



WATCHDOG

Fall-Winter 2014 Issue

Message From the President

The Weber League has had a very successful few months. The Public Forum on Local Government co-sponsored with the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics and Public Service turned out great. The discussion was lively and excellent questions were asked. Many thanks to Di Allison, Leah Murray, Adam Trupp, Duncan Murray, Max Roth, Carol McNamara, Carla Price, and Kerry Gibson (who became a panel member at the spur of the moment). This activity reinforces what the league is all about.

The local government committee is still working on finalizing the study and getting citizens together to determine what actions we feel we should move toward. Hopefully we will have our direction outlined in a few weeks.



The membership dessert social with speakers from the community police was very informative and the officers were able to answer many questions and enlighten us on the purpose and goals of this program. The desserts were excellent as well.

We continue to attend community meetings such as the Weber County Commission meetings and report on them. The team of volunteers will continue to reach out to these types of meetings so we can stay abreast of the issues in the community.

Many thanks to the people who were able to attend the social at Alleged. It is so nice to get together with each other and just socialize. We are having a Christmas social this year at Marcia Harris' house and would love to see everyone attend.

October's meeting is a presentation by Azenett Garza and Luis Lopez from LUPEC, which is a new group in Ogden. It stands for Latinos United Promoting Education and Civic Engagement. This ties in with everything the league stands for and would like to promote within our very diverse city. It is on Monday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Library. Please bring a friend and come learn.

Weber League participated in National Voter Registration Day again this year. Leah Murray had students at Weber State University and members at both libraries registering voters. They were able to register over 100 people, which is great! Nice job Leah!

I would also like to take a moment to thank our State Presidents – Jenn Gonnely and Lola Britton. Jenn came to the Public Forum and to the social at Alleged and Lola came to the membership social. Jenn and I also had the opportunity to present information to a Political Science class at Weber State. It is super that our leaders are willing to take the time to become involved in our league and support us.

I sincerely hope the fall months are treating everyone well and that you will find a moment to attend a meeting or two. We don't want any other commitment except a meeting or two. Please look at the post card sent to you and mark those dates on your calendar.

October Meeting

On October 13, 2014, we will have our monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Library. Member Azenett Garza along with Luis Lopez will present information on LUPEC, which has recently been organized in Ogden. It stands for Latinos United Promoting Education and Civic Engagement. We were represented on committee meetings designed by Weber State to determine effective ways to bridge some of the cultural differences in our city, so this meeting is very appropriate. Please bring a friend and attend.



Utah State Voter's Guide



DO YOU KNOW where the candidates stand on important issues?

The leaders you elect make decisions that affect you – your job, health care, energy costs, security and more. The League helps you to get registered, get to know the candidates and issues, and get out and to vote.

The League of Women Voters of Utah is pleased to present the [2014 Voters Guide](#) which provides information about candidates' views on topics important to you.



**YOUR VOTE IS
YOUR VOICE!**

What is the Voters Guide? It is a publication of the League of Women Voters of Utah that provides candidates' views on topics important to voters. The League is a non-partisan organization with the mission of educating voters so they can make informed decisions. "Non-partisan" means that we never support or oppose a particular party or candidate. Instead, we provide unbiased information to enable voters to use their own judgment when voting.

votersguide.lwvutah.org

**MAKE IT A POINT TO GO ONLINE AND READ THIS PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS
ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014!**



Voting Rights Amendment Act

When Congress recessed this year to focus their attentions on the upcoming elections, they left behind a lot of work – one of which was moving the Voting Rights Amendment Act forward.

This bill helps prevent voter discrimination, which is integral if we want to get all citizens involved in representative government. Keep this in the back of your mind and encourage our representatives to focus on getting that Act fixed and back to where it is effective. We should encourage all citizens to vote and not put laws in place that exclude some.



Utah State League Priorities

Many times people ask us, “So what is the League of Women Voters all about?” One of our members has a quote that goes something like “The League took off where Carrie Chapman Catt and Women’s Suffrage left off.” The list below helps to represent what the Utah State League priorities are. Each local league builds off of these priorities and has some of their own depending on their own position statements for their community derived from local studies.

I. Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

A. Act to improve the election process, including

1. Monitoring the redistricting process for federal and state legislative offices.
2. Promoting voter education and participation in the election process, focusing on the candidate selection process, getting out the vote, and gathering information about mail-in ballots.
3. Promoting revisions to Utah's election laws in keeping with federal voting legislation, and incorporating safeguards to ensure the integrity of elections using electronic voting equipment.
4. Promoting campaign finance reform with a primary focus on campaign contribution limits for candidates for state offices.
5. Investigating changing the processes for selecting candidates for state office.
6. Promote transparency in government, including
 1. Observing and reporting to members and the Public on General Sessions and Interim Meetings of the Utah Legislature
 2. Monitoring and protecting Utah's GRAMA laws

II. Act to protect Utah's citizen initiative process, including the use of electronic signatures.

III. Promote a sustainable lifestyle to preserve a Utah environment beneficial to life, emphasizing climate change, air quality, energy issues, transportation, public land, water and seismic issues.

IV. Promote community awareness of health care for the uninsured and under-insured, and support Medicaid expansion in the State of Utah.

V. Review current League positions on taxation to resolve inconsistencies and to determine adequacy for action on current policy issues.

VI. Monitor issues of the Utah educational system, focusing on curriculum, elective, fiscal, and governance matters. Study school finance.

VII. Study the proposed relocation of the Utah State Prison.

VIII. Promote League positions at the Utah Legislature and other public arenas with emphasis on working in conjunction with other organizations.



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 13, 2014 – Presentation on LUPEC – 7:00 p.m. at Pleasant Valley Library

November 4, 2014 – Election Day – VOTE

November 10, 2014 – Consensus on Local Government Study – 7:00 p.m. - Main Library

December 12, 2014 – Holiday Social at Marcia Harris' House – 7:00 p.m.