



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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October 2017

## Why We Do What We Do

by Catherine Weller, LWV of Utah Co-President



As my responsibility with the League has grown over time, I've had increasing opportunities to talk with people — let's call them civilians — about what the League does. Sometimes I'm also explaining to a subset of those civilians—my friends, family, coworkers—why I can't go out or do a certain something. It's because some nights and weekends belong to the League. No matter the reason for the inquiry, I am often answered with a shake of the head, not dismissive mind you, but more a mixture of admiration and bemusement, and a final question, "Why do you all that?" Well, my friends, because that's what the League does.

**Working, Working.** Those people don't see, but I make sure they hear about, the women of whom I'm in awe: the women who have served actively in the League for decades. I am honored to serve with women who have moved from a local League board to the state board and back again without break, sometimes holding two or more leadership positions at once. Many of our stalwart members are women who have retired from professional positions and now work the equivalent of at least a part-time job, often a full-time one, in service to the League. Others go home from full days at work only to begin working for the League? Why? Because that's what we do.

**Registering New Citizens.** League members make time in the middle of the day to register new citizens immediately after their naturalization ceremonies. They'll spend a whole day at the courthouse registering voters and then deliver the forms to the County Clerk that evening. When asked about it, those League members will talk about how moving it is to register new citizen voters. What an honor it is. Why? Because that's what we do.

### INSIDE:

First UWON Meeting/p3-4

Money Affects Politics/p4-5

Nonpartisan Redistricting/p5-7

Planned Giving/p5

West Davis Highway/p6-7

Weber County League/p6-7

Historic Newsletter Inspires/p8

Snake Valley Aquifer Lawsuit/p8-9

Salt Lake Fall Fete/p9

Salt Lake New Member Orientation/p10

Salt Lake Fall Programs/p10-11

Grand County League/p11

**Teaching Democracy.** Another group of League members visits high schools to teach “Democracy Class,” a roughly hour long program about civic engagement and the right to vote that culminates in assisting those old enough to register to vote to do so. Why would anyone in their right mind spend the day in a high school classroom interacting with multiple groups of teenagers? Because that’s what we do.

**Voters Guides.** The League is perhaps best known for our Voters Guides. Members spend hours composing fair, open-ended questions to pose to candidates running for office, delivering the questions to candidates, and compiling the responses. When responses are in, they’re laid out in our now online Voters Guide. It’s shocking how many hours this can take. But we do this year after year, and people turn to us year after year for non-partisan, balanced information about candidates. Why? Because that’s what we do.

**Legislative Action.** League members spend hours at the State Capitol observing the Legislature in session. They write reports, often nightly, to keep the rest of us informed. When necessary, they’ll send out action alerts to membership to prompt us to call, email or write our representatives about an issue on which the League has a position. Groups of League members will meet with legislators to discuss our positions. Some League members will testify in committees as well, letting the legislature know where we stand on a subject. Legislators know when our members are in the room. They listen when we talk. They know we’ve spent a lot of time considering issues in a thoughtful, thorough, non-partisan manner. Local League members perform the same functions with their municipal governments. Why? Because that’s what we do.

**Studies and Positions.** Our positions on issues come from our studies. League members spend months putting them together. Hours and hours of interviews and research, then writing and editing go into a study. As a League, we consider the studies at our meetings and discuss them. If we reach consensus, we have achieved our positions. They are documented and the studies archived and put on our website for future reference. Sometimes, those studies are updated and discussed again. Then, as mentioned already, we lobby and share our opinions on those topics. We have recently studied the relocation of the Utah State Prison, funding for indigent legal defense, and human trafficking. We’re currently updating our study on alternative voting methods including ranked choice voting. Why? Because that’s what we do.

**Learning the Issues.** Our local Leagues and units don’t just meet for studies. They meet monthly. Sometimes there are general meetings or additional programs in a month as well. We are continually exploring and learning about the issues that affect us and our communities. In this newsletter you’ll see reports of meetings from last month as well as



## Local League Presidents

### Davis County

Kathy Stockel

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& Ann Johnson

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### Salt Lake

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### Weber County

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upcoming programs and meetings we'll be holding this month, most notably on redistricting in Utah. We don't think of such things as drudgery, it's at the very least edifying and often enjoyable to boot. More than that, it adds to civic discourse. Why? Because that's what we do.

**Taking Action.** League members take action as well. We take time to respond to alerts sent by our national, state, or local Leagues; calling, writing, or emailing elected officials. We reach out to other organizations, write letters to the editors of newsletters, and even march in the streets. Soon some of us will be carrying petitions for the redistricting ballot initiative, as we have for ballot initiatives in the past. Why? Because that's what we do.

The League of Women Voters was founded nearly 98 years ago by women who wanted access to the ballot box and the ability to influence their government, as is the right of citizens in a democracy. Now, all these years later we continue the initial mission of voter registration and education, but we also work to empower all voters and protect their rights to participate in their elections. We advocate for defending the environment, equal rights for women and minorities, access to health care and reforming money in politics. We recognize democracy isn't a spectator sport and work to engage citizens at all levels. Why? Because that's what we do.



## Utah Women's Organization to Empower Voices

by Peggy Carrico, LWV of Utah Co-President

The Utah Women and Leadership Project has a mission: "To strengthen the impact of Utah girls and women through informing, engaging, and developing their voices, confidence, influence, and leadership." A specific project this year was to provide an opportunity for one leader of each women's group/organization to come together. They are planning on this being an annual event to network and learn from other groups. I was excited to be the League's representative at their first Utah Women's Organizations Network (UWON) meeting. The Younique Foundation in Thanksgiving Point hosted event. About 80 women were in attendance, representing higher education, politics, community, professional organizations, student chapters, and business. Dr. Susan Madsen provided us the story of why we are wanting to build in women in leadership. Utah continues to rank lowest in key measures for women—women holding office, women's pay, women on boards, women with college degrees, etc. You can check out the many research papers on their website, [uvu.edu/uwlp](http://uvu.edu/uwlp).

## Utah League

### Co-Presidents

Peggy Carrico

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Sandy Peck

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After a fun and eye-opening introduction to the breadth of knowledge and services available in the leaders in attendance, we split into like groups and discussed what our barriers were and ways we can address them. I met with individuals from AAUW, Utah Democratic Women, YWCA, Younique Foundation and Utah Women United. We faced many of the same challenges—engaging members in the work of the organization, attracting younger members, using new communication tools effectively and working collaboratively. When we reported back it was many of the same themes. My take away was to find opportunities to engage with other organizations, we are not alone in the challenges we face, and there is a core group of great women who are moving Utah’s commitment to women in a positive direction.



## Money Affects Politics

by Gigi Brandt, LWV of Utah Co-Vice President, Programs

\$853,000—that is the total that outside Super PACs donated to candidates in the 3rd District Republican Primary Election last month. Although money in politics is a League priority, it has taken a backseat to all the redistricting initiative activities recently.

I have served as LWV Salt Lake’s liaison to a local group, Move to Amend, which has decided that working on a local level is the most promising approach to limiting money in politics and was successful in 2015 in persuading the Salt Lake City Council to adopt limits to city elections. The group is also collecting signatures for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to overturn the decision in the Citizens United case, which declared that corporations were citizens when it came to free speech and elections.

## Donor Honor Roll

The League of Women Voters of Utah expresses its deepest gratitude to all of our loyal donors. Our amazing work is accomplished by hundreds of hours of volunteer labor with the invaluable help of our part-time office manager, but we depend on our generous donors to pay office expenses like phone, computers, office rent and salary. Thank you to this month’s donors:

Bonnie Miller  
 Peggy Carrico  
 Vickie Samuelson  
 Catherine Weller  
 Nancy Young  
 Anne Zeigler

The Denver City Council has adopted rules to shine on so called “dark money” by requiring independent organizations which support or oppose candidates or ballot issues to report the spending on “electioneering communications.” The report must make clear who is paying for the advertising and that the effort was not coordinated with an official campaign. For more information, see <http://dpo.st/2hmmayL>.

To see the responses of all the 3rd District candidates on campaign laws, see the Utah Voters Guide at [lwwutah.org](http://lwwutah.org).

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## League Pushing for Nonpartisan Redistricting

by Gigi Brandt, LWV of Utah Co-Vice President, Programs

It appears likely that Utah voters might be faced with as many as five initiatives on the 2018 ballot. One possible reason there will be so many groups who are willing to face the challenge of gathering 131,142 verified signatures of Utahns to place an issue on the 2018 ballot is that they feel the Legislature, with its super majorities of a single party, is unresponsive to their concerns and is ignoring the wishes of a majority of the voters.

The purpose behind one of these petitions, the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission and Standards Act, has been supported by the League since 1980. The League will be encouraging members to support this initiative. Many League members will be carrying petitions, but that is not the only way members can demonstrate their support.

Become educated on the reasons for and specifics of the petition. When you hear someone complaining about Congress or the Legislature, offer some reasons why a redistricting commission is important. Have a neighborhood meeting or party to explain the petition. Become a League volunteer to be part of a Speakers Bureau. Donate to Better Boundaries. They are using paid signature gatherers and volunteers. They estimate it will cost \$1.2 million in the signature gathering phase. The group has the cost of printing the petition (all 26 pages) and training expenses. Come up with the ways that the League can publicize the initiative—a mnemonic, a slogan, a sign, an activity, or places that members might go to collect signatures. Put a sign on your lawn. Write a letter to the editor, particularly if you are living in a community which has been divided in ways that promote partisanship and incumbency. Remind skeptical people that Utah has already had success with an independent redistricting commission—Salt Lake County in 2011.

LWVUS has a redistricting action kit with ideas—consult it.

<http://forum.lwv.org/document/redistricting-action-kit>

### Plan to Give

What is planned giving? It's a commitment to give money to an organization when we no longer need it—that is, after we've died. How do we do that?

The easiest way is to make a bequest in a will or trust. It's a long term plan that requires a simple phone call now to your attorney or trust manager. After the call is made, you never need to think about it again. What should you say when you make the call?

The League of Women Voters of Utah is asking members to do more than consider seriously making such a bequest. To help ensure that League stays viable and effective far into the future, please make the call.

Tell your representative that you wish to have the following language inserted into the bequests section of your will/trust:

I devise and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of Utah (UT EIN# 87-6121782) the amount of \$XXX to be used for its general purposes.

—Kathy Fitzgerald, LWVUT Development Director

## KRCL's RadioActive Presents: Redistricting Utah

Thursday, October 12, at 7 p.m.

Marmalade Branch Library, 280 W. 500 North, Salt Lake City

90.9FM KRCL and RadioActive presents Redistricting Utah. Every 10 years the boundaries of voting districts are redrawn based on the most recent census data. In Utah, this responsibility falls on the State Legislature, with the political party in power holding the most influence in the process. With the U.S. Supreme Court ready to hear a Wisconsin case this fall, the City Library and Listeners Community Radio of Utah invite you to participate in a discussion about Utah's current system and the merits of a non-partisan redistricting commission.

Panelists include:

Moderator: Lara Jones, host of RadioActive on 90.9FM KRCL

Ralph Becker (D), Better Boundaries co-chair – former mayor, Salt Lake City

Dr. Matthew Burbank, associate professor of political science, University of Utah

Peggy Carrico, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Utah



### Voter Services Needs You!

The Salt Lake League of Women Voters is always looking for volunteers. Our Voter Services committee is most active, with Naturalization ceremonies, candidate forums, Vote 18 classes and much more.

This is a satisfying and important activity from which you will gain a sense of purpose.

If you are interested in joining us, please call or email Luana Chillelli (pictured on right, above):  
luanachillelli@comcast.net  
801- 910-6094

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## Weber County League Meets on 'Gerrymandering'

by Terri McCulloch, LWV of Weber County President



The Weber League started our meetings out this year with a discussion with Andrew Roberts who is working with Better Boundaries on the redistricting initiative. He stated that the principle of redistricting was designed to do the following:

- Be conducted every 10 years following the Census
- Be used to draw political boundaries to align with population shifts
- Be used to draw political boundaries to align with geographic changes
- Ensure that the concept "one person - one vote" concept is honored
- Protect Utah Constitution to leave political power to the people

Technology has had a dramatic effect on the process. It allows elected officials to manipulate the process for personal and political gain. By identifying patterns of voters, the Legislature is able to draw the boundaries in any way that benefits them. This results in cities being split and competition minimized.

Utah is the 7th most gerrymandered state in the nation. Fifteen cities are split into two or more congressional districts, which dilutes the voting power of the city. An average of eight legislative seats per year have gone uncontested. Following the redistricting efforts in 2011, the average has risen to 27 uncontested seats.

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## **LWVUT Comments on West Davis Highway**

by **Ann O'Connell, LWV of Salt Lake Natural Resources Director**

The League of Women Voters of Utah joined many environmental groups to comment on the West Davis Freeway Final Environmental Impact Statement to maintain it as a scenic byway.

The comment letter asked for inclusion of a certain wetlands parcel in the mitigation package and designation as a scenic byway with no trucks. It listed failings in the statement's analysis of native plants and lack of consideration of air quality around schools.

The groups include Friends of Great Salt Lake (FOGSL); Great Salt Lake Audubon; Utah Native Plant Society (UPNS) (comments limited to those about native plants); South Shore Wetlands and Wildlife Management, Inc.; Utah Waterfowl Association; Utahns for Better Transportation (UBET); and Western Resource Advocates, who are the attorneys. From the League perspective, however, the scenic byway designation is particularly important because we are approaching the expiration date for that designation for the Legacy Parkway. The campaign to retain parkway designation for Legacy needs all the help it can get, so that designation for the Davis extension is significant.

A word about League support for this kind of commentary. The Utah Native Plant Society's support was limited to its comments on plants. That was important because the significance of their comments came from their status as native plant experts. (Disclaimer, I am a lifetime member of UPNS, but not an expert.) In my thinking about League support for a comment letter such as this, I have concluded we do not necessarily need to have specific positions for all topics included. However, in this particular letter, we do have either state or national positions on the environment and water and air quality that are appropriate to all the comments. We may not have positions to cover everything Utahns for Better Transportation says in their attachment, although I suspect we could make a good case that we do.

It is important to remember that the League often joins with others on a specific issue or campaign without supporting everything they do.

## **Voters Guide is Here**

Be sure to check out the League of Women Voters of Utah's 2017 Voters Guide. Included are the candidates for Utah's 3rd Congressional District.

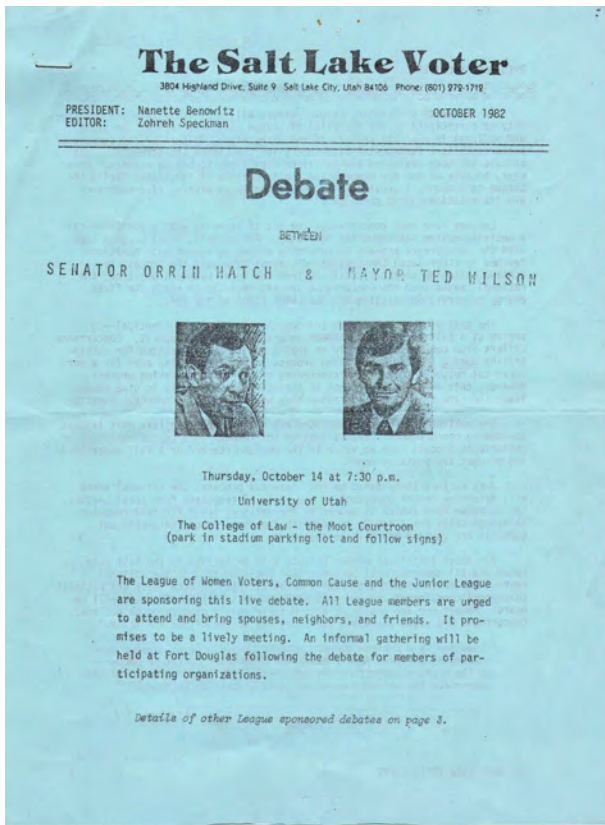
If you notice that one of your candidates has not responded, please tell them that their constituents would like answers to these questions.

Our thanks to Jane Harrison for compiling the 2017 Voters Guide.

The Voters Guide is available in the button at the top of our website:

[Lwvutah.org](http://Lwvutah.org)

## Chance Discovery of Historic Newsletter Inspires



by Tina Hose, Membership and Leadership Director

In a recent search of office files looking for a study, I chanced upon the 1982 October Salt Lake Voter newsletter pictured here. The cover features a Salt Lake League co-sponsored live debate between Sen. Orrin Hatch and Mayor Ted Wilson for a U.S. Senate seat.

The bold "Debate" headline made me pause and think of the importance, endurance and lasting impact that *The Voter* as a journal and the League as a sponsor of candidate events has had.

Thoughts streamed as I held *The Voter* and connected then to now. This

typewriter-written newsletter is 35 years old. Michael Levitt (Utah governor 10 years later) was Sen. Hatch's campaign manager. This year Jenny Wilson, Ted Wilson's daughter, is running against Sen. Hatch for that U.S. Senate seat. Leagues today continue to organize, staff and moderate candidate forums.

Deeply inspired, I wanted to share this bit of history, in the hope that others too will be moved to rededicate themselves and participate in our Leagues' candidate events this election season.

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## LWV Joins Snake Valley Aquifer Lawsuit

By Ann O'Connell, Natural Resources Chair, LWVSL

Here is a link to an AP article printed in the *Trib* last month about the current legal status of the suit against the BLM challenging their permission for the Southern Nevada Water Authority to build a pipeline from eastern Nevada to Las Vegas. The judge sent it back for more work and both sides are claiming a win but it looks hopeful for the opposition. [AP article](#)

The LWV Salt Lake is a party to that suit. The Salt Lake League has long been alarmed about the plan to pump water from a fragile aquifer to be used to spur growth in Las Vegas. I believe our first effort was about a test well and our intent was to establish standing in case we wanted to go to court later on. Nancy Melling was a Salt Lake League co-president at the

## National Voter Registration Day

Every one of us has someone in our lives who isn't registered or need to update their registration.

National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 26 is a great time to reach out and help them get registered. Why?

- Registering and voting is hands-down the best way for each of us to decide what happens to our country.
- More than 300 local League of Women Voters affiliates will be registering voters that day.
- Anybody can participate.



time and did the actual signing. She may remember the details. Also in the past, you may recall that Linda Johnson organized a rather rousing debate at the City Library. Linda is a party to the suit as an individual. You never know what LWV involvement may lead to.

There is always a problem of standing when going to court. It may seem odd that an organization in Salt City would be able to sue the Nevada Bureau of Land Management about anything but we have convinced the court that we have an interest in what happens to the environment in Nevada because we live on the edge of the Great Basin; we share Nevada's airshed; we recreate in their mountains and desert; and probably most important, we (and the Great Salt Lake) share the aquifer that would be drained.

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## Salt Lake League Honors Marilyn Bown

by Kathy Biele, LWVSL president

Some 50 people joined the Salt Lake League's Fall Fete to honor Marilyn Bown, who has been one of the League's own since 2009 when she began working as our Education Director.



She joined the League in Mexico, Missouri where she did a local landfill study in 1970-71. She rejoined in Utah in 1996, and has taught at Salt Lake Community College, where she served as faculty Senate president.

Marilyn organized the national study on the Federal Role in Public Education, during which time she developed an education working committee and promoted the Vote18 curriculum, which we still use. I can't emphasize how important and relevant that study is today.

She worked with the State office of Education's Social Studies specialist to provide League brochures and classes on voting in schools at twice-yearly seminars. In 2010, she began working with our Utah League's Legislative Action committee and still observes and reports on education issues. She's not only interested in public ed funding, but is concerned about state legislation that changes nonpartisan to partisan school boards.

In 2013, she worked with Angie Abram and Marilyn O'Dell on the *Funding Utah Public Education* study. That work encompasses funding from 1993-2011, including years of major taxation and distribution changes.

She says she always has been and always will be engaged in education matters as schools and scholarships provide ways for her to progress. This year's Fall Fete event raised more than \$2,000 for the League.



Thanks to the Girl Scouts of Utah for their generous in-kind donations to the League of Women Voters of Utah and the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake.

## Salt Lake League Holds New Member Orientation

by Anne Ziegler, LWVSL Membership Director

The Salt Lake League of Women Voters will hold its Fall Orientation for new and prospective members on Wednesday, October 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the new Cottonwood Heights City building on 2277 East Bengal Blvd.. Light refreshments will be served. There will be short presentations from board members, followed by a chance to ask questions and learn about specific areas of interest. Subjects will include voter service, VOTE18, naturalization, county government, education, natural resources (air, water, Wasatch canyons, public lands), health and human services, and the work we do at the Legislature.

The League of Women Voters has been around for almost 100 years, and we are still a nonpartisan political organization that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. This will be a great opportunity to learn what the League is trying to accomplish.



## Salt Lake League Fall Programming Begins

by Carol Jenson, LWV of Salt Lake First Vice-President, Programs

Our LWV of Salt Lake fall season is well under way and we have great meetings planned—including one that is sure to appeal to each of you.

Our kick-off event was a general meeting on How Government Works, featuring Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams, former Salt Lake City Councilman Luke Garrott and former West Jordan Mayor Donna Evans (pictured above). The discussion ranged from how citizens can be better involved to how the homeless issue is being addressed.

Following is a list of our upcoming events/meetings:

October Unit Meetings: Topic: Ranked Choice Voting. Members may attend the unit meeting of their choice. Join in on this important issue.



### Hinckley Forums

are held in the old College of Law Building, 332 South 1400 East, Bldg. 73 Room 101, in the Moot Courtroom, 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/calendar/>

Oct. 19: A general meeting on the Constitution featuring Professor Tim Chambless, University of Utah. Meeting at the Columbus Center, 2530 S. 500 East, South Salt Lake—ample parking off 400 East. Meeting begins at 6 p.m.

Nov. 13: A general meeting on the prison relocation project featuring a panel of experts on this issue. Meeting is at the Girl Scout Building, 445 E. 4500 South beginning at 6 p.m.

Dec. 4: The LWV of Salt Lake Annual Holiday Social and Pot Luck Dinner. Meeting is at the Three Fountains West Clubhouse, 828 E. 3 Fountains Drive, Murray, beginning at 6 p.m. Our guest speaker Gwen Knight will focus on child abuse issues in Utah.

Each of these meetings will be timely and feature wonderful speakers and panelists. Plan to attend and meet and mingle with league members and friends. Better yet, bring your friends to these meetings as well. All are most welcome.

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## Grand County League Promotes Sustainability

by Barbara Lacy, LWV Grand County Co-President



Grand County League of Women Voters kicked off fall programs with an energetic and thoughtful presentation by Dr. Rosemarie Russo. Dr. Russo is the newly hired sustainability director for the City of Moab, bringing more than 30 year of experience in the field.

Her role involves analyzing energy use and efficiency, water use and

conservation, waste reduction and transportation strategies for the city. She informed us about ideas great and small for working toward a sustainable quality of life—everything from limiting "phantom" electricity use to bulk purchase of solar energy.

As sustainability director, she will not only promote policies, but will also work on positive human behavioral changes, working with school children, businesses and other community groups.

More than 50 people attended and volunteered for citizen advisory groups. It appears there is a great deal of support for the program.

## Climate Change Facts For You

Questions about climate change? The New York Times has you covered. Learn more about why it's more important than ever to demand #ScienceNotSilence.

<http://nyti.ms/2xqU3mh>

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### Ranked Choice Voting

**TOWN CLUB UNIT** – Wednesday, October 10 – 11:00 A.M.

Town Club - 1081 East South Temple

Unit Leader – Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193

akarsteiner@aol.com

**GIRL SCOUT UNIT** – Monday, October 23 – 11 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South

Unit Leader: Anne Zeigler 801-944-4163

annezeigler506@gmail.com

**NITE OWLS** – Monday, October 23 – 7:30 P.M.

862 East Harrison Ave. (*Double check with Judi for location.*)

Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387

judi.short@gmail.com

**BENCH BUNCH** – Wednesday, October 25 – 10:00 A.M.

Holladay Library – 2150 East Murray-Holladay Road – 4730 South

Unit Leader: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118

ngmelling2@gmail.com

**WEST SIDE UNIT** – Wednesday, October 25 – 6 to 8 P.M.

Hunter Village Club House, 3440 So. Bambrugh Way (6845 W.)

West Valley City 84128

Unit Leader – Vickie Samuelson – 801-250-9210

[vsam0236@gmail.com](mailto:vsam0236@gmail.com)

**SANDY UNIT** – Thursday, October 26 – 10:00– 11:30 A.M.

Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East

Unit Leader - Janice Gygi - 801-550-3585

janice.gygi@uvu.edu

**LIBRARY UNIT** – Thursday, October 26 – 12:30 P.M.

Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 So. 2100 East

Unit Leaders – Kathy Fitzgerald – 801-521-5790; Carole Straughn –

801-664-5897

[klrfitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:klrfitzgerald@gmail.com)

**PARK CITY UNIT** – Tuesday, October 24 – 11:00 A.M.

Park City Public Library

1255 Park Avenue, Park City

Unit Leader – Jill Lesh – 435-655-1965

[jilllesh@me.com](mailto:jilllesh@me.com)

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