action - Contact your representatives and encourage them to pass this bill out of committee. Your call is especially needed if your representative is on the Higher Education committee: **Wallace (chair); Sells (vice chair); Anderson; Hankins; Hasegawa; Jarrett; McIntire; Roberts; Schmick; Sommers**. Remind them that we need to prevent any more "Valentine's Day Massacres!"

Contact - Peggy Saari, 206-525-0132, peggySaari@comcast.net

SUPPORT - HB 3095 - **Provisions governing firearms possession by persons who have been involuntarily committed**

This bill sponsored by Rep. Lantz requires courts to promptly forward a copy of any committed person's driver's license or comparable identification, along with the date of conviction, to state Department of Licensing. When a person's right to possess a firearm has been restored, the bill provides for forwarding denied person's file to state Department of Licensing and the National Instant Criminal Background System (NICS). Funding and oversight of NICS became federal law in January, giving states opportunity to access federal grant funding to reform background check systems.

League Position - Gun control.

Status - In House Rules.

Action - Please contact your representatives and let them know that you support HB 3095. Your voice has great influence!

Contact - Peggy Saari, 206-525-0132, peggySaari@comcast.net

SUPPORT - SHB 2664 & 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 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 - Both bills (with amendments) have been passed out of committees with "do pass" recommendations and are in their respective Rules committees with a list of bills to be brought up for a floor vote when votes are determined to be sufficient for passage. **However, opposition is fierce.**

Action - There is significant opposition to these bills, so our legislators need to hear from all of us supporting these bills in the House and Senate. Please contact your representatives and senator and ask them to vote for these bills.

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

SUPPORT WITH ADDENDUM - 2SHB 2536 & SSB 6333 - **Establishing citizen's work group on health care reform**

This bill would create a nine-member citizen work group representing various interests to be impacted by health care reform. Both bills presently include a single-payer option. The amendment the Senate committee made to the Senate version actually names the Healthy Security Trust, an act we supported last year.

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," LWVWA 2008 Legislative Priorities.

Status - Both bills are in position for a floor vote. The House bill appears to be moving more quickly since there is a hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 21 in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care to consider the House bill.

Action - Everyone should make a call to their senator and representatives to ask for their support of this legislation when it comes to the floor. Also, if your senator is on the Health & Long-Term Care Committee, please call and ask him or her to pass the House bill when it move into committee: **Keiser** (chair); **Franklin** (vice chair); **Pflug**; **Carrell**; **Fairley**; **Kastama**; **Kohl-Welles**; **Marr**; **Parlette**.

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

SUPPORT - ESB 5261 - **Granting state insurance commissioner authority to review individual health benefit plan rates**

This bill restores the authority of the state's insurance commissioner, held prior to 2000, to review premium rates for the individual market. The legislation was initially introduced in the 2006-07 legislature as HB 1234 and SB 5261. It passed the Senate, made it to third reading in the House, but was not voted on in the House. It has been re-introduced in this session as Engrossed SB 5261.

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

Status - Bill passed Senate on January 30, moved to opposite house, where it is in House Rules awaiting a floor vote.

Action - Contact your representatives and urge that they support Engrossed Senate Bill 5261 and pass it on the floor of the House.

Contact - Ann L. Brand, 206-922-2659, anklbrand@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 - Operating supplemental appropriations bill ([HB 2687](#)) is scheduled for public hearing February 20 in House Committee on Appropriations.

Action - Ask your legislators to work for full funding. However, given the state of the economy this appears unlikely. **Insist that, at least, Gov. Gregoire's request for \$5 million be enacted.** House Appropriations Committee members are [Sommers \(chair\)](#); [Dunshee \(vice chair\)](#); [Alexander](#); [Bailey](#); [Haler](#); [Anderson](#); [Chandler](#); [Cody](#); [Conway](#); [Darneille](#); [Ericks](#); [Fromhold](#); [Grant](#); [Green](#); [Haigh](#); [Hinkle](#); [Hunt](#); [Hunter](#); [Kagi](#); [Kenney](#); [Kessler](#); [Kretz](#); [Linville](#); [McDonald](#); [McIntire](#); [Morrell](#); [Pettigrew](#); [Priest](#); [Ross](#); [Schmick](#); [Schual-Berke](#); [Seaquist](#); [Sullivan](#); [Walsh](#).

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

SUPPORT - [SB 6305](#) - Granting discretion to State Department of Health

Companion bill HB 2698 would remove the requirement that the DOH apply for abstinence-only funds by changing the word "shall" to "may." If there is a change in policy, DOH could apply for funds; however they are not required to do so.

League Position - Reproductive Rights

Status - Both bills have cleared the policy committees. In the Senate the vote was 7 to 1 for the "do pass" recommendation. In the House the vote was 7 to 6 for the "do pass". Both are in Rules and awaiting floor action. The Senate bill is the bill that will go forward. In anticipation of Senate passage, the bill is scheduled for a public hearing on 20 Feb in the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

Action - Likely to pass, but a note to the Senate Rules Committee members asking for their support would be welcome.

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

SUPPORT - [SSB 6822](#) - Establishing goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled

Would establish goals to reduce by 50 percent the per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 2050. Emissions are now projected to grow more than 25% by 2020, and reductions in transportation-related emissions are required to meet climate pollution goals. DOT would also need to establish and convene by July 1, 2008, a collaborative process to develop mechanisms and practices to help state, regional, and local entities make progress toward these VMT reduction benchmarks, including potential revenue options for local governments to finance VMT reduction efforts.

League Position - LWVUS Energy, element 3

Status - In Rules Committee of the House.

Action - Ask members of House Rules Committee to move the bill to the House floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - [Second Substitute HB 1773](#) - Imposition of tolls

The bill would designate tolling as a possible supplementary source of transportation funding for such mega-projects as the replacement of the SR 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington. Projects such as the vulnerable floating bridge cannot be delayed.

League Position - Support increases in funding to provide adequate revenue for existing transportation infrastructure.

Status - Passed the House 59 to 35 on February 15. Bill now goes to transportation committee of opposite house, that is, Senate.

Action - Thank your representatives who supported this bill on the House floor: Reps Appleton, Barlow, Blake, Campbell, Chase, Clibborn, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Dickerson, Dunshee, Eddy, Eickmeyer, Ericks, Fromhold, Goodman, Grant, Green, Haigh, Hudgins, Hunt, Hunter, Jarrett, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kirby, Lantz, Lias, Linville, Loomis, McCoy, McIntire, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Nelson, O'Brien, Ormsby, Pedersen, Pettigrew, Quall, Roberts, Rolfes, Santos, Seaquist, Sells, Simpson, Sommers, Springer, Sullivan, Takko, Upthegrove, Van De Wege, Wallace, Walsh, Williams, Wood, and Mr. Speaker Chopp.

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

SUPPORT - HB 3096 - **Financing SR520 bridge replacement project**

This high priority bill was changed last week to drop the design language in it that caused League to remain neutral on the bill. HB 3096 enables financing for the floating bridge replacement. Bridge tolling is to be studied to determine the effects on other corridors and the advisability of long term tolling on the existing bridge or bridges (I-90).

League Position - We support increases in funding to provide adequate revenue for existing transportation infrastructure.

Status - In Rules and made eligible for 2nd reading.

Action - Quickly call or email your representatives to vote "yes" on HB 3096 when it comes up for a vote on the floor.

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

SUPPORT - HB 2718 - **Reasonable fares for frequent ferry users**

This bill would require the Washington State Transportation Commission to consider the desirability of reasonable fares for frequent ferry users.

League Position - The fare box should not totally fund ferry operations.

Status - Passed the House and was referred to Senate Committee on Transportation.

Action - Please thank your representatives, who voted unanimously for this bi-partisan House bill (Flannigan, Hailey, Schual-Berke excused).

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

SUPPORT - HB 2730 - **Provision of ferry service by port districts**

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

League Position - LWVWA's new ferry transportation position supports passenger-only ferries.

Status - Passed the House unanimously. Referred the Senate Committee on Transportation, which will hold a hearing February 20 at 1:30pm.

Action - Please thank your representatives for passing this bi-partisan House bill (Hailey and Hunter excused).

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

SUPPORT - HB 3224 - **Commuter rail service**

We strongly support this bill, which authorizes a study of commuter rail services for southeast Snohomish County and east King County (the Burlington Northern rail sale to the Port of Seattle and planned uses). This bill requires a study of commuter rail services for the Burlington Northern rail sale to the Port of Seattle, and of plans for potential uses in the public sector. It needs to be funded adequately - a minimal cost in view of future possibilities.

League Positions - Support a multi-modal transportation system; Reduce greenhouse gases.

Status - HB 3224 is in Rules for 2nd reading.

Action - Ask members of House Rules Committee to move the bill to the House floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - SSB 6580 - **Mitigating impacts of climate change through GMA**

This legislation (the "local solutions bill") would add a climate change element to larger counties' comprehensive planning processes, and a goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA). This is an important first step to help local governments reduce their climate impact through land use and transportation plans. The bill would require 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. It also would create a competitive grant program for cities and counties wishing to be early participants in this goal planning process.

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

Status - In Senate Rules.

Action - A floor vote in the Senate is expected quite soon. Everyone should contact their senator and request that they support the bill as it stands.

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

SUPPORT - SHB 3202 & SSB 6784 - **Changing the state's vesting laws**

This preserves our opportunity as citizens to comment on development projects being considered in our communities at the time that plans and ordinances are being developed. This also establishes local government's ability to enforce the laws that are in effect at the time it must take final action on any application to develop a property.

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

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

Status - Both bills are in Rules and are awaiting floor action.

Action - Contact your representatives and senators and request that they vote "Yes" on this legislation when it comes to the floor.

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

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

A Priorities for a Healthy Washington bill. Facilitates purchase of Washington-grown food by schools and state agencies; creates a Farm-to-School Program in the 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.

Status - Both bills passed out of their houses of origin. Vote in Senate was unanimous (Sen.Kline excused); vote in House was 95 to 1 (Rep. Dunn voted nay, Reps. Hailey and Kenney were excused). Senate bill scheduled for public hearing in House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 8am Feb.20. House bill referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

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

Action - All is not over, as each bill must go through the opposite house policy and fiscal committees.

The biggest hurdle will be getting full funding for this legislation. Please contact your legislators with thanks for his or her support and urge support for full funding. Now is the time to contact your legislators immediately.

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 1/1/09; 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 - House bill is in House Rules Committee. Companion bill in Senate did not get passed out of Ways & Means by cutoff.

Action - Now is the time to contact your legislator immediately. HB 2647 must pass a vote on the floor of the House by next Tuesday, February 19. Please let your legislators know of your support.

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

SUPPORT - SB 6516 - **Climate Action and Green Collar Jobs**

These bills address greenhouse gas emissions and provide for green collar jobs. They would create a structure and timeline for implementing the state's global warming pollution reduction goals, and would create a competitive grants-based training program (to be funded and implemented in 2009) to train and transition workers to clean-energy jobs. This legislation is one of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington.

League Position - LWVUS Energy, elements 3 and 5

Status - In Senate Rules Committee.

Action - Ask members of Senate Rules Committee to move the bill to the Senate floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their senators, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - HB 2847 - Tax exemptions for materials and services used in weatherization assistance program

This legislation would free up some money for weatherization which could reduce heating bills for people with low incomes. It would also save energy and reduce greenhouse gases which cause global climate change.

League Position - LWVWA Energy, element 6

Status - In House Rules Committee.

Action - Ask members of House Rules Committee to move the bill to the House floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - SSHB 2426 - High-efficiency lighting in state buildings

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

League Position - LWVUS Energy, element 3

Status - In Rules Committee of the House

Action - Ask members of House Rules Committee to move the bill to the House floor for a vote. Also, everyone should call or email their representatives, even if not on Rules, and ask them to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor.

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

SUPPORT - SB 6809 - Creating a Working Families Credit (WFC) equal to 5% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

SB 6809 was amended in Senate Ways & Means. It now starts out as a 5% credit for the first year but stipulates that it would be 10% in the second year. Also, the House Finance Committee stripped the financing from HB 1551 and instead instructed the state Department of Revenue to study potential revenue sources and costs of a sales tax remittance program for low-income workers. The strategy now is to urge the Senate to pass their bill and then work to get that version approved in the House.

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

Status - The Senate bill is in Rules and may come to the floor at any time.

Action - Call or email your senator and ask her/him to vote for SB 6809.

Talking Points: In Washington State, low-wage families pay 17% of their household income in taxes, an amount that is five times what our state's wealthiest residents pay. We need to make our state tax system less regressive.

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

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**Additional BACKGROUND**

**League supports** Priorities for a Healthy Washington

More good news: all four environmental priorities survived Tuesday's cutoff. On to the next deadline of Tuesday, February 19; these bills must receive a favorable vote in their house of origin. For updates on these priorities, see articles by:

Toni Potter & Marian Wineman on Climate Action Green Jobs;  
Ann Aagaard on Local Solutions to Global Warming;  
Peggy Bruton on Evergreen Cities;  
Elizabeth Davis on Local Farms, Healthy Kids.  
**Contact** - Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, [elizabethd@whidbey.com](mailto:elizabethd@whidbey.com)

### **Unwanted Medicines Take-back Program**

HB 3064 did not make it out of the House Appropriations Committee.

The bill would have dealt with the accumulation in homes of unwanted and expired medicines. Such medicines can lead to accidental poisonings and improper use. We now know that the old method of flushing them down the toilet or disposing of them in the trash leads to surface and underground water degradation. This bill would have established a program to collect and properly dispose of unwanted pharmaceutical products from residential sources, with every producer of such products sold in the state participating in a product stewardship program for unwanted products by 2010. This bill will almost certainly be on the legislative agenda for next year.

**Contact** - Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, [elizabethd@whidbey.com](mailto:elizabethd@whidbey.com)

### **Election Bills**

The following bills that League has been monitoring are still in play:

**SB 6000** - Allowing ranked choice voting by cities and local taxing districts. Following the adoption of a charter amendment, local governments may utilize a ranked choice voting system for the election of nonpartisan candidates. If used, the ranked voting system will eliminate the need for a primary election.

**HB 1529** - Modifying voter registration provisions. This is the voter registration cleanup bill. One troubling provision contained is that voter registrations acquired from drives must be returned within five days of receipt of the completed application. Currently seven days are allowed for return.

**SHB 2904** - This substitute completely changes the original bill. In the substitute bill, local government access channels will develop policies to avoid preferential treatment of incumbent candidates for county or city legislative or executive positions.

**HB 2473** - This bill eliminates the requirement that auditors send a ballot or an application to receive a ballot to inactive voters.

**SB 5566** - Providing for privacy protection for certain voter registration information.

**HB 2833** - Adopting all mail voting. Counties with fewer than 500,000 active registered voters must conduct all elections entirely by mail ballot effective immediately. Counties with more than 500,000 active registered voters must comply no later than January 2009.

**2SHB 2807** - Regarding the electronic submittal and publication of voters' pamphlet information. This bill requires the Secretary of State and county auditors to post an online voters' pamphlet for primary and general elections. The substitute bill removes the requirement that the Secretary of State's Website must include information on all judicial races. The Secretary of State must include information only on Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, and Superior Court candidates.

**HB 1527/ESB 5738** - Modifying absentee ballot and related election provisions. These are the absentee cleanup bills and include the provision that overseas voters may return a voted ballot and signed envelope electronically. From Secretary of State.

**SHB 1534** - This bill changes the process for minor party and independent candidate nomination, revises candidate filing procedures, and makes changes to election procedures for precinct committee officers. PCOs would no longer need to receive a certain percentage of votes to be elected. From Secretary of State.

**HB 2491** - Modifying candidate filing provisions. This bill eliminates the option to file declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of State for candidates for single-county offices. From Secretary of State.

**HB 2796/SB 6312** - Preventing rejection of ballots that have voter identifying marks. From Secretary of State.

**Contact** - Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, [jaybetty2@msn.com](mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com)

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## 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](http://www.lwvwa.org/about/officers.html)

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

Legislative Committees – [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx)

Representation by legislative district – [www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf)

### LEAGUE POSITIONS

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

### RESOURCES

League action website – [lwvwa.org/advocacy](http://lwvwa.org/advocacy)

House Floor Activity as it happens – [flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3](http://flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3)

Senate Floor Activity as it happens – [flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov](http://flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov)

Public hearings as they happen – [twv.org](http://twv.org)

Bill information – text, analysis, status, committee action – [apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo)

Bill room (legislative information center) – 360-786-7573

State budget information – [www.ofm.wa.gov](http://www.ofm.wa.gov)

Governor’s website – [governor.wa.gov](http://governor.wa.gov)

Washington state’s official website – [access.wa.gov](http://access.wa.gov)

#### Speaking to a Legislator

Visit, write to, call, or email the legislator directly (see contact list for legislators). Or, use the toll-free Legislative Hotline available weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm:

**800-562-6000** / TTY: 800-635-9993

Legislative hotline operators will send your message to one of your legislators, all three of your legislators, the governor and lieutenant governor, or all of these, as you request. Language translation services are also available. Person placing the call needs to know enough English to understand “Please Wait” and to report the language needed.

#### Addressing a Letter to a Legislator

Representative \_ / Senator \_, P.O. Box 40600 P.O. Box 404[leg district], Olympia, WA 98504-0600 Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district]

#### Visiting Your Legislators

Citizens are welcome to visit their legislators in Olympia on any day during the session. Making an appointment first is prudent but not always required. Later in the session, town hall meetings back in the legislators’ home districts are good opportunities for talking to your legislators. Lobby day events provide organized support for visits.