



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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February 2018

### League Moves Forward, Reaches Out



by Peggy Carrico, LWVUT Co-President  
The League of Women Voters of Utah is a founding partner at Real Women Run, a program of the YWCA. We are on their board and actively participate in the design and execution of events and programs that encourage women to run for office and influence public policy at all levels. Two such events filled the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

Friday night's event was Celebrating the Political Kaleidoscope, an intimate evening that focused on the challenges and opportunities for women of color, LGBTQ people, and other marginalized communities. The panel discussion was great, featuring women currently holding office in Utah who all met the challenges facing these communities with strength, humor, and resilience. Winter Training was held on Saturday with a keynote presentation from Jennifer Napier-Pearce of the Salt Lake Tribune and workshops offered throughout the day that homed in on developing skills and challenging attendees to take action.

Attendance was down this year from 2017 (a starting point for many women in response to the 2016 election), but there was still a great crowd and enthusiasm for the topic has not changed. Women want to be empowered and take part in our democracy. So what did I do this weekend? That is me in the picture on Saturday. I staffed a table that

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provided League information and signature packets for five ballot initiatives (I took care to note that the League does not have positions on every ballot initiative, but we do have a position in support of the right of the people to vote and bring forth their issues).

Throughout the day I listened to and talked with women at various stages in their activism - some had held office, some wanted to run for office for the first time, some had specific issues they wanted to become more involved with, and some were fed up and just wanted a place to start getting involved. It was energizing. This took place over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, and it reminded me of one of his famous quotes: *“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”*

This is what the League has done for 98 years (see the save the date information for February 14) and it is what we will do every year in the future - keep moving forward, and whenever possible, reaching out to bring someone along.

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### **League Election Integrity Dispute Resolved**

by **Catherine Weller, LWVUT Co-President**

In early January, the League of Women Voters of Utah welcomed the Trump administration’s decision to dissolve the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, a federal commission that had sought illegal access to the personal information of Utah residents. The LWVUT and the League of United Latin American Citizens of Utah (LULAC Utah) had filed a lawsuit to halt that handover in July of 2017.

President Trump originally created the commission to investigate his unsupported claims of widespread voter fraud. On January 4, the president said he shuttered it because many states had refused to provide the commission with requested information. We had argued that if Utah Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox had provided that information, he would have been violating state law.

The League and LULAC – represented by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, Kirkland and Ellis LLP, and David R. Irvine and Janet Jenson, attorneys from Salt Lake City – had been working to resolve the issue with the lieutenant governor’s office in a manner that ensured Utahns’ information was protected under the state’s Government Records Access and Management Act. That law requires the complete privacy of voter Social Security numbers and requires individuals or

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entities to adhere to specific guidelines regarding how other personal information will be used. Utah voter data was not released to the Election Integrity Commission and, with the dissolution of the commission, Utahns' information will not be shared.

While we are gratified that the Utah League joined states across the country in taking action to prevent release of voter data to the Election Integrity Commission, we remain vigilant. President Trump has stated that the work of investigating his unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud will shift to the Department of Homeland Security. The League will continue to monitor the situation and to partner with other good government groups to fight against any attempts to suppress the rights of voters.

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## League Hosts Annual Legislative Forum

by Jeanine Kuhn-Coker, LWVSL VP Organization



Initiatives, health care, clean air and other public issues were topics at the annual Legislative Forum, sponsored by the American Association of University Women of Utah (AAUW) and the Salt Lake League of Women Voters on Saturday, January 6.

The panel of legislators was made up of two Republicans and two Democrats, including Sen. Daniel Thatcher, R-West Valley, Sen. Karen Maynes, D-West Valley, Rep. Sandra Hollins, D-Salt Lake, and Rep. Raymond Ward, R-Bountiful. The event was attended by more than 120 people, many of whom were interested in how women at the Capitol are being protected from sexual harassment.

Sen. Thatcher talked about prison reform and addressed the statewide redistricting petition, saying that legislators are best qualified to decide the boundaries for voting districts.

The panel spoke about upcoming legislation they are sponsoring. Then questions from the audience were posed by the moderator, Janice Gygi, past president of the LWVSL.

## Utah League

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The Salt Lake League will sponsor a legislative wrap-up at a general meeting open to the public on Thursday, March 22.

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## **Medicaid, Future of Healthcare Dominate Agenda**

by Vickie Samuelson, LWVSL Co-Director Health and Human Services,  
Co-Director Legislative Action Corps

In December, I attended the Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) Annual Conference. The keynote address was delivered by Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams, whose main focus was on behavioral healthcare and issues impacting the homeless.

Currently, mental health services are not well-integrated into healthcare resources available to the homeless population, he explained. This makes creating better health outcomes much more difficult. In addition, there are few resources available to help those most at risk of homelessness. Lack of affordable healthcare can lead to people missing a rent payment, which then creates the additional problems associated with homelessness. To help these people, we must make health care available and affordable to them.

Mayor McAdams has secured the commitments of Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox and House Speaker Greg Hughes to invest in treatment for those affected by these issues. Matt Slonaker (executive director of UHPP) asked Mayor McAdams to speak about the idea of single payer healthcare. He responded that we need to get to where everyone can obtain affordable health care. In his view, the Affordable Care Act was a first step to getting us there. He stated that Gov. Herbert's Healthy Utah was a great effort in that direction but unfortunately didn't pass. The new Medicaid waiver for Utah that was federally approved is also a step in that direction, but he maintains it is a very small one. He concluded that the federal CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Policy) has got to be funded, as insuring children should be the very first priority. Fortunately, Congress just recently extended CHIP for six more years.

### **How Utah health policy fared in 2017**

It has been a wild ride for healthcare advocates. First we had all the new plans that the federal government tried to pass, including the American Health Care Act, the Better Care Reconciliation Act, "skinny repeal," "repeal and delay," Graham-Cassidy, and "sneaky repeal." Then we had the "resistance," and 26 rallies, town halls, marches, and other

## **It's Our Birthday! Save the Date**

LWVUT Anniversary  
Celebration  
& Discussion:  
The ERA: Then and Now

### **Let Us Eat Cake!**

February 14  
11:30 a.m.  
Seagull Room  
Utah State Capitol

demonstrations and advocacy. Amid the chaos, this is how we look in Utah (I will highlight just a few points).

In terms of access, Affordable Care Act enrollment has gone from 84,601 enrollees in 2013-2014 to 176,889 in 2016-2017 — the third highest growth rate among the 39 states using healthcare.gov.

In terms of plans, in 2016 there were 74 plans and four insurers available on Utah's healthcare exchange. In 2017 there were 28 plans and three insurers. Starting in 2018 the number of insurers dropped to two. Between them, SelectHealth and the University of Utah Health Plans will cover 100 percent of Utahns on the healthcare.gov marketplace.

From 2010 to 2016, census data shows a 42 percent drop in Utah's uninsured rate for all ages. Our highest level, 15.3 percent uninsured, dropped to 8.8 percent uninsured during that time (the ACA began in 2010). Census data also shows that 12 percent of Utahns with health insurance bought their coverage on the individual market through the ACA; 73.4 percent of insurance coverage in Utah is employer-based.

86 percent of Utahns who enrolled in ACA marketplace coverage received a premium subsidy, and those subsidies covered 72 percent of the average monthly premium for Utah enrollees in 2017. The average monthly premium for those receiving the subsidy was \$89 per person.

Cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) in Utah helped 109,000 Utahns (62 percent of those enrolled in the marketplace) lower their premiums and copayments. That contribution amounted to \$82 million in federal funds paid to Utah. Ending these subsidies would raise both premiums and the state budget deficit.

A federal repeal of the ACA's individual mandate is bad news for Utah because as 13 million Americans lose their insurance coverage by 2027 - 4 million of them in 2019 alone - approximately 125,000 of those uninsured will be Utahns. Research on mortality and ACA repeal has concluded that this spike in the uninsured rate will lead to an increase in preventable deaths of more than 15,000 per year. This loss of coverage - and reduction in subsidies - is intended to fund large tax cuts for the very richest individuals and corporations, while increasing the financial burden on low-and middle-income Americans. On top of the expected yearly growth in mortality, repealing the mandate is projected to increase premiums an additional 10 percent annually. A family of four in Utah will

## **Volunteers Needed At Citizenship Ceremonies**

Citizenship ceremonies are held at the Federal Courthouse (located at 350 S. West Temple) every month. There are two volunteer times available each month. You may choose 11 a.m. or 1 p.m., Two volunteers are needed for each time slot.

Dates are listed below:

Wednesday, Feb. 14  
Wednesday, April 11  
Wednesday, May 9

These are moving ceremonies and registering new citizens to vote is exciting! To sign up, please contact Jane Nelson at [janenelson2004@msn.com](mailto:janenelson2004@msn.com).

face an average increase of \$2,100, and the average 64-year-old individual would see their premiums rise \$1,883 per year. Because their premiums would be considerably higher, people with pre-existing conditions could be priced out of the market completely.

### **So what will happen in 2018?**

The Trump Administration tax reform bill has passed and with it, the individual mandate of the ACA. While the ACA is not fully repealed it is weakened. Utah will enroll 3,000 to 6,000 low-income adults without dependents in Medicaid as part of Operation Rio Grande. Also, during the 2018 legislative session, Rep. Steve Eliason, R-Sandy, will likely introduce a bill to expand benefits for Utah's Primary Care Network (PCN). Lastly, full Medicaid expansion will be on the 2018 ballot through the petition efforts of Utah Decides Healthcare.

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## **Davis League Hosts County Officials**

by Joanna Gleason, LWV-Davis County

County Commissioner Randy Elliott led a panel discussion on the role of county government, with participants from the library, Health Department, and Legal Defender's Office at a public event hosted by the Davis County chapter on Saturday, Jan. 6.



Chris Sanford, library director, and Lynette Mills, deputy director, talked about changes in library functions, including the creation of a mobile computer lab. Representing the Health Department, Kristy Cottrell, the deputy director in charge of senior services, highlighted the health of county residents and health assistance that is available. Davis County is often looked to as an example for providing public defense because of its efficiency, said Todd Utzinger, of the Legal Defenders Office. Rounding out the discussion, Randy Elliott gave an overview of the county's role, saying it gives general oversight for the population as a whole compared to municipalities serving those within their boundaries.

After the event, Jared Page with KSL interviewed our co-presidents, Kathy Stockel and Ann Johnson. You can find the article here: ["Davis County duo calls for youth involvement among women voters"](#)

## **Community Lunch To Highlight Petitions**

Wednesday, April 18 is the date of the upcoming League of Women Voters of Salt Lake's State of the Community Luncheon. It will be held at the Little America at 500 Main Street, SLC, 84101, with a social hour and registration at 11 a.m. The program will be centered on five initiatives which could be on ballots this fall. There will be a panel of well-informed speakers who will be discussing the initiatives, moderated by Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Editor of the *Salt Lake Tribune*. The discussion will provide information which will be useful when chatting with neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens to help them decide how they want to vote when they enter the voting booths in November.

In our next *Voter* you will receive biographical sketches of our panel. So, stay tuned!

— Susan Lind, LWVSL State of the Community Luncheon Chair

Members of the Davis County League are volunteering to gather signatures for several petitions circulating in Utah (redistricting, Medicaid expansion and legalization of medical marijuana), and we hope to see you at the Capitol when we celebrate the League's 98th birthday.

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## Legislative Corps Encourages You To Get Involved

by Nicola Nelson, LWVUT Director of Legislative Action

Thanks to everyone who attended our Legislative Corps planning meeting on Jan. 3. We had quite a crowd of members eager to participate during the upcoming legislative session. If you couldn't make it, don't worry; there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Two short tutorials titled "Know Your Legislature" and "How to Be a Ten-Minute Activist" were presented and are available to members for their use. The League can also present them to your unit or group. Members have been asked what they thought this year's hot topics would be at the Utah Legislature, and what their own priorities are. Most frequently mentioned were Utah's response to the new federal tax law, and what Utah will do with a expected budget surplus in 2018. Healthcare and the Medicaid expansion, national monument policy, air quality, and voting rights were also brought up by several members.

About 20 League members volunteered to help by covering 27 standing legislative committees (not counting appropriations committees). We can always use more volunteers. If this interests you, you can volunteer to cover a committee by attending in person or by listening from home. Legislative Corps members attend or listen to a committee meeting, take notes on items of interest to the League, and then send their notes to members of our email listserv. It's a commitment of about four hours a week for the seven weeks the Legislature is in session.

We do not yet have volunteers to send out the daily legislative agenda this year (thanks to Ann Johnson and Sally Aulakh who have fulfilled this role for some time). These volunteer positions are a nightly commitment, Sunday night through Thursday night during the session. If you'd like to help with this, please let us know. The legislative calendar with each committee agenda can always be found at [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov). Our spreadsheet of bills, annotated according to priority bills that the League officially supports or opposes, action alerts, and other legislative information will be on the League website. Check it often.

## How Do I Get Involved With Legislature?

For more information on how to get involved or to find out about current legislation, contact:

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801-750-2217, or

Nickie Nelson,  
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801-231-7326.

The LWVUT Board has asked the Legislative Corps to use our Wednesday lunch to determine priorities for the upcoming week. This will be an easy add to our informal format. We meet in the Seagull Room just off the Capitol cafeteria in the Senate Building every Wednesday, at approximately 11:30 a.m. or when morning committees are adjourned. Join us!

# Promontory Peninsula Landfill a Threat to GSL Flyway

by Ann O'Connell, LWVSL Natural Resources Director



The Great Salt Lake and its environs have long been treated as dumping grounds for sewage and garbage, and Box Elder County is eager for some kind of economic development. So it is unfortunately no surprise that there has long been talk of a landfill on Promontory Peninsula. However, this idea did not become truly plausible until recently. Now, the site

has been prepared, ready to receive waste in a very large and unsightly shallow pit – although not nearly as unsightly as the garbage dump site will become once it begins to receive waste. The trigger for this development was a bill from the Utah Legislature that enabled the landfill company to apply for a permit to take waste from out of state.

The most persuasive argument against the landfill has always been that it is a threat to the health of the Great Salt Lake and its birds. Promontory Peninsula is also prime habitat for other animals and native plants, and home to wonderful stone formations. However, in the past there was always an additional case to be made in opposition, an economic one. Utah has 10 municipal garbage dumps with hundreds of years of capacity, so a distant, inaccessible, and obscure new one was not going to be profitable. However, this argument was only valid when the waste company's permit was limited to municipal waste from within Utah.

The Union Pacific Railroad causeway is the real key to the success of the dump plan. The railway is a very efficient and unobtrusive way to bring noxious waste into Utah from other states. The Promontory Peninsula provides a site far away from scrutiny by either the public or state regulators.

For a more detailed account go to Adjacent Land Use Matters for Great Salt Lake in this [Friends of Great Salt Lake article](#).

## How do I...know where my dues go?

Dues are collected annually. Dues and other fundraising efforts support national, state and local levels of League through Per-Member Payments (PMP) reporting on the National Roster.

PMP is currently \$32, paid to National and \$10 to State. These funds finance publications and League activities. Members belong to all three levels of League—local, state and national.

## **LWVUS Program Planning:**

### ***Finding the League's Place Amidst Political Tribalism***

by Gigi Brandt, LWVUT Co-VP of Programs

It is time again to participate in the biennial activity of program planning at the national level (program planning is done at the state and local levels annually). Program planning is the process that Leagues at all levels use to involve the grassroots membership in their study and action programs. Leagues can do this at general or board meetings before March 1.

The LWVUS board has recommended that the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, adopted at the 2016 Convention, be continued, and has recommended that no new studies be adopted. There is a provision by which a local or state league can recommend a program if they desire.

The campaign adopted in 2016 includes plans to advance and protect voting rights, election reform, campaign finance (money in politics) reform, and redistricting. LWVUS supports the restoration of the Voting Rights Act and welcomes the dissolution of the Election Integrity Commission. State Leagues and the LWVUS have engaged in judicial challenges to state redistricting and laws designed to make it harder to vote, and have supported state actions to enforce compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and the National Voting Act.

The campaign is still very timely. The political climate of the last two years has been of concern to many citizens who value civility, transparency, facts, and dialogue. The 2016 presidential election has inspired many Americans to “ramp up their involvement” and many new political advocacy groups have emerged. At the same time, many political commentators have noted a slide toward political tribalism, the tendency to identify with one group and adopt antipathy toward a different group. As political blogger Andrew Sullivan has written, “One of the great attractions of tribalism is that you don’t actually have to think very much. All you need to know on any given subject is which side you’re on. You pick up signals from everyone around you, you slowly winnow your acquaintances to those who will reinforce your worldview, a tribal leader calls the shots, and everything slips into place.” (Read his [opinion piece](#).)

In this environment, the League – advocating for dialogue and democracy in a nonpartisan, non-tribal way – is more necessary than ever.

### **Shop to Support Our League**

The Utah League has signed up to be part of Smith’s Inspiring Donations program.

Any purchases made at Smith’s can earn money for the league. Visit Smith’s Community Rewards [website](#) to enroll. You do need to have a rewards card.

## Grand County Sponsors Successful Town Hall

by **Bill Topper, LWV-Grand County, Citizens for Community Collaboration**

I want to thank the many individuals who helped make the recent town hall in Moab a success. The event was jointly planned and presented by Citizens for Community Collaboration and the Grand County League of Women Voters.

I had the pleasure of working with a number of League members and officers on this event: Darcey Brown, Ilona Carlson, Barbara Lacy, and Carey Dabney were all involved in planning. Ilona gave the opening remarks and began the session in a cordial and pleasant manner. Barbara and Carey were involved with all aspects of the evening from start to finish. This town hall would not have happened without Barbara and Carey's hard work.

The panel consisted of eight individuals, plus a moderator, starting with State Legislators Carl Albrecht, Christine Watkins, and David Higgins. Grand County was represented by Mary McGann, Curtis Wells and Zacharia Levine, and Moab City by Rani Derasary and Jim Winder. Rani filled in with little notice in advance because of an unexpected vacancy, but did very well. Emily Niehaus effectively moderated the event, presenting questions and maintaining the planned schedule. The panel members offered their views along with plenty of valuable information on a number of often-controversial topics. They were all well prepared with their opinions and insight on the complex problems discussed.

The event was well attended, filling the Grand Center main hall. The public was respectful of the panel, each other, and the various opinions presented. Afterward, panel members and many audience attendees remained and spoke informally, ending the event in an atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation. All participants should be proud of their involvement in this town hall.

I believe the actions of all involved speak to the value of continuing this type of event in Moab. In their follow-up communications to us, the state legislators who attended enthusiastically agreed. Thank you everybody!

## Donors 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:

Corinne Wunderli  
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Nancy Young  
Mailee Yerkovich  
Sharon Walkington  
Mary and Evert House  
Anonymous  
Sally Aulakh

—*Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWVUT  
Development Director*



## Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan Moving Forward

by Miriam Aiazzi, LWVSL Director of County Government

The Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan is a project led by Cottonwood Heights and focuses on the corridor between Interstate 215 and the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The plan addresses transportation, land use, safe travel options, increased recreational activities, the preservation of the natural and scenic qualities of the area, and the promotion and prioritization of sustainability.

To provide a brief overview, there are four areas slated for development:

**Gravel Pit:** This area consists of roughly 100 acres of the gravel quarry on the east side of Wasatch Boulevard. The quarry is facing a transition in the near future. Estimates are that mining will cease in the next several years, after which the City of Cottonwood Heights envisions the area transitioning to a mixed use development. In 2016, Cottonwood Heights and Wasatch Front Regional Council completed a study that recommended this development at the Gravel Pit site, with up to 2 million square feet of office space, up to 3,000 residential units, up to 250,000 square feet of retail, and upwards of 150 hotel rooms.

**Canyon Centre:** The plan in Canyon Centre is for an 11-acre mix of office space, hospitality, retail and restaurant space, residential areas, and open space. The project is planned in two phases.

**Giverny and Southern Corridor:** The southern end of the corridor features the potential for growth in Cottonwood Heights and Sandy. Currently the one active project is a new subdivision.

**Knudsen Corner Park:** The city of Holladay has plans to build a park on land it owns between I-215 and Holladay Boulevard at 6200 South. The park has been designed to include a playground, passive play area, and a trailhead with parking.

The Wasatch Corridor itself is divided into four general character segments:

1. Corporate Center/Old Mill/Gravel Pit
2. Big Cottonwood to Bengal
3. Golden Hills
4. Quail Hollow and Little Cottonwood

This corridor is defined by an urban to rural spectrum. As the corridor moves south there are fewer traffic lanes, signals, and less public transit. It starts at a busy urban freeway interchange and ends in open space on

**REALWOMENRUN**  
AT THE **ywca**

### Upcoming Events

April 7 – Spring Candidate  
Training  
Thomas S. Monson  
Center  
Salt Lake City

[REGISTRATION WILL  
OPEN SOON.](#)

May 2018 – Southern  
Utah Training

a winding two-lane road. The corridor currently has little infrastructure to support alternative modes of transportation - those that are present are one bike lane and four park-and-ride facilities. The corridor's right-of-way is highly varied from as little as 50 feet to as much as 150 feet. Generally, there is a lot of extra space within the right of way.

The goals of the Wasatch Boulevard draft are a set of desired outcomes for the corridor that are intended to be a foundation for the Master Plan, which will then guide work on the corridor. The goals are to preserve the neighborhood character of the area, reduce and manage the impact of Wasatch Corridor traffic and increase the connectivity of walking and bicycling networks. The goal is to achieve this with traffic calming measures, the modelling of new developments on existing ones, the creation of walking and cycling connections, and the managing of access between Wasatch Boulevard and local streets, ensuring that people can travel reliably and efficiently through the Corridor using a range of modes in a reasonable amount of time.

The project is a partnership of the Wasatch Front Regional Council in collaboration with UDOT, UTA, Sandy City, the City of Holladay, Salt Lake County, and other stakeholders.

The full draft of the Master Plan can be found [here](#) .

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## Weber League Hears Pros, Cons of Medical Cannabis

by Susan Skordos, LWV-Weber County Vice President



Christine Stenquist, founder and executive director of TRUCE (Together for Responsible Use and Cannabis Education) discussed the issue of medical cannabis at the invitation of the Weber County League of Women Voters on Monday, Jan. 8. Also participating in the discussion was Tom Paskett, attorney and TRUCE Chairman, Jim Hutchins, Ph.D., neuroscientist and Weber

State University professor, and Andy Talbot, M.D., an anesthesiologist and pain physician. Stenquist suffered from a brain tumor and has endured pain, nausea, and limited mobility as a result. Opiates offered little relief of her symptoms. With the use of cannabis, she experienced relief from nausea and pain and she regained her ability to walk without a cane.

There are two types of chemical components in cannabis: CBD (cannabidiol), associated with medical use, and THC

## Learn About Ranked Choice Voting

The League of Women Voters of Utah has written a study on [Ranked Choice Voting](#) which will be used to gather consensus. To read the study click the link above.

If you would like to participate in the consensus discussions, contact your local League leaders for information on scheduled meetings.

(tetrahydrocannabinol) the presenters explained. THC is responsible for the psychoactive effect associated with the “high” of marijuana. Hemp, part of the same plant genus, is primarily used for its fiber content.

Stenquist discussed the recent history of cannabis, beginning with the ban of the substance from U.S. pharmacies in 1942. Throughout the 1950s and early ‘60s, first Director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics Harry Anslinger (among others) engaged in a fierce publicity battle against the drug. In 1971, Richard Nixon declared a “war” on cannabis and banned its medical use. In 1990, researchers found that the human body has its own endocannabinoid receptors, which affect pain, appetite, and memory. Cannabis use can aid patients with pain, nausea, spasticity, seizures, Crohn’s’ Disease, and has been helpful to war veterans and others with PTSD.

The arguments in favor of medical cannabis’ decriminalization include improved patient health when used as indicated, decreased incarceration rates because of unnecessary arrests, less strain on the justice system, continued advancements in research and fewer overdoses and deaths from the use of opiates.

Arguments against decriminalization include the dangers associated with use by youths, respiratory dangers when cannabis is smoked, public costs of regulation, loss of police revenue from asset forfeiture, the danger of impaired drivers, and the risk of dependency in users. The intoxicating effect lasts only a few hours, but the substance can be detected in tissue for several weeks.

Utah passed HB105 (Charlee’s Law) in 2014, allowing CBD oil for use in extreme epilepsy. Then in 2015, Sen. Mark Madsen attempted unsuccessfully to pass SB259, allowing the use of cannabis for many debilitating conditions. He tried again in 2016, with SB73, and that attempt also failed. In 2016, Sen. Brian Shiozawa, was successful in passing Resolution 11, urging Congress to reclassify marijuana as a Schedule 11 drug, enabling cannabis’ future medicinal use. In 2017, HB130 passed, allowing CBDs to be used for research on specific patients. Utahpatients.org is presently gathering signatures (115,000 are needed) in an attempt to get the issue on the ballot.

Dr. Andy Talbot believes cannabis would be extremely helpful for many of his patients, but he is unable to legally recommend it. The few patients that are able to acquire legal cannabis must register for a hemp card, which costs \$200. A 3-ounce bottle of the oil costs more than \$700. U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently began lobbying Congress to overturn the existing legal guidance discouraging federal interference in states’ medical marijuana policies, but Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, along with six other senators, have sponsored the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act (CARERS Act).

## [Support the League](#)

Our donors are critical partners in creating a government that is responsive to the will of Utahns. Your gift is important to us as we work on the critical public policy issues that are being addressed by our elected officials. Your gift will help us educate, advocate and reform by empowering Utahns to have their voice heard.

CARERS primarily would allow use by medical providers treating war veterans. The use of cannabis may help prevent some of the 64,000 overdose deaths due to opiates each year. In contrast to opiates, toxicity or even death by cannabis would require 1,500 pounds of the substance.

Many community members in the audience shared experiences with epilepsy, pain, nausea from cancer or treatment, etc., as well as other conditions that could be improved with the use of medical cannabis. The conclusion of many was that the issue definitely deserves further study and possibly approval for use by people with debilitating conditions.

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## Better Boundaries Redistricting Effort Continues

by Gigi Brandt, LWVUT Co-VP of Programs

Leaders at Better Boundaries are pleased with the number of signatures gathered to date and the progress being made on the initiative so far. About half of the raw number of signatures needed have been collected. Signature gatherers are still needed. Volunteers will be conducting door-to-door surveys on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in targeted areas, with drop-off spots in Weber, Utah, and Davis Counties and in Park City. Check their website for the locations.

The League of Women Voters of Utah is supporting the petition effort.

Read the latest on Pennsylvania's Supreme Court case on gerrymandering: <http://wapo.st/2DxqMZd>

And the Brennan Center's blog on the landmark North Carolina case: <http://bit.ly/2GbGHOK>

Also, The LWVSL is getting ready to sponsor the First Annual 5K Run on Sept. 22. This year our theme will be "The Gerry-meander" With gerrymandering in the news (and hopefully on the ballot) we will use this run to focus on education about district boundaries and redistricting issues, plus voter registration, community exposure for the League, and fundraising.

We will need many volunteers to help us make this run a smashing success. Be someone who makes a difference for your League. We will need help with promotion, program, communication, sponsors, coordination of the race etc.

We will have jobs large and small, involved and simple, taking a large time commitment or a small one.

Please call or email the office to put your name on the list to help with this exciting event. (801-272-8683, [lwwut@xmission.com](mailto:lwwut@xmission.com))

## Sign, Learn About Petitions

During February and the rest of January, the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake will be conducting general meetings and unit discussion meetings that should help you understand some of the six ballot initiatives making their way around the state. January units will discuss the initiative process itself (see Unit Meetings on last page), and February units will discuss Medicaid Expansion and how to talk about it. At the February general meeting, many of the petitions will be available for you to sign. The LWV supports signing petitions as an expression of your constitutional right to vote.

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake  
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### Medicaid Expansion

**TOWN CLUB UNIT** – Wednesday, February 14– 11:00 A.M.

Town Club - 1081 East South Temple

Unit Leader – Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193

akarsteiner@aol.com

**GIRL SCOUT UNIT** – Monday, February 26 – 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, February 26 – 7:30 P.M.

862 East Harrison Ave.

Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387

judi.short@gmail.com

**BENCH BUNCH** – Wednesday, February 28 – 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, February 28 – 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, February 22 – 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, February 22 – 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, February 27 – 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.