



# WATCHDOG

Weber County League of Women Voters

September 30, 2018

## Ruth Bader Ginsburg

~Arlene Anderson



Also known as The Notorious RBG. This amazing woman was sworn in as the 107th Supreme Court Justice of the United States of America. She was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993. During her nomination hearing she said, "I try to teach through my opinions, through my speeches, how wrong it is to judge people on the basis of what they look like, color of their skin, whether they're men or women." Her mother Celia taught Ruth the value of independence and a good education. Celia was diagnosed with cancer while Ruth was in high school and died. She was unable to see her daughter graduate. Ruth went on to college and while in school met her husband Martin Ginsburg, they married and had a child. As many

women do, she balanced the roles of wife, mother, student, and then caregiver to her husband when diagnosed with testicular cancer. She had a difficult time finding a job because she encountered gender discrimination. She later became the first tenured professor at Columbia University. Fast forward to now and you will find the Notorious RBG has a popular exercise routine called "The RBG workout." Ruth Bader Ginsburg still sits on the Supreme Court Justice at the age of 85. She has been an integral part of historic ruling and has no intentions of stepping down.

### **A few of RBG's historic rulings:**

*United States v. Virginia, 1996- that the gender- exclusive admissions policy violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.*  
*Olmstead v. LC, 1999- the right for people with mental disabilities have to live in their communities known as the "integration mandate", under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).*

*Bush v. Gore, 2000- George W. Bush's campaign filed an emergency application*

*to stop a Florida Supreme Court mandate for a manual recount of the ballots in the 2000 presidential election against then-Vice President Al Gore. (Dissent)*

*Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, 2007-gender discrimination, after Ledbetter discovered the company had been paying her less than her male counterparts, which she alleged was because of her gender. (Dissent)*

*Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015-granted same-sex couples the right to marry in all 50 states*

*Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, 2016-aka as H.B.2, which imposed strict restrictions and requirements on abortion providers, including a mandate that doctors performing procedures have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and that clinics meet the same standards as outpatient surgical centers.*

*Sessions v. Dimaya, 2018- striking down legislation striking down a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act that virtually guaranteed the deportation of an immigrant convicted of an "aggravated felony," including "a crime of violence" as unconstitutionally vague.*

# UCLA Presentation on Smart Justice

## What should the justice system really represent?



Over the last few years, the United States has used the justice/prison system as a method of controlling many things – drugs, mental illness, poverty, and lack of education. The United States incarcerates more people than any other nation. This has impacted many families and lives. If a person commits a minor crime and is placed in prison, they lose their jobs and their family loses their income. The family then becomes homeless or lives in poverty. The children lose a parent and stability. These things can cause grave effects on society and on the individuals involved.

The ACLU has committed to changing our country's criminal justice system and cutting the incarcerated numbers in half. The ACLU partnered with the Urban Institute to study what needed to happen in each state to make this goal a reality. The study found that while costs were cut if ideas were implemented, the issue of reducing racial offenders was not decreased. The ACLU maintains that this needs to be addressed and suggests utilizing bail reform, stopping the incarceration of individuals committing misdemeanor

and low level felony charges, and reforming parole policies.

The basic blueprint to meeting goals set include reducing admissions by offering programs that address the problem the person has, such as rehabilitation for drug use and counseling for mental health issues, instead of holding them in jail pending trial. The legislature has to cease using incarceration as punishment for every level of offense. Prosecutorial reform would include review of cases by Conviction Integrity Units to see if the case was handled appropriately for the level of crime and the individual's needs. Parole reform includes providing programs to prisoners that will help them become successful in society and continuing providing these services when they are released. If crimes were re-evaluated and time served reduced for some lower level crimes, people would be able to be back and productive in society with skills learned. Reducing racial and disability disparities also should be addressed. People of color are expected to be involved in criminal activity, and

mentally ill people should be provided help instead of just imprisonment.

This is a quick overview of some of the many points brought up about ways to make our justice system actually serve the purpose it was meant to. One thing is definite – if we continue to use prison as the only form of punishment for issues, the prison population will grow to be too large to handle and cost taxpayers' way too much money.



## AGRICULTURE IN UTAH STUDY

~Marilyn ODell

Saturday, October 20 at 10 a.m. the Weber League will hold a meeting to discuss consensus on the future of agriculture in Utah. The study and questions are available on the state League's web site, [lwwutah.org](http://lwwutah.org).

This study was approved in 2017 because of members' appreciation of the esthetic value of farmland, a desire to purchase locally grown food and a concern for sustainability of the food supply for a growing population.

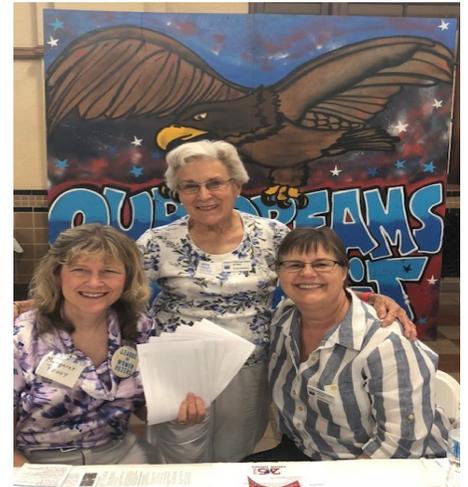
Before attending the consensus meeting on this study and answering the questions, it would be useful for local League members to inventory their purchases to see where their food comes from. Are you buying local food? Farmers can't stay in the business unless they are making enough to support their families. The study assesses the profitability of food production in Utah.

Another way to preserve farmland is through programs that cut property taxes or provide grants to preserve important land. Should the League support these programs?

A census of agriculture is done every 5 years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The latest figure (2012) for cropland in Utah is 1.65 million acres. The amount of cropland in Utah seems to have peaked in 1950 at 2.05 million acres. Between 1992 and 2012, the amount of harvested cropland in Davis County decreased from 18,573 acres to 11,965 acres. The published figures for Weber County have not changed much in that period. It will be interesting to see the results of the 2017 census. Those should be out within the next year.

## EVENTS

National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when communities recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans heritage and culture. In our OGDEN community on September 15<sup>th</sup>, Ogden's Hispanic Festival highlighted the culture, history, education, music and dance, and cuisine of our Hispanic/Latino community. Part of the event was to provide resources from organizations to connect with the Hispanic/Latino Community. These fabulous WCLWW members, in collaboration with ACTION, worked all day to Register Voters. What a success! We were able to register 14 new voters to our community. Mil gracias (a million thanks) to the wonderful women from WCLWW.





## SAVE THE DATE! October 8, 2018

Tired of wildfires, dirty air, dwindling snowpack ...?

Yes, the Earth is warming, it's us humans, and it's going to get worse if we don't stop it. The League is determined to be part of the solution, and we see cracks forming in the impasse that has, for years, blocked effective action on global warming.

You can help. Join the LWVUT Climate Action Committee today. Email [natural-resources@lwvsl.org](mailto:natural-resources@lwvsl.org) to get involved today.

To learn more, come to the Climate Solutions Forum hosted by the Weber County League of Women Voters.

**When:** October 8 at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Weber County Library

**Speakers:** Jennifer Bodine, WSU Sustainability Manager  
Matt Gnagey, WSU Asst. Prof. of Economics

**Host:** Terri McCulloch, President, LWVWC  
[terrimcculloch@aol.com](mailto:terrimcculloch@aol.com)



## Questions or Comments?

Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Watchdog edition! If you need to contact us, email us at [weberleague@gmail.com](mailto:weberleague@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

**October 8** - 7:00 p.m. - Climate Solutions - 2464 Jefferson Avenue - Main Library - Speakers Matt Gagney and Jennifer Bodine

**October 9** - 6:30 p.m. - Weber School District Candidate Forum - Roy Library

**October 10** - 6:30 p.m. - Ogden School District Candidate Forum - Main Library

**October 17** - 6:30 p.m. - From Idea to Ballot Class for the Community - North Ogden Library - Presenter: Shelly Jackson

**October 20** - 9:00 a.m. - Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting - Pleasant Valley Library in South Ogden

**October 29** - 6:30 p.m. - Election Office Tour - Election Office at Weber Building - Led by Jessica Hastings

**November 19** - 7:00 p.m. - Election Wrap Up - Hurst Center at Weber State University - Dr. Leah Murray

**December** - 6:30 p.m. - Holiday Social - Marcia and Bob Harris'



<http://weberleague.org/index.phtml>

Don't forget to register to vote!

<https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/index.html>

<https://www.instagram.com/weberleague/>



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[www.twitter.com/WeberLWV](http://www.twitter.com/WeberLWV)

