



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

314 West 300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

(801) 272-8683

Email: [lwvut@xmission.com](mailto:lwvut@xmission.com)

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@LWVUtah

September 2016

### Make a Difference with the League

by Peggy Carrico, President, LWVUT



As I write this note, it is August 11, 89 days until the 2016 Election. 137 days until the holidays begin. 166 days until the next General Session. I like numbers, until they feel overwhelming.

Just as an example, 89 days until the election: in that time the League is going to gather and publish in our on-line Voters Guide answers to questions from about 300 candidates running for office in Utah. We are also going to hold Meet the Candidate events

across the state whenever asked. We will register more voters so we can turn around the dismal turnout rates and harness all of the talk we hear about how people are so unhappy with what is happening. All of this while continuing work on the issues of importance to us like the Sexual Violence Study (now on our website) and the monthly Interim legislative sessions.

Do you "Feel the Overwhelm," to paraphrase Bernie? But wait, we are an organization with amazing members. Many have done it before and can do it again. Others are bringing a fresh voice and view to help us improve. It all seems possible when I am surrounded by the League members. I am taking out my skill set and brushing it off, and rearranging things to make it all work. I hope you will do the same. Your help is needed. Call the office at (801) 272-8683 or talk to a leader and let's get you plugged in. You will make a difference.

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# Take Care Commenting on Historic Presidential Nomination

by Tina Hose, LWVUS National Convention Delegate

Imagine this: A political reporter from your local newspaper says to you, “The League of Women Voters must be delighted to see the first woman presidential candidate from a major political party,” and waits expectantly for your comment. You think, “How can I communicate my thoughts without exposing the LWV to allegations of partisanship?”

This past June at the LWV National Convention in Washington D.C., President Elisabeth MacNamara told us about being in this situation and asked us to think about how we would respond. A lively and frank conversation on the convention floor followed.

President MacNamara told us her story to make a point. League members, especially designated spokespersons, need to expect this question and be prepared to answer it in a way that does not suggest support for any particular political candidate or party. Discussion on the convention floor reaffirmed that nonpartisanship is the core value of the League and recognized that comments about this historic event risk the appearance of partisanship. MacNamara and her board committed to construct and distribute sample talking points for us after the convention.

In the [LWVUS Talking Points](#) document, all sample responses note the historical significance of the nomination of the first woman presidential candidate by a major political party. Some sample talking points simply remain silent about partisan matters, and some have additional language that affirms the League’s commitment to nonpartisanship. Examples are provided below:

*“We fundamentally believe that our democracy works best when all Americans, of all backgrounds, have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of our national political process. This important moment sends the message that in this democracy, women finally are full participants in all aspects of the democratic process.”*

*“The League has always believed in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy and the empowerment of all voters so that American Democracy reflects the true diversity of our nation.”*

*“Informed participation of all people in our democracy has always been the League’s highest priority. Such participation includes not only voting but also becoming candidates for public office. The League never supports or opposes candidates and we never support or oppose political parties. Rather our aim is to focus on enabling and encouraging all citizen to fully participate so that they can weigh in on the issues that matter most to them.”*

[The Talking Points document on the LWVUS website](#) provides additional responses to the initial question posed at Convention. The document also



## Local League Presidents

### Davis County

Nelda Bishop

[nelda@xmission.com](mailto:nelda@xmission.com)

& Kathy Stockel

[khs\\_nodak@yahoo.com](mailto:khs_nodak@yahoo.com)

### Grand County

Barbara Hicks

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

### Salt Lake

Kathy Biele

[howze@xmission.com](mailto:howze@xmission.com)

& Carole Straughn

[carolefs222@gmail.com](mailto:carolefs222@gmail.com)

### Weber County

Terri McCulloch

[terrimcculloch@aol.com](mailto:terrimcculloch@aol.com)

has sample responses to questions about the role of women voters in the 2016 election, where to locate data on women office holders, and other related points.

Be informed and prepared to promote the League's invaluable work during this election season, and to proudly present the League's legacy of nonpartisanship.

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## **Celebrate Important Dates for American Women**

**by Gigi Brandt, VP Programs, LWVUT**

Two dates, August 18 and August 26, are associated with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which gave the vote to women. Tennessee ratified the amendment on August 18 but the ratification was not enrolled until August 26 when it officially became law. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed the law behind closed doors in his own house. He rejected the requests of supporters Carrie Catt and Alice Paul for a public signing of the law in his office because he was concerned about their rivalry.

Tennessee's vote was decided by one person, Rep. Harry Burn, who was convinced to vote yea by his mother.

In 1971, at the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug, Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The bill says that "the president is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote."

In November 1920 more than 8 million women in the U.S. voted in elections for the first time.

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## **The Legislative Action Committee Needs You in September**

**by Nickie Nelson, Legislative Director, LWVUT**

The Legislative Action Committee is a group of League members who closely follow the Utah Legislature. During the formal legislative session, which last for 45 calendar days from the last week of January through mid-March, Action Corps members attend committee meetings and sessions of the House and Senate, report back to members, and ask League members to contact their legislators when legislation affecting League positions is being considered.

During the summer, we attend the Legislature's Interim Committee Meetings each month and report back to Action Corps members. Which

### **Utah League**

#### **Presidents**

Lola Britton

[lolabritton@comcast.net](mailto:lolabritton@comcast.net)

& Peggy Carrico

[plcarrico55@gmail.com](mailto:plcarrico55@gmail.com)

#### **Executive Director**

##### **Emeritus**

Sandy Peck

[sandypeck@xmission.com](mailto:sandypeck@xmission.com)

#### **Office Manager**

Trixi Sieger

[lwwut@xmission.com](mailto:lwwut@xmission.com)

brings me to a request: Can you help out the Legislative Action Committee in September?

September's schedule of Interim meetings is packed full. On Tuesday, September 20, the Education Committee meets at 8:30 a.m.; Legislative Management meets at 1 p.m. and the State Water Development Commission meets at 3 p.m. On Wednesday, September 21, six committees meet in the morning and six in the afternoon. On Thursday, September 22, the Health Reform Task Force and the Utah Tax Review Commission meet in the afternoon. And multiple appropriations meetings occur throughout the week. You can find a detailed schedule of meetings by clicking on Calendar at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov)

It's our goal to have a League member as an observer at each committee meeting. Each should wear a League pin so legislators know we are there observing them as they carry out their duties. We are respected at the Capitol as nonpartisan citizens who take a deep interest in our government. If you can help us out in achieving that goal in September, please contact Vickie Samuelson at 801-750-2217 ([vsam0236@gmail.com](mailto:vsam0236@gmail.com)) or Nickie Nelson at 801-231-7326 ([nickie.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:nickie.nelson@gmail.com)).

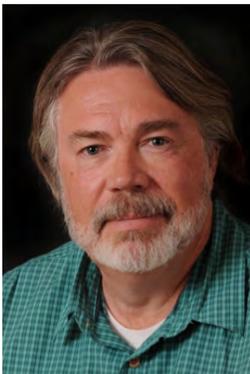
Even if you've never been to the Capitol, or have no idea what is involved, we will help you with details about any aspect of this volunteer work and will find a mentor for you. Besides showing our government representatives that we care about their work, it's fun, educational and brings attention to the League. Come join us in September!

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## We Deserve the Truth in Media

by Kathy Biele, President LWVSL

Do you ever wonder who - or what - you can trust? Is navigating the digital world of media just too confusing? Are you wary of the future of journalism and specifically the newspapers in Utah?



Then you should save the date — Thursday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m. — for an informative and provocative evening with Roger Plothow, vice president of the Adams Publishing Group-Rockies and editor and publisher of four Idaho newspapers, as he takes us through how to assess memes, Facebook, Twitter and our beloved print newspapers.

Join us in the auditorium of Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 E. 4500 South, to find out what is happening with the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News*, as well as other papers around the nation. You may discover that you have been “reading with the choir” rather than finding the facts.

## Voter Registration Deadlines

Here are important deadlines for registering and voting:

Last day to mail in voter registration forms:

**October 8**

Last day to register online or in person: **November 1**

Salt Lake County Early Voting begins: **October 26**

Summit County Early Voting begins: **October 7**

Davis, Grand and Weber are Vote-By-Mail counties so they do not have Early Voting. Ballots will be mailed the week of **October 10**

Election Day: **November 8**

*-Nickie Nelson, Legislative Director League of Women Voters of Utah*

## Sexual Violence in Utah: I Should Care Because...

by Kathy Stockel, President, LWVDavis

The next time you are sitting in a meeting or a theater or standing in line at a grocery store, look at the women sitting or standing near you. Statistically speaking, 1 in 3 Utah women will experience sexual violence sometime during their lifetimes, according to a Utah Health Department study. Another Utah study has the rate even a little higher.

1 in 3! Is it the woman standing in front of you? Is it your friend sitting on your left? Is it you, your daughter or granddaughter?

The fact is that Utah's rate for rape has been higher than the U.S. rate since 2000. This is not just a woman's issue. One out of 50 men reported in that Utah Health Department study that they had experienced rape or attempted rape in their lifetime.

Sometimes we have to face uncomfortable and difficult topics to effect change. Sexual violence is one of those topics.

I care because I was "one" who experienced sexual violence and rape. It has taken many years for me to realize that I must be able to admit that publicly, because so many women aren't in a safe situation and can't safely admit they also are the "one."

I hope that I would care just as strongly about sexual violence if I had never experienced it. And I hope you will care, and will participate in your League unit meetings with consensus. Together we might be able to make a difference. Check out the Sexual Violence Study on our [website](#).

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## Salt Lake Program Promises Thought-Provoking Topics

by Carol Jenson, VP Program, LWVSL

The LWVSL league will kick off an exciting year by hosting the Fall Fete on September 24 honoring longtime member Judi Short. Watch the mail for your invitation. Next up for September are unit meetings discussing "Sexual Violence." An October 13 General Meeting will feature guest presenter Roger Plothow, editor and publisher of four Idaho newspapers, who will tell us "We Get the Media We Deserve - The State of Journalism Today." In November, LWVSL will partner with Salt Lake Acting Company and present the new play "Winter" at a special matinee performance. The performance will be followed by a panel discussion on "End of Life" options. WE MUST HAVE 80 RESERVED AND PAID GUESTS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. LWVSL activities for 2016 will end on December 5 with our Holiday Social Potluck at Three Fountains West Clubhouse. Plan to join other league member that evening at 6 p.m.

## Sexual Violence Study Consensus Questions

1. Should Utah require and/or support a class, or section of a class, for grades 7-12 students on rape prevention, including but not limited to safe dating, abusive behaviors, and grooming victims for assault?
2. Many sex offenders do not receive any treatment until the end of their sentences. Should Utah require that sex offenders receive treatment throughout their incarceration?
3. All adults are legally required to report sexual trauma or abuse of children. Should they be prosecuted for failure to do so?

Click the link to find the [LWVUT Consensus Study. Sexual Violence in Utah](#) on the LWV website.

# Development and the Prison Threaten the Great Salt Lake

by Ann O'Connell, Natural Resources Director, LWVSL

Disclaimer: This is a fast moving issue. Parts of this report may be out-of-date by the time the *Voter* is published.

**Rezoning the Northwest Quadrant:** The LWV of Salt Lake has been following the rezoning of the Northwest Quadrant of Salt Lake City for many years. The oldest reference I can find is 2008 for my involvement but it has been a work in progress since 1984 when the city annexed the area. The LWVSL and environmental groups have been focused on the area between I-80 and the Great Salt Lake which we believe to be of critical importance to the preservation of the lake and its wildlife, most especially the birds of the Western Flyway. Recently the LWVSL has joined others in a letter to the Salt Lake City Commission supporting a zoning plan that we hope will protect the lake's wetlands and nesting sites.



The plan protects the most sensitive habitat and limits future development of the remaining empty space to light industrial with specific restrictions to protect birds. It is expected to be adopted this month. Of course it is not as good as it should be, but it is probably the best possible under all the complicated circumstances. Most of the land is private property. The landowners have been holding on to

their parcels for decades, even generations, with the purpose of making a profit someday. It seems the day has arrived.

**Prison Site:** The latest development near the Great Salt Lake is the prison site that was announced recently. A prison in the right spot might possibly be helpful to protecting the lake. There are promises for control of run-off, light intensities, etc. and we might hope a prison would discourage neighbors. However, the parcel selected is very environmentally fragile and it is simply too close to the lake. Unfortunately it appears that the choice was inspired by hopes of using the supporting infrastructure to inspire other development projects.

If you want to be kept up-to-date on threats to the Great Salt Lake and the prison site, join the Utah League Natural Resources email group. Contact Trixi, LWVUT Office Manager, [lwwut@xmission.com](mailto:lwwut@xmission.com) to sign up.

## Voters Guide Forthcoming

Questions for the 2016 Utah Voters Guide have been emailed to candidates in the November election. Please help us get a good response rate this year by asking your governmental representatives and candidates for office to fill out the electronic questionnaires and send them back to the League. The Voters Guide will be posted on the League website at the end of September.

## League Supports Bears Ears Designation

by Ann O'Connell, Natural Resources Director, LWVSL

The League of Women Voters of Utah wrote to President Obama in support of a national monument designation for the Bears Ears area. If you are puzzled as to why the LWVUT might want to speak out, go to the League of Women Voters of the U.S. positions on the environment. The League gives special consideration for the protection of areas of critical environmental concern, natural hazards, historical importance and aesthetic value (*emphasis mine*). Another statement lists rare or valuable ecosystems and geological formations; significant wildlife habitats; and unique scenic or historic areas. Other wording refers to special responsibility by each level of government for those lands and resources entrusted to them. That is an interesting statement to contemplate here in Utah where the Legislature clearly feels the public lands should be entrusted to themselves.

These words come from the LWVUS *Impact on Issues*, a booklet containing all the national League positions. The topics may be of national importance and scope but keep in mind that the discussion and debate on which the positions are based all happened at the local, grassroots level.

I should add that an impressive number of League members attended the rally in support of a Bears Ears monument designation, some wearing bear's ears. Capitol rallies are fun. Actually the speakers can be a bit tedious, but the audience is always interesting, if not downright entertaining.

You will know more about such events if you belong to the Utah League Natural Resources and Legislative Action email groups. Contact Trixi at the office to sign up, [lwwut@xmission.com](mailto:lwwut@xmission.com).

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## You've Changed Your Lightbulbs ... Now what?

by Carole Straughn, President, LWVSL

Are you among the increasing number of Americans who think global warming is happening (76 percent), or the majority who think it is human caused and are worried or very worried about it? According to research from Yale University, "3 in 10 Americans are willing to join a campaign to convince elected officials to reduce global warming."\* Are you one of them?



If you want to channel your alarm into effective action to curb climate change's real and present dangers — wildfires, shrinking lakes, vanishing snowpack right here on the Wasatch



**Jo Brandt...**

It is with great sadness that the League of Women Voters of Utah says farewell to longtime volunteer and past Salt Lake president, Jo Brandt. She was also the League's first paid employee, although knowing the League's finances were tight, she never put in all her hours. <http://www.premierfuneral.com/obituaries/Joanne-Jo-Brandt#!/Obituary>

Front — join the Salt Lake League’s program to reach out to our representatives in Congress.

Start by calling Natural Resources Director Ann O’Connell (801-363-9046), or call/text Carole Straughn (801-664-5897) to explore how you might help. If you live in Congressional District 2, call Team Leader Kate Randazzo (480-294-4489) to learn more about plans to contact Rep. Chris Stewart.

Then plan to join the LWVSL for lunch on February 2, 2017, as we host the Utah Climate Center’s Dr. Robert Davies presenting the latest on climate change urgency. See big data on snowpack, soil moisture and more for Utah and all of North America. Later that month, go to your Unit meeting to learn how you can effectively engage with your Congressional Office to make a difference.

There is real forward motion toward the political will for a livable future both within the American public and in Congress. Join the Salt Lake League in speeding the momentum.

\*<http://bit.ly/2b9SC1I>

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## October Unit Meetings on Wasatch Front Growth

by Ann O’Connell, Natural Resources Director, LWVSL

A member of the Utah Population and Environment Council will lead a discussion on the costs of population growth at the October unit meetings. They will present a history of UPEC and the difficulty this group has in addressing the topic of population in Utah and explain the two studies UPEC has sponsored: Utah’s Ecological Footprint and Genuine Progress Indicator for Utah.

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is a metric that has been suggested to replace or supplement gross domestic product (GDP) as a measure of economic growth. GPI considers environmental costs, social gains or losses. In other words, it makes value judgments. GDP is a total of the monetary value of all goods and services produced within a nation over a specified period of time whether good or bad. It is totally neutral as to whether the money spent added to human happiness or wellbeing. This will be a very intriguing discussion.



## Utah Population & Environment Council

Promoting a Sustainable Balance with Human Population and the Environment

The LWV of Salt Lake is a founding member of UPEC. For a preview visit their site: <http://www.utahpopulation.org/>

## Assist with March Unit Meetings

The March unit meetings will focus on the Status of Women in Utah, including such issues as equal pay, women in government, and education of women. Considerable information is available on these issues, and we need a committee to put together some discussion materials. Luana Chilelli and Janice Gygi will chair the committee. If you are interested in this topic and have some time to help, please email Luana at [luanachilelli@comcast.net](mailto:luanachilelli@comcast.net) or Janice at [Janice.gygi@uvu.edu](mailto:Janice.gygi@uvu.edu). Thanks in advance for your help.

-Janice Gygi,  
Co-Vice-President Programs,  
LWVSL

## LWV Davis Summer News

by Ann Johnson, Publicity Committee Chair, LWVDavis

The Davis League has had a busy summer. Kathy Stockel taught Rock the Vote Democracy Classes at Rowland Hall in June. She found students very receptive to the message about the importance of voting. 16- and 17-year-olds are allowed to pre-register to vote now. Most filled out registration forms.

Davis and Weber Leagues hosted a table at the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District Garden Fair in June where we shared information from our joint Weber Basin Water Study with fair visitors. We found that area residents are concerned about our water supply and are willing to increase their conservation efforts.

Nickie Nelson attached a big League of Women Voters banner to her 1969 Dodge Dart convertible and entered it at the North Salt Lake car show in June. People who stopped to see the car also learned about the League and were provided the opportunity to register to vote.

Dr. Melissa Hall, manager of the University of Utah's Master of Public Administration Department was guest speaker at our June 11 meeting. She discussed ways to involve college students in political activity and to increase diversity in our organization. At our July board meeting, we structured a plan to use college interns to help increase participation in our Meet the Candidates meetings.

Jo Lynn Wilson attended the Farm Field Day at the Botanical Gardens in June and distributed information about the water study to interested visitors.



League members visited the Botanical Gardens and USU Extension Center in Kaysville August 5th for a tour of the Utah House and environmentally healthy landscaping. We provided bound copies of the Weber Basin Water Study for members of the USU Extension faculty. We also left League brochures and flyers inviting students to our Meet the Candidates meetings.

Mark Molen of the Citizens Climate Lobby explained Carbon Fee and Dividend to LWV-Davis members at our August 13 meeting. See Kathy Stockel's article below for more information.



### Save the Date for 2016 Salt Lake Fall Fete

Saturday September 24  
4-6 p.m.  
at the Home of Nancy  
Young

In honor of Judi Short  
longtime League member,  
Unit Leader,  
And Community Leader  
and Activist

Appetizers and beverages  
will be served.

*Vinegar and Olive Oil  
tasting  
by Redstone Olive Oil*

## LWV Davis County Hears Citizens' Climate Lobby in August

by Kathy Stockel, President, LWV Davis

Mark Molen from Citizens' Climate Lobby spoke to LWV Davis members at their August meeting. "We're the generation that is handing off the planet to the next generation, and I don't feel good about that," he said. Our generation has not done enough for the planet or to control air quality, he believes.



### Citizens' Climate Lobby

The revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend concept was explained, as well as the goal of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide by 50 percent in 20 years. This would be accomplished by placing a steadily rising fee on the greenhouse gas content of fossil fuels, while giving all the revenue collected back to the American people as a monthly dividend. Further, it would provide border

adjustments to ensure fairness and competition for U.S. businesses that trade with countries that don't have similar pricing.

This is expected to provide a price incentive to switch to energy efficient products, would increase private investment in energy efficiency and clean energy, and would lead to clean fuels that are cheaper than fossil fuels. Seven similar bills that contain one or more elements of the Carbon Fee and Dividend program are currently in Congress. Molen expressed the hope that the League of Women Voters would be able to partner with the Citizens' Climate Lobby at some events.

LWV Davis will remain busy with Voter Service from August to October, with voter registration projects and Meet the Candidate events. October 11 is the last day in Davis County to register via mail-in, and November 1 is the last day to register online or at the Davis County Auditor's Office.

Our September 10 regular meeting topic will be the Sexual Violence study and consensus, at 10 a.m. at the Foxboro North Fire Station, 836 W. 1100 North, North Salt Lake.

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## Get Social with the League

Follow, like and friend the League online. The League's website is [lwvut.org](http://lwvut.org). We're on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVUT/>; and on Twitter, @lwvutah; and Instagram, too. Remember to like, share and comment on what you see.

## The Utah Voter

The Utah Voter is a publication of the [League of Women Voters of Utah](#). Submission dates are as follows:

October: September 9  
November: October 14  
December: None  
January: December 16  
February: January 13  
March: February 17  
April: March 17  
May: April 14  
June: May 12

Articles for publication should be sent to [votermaterials@gmail.com](mailto:votermaterials@gmail.com) with the specific topic in the subject line. Please include your official title as author. Photos should be sent in a separate email. Publication is normally a week after submission.

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake  
314 West 300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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### Unit Meetings: Sexual Violence

<p><b>TOWN CLUB UNIT</b> – Wednesday, September 14 - 11:00 A.M. Town Club - 1081 East South Temple Unit Leader – Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193 <a href="mailto:akarsteiner@aol.com">akarsteiner@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>WEST SIDE UNIT</b> – Wednesday, September 28 - 6 to 8 P.M. Hunter Village Club House, 3440 So. Bamburgh Way (6845 W.) West Valley City 84128 Unit Leader – Vickie Samuelson – 801-250-9210 <a href="mailto:vsam0236@gmail.com">vsam0236@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>GIRL SCOUT UNIT</b> – Monday, September 26 - 11 A.M.–12:30 P.M. Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South Unit Leader: Anne Zeigler 801-944-4163 <a href="mailto:abzeigler@centurylink.net">abzeigler@centurylink.net</a></p>	<p><b>SANDY UNIT</b> – Thursday, September 29 – 10:00– 11:30 P.M. Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East Unit Leader - Janice Gygi - 801-550-3585 <a href="mailto:janice.gygi@uvu.edu">janice.gygi@uvu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>NITE OWLS</b> – Monday, September 26 - 7:30 P.M. 862 East Harrison Ave. Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387 <a href="mailto:judi.short@gmail.com">judi.short@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LIBRARY UNIT</b> – Thursday, September 22 - 12:30 P.M. Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 So. 2100 East Unit Leaders – Kathy Fitzgerald 801-521-5790; Carole Straughn – 405-590-6982 <a href="mailto:klrfitzgerald@gmail.com">klrfitzgerald@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>BENCH BUNCH</b> – Wednesday, September 28 - 10:00 A.M. Holladay Library Unit Leader: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118 <a href="mailto:ngmelling2@gmail.com">ngmelling2@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><i>You may attend any of the above unit meetings that fit your time and location. The subject matter will be the same. More information is available on <a href="http://www.lwvutah.org">www.lwvutah.org</a>.</i></p>

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