

WATCHDOG

Weber County League of Women Voters

Fall is in the Air



WEBER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GOALS

~Terri McCulloch

In our planning meeting, the board and members decided that the focus of our activities prior to the election will be on promoting voter registration, educating citizens on issues addressed in this election, and increasing voter turn-out. The goal of the League at all levels has been to “register, educate, and engage voters.” The turn out to the last election in Weber County was abysmal and definitely did not represent the

majority opinion of all citizens. We have fought this battle since our inception as an organization and participated in the fight for all citizens to be able to be represented by being able to vote. It is discouraging when the actual turn out is so low. The fact that the legislature did not completely support the propositions voted for has also resulted in some people feeling their vote is not important. That is definitely wrong. Voters made their choice and the current legislature didn’t listen. If they don’t want to listen, then we need to vote in people who do want to listen. Citizens of Utah got together and presented initiatives that had the support of people throughout the state. We came together to get something done, and we did. Our representatives should support their constituents, and when they don’t, they need to be removed. The only way to do that is to vote in representatives that don’t have a personal agenda. The Weber League will be working on getting people involved in the election by registering to vote, learning the issues, and going to the polls. We are a small group, which hasn’t

September 30, 2019

stopped us in making a big impact in the past, and it won’t now.

Member Corner

What is your favorite part of fall?

“All the red, yellow and orange leaves!”
~Anne Fremuith

“Being outdoors. The cooler days and crisp evenings here in Utah make it perfect for going for a walk or sitting in the yard.”
~Marcia Thomas

“I love the cool air, the winter birds returning to our feeders, and the ever changing colors of the leaves in fall.”
~Carole Lapine

Do you read the articles?

Or do you just skim?

~Carolyn Lapine

Do you read the articles in your chosen newspaper? And if so do you read the complete article or simply glance or skim through. Do you listen to or read the daily news on television, radio, or Internet? How do you form your opinion of the articles or newscasts? Do you read papers and listen to news that state the facts and are non-biased? Do you do research to see if the articles in the papers are actual facts, opinion of the author, or "fake." What constitutes facts, opinions, or fake articles? What is your belief system? How did it form? Does it come from your family, church, friends, nationality, gender, education, or any one or multiples of a myriad of other options?

Think about the preceding sentences. Answer the questions honestly.

Facts are simple truths, opinions are personal, and fake is a lie. We all should know the difference among the three.

In just over a year we will all go to the polls and elect a new president of the United States of America (read that again) **United** States of America. We are a united country, one that should be getting along with one another within our country as well as with our international allies. Canada, France, Germany, England, Mexico, etc should be in our minds when we go to the polls. China, Russia, and the middle eastern countries all should be on our minds as well. But foremost we should think about the consequences of losing our closest allies. A

world divided will fail. A country divided will fail. A family divided will fail, a person divided will fail.

When we all were children we may have participated in name calling, bullying, the "this is mine and you can't have it" attitude of young inexperienced and underdeveloped minds. But as we grow and learn we come to understand that we are not the only person in the world and there are other thoughts, feelings, and beliefs that we must understand and cultivate to make our world and the world a better place for all. Our families, teachers, churches, and friends should have taught us that being smart, kind, thoughtful, educated, knowledgeable, understanding of others, and having empathy are the human traits – learned or innate - that will make us powerful and able

to handle whatever comes our way.

Tweets, articles, and spoken words from the leader of the free world that name call, bully, and make the author sound as though he is the only one that is right are simply wrong and should not be ignored. Ah, but you say it is more complicated than that. But it isn't. Nothing is as complicated as it seems. Simply - the American people must become informed and must choose a leader who has the qualities that we would be proud to say stand for our beliefs as informed citizens of the United States of America.

Go to the polls and vote for someone who has the intelligence, elegant demeanor, and candor to lead, not divide, the **United States of America.**



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. Chris Carson, National LWV President

In June, the Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering is a political question because no fair test exists for courts to determine when partisan gerrymandering has gone too far. That means all federal courts will be hands-off even when redistricting intentionally decreases the voting power of voters based on their political party.

Because redistricting has long been a priority issue of the League, and a signature part of our Campaign for Making Democracy work, we cannot sit back and wait for the court to change. We do not have to rely on the Supreme Court to solve partisan gerrymandering. There are other paths to creating fair maps nationwide – and the League of Women Voters is the best organization positioned to accomplish this.

We are launching a 50-state campaign called the People Powered Fair Maps Campaign.

The national board has authorized half a million dollars to launch this campaign, and every state League will receive some of that funding through grants. This work will look different in each state. Our state league will be providing specific information for Utah soon. Take a moment to search for this campaign and learn about it.

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
DUES**

DUES ARE DUE

Please continue to support our League by paying your dues. Regardless of what you are able to attend – we value you and your support. This is a group of strong, dedicated women and want you to be a part of it. Participation varies at different times of our lives, and we would love to have your support regardless of what you are able to do.

Cost: \$45

Mail To: Evelyn Bertilson, 1047 East 5675 South, Ogden UT 84405

Online:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/join-renew-weber-county/>

The WCLWV Board meeting over breakfast.



REGISTERING VOTERS

We are partnering with Voterise both on the local and state level to get people registered to vote. To help at different events in our county, go to www.signup.com and create an account. Once you sign in, you should get the events in our area. Right now we are trying to get people to help on October 4th at the Ogden Hispanic Festival at the Union Station. You can also go to voterise on Facebook and click on events. Voting is our passion, and the more we can get interested, the better the representation we will have.



VOTE YES!

~Diana Allison

Vote YES! for Proposition 3 on our 2019 Weber County General Election ballot. What it says: "Shall a study committee be appointed to consider and possibly recommend a change in Weber County's form of government?" A YES! vote begins a process where a committee is appointed to study whether a change from the current form of three county commissioners to one of the three other state sanctioned forms would be in the best interest of our county. A YES! vote simply says a study committee should be created.

The League of Women Voters of Weber County has supported this since "Weber County Government Today: Options for Tomorrow?", our first study in 1981, was completed and consensus taken. In 2014 we again looked at this issue, updated our study, and developed a position statement that largely mirrored the 1981 position. Our position is: The Weber LWV supports the principle of some form of representation by geographic area based on the principle of "one person, one vote" as it pertains to county governance. The Weber LWV

supports the concept of separation of legislative and executive powers as it pertains to county governance. The Weber LWV supports a change in the structural form of Weber County Government based on the larger population and demographic changes in the county.

Prior to 1972 the Utah Constitution required that the Legislature establish a system of county government that was uniform, the same, throughout the state and the result was the 3 Commissioner form. In the 1960s our counties began to become more diverse with greater differences in populations, rural/non-rural areas, wealth, and economic opportunities. This was largely behind the movement to amend our Constitution to provide alternative forms of government so counties might be better able to carry out their functions, given their differing demographics. In 1972 the Constitution was amended so that the Legislature could prescribe optional forms of county government that might better serve their needs. The 3 Commissioner form of government would remain the default form unless a process was begun within a county to look at alternative forms. That process could begin with a YES! vote for Proposition 3 this year.

Weber County is becoming even more diverse with communities in the western part of the county experiencing rapid population growth. There are about 250,000

residents in the 15 communities and unincorporated areas of the county. The current form of government allows at-large representation of the three commissioners, virtually ensuring that many geographic areas will not feel adequately represented. Allowing for "some form of representation by geographic area" would support the one person, one vote principle giving county residents more of a sense of their voices being heard.

While the population has increased, so has the list of responsibilities and Special Function Boards the three commissioners oversee. They also are uniquely both the legislative arm of the county and the executive arm of the county. They are accountable for developing policies for the county and then are also accountable for administering the functions in the county affected by the policies they developed. This lack of separation of legislative and executive powers

provides no checks and balances, a principle of governance considered very important. Two of the three alternative forms of county government provide for a separation of legislative and executive powers.

There is an often used saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it." Some might look at the seemingly well functioning current commissioners with no big conflicts or two-against-one behaviors that have surfaced in past years and use

that saying to justify a NO vote on Proposition 3. We believe that makes this an ideal time to vote YES! as well as the fact that these three commissioners themselves passed a resolution in September, 2018 to put the question on the ballot, "Shall a study committee be appointed to consider and possibly recommend a change in Weber County's form of government".

Now is the perfect time to study and reflect on our current form of county governance and see if there might be a better way to meet the county's growing population and diverse community needs. The Weber LWV believes the answer is yes and urges you to spread the word about Proposition 3 and the reason everyone should vote YES! on their 2019 General Election ballot.

Questions or Comments?

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

Upcoming Events



North Ogden Mayoral Race Debate

October 17, 2019 @ 7:30 PM
North Ogden Library – 475 E 2600 N, North Ogden, UT 84414

West Haven City Council Debate

October 22, 2019
4150 South 3900 West West Haven

Proposition 3

October 21, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
Weber State University – Community Education Center
2605 Monroe Blvd, Ogden UT 84401



Don't forget to register to vote!

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



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



www.facebook.com/weberleague/



www.twitter.com/WeberLWV

