

**LEGISLATIVE LETTER<sup>®</sup>**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO**

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**January 18, 2010**

**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 of citizens in government and influence public policy issues through education and advocacy. It is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

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 1200 Leagues throughout the U.S. The League of Women Voters of Colorado has over 1600 members in 21 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, Delta County, Montrose County, Denver, Douglas County, Estes Park, Pikes Peak Region, Greeley/Weld County, Pueblo, Gunnison Area, Routt County, and Sterling.

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.

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Financial support for the program area comes from membership, conferences and special events, contributions, 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.

### **ADVOCACY AGENDA 2010**

<b>Government</b>	Fiscal Policy Voting Rights and Elections
<b>Social Policy</b>	Health Care Education/Higher Education

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

<b>League of Women Voters of Colorado</b>		
<b>President</b>	Patricia Cordova	303-863.0437
<b>Legislative Action Chair</b>	Jeannette Hillery	303.494.7718
<b>Staff Lobbyist</b>	Christine Watson	303.250.1796
<b>Staff</b>	Sandy Eid	303.863.0437

## LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2010

### SENATE

President of the Senate	Brandon Shaffer
President Pro-Tem	Betty Boyd
Majority Leader	John Morse
Asst. Majority Leader	Lois Tochtrop
Minority Leader	Josh Penry
Asst. Minority Leader	Greg Brophy
Majority Caucus Chair	Suzanne Williams
Minority Caucus Chair	Mike Kopp

### CAPITOL 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 2638
Office State Planning & Budgeting	303 866 3317

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker of the House	Terrance Carroll
Speaker Pro-Tem	Buffie McFadyen
Majority Leader	Paul Weissmann
Asst. Majority Leader	Andy Kerr
Majority Caucus Chair	Karen Middleton
Majority Whip	Claire Levy
Minority Leader	Mike May
Asst. Minority Leader	David Balmer
Minority Caucus Chair	Amy Stephens
Minority Whip	Cory Gardner

### Toll-free numbers from outside Metro area:

Governor	800 238 7215
Senate	800 473 8136
House	800 811 7647

Legislative Home Page:  
[www.leg.state.co.us/](http://www.leg.state.co.us/)  
View House or Senate  
Floor action on Comcast  
Channel 165.

## 2010 HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

### AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Representatives Fischer (Chair); Pace (Vice-chair); Baumgardner, Curry, C. Gardner, Hullinghorst, Looper, McKinley, Ryden, Solano, Sonnenberg, Tipton, Vigil

Staff: Lauren Ris  
Tues & Wed, Adj.-noon (Rm 0107)  
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0107)  
Fri., 1:00-2:30 (Rm 0107)

### APPROPRIATIONS

Representatives Pommer (Chair); Ferrandino (Vice-chair), Curry, Fischer, B. Gardner, Judd, Kefalas, J. Kerr, Lambert, Pace, Riesberg, Sonnenberg, Vaad

As announced  
Legislative Services Bldg.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR

Representatives Rice (Chair); Gagliardi (Vice-chair); Balmer, Bradford, Casso, A. Kerr, Liston, Middleton, Priola, Soper, Stephens

Staff: Christie Lee  
Tues & Wed, Adj.-noon (Rm 0112)  
Wed. 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0112)

### EDUCATION

Representatives Merrifield (Chair); Solano (Vice-chair); Benefield, Massey, McNulty, Middleton, Murray, Peniston, Scanlan, Schafer, Summers, Tipton, Todd

Staff: Katey McGettrick  
Mon & Thur, 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0112)  
Fri., 2:30-4:00 (Rm 0112)

### FINANCE

Representatives Judd (Chair); Benefield (Vice-chair); DelGrosso, Frangas, Gerou, Kagan, Kefalas, Labuda, Roberts, Summers, Swalm

Staff: Ron Kirk  
Tues & Wed, Adj.-noon (LSB-A)  
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)  
Fri., 1:00-2:30 (LSB-A)

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Representatives Riesberg (Chair); Gagliardi (Vice-chair); Acree, Apuan, Gerou, Kefalas, J. Kerr, Primavera, Roberts, Swalm, Tyler

Staff: Kelly Stapleton  
Mon & Thur, 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)  
Fri., 2:30-4:00 (LSB-A)

### JUDICIARY

Representatives Levy (Chair); McCann (Vice-chair); Court, B. Gardner, Kagan, S. King, Miklosi, Nikkel, Pace, Ryden, Waller

Staff: Jessika Shipley  
Mon & Thur, 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0107)  
Fri., 2:30-4:00 (Rm 0107)

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Representatives Peniston (Chair); Soper (Vice-chair); Acree, Apuan, Bradford, Liston, Massey, McKinley, Priola, Schafer, Vigil

Staff: Raegen Robb  
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0111)  
Thur, Adj.-noon (Rm 0111)  
Fri., 4:00-5:30 (Rm 0111)

### STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representatives Todd (Chair); Labuda (Vice-chair); Casso, Court, DelGrosso, Hullinghorst, McCann, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Waller

Staff: Bo Pogue  
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0112)  
Thur, Adj.-noon (Rm 0112)  
Fri., 4:00-5:30 (Rm 0112)

### TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

Representatives McFadyen (Chair); Frangas (Vice-chair); Baumgardner, Fischer, S. King, Looper, McNulty, Merrifield, Primavera, Tyler, Vaad

Staff: Kurt Morrison  
Tues, 1:30-6:00 (Rm 0107)  
Thur., Adj.-noon (Rm 0107)  
Fri., 4:00-5:30 (Rm 0107)

## 2010 SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

### AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senators Mary Hodge (Chair); Bruce Whitehead, (Vice-chair);  
Greg Brophy, Dan Gibbs, Ted Harvey, Ken Kester, Gail Schwartz

Staff: David Beaujon  
Wed., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 353)  
Thurs., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 353)  
Fri., 2:30 – 4:00 (Rm 353)

### APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Abel Tapia (Chair); Chris Romer (Vice-chair); Bob Bacon, Ted Harvey, Rollie Heath, Mary Hodge, Moe Keller, Keith King, Mike Kopp, Al White

As announced  
Legislative Services Bldg.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### BUSINESS, LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Senators Lois Tochtrop (Chair); Suzanne Williams (Vice-chair);  
Joyce Foster, Ted Harvey, Michael Johnston, Shawn Mitchell,  
Mark Scheffel

Staff: Jennifer Thomsen  
Mon. & Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm 354)  
Tues., 7:30 am – noon (Rm 354)  
Fri., 1:00 – 2:30 (Rm 354)

### EDUCATION

Senators Bob Bacon (Chair); Evie Hudak (Vice-Chair); Rollie Heath, Michael Johnston, Keith King, Mark Scheffel, Nancy Spence, Pat Steadman

Staff: Lauren Sisneros  
Wed., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 354)  
Thurs., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 354)  
Fri., 2:30 – 4:00 (Rm 354)

### FINANCE

Senators Paula Sandoval (Chair); Michael Johnston (Vice-chair);  
Greg Brophy, Evie Hudak, Keith King, Mark Scheffel, Pat Steadman

Staff: Elizabeth Hanson  
Tues., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 354)  
Thurs., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 354)  
Fri., 4:00 – 5:30 (Rm 354)

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senators Betty Boyd (Chair); Linda Newell (Vice-chair); Morgan Carroll, Kevin Lundberg, Shawn Mitchell, Paula Sandoval, David Schulteis

Staff: Elizabeth Burger  
Wed., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 352)  
Thurs., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 352)  
Fri., 2:30 – 4:00 (Rm 352)

### JUDICIARY

Senators Morgan Carroll (Chair); Pat Steadman (Vice-chair); Evie Hudak, Keith King, Kevin Lundberg, Linda Newell, Scott Renfroe

Staff: Hillary Smith  
Mon. & Wed., 1:30-6:00 (Rm 352)  
Tues., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 352)  
Fri., 1:00 – 2:30 (Rm 352)

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENERGY

Senators Gail Schwartz (Chair); Joyce Foster (Vice-chair); Bill Cadman, Mary Hodge, Ken Kester, Kevin Lundberg, Linda Newell

Staff: David Beaujon  
Tues., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 353)  
Thurs., 7:30 am – noon (Rm 353)  
Fri., 4:00 – 5:30 (Rm 353)

### STATE, VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senators Rollie Heath (Chair); Bob Bacon (Vice-chair); Betty Boyd, Bill Cadman, David Schulteis

Staff: Geoff Johnson  
Mon. & Wed., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 353)  
Tues., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 353)  
Fri., 1:00 – 2:30 (Rm 353)

### TRANSPORTATION

Senators Dan Gibbs (Chair); Suzanne Williams (Vice-chair); Mike Kopp, Scott Renfroe, Nancy Spence, Lois Tochtrop, Bruce Whitehead

Staff: Kelli Kelty  
Tues., 1:30 – 6:00 (Rm 352)  
Thurs., 7:30-9 am; Adj. – noon (Rm 352)  
Fri., 4:00 – 5:30 (Rm 352)

## DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2010 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 13	<b>General Assembly convenes.</b>
January 29	Deadline for introduction of <b>Senate</b> bills.
February 3	Deadline for introduction of <b>House</b> bills, except the Long Bill
February 18	Deadline for <b>Senate</b> committees of reference to report <b>Senate</b> bills.*
February 25	Deadline for <b>House</b> committees of reference to report <b>House</b> bills.*
March 3	Deadline for final passage of <b>Senate</b> bills in the <b>Senate</b> .*
	Deadline for final passage of <b>House</b> bills in the <b>House</b> .*
March 26	Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house.*
March 29	Deadline for introduction of the Long Bill in the <b>House</b> .
April 2	Deadline for final passage of Long Bill in the <b>House</b> .*
April 5	Deadline for final passage in the <b>Senate</b> of all bills originating in the <b>House</b> .*
April 9	Deadline for final passage of Long Bill in the <b>Senate</b> .
April 12	Deadline for final passage in the <b>House</b> of all bills originating in the <b>Senate</b> .
April 16	Deadline for adoption of conference committee report on Long Bill.
	Deadline for Appropriations Committee in house of introduction to report bills referred to Appropriations Committee.
April 23	Deadline for final passage in house of introduction of all bills referred to Appropriations Committee in that house.
April 29	Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house to the Appropriations Committee
May 3 Committee.	Deadline for Appropriations Committee in second house to report bills referred to Appropriations
May 6	Deadline for final passage in second house of all bills referred to Appropriations Committee in that house.
May 12	<b>Adjournment sine die.</b> (The General Assembly can meet for no more than 120 calendar days. The past few sessions have adjourned early by a few days; thus while the session must conclude by midnight on May 12, it may do so earlier.)

\* All bills in the Appropriations Committee in either house on the day of the asterisked deadline are excluded from the deadline until the 94<sup>th</sup> legislative day (April 16, 2010)

## ***GOVERNMENT***

### **REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE**

#### **CONTRACEPTION COVERAGE PROPOSED**

**HB1021 Required Coverage Reproductive Services (Reps Frangas and McCann; Senator Foster) (support)** was recommended by the Health Care Task force. It proposes that all small group and individual sickness and accident insurance policies be required to insure against the expense of pregnancy, childbirth and contraceptive services in the same way that most large group and most small group policies now do. This would comply with federal regulations. This bill does not require coverage for abortion. The bill has been assigned to the Business Affairs and Labor Committee and has not yet been calendared for hearing.

Carolyn Engelken 303.750.0949

### **VOTING RIGHTS**

#### **READABILITY ENDORSED**

**HB 1047 Readability of Statewide Ballot Titles (Reps. Court and Murray; Sen. White) (support)** This bill would establish a uniform style for statewide ballot titles for initiated and referred measures beginning with the 2011 statewide election. There are four major changes presented in this bill. (1) In ballot verbiage, it would replace the phrase "and, in connection therewith", with the word "that." (2) The central features of the ballot issue would be presented in a list rather than in paragraph style. (3) Indented bullets at the beginning of each item in the list would be used. (4) The bill would expand the simple "yes" and "no" response to a ballot title. "YES" would designate you are for the amendment/proposition and "NO" would designate you are against the amendment/proposition. The bill is now in the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee and will be heard January 21.

Vicki Harimon 303.770.8738

## ***SOCIAL POLICY***

### **CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

#### **BILL TO CONTINUE THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCED**

**SB 43 EXTEND REPEAL OFFICE CHILD REP (Sen. White; Rep. Pommer) (support)** continues the Office of the Child's Representative Act for another 10 years.

The Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) is responsible for improving the quality of the work of the Guardians Ad Litem who represent the best interests of children in dependency and neglect, delinquency, domestic relations, paternity, truancy and probate cases. The office creates practice standards and provides oversight and training for the GALs. Since the OCR was established, there has been an increase in the quality and effectiveness of representation for the children in court.

The bill has been assigned to Senate Judiciary and will be heard on January 20.

Carla Bennett 303.757.2930

### **EDUCATION**

#### **BILL ON FAST TRACK TO FACILLITATE "RACE TO THE TOP" APPLICATION**

Race to the Top grant applications are due to the Federal Department of Education the week of January 18. While Colorado has many important features already in place (e.g., student outcome objectives, assessment in key subject areas, and a longitudinal growth model), many felt that the position could be strengthened by adding a plan to study effectiveness of teacher preparation programs.

Introduced on January 13, opening day, **SB 36 Program Results For Educator Preparation (Sen. Johnston; Rep. Merrifield) (support)** will not impact the State budget because it anticipates using funds from a federal grant to carry out the

study. Colorado Department of Education is not obligated to implement the study until sufficient funds are available. The bill requires CDE to prepare an annual report, starting July of 2011, on the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs using data collected on all educators during the first three years of placement (current probationary period). The report will be available to the public on the CDE website.

SB 36 sped through the Senate. By the end of January 13, the Senate Education Committee had heard and amended the bill, voting unanimously to send it to Senate Appropriations where it passed on a vote of 8 to 2 (Harvey & Kopp voted No); then back to the Senate floor for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. Early on January 14, SB 36 passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading by the Senate with a vote of 27 Yes, 7 No, and 2 Excused.

Speed was no less impressive in the House. On January 14, SB 36 was introduced, reviewed by the House Ed Committee where it again passed unanimously, and moved to the floor for second reading that day. On January 15, the bill passed third reading in the House by a large margin, 50 Yes, 11 No, and 4 Excused. The Governor signed the bill on January 15.

Catherine Felknor 303.494.7199

### Senate Vote

YES	26	NO	7	EXCUSED	2	ABSENT	0
Bacon	Y	Hodge	Y	Morse	Y	Spence	Y
Boyd	Y	Hudak	Y	Newell	Y	Steadman	Y
Brophy	N	Johnston	Y	Penry	Y	Tapia	Y
Cadman	N	Keller	Y	Renfroe	N	Tochtrop	Y
Carroll M.	Y	Kester	Y	Romer	Y	White	Y
Foster	Y	King K.	Y	Sandoval	E	Whitehead	Y
Gibbs	E	Kopp	N	Scheffel	Y	Williams	Y
Harvey	N	Lundberg	N	Schultheis	N	President	Y
Heath	Y	Mitchell	Y	Schwartz	Y		

### House Vote

YES	50	NO	11	EXCUSED	4	ABSENT	0
Acree	Y	Gerou	N	McFadyen	Y	Ryden	Y
Apuan	Y	Hullinghorst	Y	McKinley	Y	Scanlan	Y
Balmer	Y	Judd	Y	McNulty	Y	Schafer S.	Y
Baumgardner	N	Kagan	Y	Merrifield	Y	Solano	E
Benefield	Y	Kefalas	Y	Middleton	Y	Sonnenberg	E
Bradford	E	Kerr A.	Y	Miklosi	Y	Soper	Y
Casso	Y	Kerr J.	N	Murray	Y	Stephens	N
Court	Y	King S.	Y	Nikkel	N	Summers	Y
Curry	Y	Labuda	Y	Pace	Y	Swalm	Y
DelGrosso	Y	Lambert	N	Peniston	Y	Tipton	Y
Ferrandino	Y	Levy	Y	Pommer	Y	Todd	Y
Fischer	Y	Liston	N	Primavera	Y	Tyler	Y
Frangas	Y	Looper	Y	Priola	Y	Vaad	Y
Gagliardi	Y	Massey	Y	Rice	E	Vigil	Y
Gardner B.	Y	May	N	Riesberg	Y	Waller	N
Gardner C.	N	McCann	Y	Roberts	Y	Weissmann	N
						Speaker	Y