

LEGISLATIVE LETTER®
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
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January 14, 2013

LL#1:1

FACTS ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and influence public policy issues through education and advocacy. **The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.**

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE?

The League was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the long struggle to win voting rights for women in the United States. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age. There are 800 Leagues throughout the U.S. The League of Women Voters of Colorado has over 1500 members in 19 local leagues. They are: Adams County, Jefferson County, Arapahoe County, La Plata County, Archuleta County, Larimer County, Boulder County, Mesa County, Chaffee County, Montezuma County, Montrose County, Denver, Estes Park, Pikes Peak Region, Greeley/Weld County, Pueblo, Gunnison Area, Routt County, and Sterling.

WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE DO?

The League is organized around two main functions: **VOTER EDUCATION AND PROGRAM.** **VOTER EDUCATION** provides a vital service to the citizens of Colorado. The Education Fund provides the public with factual and unbiased information about ballot issues and candidates to help them in making informed decisions at election time. In addition to encouraging eligible voters to register and vote, the League provides information to help them understand the political process and promote active participation in government. Voter Education efforts are administered by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. Financial support for the voter education area comes from grants, in-kind and financial contributions.

The **PROGRAM** area is separate from Voter Education. The League studies many public policy issues. In this area we may take action in support of or opposition to the issue after thorough study and consensus by our members. The studies include issues related to government, natural resources and social policy. The League takes action at all levels of government on public policy issues. These actions include briefings and workshops to inform our members, lobbying before government bodies, petition drives, publishing information for the general public and the news media, or holding open informational meetings. Program efforts are administered by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, a 501 (c) 4 non-profit. Financial support for the program area comes from membership, conferences and special events, contributions, and publications.

Board members and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to the above activities including: writing publications, researching ballot issues, lobbying at the legislature, and answering the voter hotline.

HOW DOES THE LEAGUE ADOPT POLICY POSITIONS?

League Program consists of governmental issues chosen by members for study and ultimate action. These may range from educational activities in the community to legislative lobbying. Study makes action possible by bringing members the knowledge that makes League action uniquely credible and respected. The process gives members an opportunity to examine facts, pro and con arguments, and political realities.

Reaching consensus is a technique used traditionally in the League of Women Voters to discuss and arrive at conclusions on issues. Consensus is not a simple majority vote, nor does it mean unanimity. It is the "sense of the group" as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. League action can take place only after consensus or concurrence has been reached and a position formulated.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado determines what legislation to follow and to support or oppose based first and foremost on our program positions. We can support or oppose only topics on which the League has conducted studies and arrived at positions on the local, state and/or national level. The Legislative Action Committee meets biweekly during the legislative session to review pending bills and determine which to follow based on our stated program. Positions of support, oppose or "watch" are arrived at by consensus after reviewing all information available at the time. As bills change, it is sometimes necessary to change positions, and those decisions are also made by consensus of the committee.

IS THE LEAGUE TRULY NON-PARTISAN?

Look at the following table of the bills the Colorado League followed in 2012:

Sponsorship		League Position			
		Support	%	Oppose	Monitor
Republican	27	9	33%	15	3
Bi-Partisan	36	27	75%	3	6
Democratic	27	22	81%	0	5
Total	90	58	64%	18	14

While it is clear that the League supported more bills sponsored solely by Democrats than bills sponsored solely by Republicans, the greatest number of bills we supported were sponsored by members of both parties. Interestingly, a higher percentage of bills sponsored only by Republicans and supported by League were signed into law (44%) than Democratic only bills supported by the League (36%). While there are issues where the

League and many Republicans in the Colorado Legislature consistently disagree (e.g., equality of opportunity, gun control, and reproductive choice) and while because of League's mission to protect the right of every citizen to vote and help them be informed, we will usually side with more access to voting rather than restrictions on voting, the League supports or opposes legislation based on the positions endorsed by League members and not by the party sponsoring the legislation.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 2013

Government

Voting rights
Fiscal policy

Natural Resources

Environmental protection and pollution control

Social policy

Child welfare
Health care
Immigration
Education policy and fiscal issues

The Advocacy Agenda reflects the priority issues that will be addressed by League in both legislative and citizen-education activities across Colorado.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

President	Cath Perrone	303.863.0437
Legislative Action Chair	Sally Augden	303.455.5800
Staff Lobbyist	Christine Watson	303.250.1796
Executive Director	Julie Leonard	303.863.0437

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2012

SENATE

President of the Senate	John Morse
President Pro-Tem	Lucia Guzman
Majority Leader	Morgan Carroll
Asst. Majority Leader	Irene Aguilar
Minority Leader	Bill Cadman
Asst. Minority Leader	Mark Scheffel
Majority Caucus Chair	Jeanne Nicholson
Majority Whip	Gail Schwartz
Minority Caucus Chair	Scott Renfroe
Minority Whip	Kevin Grantham

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker of the House	Mark Ferrandino
Speaker Pro-Tem	Claire Levy
Majority Leader	Dickey Hullinghorst
Asst. Majority Leader	Dan Pabon
Majority Caucus Chair	Lois Court
Majority Whip	Elizabeth McCann
Minority Leader	Mark Waller
Asst. Minority Leader	Libby Szabo
Minority Caucus Chair	Kathleen Conti
Minority Whip	Kevin Priola

CAPITAL DIRECTORY

Information Center/Bill Room	303.866.3055
Governor's Office	303.866.2471
Joint Budget Committee	303.866.2061
Legislative Council	303.866. 3521
Legislative Legal Services	303.866.2045
Reviser of Statutes	303.866.2045
House Members—both parties	303.866.2904
Democratic Senators	303.866.4865
Republican Senators	303.866.4866
State Planning & Budgeting	303.866.3317

Toll-free number from outside Metro area

Governor	800.238.7215
Senate	800. 473.8136
House	800.811.7647

Legislative Home Page:
www.leg.state.co.us/

View House or Senate Floor action on
Comcast Channel 165.

2013 HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Representatives Fischer (Chair); Vigil, (Vice-Chair); Buck, Coram, Garcia, Lebsock, McLachlan, McNulty, Mitsch-Bush, Rankin, Rosenthal, Saine, Sonnenberg

Staff: Brooke Maddaford
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

APPROPRIATIONS

Representatives Levy (Chair); Duran, (Vice-Chair); DelGrosso, Dore, B. Gardner, Gerou, Hamner, Labuda, Pabon, Singer, Sonnenberg, Tyler, Young

Staff: Megan Davisson
Fri., 7:30-9:00 (LSB-A)
Other times as announced

BUSINESS, LABOR & ECONOMIC and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Representatives: A. Williams (Chair); Kraft-Tharp (Vice-Chair); DelGrosso, Exum, Hamner, Holbert, Navarro-Ratzlaff, Nordberg, Rosenthal, Ryden, Szabo

Staff: Erin Vanderberg
Tuesday, All Day (LSB-A)
Thurs. 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)

EDUCATION

Representatives Hamner (Chair); Peniston (Vice-Chair); Buckner, Everett, Fields, Holbert, Landgraf, Murray, Pettersen, Priola, Schafer, Wilson, Young

Staff: Kristen Johnson
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)
Wed. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0112)

FINANCE

Representatives Court (Chair); Labuda (Vice-Chair); DelGrosso, Foote, Joshi, Kagan, May, Melton, Pabon, Priola, Saine, Swalm, Wilson

Staff: Ron Kirk
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (LSB-A)

HEALTH, INSURANCE & ENVIRONMENT

Representatives McCann (Chair); Schafer (Vice-Chair); Conti, Fields, Ginal, Humphrey, Joshi, Landgraf, Primavera, Stephens, Young

Staff: Amanda King
Tuesday, Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)

JUDICIARY

Representatives Kagan (Chair); Lee (Vice-Chair); Buckner, Court, B. Gardner, Lawrence, McLachlan, Murray, Pettersen, Salazar, Wright

Staff: Jessika Shipley
Tuesday, All Day (Rm. 0112)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Representatives: Fields (Chair); Singer (Vice-Chair); Dore, Exum, Garcia, B. Gardner, Ginal, Holbert, Lebsock, Navarro-Ratzlaff, Rankin, Vigil, Wright

Staff: Jeannette Chapman
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES

Representatives Primavera (Chair); Young (Vice-Chair); Conti, Everett, Joshi, May, McCann, Schafer, Singer, Stephens, Swalm, Tyler, Wilson

Staff: Elizabeth Burger
Tuesday, 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0107)
Friday Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0107)

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representatives Ryden (Chair); Salazar (Vice-Chair); Dore, Foote, Humphrey, Labuda, Melton, Moreno, Nordberg, Scott, Williams

Staff: Bo Pogue
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (LSB-A)

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

Representatives Tyler (Chair); Moreno (Vice-Chair); Buck, Coram, Everett, Fischer, Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Lee, Mitsch-Bush, Peniston, Primavera, Scott

Staff: Kelli Kely
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 0112)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 0112)

2013 SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Senators Schwartz (Chair); Giron (Vice-Chair); Brophy, Harvey, Jones

Staff: David Beaujon
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 353)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 353)

APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Hodge (Chair); Steadman (Vice-Chair); Harvey, Heath, Lambert, Renfroe, Ulibarri

Staff: David Meng
Fri., 7:30-9:00 (Rm. 356)
Other times as announced.

BUSINESS, LABOR, & TECHNOLOGY

Senators Tochtrop (Chair); Jahn (Vice-Chair); Balmer, Baumgardner, Heath

Staff: Damion Pechota
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 354)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)

EDUCATION

Senators Hudak (Chair); Johnston (Vice-Chair); Heath, Hill, A. Kerr, Marble, Renfroe, Scheffel, Todd

Staff: Rachel Kurtz-Phelan
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 354)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)

FINANCE

Senators Johnston (Chair); A. Kerr Vice-Chair); Grantham, Hill, Jahn

Staff: Kori Donaldson
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 354)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 354)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senators Aguilar (Chair); Newell (Vice-Chair); Crowder, Kefalas, Lundberg, Nicholson, Roberts

Staff: Dave DeNovellis
Wed., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)
Thurs., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)

JUDICIARY

Senators Guzman (Chair); Ulibarri (Vice-Chair); Aguilar, S. King, Lundberg

Staff: Hillary Smith
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Nicholson (Chair); Kefalas (Vice-Chair); Balmer, Marble, Schwartz

Staff: David Beaujon
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 353)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 353)

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senators Giron (Chair); Jones (Vice-Chair); Crowder, Harvey, Hudak

Staff: Julia Jackson
Mon., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)
Tues. Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)

TRANSPORTATION

Senators Heath (Chair); Todd (Vice-Chair); Baumgardner, Jones, S. King

Staff: Janis Baron
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm. 352)
Thurs., Adj.-Noon (Rm. 352)

DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2013 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 9	General Assembly convenes.
January 25	Final deadline for introduction of Senate bills, except the long appropriation bill.
January 30	Final deadline for introduction of House bills.
February 7	Deadline for House committees of reference to report House bills introduced on or before the 7 th legislative day.
February 14	Deadline for Senate committees of reference to report Senate bills.
February 21	Deadline for House committees of reference to report remaining House bills.
February 27	Deadline for final passage of Senate bills in the Senate .* Deadline for final passage of House bills in the House .*
March 22	Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house.
March 25	Deadline for introduction of the Long Bill in the Senate .
March 29	Deadline for final passage of the Long Bill in the Senate .
April 1	Deadline for final passage in the House of Senate bills.*
April 5	Deadline for final passage of the Long Bill in the House .
April 8	Deadline for final passage in the Senate of all House bills.*
April 12	Deadline for adoption of the conference committee report on the Long Bill . Deadline for Appropriations Committee in house of introduction to report bills referred to Appropriations Committee.
April 18	Deadline to introduce resolutions that do not create interim studies.
April 19	Deadline for final passage in house of introduction of all bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house. Deadline for final passage for any bill prescribing a substantial portion of the total funding for public schools.
April 25	Deadline for committees of reference in second house to report bills referred to the Appropriations Committee in that house.
April 29	Deadline for Appropriations Committee in second house to report bills referred to it.
May 2	Deadline for final passage in second house of all bills referred its Appropriations Committee.
May 8	Adjournment sine die.

* All bills in the Appropriations Committee in either house on the day of the asterisked deadline are excluded from the final passage deadline until April 20.

GOVERNMENT

PROCEDURES FOR CORA REQUESTS

NEW **HB 1041 Procedures For Transmission Of Records Under CORA (Rep. Pettersen; Sen. Kefalas) (support)** In instances where a person has a right to inspect any public records under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), the records custodian must transmit a copy by US mail or other practicable means of delivery. No fees may be charged to the requester if the records are transmitted by email. If the records are sent by US mail, the custodian must have received payment for the cost of delivery and costs associated with producing the record. Upon receipt of such payment, the record shall be sent as soon as practicable, but no more than three business days after receipt of payment. One of the League's principles is that governmental bodies must protect citizen's right to know by making public records accessible.

NEW **HB 1037 Cost Of Providing Records Under CORA (Rep. Salazar) (watch)** This bill authorizes the custodian to impose only fees that do not exceed the actual costs of providing the copy as well as any additional actual costs incurred by the custodian. The custodian is required to use the least expensive means available. No copying fee may reflect time spent by the custodian in determining whether inspection is subject to CORA or time spent by a public employee already receiving an hourly wage or other form of compensation. Large counties where there is a staff in the Clerk and Recorder's office may be able to absorb these tasks with "internal time." We are concerned that small counties may not. However, public records should be accessible.

Both bills have been assigned to Local Government.

Carol Tone 303.377.3746

ELECTIONS

CANCELLING UNCONTESTED PRIMARIES

NEW **HB 1067 Cancel Primary Major Pol Party No Contested Races (Rep. Murray and Labuda; Sen. Roberts) (support)** When a major political party has no contested race on the primary election ballot sixty days before the primary election, then the primary for that political party can be canceled and the candidate deemed the winner of the primary. This would save election officials both time and money. The bill was assigned to State Affairs and Appropriations.

Carol Tone 303.377.3746

JUSTICE SYSTEM

CONTINUE COLORADO COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

NEW **SB 7 Eliminate Repeal of CCJJ (Sen. Morse; Rep. Waller) (support)** eliminates the repeal date for the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

The commission was created by HB 1358 in 2007 and was charged with the task of looking at the many aspects of our criminal and juvenile justice systems with the goal of recommending cost effective ways to use our limited criminal and juvenile justice funds so that rights of victims are protected and recidivism is reduced. The commission is also studying the issue of racial and ethnic disparities within the criminal and juvenile justice systems. The commission has recommended legislation that has resulted in sentencing reform and other changes. This is going to be a long-term process, and League would like to see the commission continue into the future so that more progress can be made.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

VOTING RIGHTS

VOTING FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH

NEW **HB 1038 Voting Rights Persons In Youth Corrections Custody (Rep. Rosenthal) (support)**

This bill applies to individuals confined to a juvenile facility and in the custody of the Division of Youth Corrections who will be 18 years of age or older on the date of the next election. It requires the administrator of the facility, in collaboration with the secretary of state, to provide the individuals with information regarding voting rights, how to register, voter information materials upon request, and how to cast a ballot. People who are serving time for felony convictions are not eligible to vote. However, not all juveniles in youth corrections or juvenile facilities have been convicted of any crimes, and so may still be eligible to vote. They should have the opportunity to do so.

The bill has been assigned to the State Affairs Committee.

Carol Tone 303.377.3746

NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER

GRAYWATER USE

NEW **Rep. Fischer and Sen. Schwartz** have introduced **HB 1044, Authorize Graywater Use (support)**, which details the potential process to be used in authorizing the use of graywater to expand beneficial use of water. There are 10 sections in the bill, dealing with declaring the importance of water conservation in Colorado, defining “graywater” as including sources from bathroom and laundry room sinks, bathtubs, showers and laundry machines; requiring the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to establish minimum statewide standards; giving counties and municipalities the discretion to authorize graywater use; authorizing any groundwater management district to adopt rules restricting the use of graywater treatment works; and ensuring that graywater use by water users is

for the purposes permitted under the municipality or water districts water rights.

With the drought and living in a semi-arid climate, it is necessary to look at all alternatives available to provide water for all purposes in the state. This would be another tool for water managers in the state to address the needs of the citizens in Colorado. The bill is to be heard in House Agriculture, but no date has been set.

Jeannette Hillery, 303-494-7718

SOCIAL POLICY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

CIVIL UNIONS

NEW **SB 11 Authorization of Civil Unions (Sens. Steadman and Guzman; Reps. Ferrandino and S. Schafer) (support)**. This bill authorizes two people of same or opposite genders to enter into a civil union. The civil union confers most, but not all, rights that are accorded to two people of opposite gender who marry. In particular, partners in a civil union have no right to share federal benefits, and there is no requirement that other states that do not also allow civil unions recognize those formed under Colorado law. The bill does provide that persons entering into substantially similar arrangements in other states will have those unions recognized as civil unions in Colorado. The bill specifies that a civil union is not a marriage, because a marriage between two people of the same gender is prohibited under the Colorado Constitution. The bill is essentially the same as SB 12-002, which did not pass in the regular or special session in 2012. The League of Women Voters supports equality of opportunity for all citizens. The bill has 20 senate cosponsors, and 38 House cosponsors, sufficient for passage in both bodies. It has been assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Christine Watson 303.250.1796

HEALTH CARE

QUICKER COVERAGE FOR KIDS

NEW SB 008 Eliminate Waiting Period Under CHP+ (Sen. Newell; Rep. McCann) (support)
Under current law, a child is eligible for the Children’s Basic Health Plan benefits if they have not been on a comparable health plan with an employer paying at least 50% of the cost for at least three months. This bill would eliminate this waiting period as of July 1, 2013. Pregnant women are also covered under this plan.

Any measure that increases the health coverage for children is to be supported.

The bill has been assigned to Health and Human Services.

Marion Colliander 303.322.3926

INCOME ASSISTANCE

EFFICIENCY IN TANF

NEW HB 1055 Colorado Works Redetermination of Eligibility (Rep. May; Sen. Kefalas) (support) Recipients of cash benefits under Colorado Works (Colorado’s TANF or welfare program) currently have to appear in person for an annual redetermination of eligibility, taking time away from their jobs or classes. The bill removes the words “face-to-face,” opening up the possibility of using more efficient methods of redetermining eligibility.

The bill was assigned to the Public Health Care and Human Services Committee.

Julie Leonard 720.384.8421

STATUS SHEET

The Status Sheet is a constantly updated list of bills being followed by Legislative Action Committee members. New bills are in **boldface**.

S=Support O=Oppose SIP=Support in Part OIP=Oppose in Part W=Watch or Monitor

POLICY AREA	S/H	BILL #	BILL TITLE	S/O	PAGE	STATUS
Elections	HB	1067	Cancel Primary Major Pol Party No Contested Races	S	8	H-SVM
Equal Opportunity	SB	11	Civil Unions	S	9	S-Jud
Government	HB	1037	Cost Of Providing Public Records Under CORA	S	8	H-LG
Government	HB	1041	Procedures For Transmission Of Records Under CORA	W	8	H-LG
Health Care	SB	8	Eliminate Waiting Period Under CHP+	S	10	S-HHS
Income Assistance	HB	1055	Colorado Works Redetermination Of Eligibility	S	10	H-PHC
Justice	SB	7	Eliminate Repeal of CCJJ	S	8	S-Jud
Voting Rights	HB	1038	Voting Rights Persons In Youth Corrections Custody	S	9	H-SVM
Water	HB	1044	Authorize Graywater Use	S	9	H-Ag

The Legislative Letter is written by the members of the Legislative Action Committee, edited by Frank Bennett and Chris Watson, and published by the Colorado League of Women Voters every two weeks during the Legislative Session. To subscribe, please contact the League Office at 303-863-0437 for information about rates and delivery.