



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters  
of Utah

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**JANUARY 2015**

**Are You Ready for 2015?**



by Lola Britton, LWVUT Co-president  
Happy New Year from the League of Women Voters of Utah! Welcome to 2015.

In preparing for the 2015 legislative season, we will need you to help us accomplish the goals of the League of Women Voters of Utah. Together, we can help Utahns be educated about issues influencing their lives, engaged in the election process, and empowered to effect change. In addition, the citizens of the Beehive State need our cooperative effort to protect the rights of all voters, reform the influx of influential PAC contributions, defend the environment and advance

health care.

Last year, Utah voter turnout reflected the nationwide apathy towards elections. The United States Election Project reported only 30.2 percent of the Utah voter eligible population participated in the November 2014 General Election. (Click the following link to see all of the states turnout ([Voter Turnout](#))). It was also the most expensive midterm election ever. Many have already forgotten the winners and losers. This state of affairs means that now is the time to increase informed voters and stop the secret contributions and unlimited spending by special interest groups. We must return local, state, and federal government to the people of Utah and the citizens of the United States. The buying of our officials by "special-interest groups" resulting in distorted election results must be stopped. This can be accomplished by the LWVUT - with your help!

The newly updated LWVUT Tax Study is evidence of the League's continued effort to provide current and meaningful information to Utah voters. We continue to monitor the relocation of the state prison in Draper, the redevelopment of the property in Draper and the reforms of the criminal justice system, among other topics. For a complete list of the League's

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Legislative Priorities for 2015 go to  
[http://lwwutah.org/Legislative%20files/2014\\_leg/legpriorities.html](http://lwwutah.org/Legislative%20files/2014_leg/legpriorities.html).

The League is working to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans — women and men. Our continuing mission is to make democracy available for all people by educating all citizens about the voting system and process.



## Important Dates & Events for 2015 Legislative Session

by Angie Abram and Nickie Nelson, Legislative Action Corps Co-Chairs  
**Monday, January 26**

First day of legislative general session (yearly the fourth Monday in January).

The session lasts 45 days

### Advocacy Lobby Training & Legislative Orientation

Two Opportunities!

Everyone Welcome (Members bring a friend)

#### January 14 at 7 p.m., Salt Lake City Main Library, Conference Room 4.

If you haven't observed the Legislature before and are thinking of checking it out, consider coming to this Advocacy Lobby Training the week prior to the legislative session. Experienced Leaguers will discuss how the Legislature works and how League interacts with it.

#### January 26 at Noon

The Copper Room (East Senate First Floor).

## Utah League Co-presidents

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If you haven't observed the Legislature before and are thinking of checking it out, consider coming to this Advocacy Lobby Training on the opening day of the 2015 Legislative session. Experienced Leaguers will discuss how the Legislature works and how League interacts with it. Attendees are encouraged to purchase lunch in the nearby cafeteria and bring it to the multipurpose room before our orientation starts at noon.

**Every Wednesday during the Session at Noon**

**Utah State Capitol Cafeteria, East Senate Building.**

During the 2015 Legislative session, Legislative Action Corps members meet in the cafeteria each Wednesday at noon to discuss session highlights and any league positions that pertain to upcoming legislation. This is also a time to request League Presidents to testify on behalf of League positions. Newcomers are welcome. Observing committees is a good way to learn about the legislature and the process. Feel free to double up at committees. Just walk in and look for an LWV button.

**Friday, February 13 Annual Legislative Brown Bag Luncheon, Noon  
Olmstead Room, East Senate Building.**

Join us for our Annual Legislative Luncheon to hear legislators discuss their expectations and priorities for the session, with an opportunity to ask them questions. Purchase your lunch in the Senate Building cafeteria beginning at 11:30 and bring it to the Copper Room (in the same building) to hear our speakers at noon.

**Thursday, March 12**

Last day of legislative session

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**Legislative Priorities Change in Importance**

by Nicola Nelson

A set of legislative priorities is created every year by the League Legislative co-directors. These are used to determine where League resources should be focused for monitoring bills and lobbying legislators during the session. Not surprisingly, these priorities do not change much from year to year, but certain issues may be more important in years when relevant legislation on those issues is expected. In the 2015 session, we expect intense debate and significant legislation in the areas of health care, the Draper prison relocation, tax reform, initiatives to counter SB54 (passed as a response to Count My Vote) and how to spend Utah's expected budget surplus. We have included redistricting as a reminder that the 2020 census is only five years away.

League Legislative Priorities for the 2015 legislative session are:

**EDUCATION**

- Support increased basic program funding and increasing equity in education funding

**Local League  
Presidents**

**Cache County  
Joan McLean**

[jmclean@cc.usu.edu](mailto:jmclean@cc.usu.edu)

**Cedar City  
Barbara Prestwich**

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**Grand County  
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**& Karen McCoy**

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**Weber County  
Terri McCulloch**

[terrimcculloch@aol.com](mailto:terrimcculloch@aol.com)

- Support contracting transparency, demonstrated success and measurable goals in public education funding programs
- Support specialized funding for preschool and focused early education programs
- Monitor governance — partisan school board elections, and ultimate authority for higher education and public education

## **VOTING**

- Monitor all bills regarding voters and voter turnout
- Oppose changes to the open primary in addition to the caucus system (rollbacks to SB54)
- Support direct election of the president, in particular National Popular Vote
- Redistricting

## **OPEN GOVERNMENT**

- Watch for piecemeal attacks on the citizen’s right to government information.
- Support Legislation that adds greater transparency to the legislative process
- Advocate for campaign finance reform

## **TAXATION**

- Oppose reinstatement of sales tax on food
- Support increase and broadening of severance tax on non-renewable resources
- Support adequate transportation specific taxes and a reduction of transportation related earmarks to the general fund

## **HEALTH**

- Oppose waiver requests that seek to avoid federal Medicaid guidelines
- Advocate for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act
- Support Medicaid expansion

## **CORRECTIONS**

- Support sentencing reforms which reduce incarceration and increase treatment, education and employment for offenders
- Support prison relocation which is consistent with League positions and incorporates community based support

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Energy**

- Support energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Support reduction in fossil fuel use and emissions

## **State of Community Luncheon Coming Up**

Be sure to mark the date of Wednesday, April 8 at Little America for our State of the Community Luncheon!

## Federal Lands

- Oppose transferring federal lands to state control and funding for court challenges to the Utah Enabling Act
- Support enlarging wilderness and designating national monuments

## Environment

- Oppose measures to weaken the public trust doctrine, agency boards and public participation

## Water

- Oppose new major water diversions
- Oppose dedication of state taxes to water projects

## Air

- Support state efforts to restore clean air

## IMMIGRATION

- Oppose efforts of the state to infringe on federal immigration policy

## SOCIAL POLICY

- Oppose action to dismantle affirmative action
- Oppose attacks on reproductive rights, sex education in schools, and equality and personal freedom.
- Watch for attacks on affirmative action, reproductive rights, equality, sex education and personal freedom that might appear in the guise of religious freedom

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## A Look at 2014 Utah Congressional Campaign Financing

by Alice Larkin Steiner

The 2014 congressional campaigns showed quite different financing sources. The chart below summarizes the funding for each campaign from January 1, 2013, through November 24, 2014, or for the entire 2014 election cycle. The financial data is from the Federal Election Commission (accessed 12/12/2014).



## Hinckley Forums

are held in Orson Spencer Hall, Room 255, at the University of Utah. All forums are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/forums/index.html>

Dist	Part y	Candidate	Amount Raised	Votes Received	Cost/ Vote	% of Ind from UT	% from PACs
1	R	Bishop	\$543,197	70,240	\$ 7.73	33%	70%
1	D	McAleer	\$266,276	31,668	\$ 8.41	76%	10%
2	R	Stewart	\$755,106	76,966	\$ 9.81	67%	59%
2	D	Robles	\$153,305	42,356	\$ 3.62	86%	0.5%
3	R	Chaffetz	\$944,555	94,571	\$ 9.99	33%	64%
3	D	Wonnacott	\$9,209	29,575	\$ 0.31	na	%
4	R	Love	\$5,208,376	64,390	\$ 80.89	8%	9%
4	D	Owens	\$864,898	60,165	\$ 14.38	90%	9%

Does not include spending by independent PACs not routed through the candidates' campaigns.

The Love/Owens race was extraordinarily expensive, with Mia Love receiving a little more than six times the contributions received by Doug Owens. For the other races, the winning candidates received more than double-to-102 times the contributions received by the unsuccessful candidates. It is interesting to dig a little deeper to see where the contributions came from. Excluding the Love/Owens race, the winners received more than half of the dollars raised from a variety of national political action committees. (I should note that the PAC contributions included in the FEC records do not exceed \$5,000 per PAC and that the FEC records do not include any information on independent groups financing election activities that do not go through the candidates' official campaigns.) Additionally, for three of the winning candidates, more than two-thirds of their donors do not live in Utah. The Love campaign figures are not complete, so the table does not include the geographic distribution for the 53 percent of individual contributions listed as unitemized. It is reasonable to conclude that Utah's campaigns are dramatically influenced by out-of-state money. It would be interesting to study whether this is the norm across the United States now and how the large number of out-of-state contributors hear about the races in Utah that they choose to support financially.

## Tax Study Consensus Due Early February

by Marilyn O'Dell, Chair, Tax Study Committee

The LWVUT study, "Understanding Utah's Tax System," was ready for members on January 1. As informed League members, we need to understand where our state government gets its funds if we want more (or less) investment in things like education or road repairs. Every day seems to bring an article about the budget, especially the need for more funds for road maintenance and construction.

The Tax Study Committee members tried to make this study as uncomplicated and easy to understand as possible. We provided references



for those who want more detail. The committee is working on a Leaders Guide that will be provided to local League presidents.

A hard copy will go to all members who don't get the *Voter* by email. If for some reason your computer doesn't cooperate, let me know at 801-393-7225 or [maodell2@gmail.com](mailto:maodell2@gmail.com) or call the League office.

Consensus needs to be completed by **February 4** by all local Leagues in Utah. Responses to the consensus questions should be sent to me at the above email by February 4. We have agreed to present a revised position to the LWVUT Board the February meeting.

Announcing our new position during the Legislative session provides an opportunity for immediate action and good publicity for the League.

I need to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Study Committee: Angie Abrams, Ann O'Connell, Sherilyn Bennion and Sandy Peck. Everyone wrote parts of the study and participated in research and decision making. Angie was critical in putting our information together and formatting the study. They all made my work easy.

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## National League Focuses on Democracy

by Gigi Brandt

The LWVUS at their convention last June adopted a program which focused on the key structures of democracy. Three committees were formed to collect information on redistricting in the various states. Three committees have been selected to collect and disseminate information about redistricting in the various states, money in politics, and the process of amending the Constitution. This country has just finished the most expensive midterm elections ever, and as I write this, the House has raised the amount of money that can be expended in campaigns. The Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed in December included a rider that would allow big donors to contribute significantly more to national political parties, creating new designated accounts to pay for presidential nominating conventions, legal fees and the cost of buying or renovating office space. (It should be noted that all four of Utah's congressional delegation voted for the legislation).

The Money in Politics Committee will conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The study will consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position. To be part of the forum go to <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics>

The Constitutional Amendment study is also forming. To learn more to go:

## Tax Study Requires Consensus

“As informed League members, we need to understand where our state government gets its funds if we want more (or less) investment in things like education or road repairs.”

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

I was contacted by a member of the LWVUS Redistricting Committee about the Utah and the Salt Lake County experience in the redistricting process in 2011. The committee is gathering information about the various state Leagues experiences. As many of you know, California was able to use an independent redistricting commission because of a voter initiative. The initiative assumed that politicians in power such as legislators have vested interests in choosing their voters rather than allowing the voters to choose them.

I mentioned the failure of the Utah Count My Vote effort. The stringent restrictions the Utah Legislature placed on the initiative process offer scant hope to citizens for direct change.

The committees will soon post reading lists on the LWVUS website. Members interested in joining other League members on a study committee for these three national studies should contact Gigi at [gigibrandt@xmission.com](mailto:gigibrandt@xmission.com).

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## **Weber Works on High School Vote, Local Government**

by Terri McCulloch

The Weber County League has tried something different this year in getting high school students registered. Dr. Leah Murray is our voter registration vice president and also a political science instructor at Weber State University. She designed a program where one of her students could receive tuition assistance for designing, implementing, and reporting on the high school registration program. This has been very successful both for the high school students and for the League.

The student leader also organized a campus-wide project on Voter Registration Day to encourage college students to register and vote. This was a great success and a good experience for the students who manned the tables. We are very excited about this partnership with the University and hope to continue it in the future. Many thanks to Leah for thinking of it and then moving forward with the idea.

The Weber County League reached consensus on the update to our Local Government Study in our last meeting. There has been some real unrest with the structure of our local government - we have three commissioners and they perform both legislative and executive powers for the county. Our county has grown substantially in size and many of the unincorporated areas are not represented on the board. In fact, the largest city, Ogden, has no representation. Weber members decided we need to update our study done in 1981 concerning the structure of local government. We have been working on this over the summer and completed our consensus meeting on November 10, 2014. We are looking forward to use this study to move our county forward.

The statements that were agreed on are:

## **Redistricting Still At Issue**

California was able to use an independent redistricting commission because of a voter initiative. The initiative assumed that politicians in power such as legislators have vested interests in choosing their voters rather than allowing the voters to choose them.



-The Weber LWV supports the principle of some form of representation by geographic area based on the principle of "one person, one vote" as it pertains to county governance.

-The Weber LWV supports the concept of separation of legislative and executive powers as it pertains to county governance.

-The Weber LWV supports a change in the structural form of Weber County Government based on the larger population and demographic changes in the county.

The study will be available soon on [weberleague.org](http://weberleague.org).

### **Rebecca Bell**

1032 S. 1100 East SLC 84105  
alva\_taft@hotmail.com

Rebecca Bell (BSN RN CORLN) is has a long career a nurse specializing in the ENT Oncology area. She is currently the president of the Salt Lake Chapter of The Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses, Inc. (SOHN).

Rebecca's home town is Bicknell, Wayne County. She graduated from Southern Utah University and the University of Utah. Rebecca gives back to her community in many ways including remodeling homes for elderly people in need, and as a volunteer for Equality Utah. She is a pianist and basketball player. Rebecca joined LWV-SL at our voter registration table at the downtown farmers market because the LWV is a good way to educate herself. She is interested in legislative process, Criminal Justice and feels women in general are an underused resource.

**Letitia Buroker** 1013 River Walk Drive Riverton 84065  
801-254-6116 tishburokervp@q.com

Tish grew up in Riverton and still lives there with her husband, Brian. She attended BYU and graduated with a degree in nursing. She has worked in many settings including the Red Cross, home health, and psychiatric. Since 1993 she was employed by LabCorp as the Salt Lake general manager. Upon promotion to vice president she commuted weekly to Denver for five years. She has recently retired and is looking for volunteer opportunities to fill her time when she is not teaching and playing the piano and organ. Following retirement she started her search for a group of "thinking women" when her aunt referred her to the League of Women Voters. Tish immediately went online to find out about this group and became a member. She is most interested in the League's involvement with the Utah Legislature.

**Marin Christensen** 864 W. 300 North SLC 84116  
857-540-1495 christensen.marin@gmail.com

Marin is our newest student member, soon to graduate with B.S. in Consumer and Community Studies, after which she plans to pursue a master's degree in



### **Weber Supports These Principles**

-The Weber LWV supports the principle of some form of representation by geographic area based on the principle of "one person, one vote" as it pertains to county governance.

-The Weber LWV supports the concept of separation of legislative and executive powers as it pertains to county governance.

-The Weber LWV supports a change in the structural form of Weber County Government based on the larger population and demographic changes in the county.

Public Policy. She also holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Political Science. Marin volunteers as a tutor and mentor for the Boys and Girls Club, and as a policy and candidate endorsement intern for Equality Utah. She served as a 2013 legislative intern for United Way and a campaign field coordinator for a Utah House Representative. Marin works as social content and help desk writer with previous employment as an editorial assistant and client development manager. Originally from Salt Lake, Marin spent some years in Boston performing music. Marin is involved in many issues and feels the LWV can help her be more informed.

**Claudia Fruin** cfruin4@gmail.com

Salt Lake City

Dr. Claudia Fruin is a long practicing pediatrician. She is a Tennessee native who has lived in the Salt Lake area for 25 years. Claudia attended University of Illinois for her undergraduate and Medical School education. She is a past president of the Utah Chapter of the *American Academy of Pediatrics*, and the legislative chair for that organization for the last two years. Claudia is the founder of *Bulletproof Kids*, a public service campaign that advocates for the secure storage of firearms. She has volunteered for political campaigns, schools and various child advocacy causes. Claudia supports the League in our efforts to educate voters and get people to understand that voting is a privilege.

**Victoria Turner**

4315 Conrad St SLC 84121

801-278-4856 vturner@xmission.com

Vicki Turner is from Rhode Island, graduating from the University of Rhode Island, College of Resource Development with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science. She worked in the environmental consulting field in New York before moving to Utah for graduate school. Vicki earned a master's degree at Utah State University in biology. Her areas of expertise and experience are in plant science and terrestrial ecology, including plant pathology and soil microbiology. Vicki worked for a biotech company in Salt Lake in plant molecular biology and at the Eccles institute of Genetics in the department of Human Genetics and Molecular Biology. In the early '90s, she took the required courses to qualify her to teach, and taught junior high and high school from the early '90s until retirement a couple of years ago. Vicki is interested in natural resources and social justice.

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### **'Share the Spirit' a Holiday Success**

On December 1, 2014, more than 50 League members and partners came together to share holiday drinks, food, and great conversation, including with our delightful guest speaker from The Road Home, Michelle Flynn.

Michelle, executive director of programs, shared with us the Road Home mission and their work to provide "emergency shelter and a variety of programs that help individuals and families step out of homelessness & back

## **Comment to FEC on Disclosure**

We're close to deadline to submit comments to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) regarding how "to address corruption in the political process." So far, League supporters have generated over 12,000 comments to the FEC in support of stricter disclosure regulations and narrowing the definition of coordination between candidates and outside groups.

But we need your help though to get us to our comment goal.

[Tell the FEC to stop the coordinated spending that is poisoning our elections!](#)

into our community.” Additionally, they partner with other public and private organizations on our community “homelessness to housing” initiative.

Thank you to our attendees for their generous donations totaling approx. \$1,000 to support The Road Home and their contribution to our community.

—Karen McCoy, LWV of Salt Lake, Co-President

## Grand County Experiments with Vote-by-Mail

by Karen Robinson

This has been a very exciting election season in Grand County. We had our first vote-by-mail election and recount to go along with it. Things are a bit different with vote-by-mail.

### Vote-by-mail



Prior to the election, the County Clerk's Office sent postcards to every registered voter in Grand County advising that future elections would be vote-by-mail. If that postcard was returned by the post office as undeliverable, the voter was moved to an "inactive" status. Inactive voters do not receive a ballot in the mail. If a person moved and did not notify the Clerk's Office of a new address, chances were good he would be

classified as inactive. People who had not voted in either of the last two general elections were also marked inactive.

The League spent a lot of time getting out information on how to participate in the new voting system and advising people to check their voter status to ensure they were "active" and would receive a ballot. We had registration/information booths set up at the local market and at the Moab Pride Festival. We did have a few voters fill in voter registration forms which we took to the County Clerk, but mostly we supplied information. In past years we advised voters to check [vote.utah.gov](http://vote.utah.gov) to determine whether they were registered. Unfortunately that query does not tell a voter whether his status is active or inactive — a very important distinction in vote-by-mail elections as an inactive voter does not receive a ballot.

Access to a current voter database for Grand County in Excel format allowed us to check a voter's status without need for wi-fi, and voters took advantage of that service in great numbers. We could then advise those who were inactive how to re-register in the manner most convenient for them.

### Turnout

The number of ballots cast for 2014 was 3,613, out of 4,816 registered voters. That was a 75 percent turnout. The number of ballots cast in 2010 was 3,454, not much lower. That turnout was 54 percent. The difference? The high

## Grand County Sees Voter Increase

This increase is consistent with the lieutenant governor's report on vote-by-mail. That report should be available soon at [elections.utah.gov](http://elections.utah.gov), along with some later addenda. The study itself can be accessed now at [le.utah.gov/Interim/2014/pdf/00004330.pdf](http://le.utah.gov/Interim/2014/pdf/00004330.pdf). That study does not mention cleaning up the voter roles as a factor in better turnout — they call the increase a "novelty" effect.

number of people registered in Grand County in 2010 who should not have been — people who moved away or died or had not actually voted in years. The 2010 race had 6,398 registered voters. The process leading up to the vote-by-mail election cleaned out a large part of those invalid registrations so the turnout appears much higher.

This increase is consistent with the lieutenant governor's report on vote-by-mail. That report should be available soon at [elections.utah.gov](http://elections.utah.gov), along with some later addenda. The study itself can be accessed now at [le.utah.gov/Interim/2014/pdf/00004330.pdf](http://le.utah.gov/Interim/2014/pdf/00004330.pdf). That study does not mention cleaning up the voter roles as a factor in better turnout — they call the increase a "novelty" effect.

### **Recount**

Most races were won by a wide margin, but one race was within four votes, well inside the percentage allowed for a recount. A recount for our first vote-by-mail election proved to be fortunate.

The losing candidate requested a hand recount. In the course of recounting (first for all races via the scanner used in the regular election, and then by hand for the specific race) it was discovered that the scanner had trouble reading some of the ballots. The ballot instructions clearly stated not to use an X or a check mark or red ink, something some voters either failed to read, understand or abide by. 133 ballots were marked incorrectly. Some of the races on some of the ballots were not recorded correctly when the marks were not the properly filled-in oval. The hand count uncovered this irregularity. A new procedure by the County Clerk's Office will remedy the problem for future elections.

Being involved with the hand counting part of the recount process (as a poll watcher) gave additional insight into voting behavior itself, and brought forward some aspects that hadn't been obvious with voting machines. Voting idiosyncrasies among voters are very interesting. There was not much time spent looking at each ballot, but some things did jump out, like people who voted for a single candidate on the entire ballot, or wrote things on the ballot or crossed out an entire race.

### **Over and Under Voting**

A voting machine will not allow a voter to cast more than one vote for the same race; it will reject the attempt and tell the voter to try again. With vote-by-mail the scanner will also reject the ballot, but the voter is not there to correct his mistake. When this occurs on the paper ballot, the election workers will make the attempt to understand the voter's intent so that race may be counted. If it is obvious they will take steps to ensure that vote is counted by either enhancing the ballot so it may be read properly or by re-creating a new ballot for all races with the override corrected. The mismarked ballot will be voided and the new one scanned. If intent is not obvious the scanner is told to process the rest of the ballot and skip the race in question.

Under votes are ignored. In most cases, the voter may have intentionally not

## **Two from GOP Discuss All-Mail Voting**

Read the pros and cons of all-mail voting, as seen by two Republican secretaries of state.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/12/16/the-pros-and-cons-of-all-mail-elections-as-told-by-two-republican-secretaries-of-state/>

cast a vote. For the contest that was challenged, there were 98 individuals who did not vote for that particular race. There is some concern in Grand County that some people did not vote for county candidates because they didn't read far enough down-ballot. Grand County has non-partisan offices, so someone who votes straight party may not realize he must also vote in the County races. The voting machine keeps popping up races until the choices are exhausted.

Oh, after the recount was completed the candidate with the four-vote lead showed a seven-vote lead, the increase a result of the ballots which were recounted by hand. Everyone was satisfied with the accuracy of the final count.

### **Voter Services**

Our new Voter Services Board plans to continue documenting election processes and procedures and hopes to work with at least one of our State Representatives to lobby for changes in some existing laws to more closely reflect vote by mail procedures.

We would be happy to discuss our vote-by-mail experience with anyone who is interested. Contact Eve Tallman at [evetallman@gmail.com](mailto:evetallman@gmail.com), 435-259-5639, or Karen Robinson at [sombra@frontiernet.net](mailto:sombra@frontiernet.net), 435-259-4626.

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## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SALT LAKE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014-2015**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26: League of Women Voters of Utah Legislative Orientation** Utah State Capitol Olmstead Room (Senate Building). Noon.-2 p.m.

**LAST WEEK OF JANUARY: Unit Meetings**  
**New:** Units meet to take consensus on just-published State Tax Study

**Date/Place Announced: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11: General Meeting:**  
Mental Health Services in Salt Lake County  
Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South, SLC 6 p.m.: Social; 6:30:  
Program.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13: League of Women Voters of Utah Legislative Brown Bag Lunch**  
Utah State Capitol Olmstead Room (Senate Building). Noon-2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18: General Meeting:** Legislative Wrap-Up  
Girl Scout Offices, 445 E 4500 South, SLC 6 p.m.: Social; 6:30 p.m.:  
Program.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31: General Meeting:** Water Use and Conservation in Salt Lake County  
Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South, SLC  
6 p.m: Social; 6:30 p.m: Program

## **Let's Get Started at the Legislature**

Monday, January 26: League of Women Voters of Utah Legislative Orientation  
Utah State Capitol Copper Room (Senate Building).  
Noon.-2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8: State of the Community Luncheon**

Little America Hotel, 500 S. Main. 11:30 a.m.

**LAST WEEK OF APRIL: Unit Meetings:** Follow up Discussion on Water Use and Conservation

**THURSDAY, MAY 7: General Meeting:** Program Planning

Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South, SLC. 6 p.m. Social, 6:30: Business Meeting

**DATE TBA MAY: Go-See Tour:** Suggestions include South Jordan Conservation Garden, SLC Public Safety (Police) Headquarters Building, County Recycling Center

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2: LWVSL Annual Meeting**

Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South, SLC 6 p.m.

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## Preschool Readiness May Address Poverty

by Carol Nichols

The best preschool programs, which require better funding, include: explicit instruction, professional development and parental participation, a panel on the status of preschool education concluded.

Terry Haven, director of Voices for Utah Children, spoke on strategies for preschool and pointed out two generational plans. These strategies encompass helping parents with childcare and parenting skills and helping children with readiness socially and academically. This advocate group pushed for SB37, which allows for gathering data on poverty. She believes the legislative priorities are: expansion of Healthy Utah and Medicaid, home visitations with new mothers and child savings accounts for higher education.

Brenda Van Gorder, director of Granite School District Preschool, said the district has 3,000 children in 90 classrooms with 300 staff members. Six hundred twenty-five children are funded through social impact funds allowed by HB96 for private loans from investors such as Goldman Sachs and others. They are trying to serve children who need extra instruction rather than have them fall into special education programs. There are, however, 700 students with disabilities with funding from both state and federal government.

Nancy Livingston, a BYU Early Childhood Education educator, is a longtime supporter and believer in academic preschool education. Education, especially at the preschool level, is necessary to get out of poverty. She is a strong advocate for business and education cooperation.

Bethany Hosking, owner and director of Learning Tree Learning Center, partners with the Granite School District Preschool program and her teachers are coached by Granite staff. They help with goals and implementation. Transportation is still an issue as the regular school buses are not equipped for 3- and 4-year olds, she said

## Preschool Enrollment Still Low

Despite [a bipartisan consensus](#) on the importance of early childhood education, most states have a long way to go toward implementing high-quality programs and enrolling more young children, according to Education Week's annual report on state efforts to improve education.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/01/08/despite-bipartisan-support-most-states-mediocre-in-preschool-participation>

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake  
3804 Highland Dr. Suite 8-D  
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

**League of Women Voters of Salt Lake  
January Unit Meeting - TAX STUDY**

**Girl Scout Unit** – Mon., Jan. 26  
@11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South  
Unit Leader: Anne Zeigler [801-944-4163](tel:801-944-4163)  
[abzeigler@centurylink.net](mailto:abzeigler@centurylink.net)

**Nite Owls** – Monday, Jan. 26 @ 7:30 p.m.  
@ 862 East Harrison Ave.

Judi Short, Host – [801-487-7387](tel:801-487-7387) [judi.short@gmail.com](mailto:judi.short@gmail.com)

**Bench Bunch** – Wednesday, Jan. 28 @ 9:30 a.m.  
@LWV Office, 3806 So. Highland Dr.  
Unit Leader: Nancy Melling [801-277-9118](tel:801-277-9118)  
[ngmelling2@gmail.com](mailto:ngmelling2@gmail.com)

**Sandy Unit** – Thursday, Jan. 29 @10:30 a.m.-noon  
@ Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 S. 1300 E.  
Janice Gygi, Unit Leader - [801-550-3585](tel:801-550-3585)  
[janice.gygi@uvu.edu](mailto:janice.gygi@uvu.edu)

**Library Unit** – Thursday, Jan. 30 @ Noon-1:30 p.m.  
Room D, lower level @Main Library, 200 E. 400 So.  
Joyce Barnes, Unit Leader – [801-278-2296](tel:801-278-2296)  
[jbarnz@xmission.com](mailto:jbarnz@xmission.com)

**Town Club** - Tues. Jan. 13 @ 11 a.m.  
1081 East South Temple, SLC  
Alice Steiner, Unit Leader, [801-363-9193](tel:801-363-9193)  
[alicelsteiner@gmail.com](mailto:alicelsteiner@gmail.com)

To stay for lunch, MUST make reservations early with  
Alice Steiner  
Dress is ladies professional/nice casual.