

Winter 2020



Transfer of Presidential Power

By Carole Lapine

There are no laws for the peaceful transfer of power for an outgoing President of the United States but there are guidelines.

We do have the 25th Amendment that details how Presidential power can be transferred, either on a temporary or permanent basis, in the event a President is unable to complete his job. But the 25th amendment is not designed for an outgoing president.

Our American transition rituals date back to 1800, the first time a defeated President had to hand power to the other party.

“Questions swirled about whether John Adams’ Federalists would

really hand control of the government to Thomas Jefferson’s Democratic-Republicans — involuntarily, but peacefully.

Although Adams declined to attend Jefferson’s inaugural, he vacated office. The new President tried to unify Americans in his first inaugural address, proclaiming, “We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists.” This gesture of unity ended up establishing a new American political tradition: the presidential transition. Note that this is a tradition not a law.

[President Trump Needs to Follow Tradition to Keep Democracy that the U.S. is known for.](#)

Actions that are contrary simply are not following a tradition as opposed to a law. Since this is a non-partisan issue, it brings up a few questions:

Should there be a law or amendment to the constitution about peaceful transfer of Power and should the League of Women Voters be involved in a discussion and pursuant legislation that requires an outgoing President to

December 2020

follow the rules outlined in the law or amendment? Should this be a study? Should we encourage legislatures on a national level to draft this law?

We should ask ourselves these questions:

1. Is the United States at risk when there is not a peaceful transfer of power?
2. Does it do the incoming officials harm to keep them out of the briefings?
3. Does it do the people of the United States harm when things are at a standstill in National government?
4. What is the world view of this issue? Our allies view?
5. What should be done to ease the transfer or power – Should a law be passed or an amendment to the constitution?
6. Since this is a non-partisan issue the League could be involved. Should they be involved? And if not, then why not?

Keep the following in mind when thinking about the above questions:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

"Every four years on January 20, a President-elect stands before the nation and takes this oath of office during the inauguration. These words have been said by every President of the United States since 1789, when George Washington became the nation's first President. **The swearing-in ceremony allows for the peaceful transfer of power from one President to another.** It formally gives the "power of the people" to the person who has been chosen to lead the United States. This oath makes an ordinary citizen a President."

[Peaceful Transition of Power in American Presidential Inaugurations is Essential.](#)



Vice President Elect Kamala Harris



As Kamala explains in her book, "The Truths We Hold - An American Journey" – her name is pronounced comma-la and it means Lotus Flower in the Indian culture.

Kamala Harris is the daughter of immigrants Syhamala Gopalan Harris, Ph.D., a breast cancer researcher before she passed away and Donald Harris, Ph.D., a professor emeritus of economics at Stanford. Both active in and passionate about the civil rights movement and political activism. Their involvement in these endeavors helped to shape Kamala's future and her mother's influence helped to create the very diverse, wise, and knowledgeable person that Kamala is today.

Kamala is an attorney who received her law degree from the University of California Hastings College of Law.

"She began her career in the Alameda County District

Attorney's Office." "In 2003, Kamala became the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. Having completed two terms as the District Attorney of San Francisco, Kamala was elected as the first African-American and first woman to serve as California's Attorney General. In 2017, Kamala D. Harris was sworn in as a United States Senator for California, the second African-American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history. She served on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on the Budget."

[Kamala D. Harris U.S. Senator for California](#)

The American people are witnessing a first in the history of our nation. Just a few short weeks ago Kamala Harris was elected to become the first woman, first Black and South Asian American, and first daughter of immigrants to be elected to the office of United States Vice President.

We are the League of Women Voters and we all should stand proud that this very intelligent lady has broken so many barriers. She is a fierce defender of truth and an America where everyone is treated with dignity.

If you haven't read her book – do so. It is filled with information about her life and what created

the person she is today. The book ends with these words:

“My daily challenge to myself is to be part of the solution, to be a joyful warrior in the battle to come. To stand up for all our values. My challenge to you is to join that effort. Let’s not throw up our hands when it’s time to roll up our sleeves. Not now. Not tomorrow. Not ever.

Years from now, our children and our grandchildren will look up and lock eyes with us. They will ask us where we were when the stakes were high. They will ask us what it was like. I don’t want us to just tell them how we felt. I want us to tell them what we did.” Harris, Kamala, Chapter Ten, “What I’ve Learned.” “The Truths We Hold - An American Journey,” page 281.

Weber County Election Results



~Marcia Harris

In lieu of the usual commission meeting, Ryan Kali gave a report on this year’s elections in Weber County. The turnout for the elections was an all time record high of 89.32% up 7.32% from four years ago. This is the 13th

election that mail-in voting has been used in the county.

There were three locations for in person voting and accommodation for the disabled. There was a sufficient number of poll workers and a lot of volunteer help from the basketball, baseball and golf teams from Weber State- both male and female.

Ryan gave a big shout out to the Library, which had a designated worker at each branch to help with registration and questions about the elections.

Weber County was recognized nationally in several incidences for our smooth, well organized election. There were no results close enough for a recount.

Weber County League of Women Voters Candidate Night



This was completely new ground for all of us and it actually went very well. We did learn lessons to use in future candidates’ forums. We had 26 candidates say they would attend and 25 did. When

they entered the zoom link, we put each one in a separate room labeled with their name. When the public came in, we moved them to whatever candidate they wanted to see. A list of candidates was posted so they knew who was there. When they had completed their visit, they went back to the main room and asked for another room to visit. Surprisingly it went quite smoothly with only a small backlog at the first. Lessons learned included: list candidate names in alphabetical order instead of office, explain more thoroughly the process with the candidates, separate candidates by geographic region and split into two nights, and take screen shots. All in all it went well, especially for a first time event!

Weber County Circles Promoting Voting

Circles in Weber County is a local chapter of Circles USA, a nationwide group dedicated to putting an end to poverty through community involvement, training, support, and long-lasting relationships! Learn more at www.circlesusa.org. The point of the program is to provide a “circle” of support through mentorships and help with resources to become more successful. Our League was asked to present information on the history of voting, why you should vote, and

how to register and get information. A group of about 10 people involved in this program attended, and we explained the history of how citizens got to vote - discussing what group was in power during each period of time – finally ending with all citizens having the power. A short discussion was held concerning why anyone should vote followed by an overview of vote.utah.org and [vote 411](http://vote411.org). Members were taught how to register and then use the website to look at candidates and issues that would be on the ballot. Only two people were registered and no one knew about the resources at vote.utah.gov. Explaining how they can see who will be on their ballot and their positions opened quite a few eyes and seemed to make people more comfortable in voting. The Circles program is nationwide and something our members should get involved in to help others become educated on issues and change the path of their lives.



What's happening with the redistricting plans in Utah?

By Susan Skordos

In 2018, the Better Boundaries group in Utah launched Proposition 4, which if passed, would create an independent advisory commission of seven members, tasked with revamping Utah's legislative and congressional boundaries. Previously, gerrymandering, or drawing geographical boundaries in order to favor a specific political party, was thought to allow incumbent politicians to draw boundaries based on areas in which they had the most voters. Better Boundaries would allow voters to choose their representatives rather than vice versa.

Proposition 4 was successful on the ballot by a slim margin, however, since the 2018 successful vote, the new proposition faced multiple setbacks during subsequent legislative sessions. Lawmakers had even been ready to repeal it. The meetings had been civil, but at times "heated." Governor Herbert proclaimed the Legislature needed to ensure that minorities were not kept out, while lawmakers agreed the legislative role mandate in the State Constitution needed to be protected.

A compromise was finally reached in February of 2020. The Independent Redistricting Commission would be made up of members who could not have served as lobbyists in the previous four years. Additionally, members of political action committees and candidates or holders of public offices were also prevented from serving.

The Commission will be appointed by February 1, 2021 and the results of the 2020 Census will be available on March 31, 2021. The group will have at least seven meetings across Utah before August 1, 2021. Within 20 days after the final meeting, the Commission will agree on the final districting maps and by September 1, 2021, the Redistricting Committee must hold a meeting solely to agree on the Commission's maps.

Final redistricting plans will occur no later than Utah's 2022 General Legislative Session. At that time, the Legislature will adopt the Commission's final maps, or they may create new maps to be considered.

Medicaid Expansion

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) gives states the option of expanding Medicaid coverage to adults ages 19 to 64 whose annual income is up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Full Medicaid expansion is

a cost-sharing effort between the federal government and the states. In 2020, the federal government pays approximately 90 percent and the states pay 10 percent for full Medicaid expansion.

In an effort to push for full Medicaid expansion in Utah, supporters developed a petition and collected more than the required signatures to have a ballot initiative (Proposition 3) included on Utah's 2018 general election ballot. Proposition 3 was approved by 53 percent of Utah voters in November of 2018. Proposition 3 covered eligible individuals up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Utah Legislature responded by passing Senate Bill (SB) 96 in the 2019 Legislative Session. SB 96 was a scaled-back Medicaid expansion, which Governor Herbert signed into law on February 11, 2019. The bill superceded all previous Medicaid expansion efforts in Utah and replaced Proposition 3. According to Governor Herbert, the biggest difference between SB 96 and Proposition 3 was the way in which individuals between 100 and 138 percent of the federal poverty level would get health care coverage. Under SB 96, these individuals would not be included in Medicaid expansion. Instead, they would keep their current subsidized health insurance on the federal exchange (healthcare.gov).

The ACA requires states to obtain approval of their expansion plans from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As part of their plan, states can submit requests to waive certain provisions of the Medicaid law to give them flexibility to design and improve their programs. Utah's waiver requests, which were submitted in 2019, were intended to comply with the provisions of SB 96.

With approval from CMS, Utah implemented a limited "bridge" plan on April 1, 2019, which remained in effect until CMS made a final decision on the Utah plan. The bridge plan covered individuals with incomes up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

After negotiations with Utah, CMS authorized the Utah Department of Health to implement a full Medicaid expansion on December 23, 2019, which became effective in January of 2020. The expansion includes eligible Utah residents with annual income up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. It is estimated by the Utah Department of Health that up to 120,000 Utah residents became eligible for Medicaid under the expansion. It is important to note that some of the program components in Utah's waiver requests are still being reviewed by CMS. You can go to medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/ to learn more about Utah's Medicaid expansion program history,

eligibility requirements and waiver requests.

Our Founding Mothers: Beverly Dalley-Equal Rights Warrior

by Karen Thurber



I met Bev Dalley in November 1991 when I came to work at Your Community Connection (YCC). She was one of the lovely, older ladies who volunteered at the front desk, greeting visitors and helping staff with a variety of projects. We became instant friends due to Bev's welcoming presence and open, loving countenance. It was evident that Bev was deeply concerned and committed to the plight of women and children trapped in domestic violence. I was also pleased to meet her husband, Dr. Wallace (Wally) Dalley, a psychiatrist, who volunteered regularly to help women in the crisis center. It's hard to believe that I'm the same age now as Bev was when we met 29 years ago!

Bev and I went on to cement our friendship through over ten years

of work on the Celebrating our Diversity Committee, which produced the annual "Taste of Ogden Festival". I have fond memories of Bev and the rest of the group working through many challenges over the years including venue issues, funding, regulatory hurdles, inter-personal conflict, and more, generally with grace and good humor.

When I joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ogden in 1997, I was thrilled to find that Bev was, not only a dedicated member, but one of the congregation's founding mothers. Having lost her beloved husband, Wally, some years before, Bev often said that the UU congregation her second family.

Researching this article, with the kind help of Bev's devoted son, Warren, I discovered so much more about this amazing woman. Bev has been a long-time standard bearer for equality in Utah through her work with the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, the Utah Democratic Party, and many other organizations. She has been witness to history on many occasions. For example, Bev represented Utah at the notorious 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago:

"There was a big fight going on outside of the convention between the police and the demonstrators. We stood along the wall of the convention center and bore witness to what was happening. We were very worried

about the young people who had come to be heard. Now, I see that history is repeating itself, with young people still demanding to be heard." – Bev Dalley, October 2020

Women's Rights Champion

"Things were one-sided in our society and women came out on the short end most of the time. I wanted to make things more equal...I wanted to do as much as I could to be on the right side of history". – Beverly Dalley, October 2020 "Beyond Suffrage", Weber State University Archives

Bev was very active in the fight for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in Utah. She was inspired by the energy of Utah women, especially through the League of Women Voters. There was huge opposition, especially by LDS women, who showed up by the busloads to harass ERA supporters at rallies and marches. Men wrote nasty and insulting articles in the local paper. A memory from Carole Quinn-Nylander, an ally in the ERA fight from 1972-1976:

"The opposition was very nasty. We had busloads of men and women shouting at us, cursing us and spitting in our faces whenever we rallied or marched. We were accused of destroying the American family and worse. I continue to be so impressed with Beverly Dalley and her quiet, steadfast commitment to women's rights."

Undaunted, Bev went on to help organize the Utah Women's Political Caucus, the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition in Utah, the Weber County Equal Rights Movement, and the Equal Rights Ratification Committee. She was also a charter member of the National Organization for Women and a founding member of the Weber County League of Women Voters. In 1983, she became a board member of the Utah ACLU. Evelyn Bertilson, a long-time friend and LWV and Unitarian Universalist Church member, says:

"One of my early memories was Bev's description of the fight in the Utah Legislature for the Equal Rights Amendment. The image of housewives in aprons delivering fresh baked goodies to legislators as a means of lobbying was both shocking and humorous to me. I got to know Bev better when a Unitarian Universalist group was organized in Ogden and met at the YCC where she volunteered for many years. My respect for Bev has grown over the years as I've witnessed her faithfulness to both the League and our church."

Advocate for Rape and Domestic Violence Survivors

In addition to her work for women's rights, Bev was extremely concerned about the plight of rape and domestic violence survivors and their children. In 1975, Bev helped set up a Rape Crisis Task Force in Ogden, which established the county's first overnight rape crisis

center. She later served on the board of the YWCA, which later became Your Community Connection (YCC). As a board member, Bev helped create Northern Utah's only domestic violence shelter and assisted in raising the funds needed to build a new Ogden center at 22nd and Adams. That shelter has since served more than 12,000 survivors of rape and domestic violence. As a dedicated advocate for women and children, Bev became a charter member of the Utah Coalition for Aid to Battered Women, lobbying for funding from the state. Bev continued to serve YCC for many years as a board and committee member, and as a regular, front-desk volunteer, well into her 80's.

The State of the Struggle – 2020

Although in her 97th year, Bev continues to support the causes which have defined her commitment to women and children. She remains an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ogden, the Weber County League of Women Voters, and the ACLU. With

the help of her son, Warren, who lives with Bev, she participates through Zoom meetings. Bev has expressed her wishes and concerns for young women:

“The fight isn't over! It will take all of us to keep working towards the equality we deserve. We need to get men more involved in the struggle as our partners, not as

our enemies”. – Bev Dalley, October 2020

Police Reform

by Susan Skordos

The Weber County League of Women Voters sponsored a discussion concerning police reform at Weber County Library, Main Branch at 2464 Jefferson Ave., Ogden, Utah at 7:00 p.m., September 21, 2020. Because of Covid restrictions, many from the community attended by Zoom.

The discussion was led by Leah Murray and was comprised of Ogden Police Chief, Randy Watt, Weber County Sheriff, Ryan Arbon, Ogden City Council member Angela Choberka, as well as Diana Lopez from Ogden City Outreach. Questions to the panel were provided by audience attendees.

The panel was asked how police make a positive contribution to the community. They view their primary responsibility is public safety. They stressed that body cameras are essential for the protection of officers and the community as well. Body cam videos are made available when necessary. The county attorney requests these for investigations, plus the sheriff must lead intense, internal investigations, particularly when the use of force occurs. The “Black Lives Matter” issue that has recently come to our attention has increased the dialogue.

The issue of “choke holds” has become a controversial issue. It is only to be used as a “last ditch” effort to prevent endangerment to police or the detainee.

Another issue questioned the officers' duty to intervene in a dispute or escalation of a perceived dangerous environment. Even though Salt Lake City Police “may” intervene, Ogden Police “will” intervene.

The subject of “no knock warrants” also was introduced. Only by judicial authorization can these occur. Police may apply for these in writing because of the risk involved. In order to be considered, there must be the danger of individuals in question destroying evidence of the crime, or fleeing the premises when officers arrive. However, regular knocks and announcements by police occur more often.

Technologies available to officers was also of interest. In addition to the use of body cam videos, drones are available for surveillance of community areas or neighborhoods. Drones must follow FAA rules and state laws.

Mental health has become a major focus. Impact teams are used in order to direct individuals toward mental health evaluation, particularly in cases of threats of suicide. This approach has a potential for a better outcome.

The subject of systemic racism was another issue of importance. The sheriff and police were not

aware of any, but outside scrutiny is available from Weber State Criminal Justice Department. Gathering input from ethnic groups or members of the black community is particularly important.

Diana Lopez added that Ogden City has a resource center to offer community information by dialing 211 or going online to Dianalopez@ogdencity.com. Additionally, police policies are available on the Ogden City Police website where 75 policies can be reviewed.

Looking forward to 2021-2022, police are adjusting and researching plans which they will offer to the Ogden City Council. Officers will submit detailed plans but they may change because of Covid. Jails have often become hospitals due to mental and other health issues. Officers will continue to try to cut red tape in order to resolve problems more quickly.

Get Out The Vote!



The Weber County League of Women Voters and Voterise partnered together

for a **Get Out The Vote** activity. This effort was spearheaded by Karen Thurber. Citizens came and picked up door hangars outlining voter information and encouraging people to vote. Each team selected an area of Weber County that had 70% or less voter turnout in the last election to canvas. In pairs of two, members went door to door and hung the door hangars. Each team had 100 door hangars to distribute. What a brilliant concept from Karen and it required no contact but definitely sent the message!

Members Corner



What are your plans to make 2021 a good year?

I hope to incorporate some of the "down time" of 2020 into 2021. The best (only good thing!) about 2020 was the trimming down of commitments and more time at home with family. I hope to prioritize family and reconnect with friends that we weren't able to see. I loved the outings that our immediate family took together in the car this year.

Hopefully we will keep doing those kinds of things.

~Michelle Jackson

As a newly elected Board member of Ogden School District, I am looking forward to representing my community and learning as much as I can to prepare and plan for the future of our students, parents, and educators. I have also enjoyed having more quality time with my two kids while working from home during this pandemic. My daughter will be graduating from High School and we will be adjusting to higher education opportunities for her. ~Arlene Anderson

When I am eligible, I shall go and be vaccinated, so the rest of 2021 will not resemble most of 2020.

~Suzanne Dawson

My plans for 2021 include showing how thankful I am for the blessings I have. My hope is we get back to normal and do so with a better appreciation of all our opportunities.

~Terri McCulloch

Racial/Gender Inequality

By Susan Skordos

Adrienne Andrews, Chief Diversity Officer at Weber State University led a discussion concerning racial/gender inequality on October 12, 2020 at Weber County Library, main branch, 2464 Jefferson Avenue, Ogden, Utah and over zoom for the public.



Adrienne began the discussion by asking attendees, many attending by Zoom, to define racial inequality. Lynn Carroll made the comment that within her parents' generation, people thought that a black family moving into the neighborhood may bring property values down. Adrienne added the comment that mortgage companies may assume that non-white people are at greater risk for not paying their mortgage. As a result, many Blacks, Latinos or Pacific Islanders have difficulty building wealth, which affects multiple generations because home ownership and the equity involved often can't be achieved and passed down.

Bias transcends into many aspects of society. Arlene Anderson, a Latina woman and health care professional, commented that people assume she is some sort of domestic. She told the story about when she was working at a local hospital, it was assumed by everyone that she would be cleaning the room, even though she has an advanced, professional education.

Hiring freezes can be used to discriminate against minorities, with the justification that someone "won't fit in." This causes everyone to lose out since diversity at the workplace offers the opportunity to gather more ideas and perspectives.

Wage gaps were discussed next. Adrienne reported that in 2017, Black women earn only 52 cents for every dollar a white or non-Latino man earns. An Asian woman earns 90 cents per dollar of what a white or non-Latino man earns. Women as a whole earn only 80 cents for every dollar a man earns. Leah Murray, a professor of political science at Weber State University added that she is paid 88 cents to the dollar of what a man is paid at the university. Some reasons for disparities often relate to lack of access by women to high-paying jobs, plus women are often undervalued. Additionally, women are less likely to negotiate for higher pay. If a woman has small children, she may face discrimination related to pay or higher-paying jobs because the

children might be a problem, yet a man rarely has these concerns.

The subject of Covid-19 was also discussed. Higher rates of Covid-19 cases and deaths often relate to the types of work done by minorities. They are considered "essential workers" since they work in areas that serve the public such as transportation and building maintenance. Deaths of Blacks in Wisconsin from Covid-19 are at 36 percent, yet this group makes up only 7 percent of the population.

We must all work as a collective to improve wages and remove bias concerning race and gender inequality. We must also be willing practice what we say we believe if any changes will occur in this social issue.



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

Holiday Social By Zoom-

Monday, December 14th, 2020 @6:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89830139927?pwd=QjZKTEFhT2ZTdDloK2xrNGozRGZOdz09>

Utah's Transition to Clean Energy Study- Carole Straughn

Monday, January 11th, 2021 @7:00 pm

Recycling- Gina Hughes

Monday, February 8th, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Public Land Study- Carey Dabney

Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

<http://weberleague.org/index.phtml>