Complying with the Lobby Law (Art. 6252-9c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)

Each state board program chair and the legislative director should register as a League lobbyist before the legislative session, even though she may never spend League money in the reportable categories (postage, telegraph, publication, printing, and reproduction, entertainment, gifts and loans) to influence legislation.

The legislative director will decide whether or not individual capitol corps members and the legislative office secretary should register and instruct them accordingly If they are not registered, they must never spend League money or cause the League to spend money on direct communication with members of the legislative or executive branches of government. If the capitol corps member simply acts as a messenger and delivers material from the program chair to a legislator, the cost of the material delivered (if paid for by the League) must be reported by the program chair.

TO REGISTER

1. Complete registration form as shown on sample (forms and sample at leg. office).
2. Make sure attachments A and B are included.
3. Have signature witnessed by notary public. (Notaries in the Secretary of State's Office will perform this service as long as they are not besieged by hordes of applicants.)
4. File or mail form and attachments to: Ms. Terry R. Goodman, Director, Enforcement Division, Office of Secretary of State, Capitol Bldg., Austin, TX 78711.

TO REPORT

1. Complete form as shown on sample between the 1st and 10th day of each month the legislature is in session; otherwise, every three months.
2. If you have not been reimbursed for any expenditures made or have not had the state League spend money in the reportable categories, write zeros in the appropriate places.
3. If you have given a member of the executive or legislative branches xeroxed copies of testimony of League publications or any such material for which the League has paid, with the intent of influencing legislation, obtain a statement of the cost of the material from the state office for your files and report it on the form. These expenditures do not have to be itemized, but you should be able to produce the documentation if it is ever requested.
4. If you send a telegram or other written communication to influence legislation, its cost will have to be reported.
5. If you buy a meal for a member of the executive or legislative branches in order to talk about pending legislation, be sure to report it if the League reimburses you for the meal. You never know whether that person will report it under HB 1 or HB 4.
   (HB 1 is an act requiring certain state officers and employees to file financial statements every year covering certain interests, activities, and gifts.)
   (HB 4 is an act requiring disclosure of campaign finance activities of candidates, political committees, and office-holders.)
6. Each report must be notarized before it is filed.

TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION

1. If you do not contemplate any additional lobbying activity after the legislative session, fill out a Termination Notice Form (sample in leg. office) and have it notarized.
2. You will have to file a report covering activities up to the time of termination at the appropriate time.

(over)

REMINDERS

If you are registered as a lobbyist, you may not go on the floor of either house of the legislature while that house is in session, except on invitation of that house. (Sometimes a legislator may not be able to leave the floor to confer with you, and without thinking, send word that you should come there. Both of you will be in trouble if you go on the floor.)

If you do not file the reports as required, you may have to pay the state an amount three times the amount that would have been reported, plus court costs.

CAPITOL CORPS

The capitol corps is an off-board committee of the League of Women Voters of Texas. It is composed of League members who live in or near Austin and who have agreed to act as observers and information gatherers for the state board, program chairs, and the legislative director. What the corps accomplishes and reports is often the key to successful League legislative efforts. The corps may have a chair who, working in close cooperation with the legislative director, will oversee the activities of the corps members.

1. Corps members will be assigned according to interest to one or more program items and will work closely with program chairs. A portfolio of pertinent information (League publications, background material, program positions, previous League action, testimony) is on file for each program area in the League office. Each corps member should become familiar with the material in the portfolio assigned.

2. The corps members' major role is that of observers, attending and reporting on hearings, committee meetings, or legislative sessions. The member not only reports on the substance of the meetings, but also the attitudes shown by the participants, the relative strength of supporters or opponents of bills, the tension at the meeting (or lack of it). Member may act as liaison between the state board and the legislators and their staffs, answering questions or explaining general League position, and may lobby at the direction of the legislative director or program chair. On occasion, the member may be requested to read testimony prepared by the program chair, but is not authorized to answer specific questions arising from the testimony.

3. Another important responsibility is that of gathering information on important bills for the legislative director or program chair. Legislative director and/or capitol corps member will investigate possible sources of such material -- agencies, committee staffs, and legislators' offices. This material would include section-by-section analyses of bills, legislative histories of bills (introduced before? same sponsors? previous amendments? supported or opposed by which interest groups? what changes in legislature (including key committees) since last introduction?), copies of companion bills and the name(s) of sponsors. Austin newspapers and conversations with reporters and representatives of other interest groups often yield a great deal of information about the amount of support or opposition a specific bill has. Such information should be sent directly to the program chair.

4. The capitol corps members will also be expected to help plan strategy on particular bills and may also be asked to help prepare newsletters, action alerts, and testimony because of the member's understanding of current events. They should also help maintain the current file of information on individual legislators, adding to the file when additional information is obtained.

TO: LL Presidents; State Unit Chairs; DPM

FROM: Evelyn Bonavita, LWV-TX Leg. Dir. &
ADV Ctte. Chr.
[redacted]

LWV-Texas
July 1987
LL Pres. Mailing; DPM
I. D. 2. a.
State Board Lists &
Committees

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Advocacy Committee (ADV) will work closely with the Citizen Education Committee on the state board, with some members transferring from one to the other as conditions warrant. When the legislature is not in session, or when studies are underway, the Citizen Education Committee will probably be more active than Advocacy.

Between sessions the legislature frequently sets up committees which study issues that will be of concern to the next legislature. For instance, the League participated in study committees on hazardous waste, re-codification of the election laws, and judicial selection in recent interims. When such committees issue their reports, their recommendations frequently are the basis for proposed legislation during the next session. The ADV Committee plans to follow interim committees on issues of most concern to the League.

The Advocacy Committee also will track rule-making by agencies on issues on which we have positions, and we will follow the sunset process as well. The Texas Education Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the Human Relations Commission are among the agencies which will be "up for sunset" during the next two years. Frequently the League comments on proposed changes in the laws that regulate state agencies, and the best time to address needed changes is during the sunset process.

It is important for the League to maintain a presence in the state Capitol at all times. Organizations that arrive to lobby only during legislative sessions cannot preserve contacts which are made at that time and have to begin anew every time the legislature comes to town.

As 1989 approaches, the Advocacy Committee will propose legislative priorities for the next session to the state board, as well as subjects for advocacy papers. Furthermore, we will be vital participants in planning Women's Legislative Days with other organizations, and this major women's lobby event will take place as the 71st Legislature gets underway.

# # # # #

NON-PROFIT ORG.
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 144

legislative newsletter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of TEXAS
1212 GUADALUPE, NO. 109 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
512 472-1156 bill STATUS 1-800-252-9693

Vol. 1, No. 1
January 1, 1983

Evelyn Bonavita
Legislative Director

JUDGES, JUDGES, JUDGES

HB 49, WRIGHT OPPOSE

Provides for non-partisan election of all judges except municipal judges and constitutional county judges.

SB 28, FARABEE OPPOSE

Provides for non-partisan nomination and election of all judges except justices of the peace, municipal judges and constitutional county judges. "Nominations" would be made by the people voting in the primary elections where there are more than two persons qualified to be put on the ballot for a given judicial office. Persons would qualify by paying the filing fee or filing a petition signed by a prescribed number of voters by the deadline. If only one or two persons qualified for a particular judicial office signs up by the filing deadline for the primary elections, the names of those candidates would not appear on the primary ballot but on the ballot for the general election.

The position of LWV-T, which applies only to appellate judges at this writing, call for appointment of judges from a short list of candidates supplied by a nominating commission. The purpose of the nominating commission is to ensure that the candidates are well-qualified for judicial office and are not criminals. We favor non-partisan and non-competitive elections at the end of the terms of the appointed judges. Non-partisan competitive elections would lengthen and complicate the ballot. The list of judicial candidates would have to be added to both party ballots and there would have to be separate non-partisan ballots for those persons wanting to vote in the non-partisan elections without voting in a party primary. It would be necessary for judicial candidates to spend more time raising money and campaigning than they do presently without the name identification and financial support of the parties.

SAMPLE

RESOURCE RECOVERY ON THE WAY?

The subject of the pending legislation is comprehensive municipal solid waste management and resource recovery and conservation, and in general the bill, which will be sponsored by Senator John Traeger (Seguin), will:

1. Set forth state policy on resource recovery.
2. Establish a municipal solid waste management planning fund composed of money provided by legislative appropriation to assist public agencies in management plans and screening, feasibility and planning studies.
3. Establish applied research and technical assistance funds.
4. Create a 15-member advisory council, composed of 6 elected officials from cities and counties; 1 representative of a private environmental conservation organization; 2 representatives of a public solid waste district or authority; 1 representative of a municipal solid waste regional planning agency; 1 member of the financial community; 1 representative of the commercial operators; 1 member of the Texas Board of Health; and 2 members representing the public.
5. Establish solid waste management service as a utility.

"LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS... DIDN'T LIKE YOUR ABORTION VOTE... STRICTLY ISSUES-ORIENTED... CHARM WON'T WORK!"

6. Authorize public agencies to enter into long-term contracts.
7. Outline procedures for public financing of large-scale projects.
8. Provide for waste-stream control.
9. Establish sales and property tax exemptions.

D.C. AMENDMENT SUBMITTED

Representative Senfronia Thompson of Houston has pre-filed a bill, HJR 17, which would mandate Texas' ratification of the U.S. Constitutional amendment to allow the District of Columbia voting representation in Congress. The LWV supports this legislation.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM THREATENED

In 1979 when the Peveto property tax reform bill passed the Texas legislature, the LWV hailed the event as a major step forward in property tax administration in the state. We were also pleased when shortly thereafter the voters approved a constitutional amendment bringing the counties into the single appraisal districts created by the Peveto bill. The League believed then, and continues to believe, that this legislation will lead to greater equity and efficiancy in our property tax system. However, there is no denying that many problems have arisen during the transition and implementation of the single appraisal districts and that patience will be needed if the problems are to be addressed in a well-considered manner.

In the 1981 legislative session these problems led a number of legislators to call for the repeal of the reform bill. After that and other attempts to weaken the system failed, "fine-tuning" legislation was finally passed during the 1981 Special Session. Unfortunately, it is almost certain that another major assault is being planned for the 1983 session. The LWV Legislative Newsletter will be exploring the reasons for the assault, the impact proposed changes would have, and will provide you with ammunition for the battle. This will be essential as almost one-third of the "troops" in the House and Senate are new and are going to need a lot of "basic training."

This has been a sample of the Legislative Newsletter subscribers will be receiving weekly during the 1983 session of the 68th Legislature. Send in your subscription today so you can keep up to date on LWV issues and priorities.

---

action packed POLITICS

TO: LWV-Texas
1212 Guadalupe, #109
Austin, Texas 78701

Please send me _____subscriptions to the Legislative Newsletter @ $10.00 each.

_____ _____
(League name) (Name of recipient)

_____
(Address) (Zip)

Remember, the session starts on January 11, so send in your order blank as soon as possible.

Legislative Newsletter
next time

Sample
ad in
local Voters -
start earlier -
use state Voter
tell again local
Leagues not to put
anything from L. newsletter
in Voter

Clark said, "Earmarking tax money for specific purposes shortcuts responsible fiscal planning. It denies future legislatures the flexibility needed to meet changing state needs. Texas deserves a better plan for managing its water resources than this pig-in-the-poke amendment."

CONTACT: Catherine Perrine, Water Issues
[redacted]
or

memorandum

League of Women Voters of Texas

1212 Guadalupe Suite 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

Evelyn -

Diane Sheridan found it. Sent me this. You will remember that it is done in same form (annually) at the beginning of each session. She's right when she thinks it's a good idea for new Leaguers - we always have them. I'm sending it "for what it's worth".

Jeanette

got idea? esp. for new Leaguers

Profile: State Program

GLOSSARY on TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Engrossment defined by Black's Law Dictionary as copying a bill in a large fair hand on parchment.

Bills
Local--affects a local entity.
Special--allows exemptions to certain person or group.
Private--to an individual class or corporation giving as an example, permission to sue state.
House--originates in House of Representatives.
Senate--originates in Senate.
Joint Resolution--Constitutional amendments, passed by 2/3 of each house, not signed by governor, ratified by the voters.
Concurrent Resolution--action by both houses is required, and signed by governor.

First Reading By caption or title, after recognition on floor to introduce the bill.

Second Reading After reports from committee, in its final form. Vote on second reading is to engrossment, ready for third and final reading.

Third Reading By caption or title only, for final passage.

Conference Committee Formed of five members of the Senate, five Representatives of the House. A bill is sent from one house in final form, and amended by the house receiving it. If the originating house does not accept the amendment, the bill is then submitted to the conference committee in efforts to make it acceptable to both houses. Each contingent votes separately. Three members of either could kill or veto anything in the bill. Conference Committees have not limited themselves to adjustment of actual differences in House and Senate versions of Bills. Have often entirely rewritten legislation, within the broad limits of captions.

Texas Legislative Council Created by Legislature in 1949, made up of 10 Representatives, 5 Senators appointed by presiding officers who also serve as ex-officio members. Lt. Gov. is Chairman of the Council, the Speaker is vice-chairman.

LBB?

Texas Research League Supported by the business community as an aid to the legislature in drafting and researching legislation.

Texas Legislative Service Supported by lobbyists, as an aid to the Legislature in drafting and researching legislation.

Lobby Any attempt to influence legislation is a lobby. Almost every economic and interest group does maintain lobbies in Austin.

Lobby Control 1957 Lobby Control Law, requires all pressure group representatives to file a report with the chief clerk of the House. Includes name, occupation, whom they represent, and a brief description of the legislation in which they are interested. Must file expenditure statements each month legislature is in session.

"Third House" A title given to the lobbying groups, indicating the importance of their actions in the formation of legislation.

Save and bring to Feb. 23 General Meeting

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE - Fact Sheet

Functions: Six in number, as follows:

- **Legislative:** Enacts laws under which Texans live.
- **Constitutional:** Originates changes in state Constitution; ratifies amendments to federal Constitution.
- **Executive:** Senate must approve Governor's appointments to various boards and judicial posts.
- **Electoral:** Canvasses returns in elections of executive officers; decides contests in elections for these officers.
- **Judicial:** Each house is judge of qualifications and election of its members; may discipline members and outsiders for disorderly conduct in its presence; may impeach (present formal charges against) executive officers and judges, who are then tried by Senate. (This function seldom exercised.)
- **Apportionment:** Determines boundaries of Congressional and Texas House and Senate districts.

Structure: Texas Legislature bicameral (2 houses)

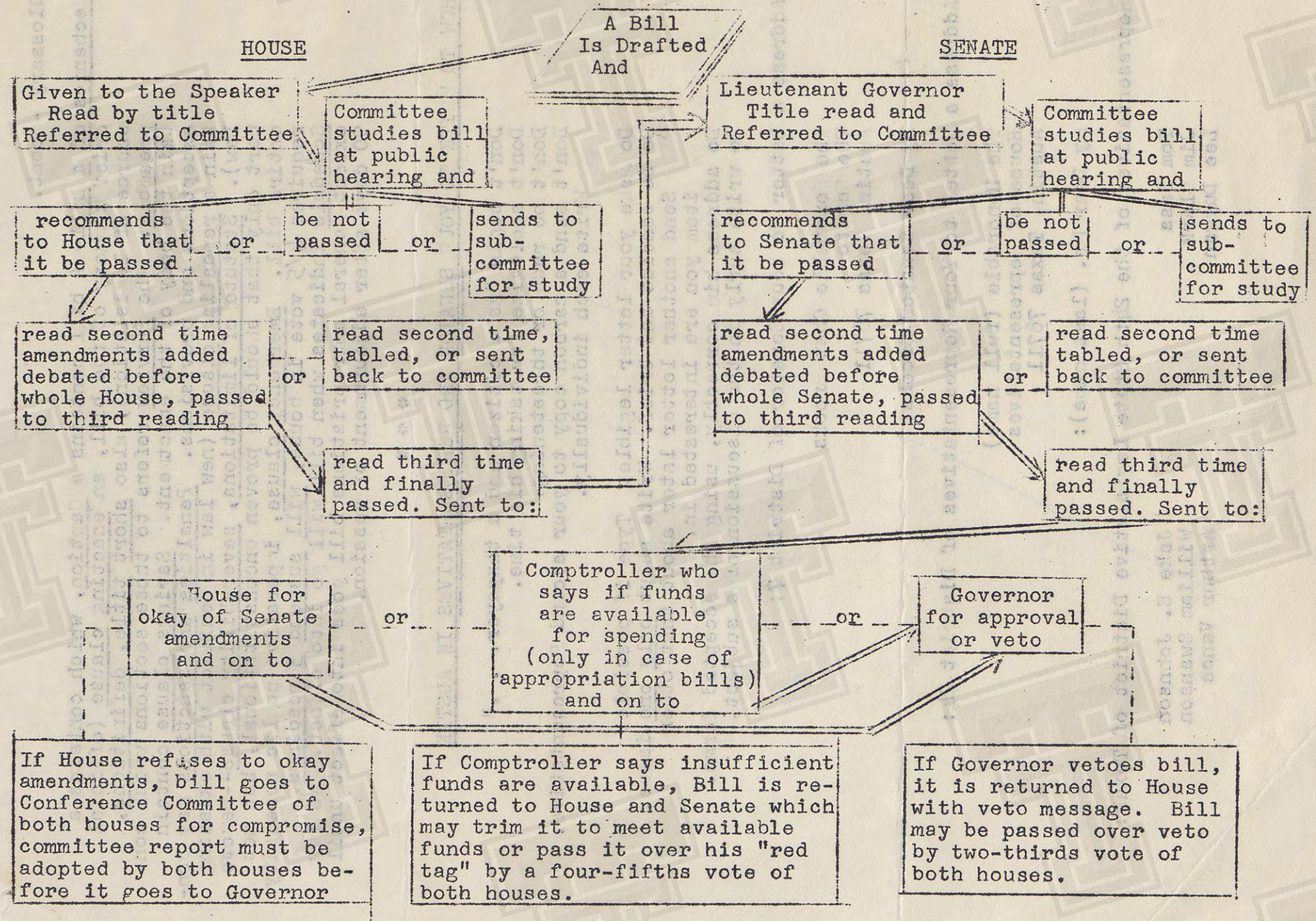
- **SENATE:** 31 members; Lieutenant Governor is President (presides)
  - **Term of office:** 4 years.
  - **Qualifications:** At least 26 years old, resident of Texas 5 years and of district one year immediately preceding election; must be U.S. citizen, and qualified Texas elector.
  - **Salary:** $4800 per year, plus $12 per day for first 120 days of regular session and 30 days of each special session, plus 10¢ per mile for travel to and from Austin each session.
  - **Office expenses:** 3 to 4 full time secretaries plus drawing account from $2,000 to $3,000 each biennium for expenses of operating office.
- **HOUSE:** 150 members; presiding officer is Speaker, elected by House members from their number.
  - **Term of office:** 2 years.
  - **Qualifications:** At least 21 years old, resident of Texas 2 years. Otherwise same as for Senators.
  - **Salary:** Same as for Senators.
  - **Office Expenses:** 1 full time, 1 part time secretary, plus drawing account $11 to $1300 per biennium.

Sessions:

- **Types:** **Regular:** Biennial; meet in odd numbered years; convene second Tuesday in January; may not exceed 140 days in length.
  Special: Convene at call of Governor; may consider only business named in call or later submitted by Governor; may not exceed 30 days in length; may not consider constitutional amendments.
- **Format:** Constitution states: Introduce bills first 30 days, hold hearings second 30 days, consider and act on bills following 60 days; each house may determine its own order of business by 4/5 vote. Latter provision has always been invoked, and rules adopted which permit introduction of bills during first 60 days, and even later under certain circumstances.

SUGGESTED READING: THE TEXAS VOTER, September 1966; TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW, LWV of Texas, Revised, 1966 (You all have it.); TEXAS ALMANAC, 1966-67.

Further bibliography available at the Feb. 23 meeting.


A Bill Is Drafted And
HOUSE
SENATE
Given to the Speaker Read by title Referred to Committee
Committee studies bill at public hearing and
Lieutenant Governor Title read and Referred to Committee
Committee studies bill at public hearing and
recommends to House that it be passed
or
be not passed
or
sends to sub-committee for study
recommends to Senate that it be passed
or
be not passed
or
sends to sub-committee for study
read second time amendments added debated before whole House, passed to third reading
or
read second time, tabled, or sent back to committee
read second time amendments added debated before whole Senate, passed to third reading
or
read second time tabled, or sent back to committee
read third time and finally passed. Sent to:
read third time and finally passed. Sent to:
House for okay of Senate amendments and on to
or
Comptroller who says if funds are available for spending (only in case of appropriation bills) and on to
or
Governor for approval or veto
If House refuses to okay amendments, bill goes to Conference Committee of both houses for compromise, committee report must be adopted by both houses before it goes to Governor
If Comptroller says insufficient funds are available, Bill is returned to House and Senate which may trim it to meet available funds or pass it over his "red tag" by a four-fifths vote of both houses.
If Governor vetoes bill, it is returned to House with veto message. Bill may be passed over veto by two-thirds vote of both houses.

Glossary - cont.

Mechanics of a Bill- A bill contains a Caption, which contains a brief summary of the bill, an enacting clause (official source of legislation); also short title, definitions, preamble. The Purview refers to those sections which contain the body of the enactment. Savings clause contain exceptions and provisions. Penalties and sanctions may contain a repealing clause (new law in conflict with existing law). Statute of limitations, severability clause--remove part only that should be proven unconstitutional, but not entire bill. Emergency clause, imperative public necessity requires 4/5 vote in house, will suspend 3 readings. Schedule indicates when bill will go into effect. No law except general appropriations bill goes into effect until 90 days after adjournment of session.

* * *

HOW TO WRITE TO YOUR SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES IN AUSTIN

Don't begin "As a citizen and a taxpayer. . ."
Don't apologize for taking his time.
Don't be rude or threatening.
Don't send a carbon copy to your second Representative.
Write each individually.

Do make your letter legible. Type if possible.
Do be concise and brief. Write about only one issue.
Send another letter later about that other item you are interested in.
Do address him correctly, using the accepted forms.
Do write early in the discussion of a subject.

Address a Letter To Your Senator of District 7:

The Honorable Chet Brooks
The Senate
Austin, Texas 78711

My Dear Senator Brooks:

Address a Letter to Your Representatives of District 24:

The Honorable (full name)
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

My Dear Mr. (last name):

Representatives of the 24th State Legislative District of Texas:

Tom Bass
Jim Clark
Lee Duggan
Jake E. Johnson
William Swanson
Arthur Vance

Evelyn

Ideas for next session.

Keep list of aides to key legislators + their strengths + views.

Also, Committee staff people.

When leaving offices of legislators, always sit down and write up something of the conversation so you'll have something to refer to later.

League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund
1212 Guadalupe, #109
Austin, Texas 78701

February 5, 1980

1980 Questionnaire for Candidates for Office of Railroad Commissioner

Name _____ Party _____

Address _____

Business or Campaign Address _____

Telephone Number ( ) _____
Area Code

1) Please describe your training and experience that qualify you for this office. (Word limit of 50 words for answer to this question.)

2) What should be the role of the Texas Railroad Commission with respect to the national energy problem? (Word limit of 100 words for answer to this question.)

3) What are the three most urgent issues facing the Railroad Commission and how

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1. Workshop for program chairs about a month before session starts with Pres., Leg. Dir., and Program VP to help directors know exactly what will be expected of them during the session.

2. A form should be devised for program directors to fill out for each bill they want the LO to follow.

3. A form should be made to help LO keep track of all testimonies, letters, etc. This would make the lobby report easier to do, and would also help to keep track of budget expenses.

4. Use word processer to keep track of bills---it would put them in order and updates could be made much more easily.

5. It would be more efficient if the program directors kept track of their own bills. There are too many for the legislative secretary to efficiently keep of track of-- when I first started calling bill status it would sometimes take me two or three days to complete the list. By that time, some of the bills had changed status already and it was already time to start over. Also, so many bills' status didn't change that it was a waste of time to keep asking about them. If a form were made up for the director's to list the status of their bills to send in with their weekly newsletter contributions, the secretary could then transfer the information to the word processor (or whatever system is being used to keep track of bills). Also, it would help the LO have a better idea of which bills were being kept track of. The LO would still be in charge of notifying directors of hearings, etc., that were coming up on the bills being followed.

LWV of Texas
September, 1978
I. A. 2.
Administration
Action - State
State Board, Capitol Corps

LWV-T Legislative Office
1212 Guadalupe, #109
Austin, TX 78701

POLICY GUIDE FOR LWV-T LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

This policy guide is intended to aid the capitol corps, staff, program chairs, legislative director, and others concerned with implementing LWV-T program. Its contents may not be divulged to nonmembers or to the general public. It will be revised before each legislative session.

General Organization

All major policy decisions concerning program priorities and their implementation either during the session or the interim are made by the state board. The making of decisions concerning support of, or opposition to, specific legislation or those concerning strategy is delegated by the state board to a legislative committee composed of the president, the program vice-president, the legislative director, and the program chair concerned. Its decisions are subject to review by the state board.

This committee is also charged by the state board with maintaining an orderly legislative operation to insure a smooth flow of information and coordinated action among the persons involved in legislative activity.

Procedure for scrutiny of, decision, and action on legislation

1. Program chairs may have drafts of bills that may be introduced during the session. They should inform the legislative director that they have the bills so there will be no duplication of effort in securing copies. The legislative director should also know about any state or local League activity or testimony during the interim before legislative committees. Copies of testimony must be sent to the state office.

2. Procedure for new bills or complete committee substitutions that committee chairs have not seen and reviewed:

   a. The legislative office will scan the titles of new bills introduced daily during the session, note those of League interest and obtain copies.

   b. These copies will be sent immediately to the appropriate program chair, who will (by return mail, if possible) identify the bills that must be carefully watched and those that are of low priority. Capitol corps members will be notified about the important bills and encouraged to obtain copies and familiarize themselves with their features. They should also seek out, on behalf of the program chair, any available analyses of an important bill, background material such as its legislative history, the identity and strength of supporters and opponents, who is carrying its companion bill, if any, etc. This information should be sent to program chairs as it is obtained.

   c. Program chairs will read each important bill carefully and, as soon as possible after receipt, write a summary including the following information:
      (1) Identification of the bill by Senate or House number, a descriptive title, and its chief sponsor or sponsors.
      (2) The problem the bill addresses.
      (3) The solution it proposes.

(over)

(4) The pros and cons of the solution.
(5) How the bill fits League program positions.

This summary may be used in whole or in part in the Legislative Newsletter. It should, therefore, be succinct and written in a form that can be easily used by local League members who contact their legislators. Refer to Report from the Hill for style.

d. Program chairs must prepare, in addition, a report to the executive committee that will be used as the basis for decision making. This report should include:
(1) For a complex bill, a section-by-section analysis, if available.
(2) If pertinent, past League activity of support or opposition, as well as its legislative history.
(3) The extent to which it implements or negates League position.
(4) The potential effect of the proposed legislation.
(5) The feasibility of the bill's passage. (Consider its prospects in committee, the governor). PLEASE SEE #6 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING "f" BELOW

e. Program chairs and legislative director are responsible for maintaining a program item legislative office file for the use of the legislative director, capitol corps and program chairs. It should contain all publications, positions, previous actions and testimony regarding that item, and should be updated frequently.

f. A lobby log should be kept and program chairs, state board members, legislative director, capitol corps should note when legislators or other state officials were visited for substantive lobbying or interviews. Substantive notes of any such visits should be put in the program item legislative office file (or the legislator's file).

(6) (Follows #5 from above) Recommended position:
____Support the bill
____Support the bill with amendments. (Write out each League-proposed amendment in full with reasons for advancing it. Describe the means by which it may be introduced -- at a committee hearing, through a particular legislator in committee or on the floor, etc.)
____Support the concept, but not the bill specifically. (Because the League has a strong position on the issue, we might want to support the intent of the bill, even though it does not have even a remote chance of passage. Perhaps a letter from the president to the sponsor expressing this support would be sufficient. This gesture might cause the legislator to vote for bills for which we are actively lobbying. Coordinating follow-up is crucial.)
____Oppose the bill.
____No position. (For the legislative executive committee to come to this decision would mean that the cons outweigh the pros, but active opposition or an attempt at amendment might be either futile or harmful to our cause. It does not mean that the bill is of low interest to the League, and if circumstances change, the bill will be reconsidered.)

3. Meetings for short-range strategy planning for specific bills will be called by the legislative director whenever necessary and will include, in addition to the legislative director, the appropriate program chair, and the appropriate capitol corps members. Implementation may occur only with the approval of the program vice-president and/or president.

Complying with the Lobby Law (Art. 6252-9c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)

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TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION

1. If you do not contemplate any additional lobbying activity after the legislative session, fill out a Termination Notice Form (sample in leg. office) and have it notarized.
2. You will have to file a report covering activities up to the time of termination at the appropriate time.

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5. When a bill is due for a vote in the legislature, corps members may be asked to contact many different legislators, particularly those who are uncommitted or need additional information. They may also get in touch with legislators from areas without a local League. Before making an appointment, however, capitol corps member must check the files and other sources of information about the legislator.

STATE BOARD LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The state board empowers the legislative executive committee to make decisions that implement board decisions made at a full meeting. Any action taken between board meetings must be affirmed by the entire board at its next meeting. If any member of the state board questions a decision of the executive committee during the interim, that question must be stated in writing and sent to the executive committee immediately for clarification.

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Program chairs may have monitored agencies and worked with legislative committees during the interim, and may have had input into proposed legislation before the session. Their work continues during the session in formulating suggestions for bills, but the primary focus is now on bills that have been introduced. (See Procedure...legislation.)

Program chairs must be thoroughly familiar with the nuances of consensus positions in their assigned program areas, and must be prepared to explain in detail League position with reference to a particular bill. The chairs must keep fully informed about a bill in which the League is interested, and to that end should develop sources of information that are reliable.

Every effort should be made by program chairs to work in Austin with the capitol corps, visit key legislators, meet with representatives of groups with similar legislative goals, try to have input in subcommittee meetings that may be redrafting a bill, persuade a committee to report out a bill favorably, or give public testimony on a bill. They must inform the legislative director about any activities planned and the persons who will be involved. Any public statement before a legislative committee on behalf of the League must first be approved by the president, who is the official spokesperson for the League.

Away from Austin, the chairs should check regularly on committee meetings and bill status by calling the legislative toll-free number. They can then direct the capitol corps members to listen or look for specific items of special interest.

Program chairs are responsible for maintaining a legislative office file on their program item for the use of the legislative director and capitol corps. The file should contain all publications, positions, previous actions and testimony regarding that item, and it should be updated frequently.

Background material for the Legislative Newsletter or Action Alerts should be provided immediately upon request by the legislative director. Material should also be provided for use by local Leagues in their community lobbying efforts. The chairs should attempt to be present whenever a local League sends its members to lobby on bills in their areas of specialization.

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The legislative director is responsible for coordinating the various elements of legislative activity; for example, making sure that the means used by program chairs to achieve legislative goals are compatible and that capitol corps members understand the strategy. To accomplish this end, the director must be in constant touch with program chairs and insist that they notify the director about any activity they undertake. The director must be aware of any testimony contemplated and, if possible, should be consulted before it is given.

The director is responsible for the operation of the legislative office and for the performance of the capitol corps and must report, as required, to the executive committee or to the state board. The director supervises the publication of the Legislative Newsletter and the issuance of Action Alerts.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SECRETARY

The secretary for the legislative office in Austin will be hired by the legislative director for a wage and amount of time specified by the state board. The secretary's duties will be supervised by the state legislative director.

Among the duties of the secretary are the following:

1. General office management
2. Typing stencils, operating mimeograph machine, mailing copies of the Legislative Newsletter, Action Alerts, and any other memoranda that must go to local Leagues or board members from the legislative office.
3. Maintaining files on members of the legislature in the leg. office. Each file will contain the legislator's name, district, Leagues in the district, committee membership, interview forms (if any), newspaper clippings, voting record, and any other information that is available about the legislator. These files are for the use of League members only.
4. Maintaining an accurate file of local League presidents and legislative chairs, their current addresses and telephone numbers.
5. Maintaining a file on legislative programs of other organizations with names of individuals to contact.
6. Helping to keep the legislative director, capitol corps members, and program chairs advised of committee hearings, and anticipated floor action on specific legislation, and making assignments for observing if necessary.
7. Working with the legislative director, the secretary will help keep track of legislation introduced that may be of interest to the League, get copies of the legislation if possible, and maintain status records on legislation of League interest.

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The legislative director may delegate the editing and make-up of the newsletter, but must check content for conformity with LWV policies.

Brief summaries and descriptions of the legislative progress of a bill may be printed including accounts of League activities to modify its contents. No designation of League support or opposition to a bill or to an amendment should be published until the executive committee has acted.

Frequently the content of a bill changes so radically or swiftly late in the session that a summary and comments by program chairs are impossible to obtain. The newsletter may use material from other sources such as newspapers if they are credited properly.

If the League withdraws support of a bill it previously supported, the change should be reported immediately. If a decision to support a bill is reached only after a bill has passed (because League-supported amendments have been included), an explanation should be given in the final issue of the newsletter.

The Legislative Newsletter is funded in part by the state League and in part by subscriptions of $7.00 per session. The legislative director must keep a careful accounting of the costs of production and mailing and report to the state board. Frequency of publication is determined by the legislative director in consultation with the state board.

Action Alerts:

Action Alerts calling for immediate response by local Leagues may take three forms:

1. Inclusion in the Legislative Newsletter;
2. Special emergency mailing to LL presidents;
3. Emergency telephone calls to certain LLs whose legislator may hold a swing vote.

After consultation with the program chair and corps members(s), the legislative director determines the form of the Alert and the nature and amount of background information needed for response. Preference is given to priorities set by the state board unless an exception is granted by the executive committee. (Program chairs who contact local Leagues on their own initiative must keep the legislative director informed.)

Action Alerts should:

1. Be as specific as possible
2. Be on readily identifiable (conspicuous) paper or letterhead
3. Have a good explanation of points to be made
4. List legislators of specific committees pinpointed for lobbying (if applicable).
5. Remind where copies are to be sent
6. Have a tear-off to return to State Office in case a call or telegram was sent.

The legislative director is responsible for instructing and reminding local Leagues that they must respond to Action Alerts in some way:

1. If a legislator is contacted by letter, a carbon copy of the letter must be sent to the legislative office. If the contact is made by other means, a postcard giving details of who, what, when, how, and the comments of the legislator should be sent to the legislative office immediately.

2. If a League is unable to contact a legislator because, for example, it did not participate in the consensus and has no one qualified to respond, it should sent a postcard to the legislative office stating that it cannot respond and why.

NOTE: Provisional Leagues do not respond unless they have received prior approval from their advisors.

File Jan

NOV 21 1977

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
460 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair 07042

November 1977
Post Board Report

TO: Presidents and Legislation and/or Action Directors
FROM: Marj Jones, State Trenton Director, 201-376-6237
RE: Legislative Day in Trenton and Legislative Interviews by Local Leagues

Last June, when your state Board made up the calendar for this League year, at my suggestion we scheduled a "Legislative Day in Trenton" for local League members to be combined with a party for the newly-elected Legislature during the last week of January, 1978.

As the time approached to finalize plans for this event, I became concerned about the problems inherent in such a schedule. I believe it was a poor recommendation as far as timing and implementing such a full day of activities.

For background information, in past years LWVNJ had scheduled luncheons in Trenton for each new Legislature, and had encouraged representatives from all local Leagues to attend for a socially-oriented lobbying event. This idea became impractical as the costs rose astronomically, and the Legislature turned to tightly scheduled legislative session days (morning committee meetings, noon caucus sessions by both parties, and afternoon/evening formal sessions).

Two years ago, we held a Wine and Cheese Party wherein local League members could meet and chat with their district representatives, and we included a satirical skit on the Legislature. This worked out, but created problems for all concerned. Both the Senate and House did meet, but recessed at different intervals during the afternoon (and later than anticipated) which necessitated two presentations of the skit and the departure of many local League members without an opportunity to speak with their legislators. This obviously diluted both the spirit and the intent of the affair.

This year, both Houses of the Legislature are newly-elected, and will meet for the first time on January 10th for swearing in ceremonies, election of the leadership positions, and all committee assignments. This poses real problems for planning a well-organized, interesting meeting for our members in January since we cannot officially confirm speakers, session days, and schedules until the middle of the month or later. I am concerned about a last minute attempt to pull all of this together and get the Legislature and League members to attend on very short notice, coupled with a possible late afternoon time frame for the "party" portion of the day.

I, therefore, recommended to, and received approval from, the state Board to make several changes in the format and timing of our sessions in Trenton as well as the plans for legislative interviews which Leagues will be expected to schedule in their home districts. Tentatively, we will follow this pattern:

1. Late January - State Board and Legislation Committee will meet with new Legislature and media representatives in Trenton to explain LWV, our program, our priorities for the '78 - '79 session, and forthcoming interviews with local Leagues in the districts.

2. Early February - Local League interviews with Senators and Assembly members in their home districts.

3. Late February - "A Day Under the Dome" for all League members to include briefings by the Legislative leadership, update on current legislation and priorities by League Program Directors and lobbyists, and a social hour with legislators, plus (if members choose to stay) lobbying, attending committee meetings, or regular legislative sessions and tours of the State House complex.

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Full details regarding the legislative interviews will be sent to you in ample time for scheduling during the first half of February. Along with your assignments, you will receive information on League program and priorities, some helpful tips and suggestions, as well as specific questions we would like answered by each legislator. Meanwhile, you can review our consensus positions in the state Program book, Study & Action, State Program 1977-1979, 50¢, and gather information about your legislators. The more you know about League and your legislator, the more confident you will feel and the more productive the interview will be. This same information will be useful when you come to Trenton later on in February.

Final plans for our meetings in Trenton must await decisions by the new Legislature, but I will be communicating with you along the way as dates, times, etc. are established.

If these changes create inconveniences for you, I am genuinely apologetic. I truly believe that many of you will be pleased: less pressure in January when school election activities occupy much of your time; an opportunity to meet and know a bit about your legislators before you come to Trenton; and the knowledge that you won't feel obligated to stay late in Trenton or be disappointed by an unfulfilled day. I really want our efforts to be enjoyable and rewarding for all concerned.

If you have comments on any of this, please get them to me soon while plans are still being formalized; I will be happy to get your reactions as that proves you read all this and are interested! You may reach me by mail or telephone through either state office or at home. I feel isolated from the local Leagues since I don't regularly communicate with you through the Post Board Report, and I'm not certain if I have an active counterpart in each local League. Can our direct communication be improved? How? I hope to meet many of you at the ERA meeting and state Board Reception on December 8th.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Representative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Accardo	y	n	y	y	y	a	a	y	a	y	y
Ackal	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	n	y	y
Alario	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Alexander	y	y	y	n	y	n	y	y	n	n	y
Bagert	a	y	a	y	a	y	a	y	a	y	a
Bajoie	y	y	n	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y
Baker	y	n	n	n	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Bares	y	y	n	n	a	y	a	y	y	y	y
Bel	y	n	y	y	a	y	a	y	n	n	y
Bella	y	n	n	n	n	y	y	y	y	n	y
Bigby	y	y	n	n	n	y	y	y	y	n	y
Blount	a	n	n	n	n	y	a	y	n	y	y
Brady	y	n	n	n	n	y	y	y	n	y	y
Bruneau	y	y	y	y	n	y	a	y	y	y	y
Byrnes	y	y	y	y	y	n	a	y	y	y	y
Cain	a	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Carson	y	y	n	y	y	y	a	y	a	y	y
Chabert	a	y	y	y	n	a	a	y	n	y	y
Champagne	y	n	y	y	n	n	a	y	y	n	y
Charbonnet	y	n	a	y	y	n	y	y	a	y	y
Connor	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	a	y	a
Cooper	y	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Crosby	y	n	n	n	n	y	y	y	y	y	y
Deen	y	n	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	y	y
Delpit	a	y	y	n	y	n	y	y	y	y	a
D'Gerolamo	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Diez	y	n	y	y	a	y	y	y	n	y	y
Dimos	a	n	y	n	n	y	a	a	n	y	y
Dischler	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	a	y	y
Doucet	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y
Downer	a	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Drew	a	n	n	n	a	y	y	y	n	n	a
Dunn	a	y	y	n	n	y	y	y	n	n	y
Dupuis	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y
Dyer	n	n	y	n	n	y	a	y	n	y	a
Ensminger	a	n	n	n	n	y	a	y	n	n	y
Faucheux	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Fernandez	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Fowler	y	n	n	n	n	y	y	n	n	y	a
Freeman	y	n	y	y	y	n	a	y	n	y	y
Fudge	a	n	a	a	n	a	y	y	n	y	y
Gaudin	y	n	y	y	n	y	a	y	y	n	y
Gregson	a	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	a
Grisbaum	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	a	y	y
Guidry	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y
Gunter	n	n	n	n	n	y	a	a	a	y	y
Haik	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y
Hainkel	y	y	y	y	n	y	a	y	y	y	y
Hebert	y	n	n	a	a	a	a	y	a	y	y
Henry	y	n	n	n		a	a	y	a	y	a
Hogan	y	n	n	y	y	y	a	y	n	y	y
Hollins	y	y	n	n	n	a	y	y	n	n	y
Holstead	a	y	y	y	a	y	y	a	n	n	y
Humphries	y	n	n	n	y	n	y	y	n	y	y
A. Jackson	y	y	y	n	y	n	y	y	a	n	y
J. Jackson	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	y	n	n	y
Jasper	y	y	a	n	y	n	y	a	y	n	y
Jenkins	a	n	y	y	n	y	a	a	n	y	a
John	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Johnson	y	n	n	n	a	y	y	y	a	y	y
Kennard	y	n	n	y	n	y	a	y	a	y	y
Kimball	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	n	y	y
M. LaBorde	y	n	y	y	n	y	a	y	n	n	y
R. LaBorde	y	n	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Lanier	y	n	n	n	y	y	y	y	a	y	a
LaPlante	y	n	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	a
Leach	y	n	y	n	y	y	a	y	a	y	y
L. LeBlanc	y	n	n	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
S. LeBlanc	a	y	y	y	n	y	a	y	y	y	y
LeBleu	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	n	y
Leithman	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Long	y	y	n	n	y	y	a	y	a	a	a
Lynn	y	y	a	n	n	y	y	y	n	n	y
Martin	a	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	a	n	y
McNamara	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y
Miller	y	y	y	y	a	y	a	y	n	y	y
Morris	y	y	n	n	n	y	a	y	n	y	y
Morrison	a	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	a	y	a
O'Neal	y	n	y	n	n	y	y	y	n	n	y
Patti	y	n	y	y	a	y	y	n	n	y	y
Picard	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	n	y	y
Reilly	a	a	y	y	y	y	a	y	n	a	a
Rice	a	n	y	y	y	n	y	y	a	y	a
Richey	y	n	y	y	n	y	y	n	n	y	a
Russo	a	n	y	y	a	a	a	y	y	y	y
Schmitt	a	n	y	y	n	y	y	y	a	y	y
Scogin	a	n	y	n	n	y	a	y	y	n	y
Scott	y	n	y	n	y	y	a	y	n	y	y
Shannon	y	a	y	n	a	y	a	y	a	y	a
Sheridan	y	n	y	n	n	y	a	y	n	y	y
Simoneaux	y	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	y	n	y
Siracusa	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Sour	a	n	y	n	n	y	y	y	n	n	y
Strain	a	n	y	y	n	y	a	y	n	y	y
Tauzin	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
F. Thompson	y	n	n	n	y	y	a	n	a	a	y
M. Thompson	a	n	n	y	a	y	y	y	y	y	y
R. Thompson	y	n	n	y	a	y	y	y	n	y	y
Toca	a	y	y	y	y	n	a	y	y	y	a
Torney	a	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Turnley	y	n	n	n	y	n	y	y	a	y	a
Ullo	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Vidrine	y	n	y	y	y	a	y	a	y	y	a
Wall	a	y	y	n	y	a	a	y	a	a	a
Weaver	y	n	n	n	n	y	a	y	y	y	y

program was the defining of the actual physical extent of the coastal zone. The language was vague, language in the original draft quite explicitly named elevation and biological criteria which would ultimately place a very large area of southern Louisiana under the management and permitting procedures. Local parishes would have been required to develop a management plan compatible with these criteria. Next two House Committee hearings were devoted to visits by Mr. Robert Knecht, Office of Coastal Environment, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (U.S. Dept. of Commerce's agency guiding state coastal management programs) and Representative John Breaux, Congressmen from Louisiana. With patience and consistency these gentlemen listened, explained, answered questions, etc., actions aimed at bringing in the open the realization that arbitrary or capricious designation of a northern or landward boundary of the zone would not meet federal guidelines nor more importantly serve the basic environmental realities of the resources deemed worthy of protection.

A substitute bill appeared for 1315. This rewriting was glaringly unacceptable, defining the landward boundary as three miles from the shoreline, avoiding the concept of uniform permitting by one responsible agency by placing permitting in the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation (oil, gas, minerals), Wildlife and Fisheries (fishing, hunting, trapping), local governments (all other), and providing for other permitting agencies as needed.

Other provision for a director and a commission to prepare guidelines offered little that could insure even a minimum coastal program. League opposed the bill. See vote # 11.

The substitute then underwent further modification surfacing as HB 1512 drafted by four members of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senator Knowles, Vice-chairman of the Senate Committee. Senator Knowles is noted for his recent remark that "no one should see either sausage or a bill made". In essence this returned CZM to another year of study, setting up a commission of parish and user group representatives to develop a management plan, its guidelines, etc., to be reported to the Joint Committee on Natural Resources, periodically. Federal funding for study will end in 1977.

The League plans to attend all meetings that are open to the public and to keep in touch with legislative members of the Joint Committee on Natural Resources. We are requesting representation on the commission.

Reorganization of State Government Executive Branch

The Constitution of 1974 mandated the legislature to prepare a reorganization of state government by 1977 into a maximum of 20 departments.

Under this bill there will be the following departments:

Headed by elected officials —

Agriculture	Justice
Education	Public Service
Elections	State
Insurance	Treasury

Headed by appointed officials —

Civil Service (appointed by Civil Service Commission)

The following appointed by the governor.

Commerce	Natural Resources
Corrections	Public Safety
Culture, Recreation and Tourism	Revenue and Taxation
Health and Human Resources	Transportation and Development
Labor	Urban and Community Affairs
	Wildlife and Fisheries

All the various agencies will be assigned to a department, incorporating the staff and functions. These will be headed by secretaries (department heads) appointed by the governor. These departments will also have undersecretaries and assistant secretaries appointed by the governor. He will set their salaries and they will serve at his pleasure.

Public Affairs Research Council has criticized the plan as "a regrouping" with an additional layer of government. It is also "contrary to accepted and proven principles of organization structure to have 3 appointed officials in each department. The lines of authority will be overlapping and confusing".

Governor Edwards will have a cabinet style government. We will watch and wait for better service, decreased public payrolls and reorganization.

State Finance

The general appropriation bill amounted to about 2.8 billion dollars. The governor vetoed 11 sections of this bill which specified certain prohibitions or regulations of (called substantive law or language) funds, not actual appropriations. The Senate voted to sustain the veto. Some members of the House of Representatives have filed suit challenging the veto. The court will have to decide how far the governor may go in vetoing items as well as how far the legislature may go legally in including the language in the first place. Timing of this bill left something to be desired. The House took weeks for passage, the Senate approximately a week.

Debt limit was not approved. The House passed a constitutional amendment to limit the state debt but on second thought (the first was unanimously in favor) and by direction of the governor the Senate Finance Committee killed it.

The capital outlay budget ($500 million) was not approved. The House did not concur with the additions made by the Senate so the bill went to a conference committee. The conference committee report was not acceptable either. A court cose will decide whether or not the portions of the bill not requiring a 2/3 vote did indeed pass since it did receive a majority vote. Special sessions will be required when and if more bond issues are to be approved in a capital outlay budget. Never before has it been suggested that part of a capital outlay budget can pass and the attorney general has ruled that it did not.

Zero-base budgeting and a sunset law was passed. The sunset law is to allow for regular and systematic evaluation of state agencies. Every four years state agencies will have to justify their existence before a standing legislative committee. The legislative committee will look at their functions and funding from the standpoint of what they accomplish not just their budget requests.

"Government now employs one out of every five workers in Louisiana," Representative Simoneaux says, "and cost of state government has increased 150 percent since 1972. This is an attempt to stop the spiralling costs of Government."

A study committee was formed to determine how to apply zero-base budgeting. This is a new concept and will need expertise to accomplish it. Budgeting starts at zero rather than at last year's figure.

Welfare

The have-to-work or lose your welfare proposal failed. See vote #6.

Updating the standard of need to current level for AFDC payments passed. See vote #7.

Louisiana Indigent Defender System.

The Constitution of 1974 requires that a defender charged with any crime that may result in his imprisonment must be supplied an attorney for every stage of the proceedings against him. It also mandated the Louisiana legislature to create a uniform indigent defender system. The governor created a commission in 1975 to prepare legislation for this session.

The commission's report estimated that 80 percent of persons prosecuted for crimes other than traffic violations in Louisiana are indigent.

The legislation passed creates the Louisiana Indigent Defender Board which is to be the book-keeping and policy-making body to supervise the 35 local boards established in each judicial district.

Cost of the system will be financed after the initial appropriation by increased court costs — e.g. a traffic ticket for speeding may be increased from $4.50 to $7.50. The attorney fees may be partially borne by the accused if able to pay.

The local boards will be appointed by the judges upon recommendation of local Bar Associations. They shall set fees and increased court costs; create a pool of attorneys or appoint a chief indigent defender.

Property Tax

The four bills dealing with establishing guidelines to determine fair market and use value drawn up by the Governor's Commission on Ad Valorem Taxation passed easily. An appropriation of $500,000 was made to the Louisiana Tax Commission for implementation of the guidelines. The League will issue a Fact Sheet on the guidelines. Evelyn Landis served on the commission.

In my opinion one of the worst things the legislature did this session was to increase the homestead exemption to $5,000 for all homeowners. This means all homesteads up to $50,000 are exempt and the first $50,000 of all property over that. We lobbied against this legislation at every opportunity. See vote #10.

Natural Resources

Energy Conservation

The legislature passed a bill that will allow a right turn on a red light after the motorist has come to a full stop and has yielded the right-of-way to pedestrians. This is believed to be a saving in energy because of the fuel that would be used while the car was idling waiting for the light to change. Since the law does not go into effect until October 2 cities can post intersections to forbid right turns where they see a traffic hazard.

Lignite Mining

A law regulating Lignite mining was passed. The presence of large deposits of lignite coal may bring strip mining to northern Louisiana. Strip mining is damaging to the land and detrimental to water quality, as mine run-off is acid and damages plants and animals. Lignite coal is high in sulphur and must have controls to prevent that sulphur from entering the air when the coal is burned. The law addresses some of the problems. It requires a permit to conduct mining operations, and to obtain a permit, plans for recontouring the land are necessary. The law does not require that the land be replanted. The law states the belief of the legislature that strip mining regulations is in the public interest to protect public health, safety and welfare and the economy. It hopes to prevent destruction or diminished use of the land for other purposes and to conserve soil, water and other natural resources. The law places the authority, duties, standards and powers for control and regulation of this surface mining in the Department of Conservation.

Atchafalaya Basin

Hopes for maintaining the Atchafalaya Basin for recreational uses were set back by a concurrent resolution. It asks Congress not to allow the use of the right of eminent domain (taking of private land for public use with fair payment) by the Corps of Engineers to obtain land on which to build control structures to regulate water flow, or to obtain easements for any reason other than flood control. An amendment does say the legislature recognizes the value of the Basin for recreational and fishing purposes and asks the Corps to regulate water for the sake of preserving fish life.

Reorganization of State Government

The reorganization of state government to provide a single agency for environmental quality was proposed in the Constitutional Convention, and the committee appointed by the Governor to make recommendations to the Legislature, considered such a consolidation. The senate amended the reorganization bill to provide some consolidation of environmental agencies in a department of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Each time every effort has been defeated. The conference committee for the reorganization bill struck out the portion added by the senate. The legislators are always told we are doing a fine job of dealing with environmental issues and it is not necessary to change a thing. So water quality control is still in a department of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Air Quality Control is in one department of the umbrella health agency, solid waste control in another section of the Health Agency. Strip mining control will now be in the Department of Conservation. Many other state laws dealing with the environment have placed control throughout many, many state agencies. It is time for the people of Louisiana to make a personal judgment of their environmental goals and of the accomplishments of existing agencies and to talk to their representatives about it. Only if there is concern shown by the people will there be any change in the attitude of law makers.

Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

Downhill all the way, back to the planning board, or here we go again? As a result of years of extensive background study and effort by various specialists and agencies, substantially funded by the Coastal Zone Management Act 1972 (Federal), a draft of a proposed Coastal Zone statute was prepared by the Coastal Resources Program, Office of State Planning. This legislation supported and implemented the equitable multiple use and orderly management of Louisiana's coastal wetland by a uniform permit process, preserving, protecting, developing, and where possible, restoring valuable coastal resources. Governor Edwards spoke decisively for CZM saying that it was a fact of the present concerning 25% of the area of Louisiana and involving input of substantial amounts of federal funds. There was total opposition by the southern parishes; local parish governments want little part in overall state management, seeing little need or responsibility for being part of a whole. The LWV backed the proposed legislation in a letter to the members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, offering suggestions for strengthening certain positions. This proposed statute never reached committee hearings but surfaced or reappeared, quite altered, as HB 1315. The League testified in support of the concept of rational and balanced management of the coastal lands and their resources.

Hearing on HB 1315 began to be scheduled, cancelled, rescheduled, evidence, possibly, of deep difference of opinion. The most obvious difficulty, and the decision basic to the applicability and success of a CZM

File

[illegible] ?

Jan a.
2

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION 1976

HOW THEY VOTED ON SELECTED LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO LEAGUE MEMBERS

1. The transfer of powers of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Superintendent of Education. (LWV-no)
2. Appointive Superintendendent. * (LWV-yes)
3. Aid to private institutions of higher education. (LWV-no)
4. Busing of all students (private and public) who live more than one mile from school. * (LWV-no)
5. Equal opportunity in Employment. ** (LWV-yes)
6. Have-to-work requirement for welfare recipients. * (LWV-no)
7. Update of standards for AFDC payments. (LWV-yes)
8. Community property bill including all immovables. (LWV-yes)
9. House vote indicating change of mind re immovables. ** (LWV-no)
10. Homestead Exemption increase to $5,000. (LWV-no)
11. Coastal Zone Management. (LWV-no)

* Killed in Committee - Senate Rules do nto require a roll call vote in committees where vote is not shown, the information was not available from committee files.

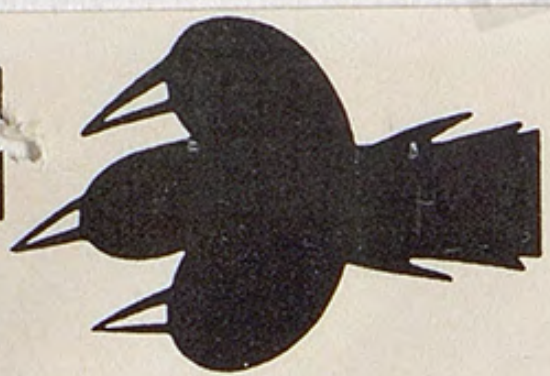
** Did not require vote in Senate.

y = yes n = no a = absent o = not voting

SENATE

Senator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
C. Barham	y		n				y	y		y	y
E. Barham	a		y				y	y		a	a
Barthelemy	y	n	y	y			y	y		y	y
Brinkhaus	a		y				y	y		y	y
Brown	y		n				a	y		y	y
Cambell	y		n				y	y		y	y
Casey	n		y				y	y		a	y
Davis	n		n				y	y		y	y
Decuir	y		y				y	y		y	y
Doucet	y		y				y	y		y	y
Duval	n		y				a	a		y	y
Dykes	y		a				y	a		y	y
Eagan	n		y				a	y		y	y
Gerald	y	n	n	y			y	y		y	y
Gibbs	y	n	n	y			y	y		y	y
Guarisco	a	y	y	n			y	y		y	y
Hickey	y		a				y	y		a	y
Hudson	y		y				y	y		y	y
Jumonville	y		y				y	y		n	y
Kelly	a		n				y	y		y	y
Kiefer	y		y				y	y		y	y
Knowles	n		n				y	y		y	y
Landry	y		y				y	a		y	y
Lauricella	y		y				y	a		y	y
McLeod	n		n				y	y		y	y
Mouton	y	o	y	o			y	y		y	y
Nicholson	y		y				y	y		y	y
Nunez	y		y				y	y		y	y
O'Keefe	y		y				y	a		y	y
Osterberger	y		n				y	y		y	y
Poston	n		n				y	y		y	y
Randolph	y		a				a	y		y	y
Rayburn	y		n				y	y		y	y
Saunders	a	n	y	n			y	y		y	a
Sevario	y		y				y	y		y	y
Shehee	y		n				y	y		y	y
Tiemann	a		y				y	y		y	a
Williamson	a	y	n	y			y	y		y	y
Windhorst	a		y				y	y		y	y

SCRATCH PAD



Nancy -

Keep this in mind for our Leg. Wrapup - (if you like it!)

Laura

Kim Curt Printing 752-1031

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GEORGIA

the georgia voter

Marguerite Holmes, Ed.

Carol Wilson, President

Published Bi-Monthly

Vol. 39 No. 6
March-April 1980

LA See inside + back

APR 21 1980

SPOTLIGHTING

H.R. 734

Read and adopted February 13, 1980

By: Representatives Richardson of the 52nd, Hawkins of the 50th, Townsend of the 24th, Marcus of the 26th, Carnes of the 43rd, Triplett of the 128th, Steinberg of the 46th, Galer of the 97th, Gignilliat of the 122nd, Felton of the 22nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

Congratulating and commending the League of Women Voters of Georgia on the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the organization; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Georgia are especially proud of their women's political organizations, and the League of Women Voters is one of the most beneficial and influential political groups in the state; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1920, as a volunteer, nonpartisan organization to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in their government; and

WHEREAS, boasting an approximate membership of 1,800 in the state, the League of Women Voters exerts a positive influence on state government and is instrumental in encouraging registration of eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, the League has continuously and consistently worked for more responsible and responsive government at the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the League has demonstrated its commitment to better government by serving immeasurable volunteer hours working on behalf of all citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that this House congratulate this fine organization for its successful efforts in working toward better and more effective government for all the citizens of the state of Georgia,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body do hereby congratulate and commend the League of Women Voters of Georgia for 60 years of service to the citizens of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the League of Women Voters.

GEORGIA LEAGUES AND LEAGUERS IN ACTION

ATHENS Leaguer and Clarke County Commissioner, Jewel John, was on a panel sponsored by the Federally Employed Women's Council. . .**ATLANTA-FULTON** and **DEKALB** Leagues are going to issue a joint position statement on the Great Parks issue. . **AUGUSTA** wrote a good letter to the Richmond County board of Education opposing a ''tax-cap'' on the Board of Education spending. . .**CARROLLTON** issued a good report on the economic status of women in Carroll County. . .**DALTON** helped sponsor a town meeting on Metro-Consolidation of city and county governments. . .**GAINESVILLE** Leaguer, Edna Foster resigned from League Board to run for Forsyth County Commissioner. . .**MACON** sent a letter to their mayor RE: substandard public housing in Macon. . .**MARIETTA-COBB** is busy preparing for LWVGA Council Meeting in mid-April. . .**SAVANNAH** aired an update on ERA on local television. . . **THOMASVILLE** had local radio stations air spots on the Georgia Presidential Primary. . .**WAYCROSS UNIT** wrote letter asking that one of the Unit members be appointed to the governing Board of the Slash Pine Community Action Agency.

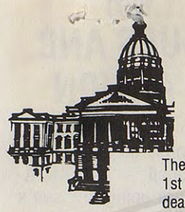
This is a history of the silver cup awarded each year as a prize to a local League by the state board. The following information was gathered from recollections of members and council and convention minutes.

In 1968 Ms. Eleanor Raoul Greene donated to the finance drive of the LWV of DeKalb County a large, unusual silver cup. June Clapp (Mrs. Richard) was the solicitor. The board of the LWV of DeKalb County in turn presented the cup to the LWV of Georgia and the state board determined to award it as a prize for outstanding achievement to a local league each year. It seems that some state boards awarded ''The Cup'' for achievement in certain categories such as membership, finance or such, and subsequent boards (not bound by a former board's decisions) determined different criteria or decided to give it for overall excellence.

In 1969 (according to the July Georgia Voter) Augusta won $50 first prize for membership, DeKalb a $25 second prize, and ''The Cup'' was a bonus award to Augusta.

''The Cup'' was won at alternate conventions (odd years) and councils (even years) by:

Augusta	— 1969	at Jekyll Island
Marietta-Cobb	— 1970	at Marietta
Atlanta-Fulton	— 1971	at Callaway Gardens
Macon	— 1972	at Macon
Athens	— 1973	at Savannah
Carrollton	— 1974	at Albany
Columbus	— 1975	at Athens
Atlanta-Fulton	— 1976	at Macon
Macon	— 1977	at Atlanta
Augusta	— 1978	at Augusta
Dalton	— 1979	at Savannah
Atlanta-Fulton	— 1980	at Marietta



LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP FOR 1979, 1980 SESSIONS

The Ga. General Assembly sits for two-year terms; therefore legislative actions deal in two year cycles. Legislation introduced during the '79 session (the 1st of the 2 year term) could ''carry-over'' to the '80 session if its passage was not complete. All bills not receiving passage at the end of this session are dead. (The '81 session begins a new two-year cycle). Below is a composite wrap-up of the legislation we supported and opposed and the final results.

GOVERNMENT

SB 24 — SUPPORTED — amends Campaign and Financial Disclosure act to require persons raising and spending money to influence statewide ballot and or referendum issues to file reports as candidates are required to do. — PASSED '79

HB 1249 — SUPPORTED — expands on requirements in SB 24 (above to include disclosure of persons raising and spending money to influence local ballot and/or referendum issues. — PASSED '80

HB 1281 — OPPOSED — amends Campaign and Financial Disclosure act to permit unopposed candidates to only file the first and last campaign contribution statements (the last one being after the election) and omit the interim filings. Passed the House but fell short of majority vote on Senate floor. — FAILED '80

SB 426 — OPPOSED — amends Campaign and Financial Disclosure act to allow candidates to not be required to record the name or amount of any campaign contributions under $15 nor to aggregate those amounts. Was tabled in Senate after floor debate and never came to a vote. — FAILED '80

SR 79 — SUPPORTED — Sunshine resolution to amend the state constitution to require all official actions of the legislature be open and accessible to the public (aimed at budget process). Passed Senate in '79 session, buried in House and received no action this session. — FAILED '80

EDUCATION

SB 143 — SUPPORTED — allocation of special education teachers in all areas of exceptionality on a 1:22 pupil-teacher ratio. Ratio based on ADA of all receiving services or properly identified as needing those services. — PASSED '79

SB 271 — SUPPORTED — establishes impartial tribunal regarding settlement of controversies involving education of handicapped children. State would get $22 million in federal special education funds with this compliance. Passed Senate '79 session; after teaming up with a coalition this year, we forced it out of House Education Committee and it passed in the House. — PASSED '80

SB 280 — SUPPORTED — amends APEG so grades 1-3 have pupil-teacher ratio of 1:20 and grades 4-12, a ratio of 1:25 (based on ADA). Also provided local systems to use up to ⅓ funds earned from allocated instructional units in grades 1-3 to employ licensed instructional personnel. Passed Senate '79 session; unable to get out of House Education Committee. — FAILED '80

HB 509 — SUPPORTED — Mandates State Board of Education to establish policies, procedures and regulations to provide partial allocations to local boards for psychologists and psychometrists. — PASSED '79

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

HB 177 — OPPOSED — specifies certain conditions and a public approval process for construction permits and operation of a solid waste disposal facility or sites. House floor recommited bill to Health and Ecology Committee during '79 session. No action during '80. — FAILED '80

HB 376 — SUPPORTED — This Shoreline Assistance Act was watered-down on the way to passage but it will get dollars to the coast. — PASSED '79

SB 71 — SUPPORTED — Hazardous Wastes Management Act. Bill needed strengthening at administrative level; have asked EPA to require technical advisory committees before approving state plans. — PASSED '79

HR 863 — SUPPORTED — creates special House committee to study the issues and problems related to the storage and disposal of hazardous waste with particular attention to identifying which wastes are, in fact, hazardous. This being a resolution of single purpose affecting just the House's desire to study an issue it did not need joint passage. — PASSED '80

ELECTIONS

HB 156 — OPPOSED — would prohibit electors from casting a straight party vote. We were successful in killing this in committee during '79 session. No action taken by committee this session. — FAILED '80

SB 41 — OPPOSED — makes it easier for a political organization to qualify as a political party. Only requires filing a petition signed by 3% of voters in last general election (where governor elected). — PASSED '79

SB 75 — SUPPORTED — provides for counting of absentee ballots on countywide basis rather than election district but would provide for counting by election district if the question voted on involves any political subdivision which includes less than the entire county. — PASSED '79

HB 212 — SUPPORTED — provides for Secretary of State to conduct training sessions for registrars and superintendents of elections. — PASSED '79

HB 51 — SUPPORTED — relates to form of ballots on voting machines to require the names of all candidates for each office to appear in same row or column. Passed House '79 session and Senate this session. — PASSED '80

SB 65 — OPPOSED — would provide that unopposed candidates and office for which they qualify not appear on the ballot. — PASSED '79

SB 73 & 74 — SUPPORTED — prohibits candidates and campaign activities from being present within 250 feet of polling places on election day. — PASSED '79

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

HB 54 — SUPPORTED — would change current inheritance laws when a spouse dies intestate (without a will) to increase portion spouse receives to ½. Original bill during '79 session was more comprehensive but we were unable to pry it out of committee. Bill was amended to include just the above section in hopes of decreasing opposition this session. We were finally able to get it out of House Special Judiciary but it was killed by opposition in House Rules Committee. — FAILED '80

HB 1252 — SUPPORTED — allows divorced spouse conversion privileges in obtaining health and accident insurance coverage for themselves after losing that coverage through divorce from the policy-holder. — PASSED '80

ERA — SUPPORTED — it's too painful to again recount the death of ERA in the Senate this session. No action was taken on the companion House resolution. We pulled out all the stops and gave it our best shot ever but we lost. They've not heard the last of us yet! — FAILED '80

HB 1031 — PARTIAL SUPPORT — comprehensive revision of code sections dealing with Marriage and Divorce was left as it was from '79 session. No further study or action was taken to improve or further ready this for consideration. Bill was never brought out of House Judiciary Committee. — FAILED '80

HOUSING

HB 1201 — OPPOSED — attempted to abort and frustrate local efforts for building low-income housing by requiring almost insurmountable obstacles for voter approval. We succeeded in weakening requirements but it still passed the House. We were successful in preventing Senate vote. — FAILED '80

HB 233 — SUPPORTED — required notice of foreclosure sale be sent directly to property owner. Unable to get out of House Special Judiciary Committee for floor vote. — FAILED '80

HB 582 — SUPPORTED — increases bonding authority of Ga. Residential Finance Authority from $100 million to $200 million. Expands single family home ownership assistance program. — PASSED '79

SB 134 — SUPPORTED — establishes a maximum rate of interest on real estate loans. — PASSED 79

HB 562 — SUPPORTED — requires interest on tenant's security deposits placed in escrow. Unable to pry out of House Banks and Banking Committee during '79 session and no action was taken this session. — FAILED '80

Study committee of House Judiciary Committee considering revision of Title 61 (Tenant-Landlord Relations) did not take any action to propose expected changes during '80 session. It remains to be seen if this study committee will study anything.

TAXATION

HB 776 — SUPPORTED — requires fiscal responsibility and consistency from local governments by requiring balanced budget be drawn and followed as well as providing for state audits. This bill was one of several introduced by members of Tax Reform Commission. House passed it in weakened form by removing audit requirements; Senate restored strength to audit provisions, passed it in that form and convinced the House to compromise on its position and pass a better bill. — PASSED '80

HB 75 — OPPOSED — would have increased the state-wide sales tax by 1% and allocated the revenue for educational purposes. Failed to receive majority vote on floor of House (many were surprised that the committee would pass it out to the floor at all in view of the Supreme Court ruling upholding the 1% local-option sales tax). — FAILED '80

HB 310 — OPPOSED — recommended by the Tax Reform Commission. Would change the gasoline tax from 7½ cents per gallon to 18% of the wholesale price. Never got out of House Ways and Means Committee. — FAILED '80

HB 561 — SUPPORTED — would allow State Commissioner of Revenue to refuse a county tax digest and send it back for reassessment, in lieu of present system of factoring; also sets up penalties and an appeal process. (Another recommendation of Tax Reform Comm.) Passed House '79 session but recommitted to Senate Banking and Finance Committee by Senate floor. We were not successful in getting Senate action this session. — FAILED '80

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

HR 486 — The saga of this document reads like the Poseidon Adventure and is too long to adequately recap here. Suffice it to say: four years and $300,000 later we still don't have a revised constitution to go on the ballot this year. LWV has put blood, sweat and tears into the work aiming at a state constitution which is shorter, simpler and free of statutory detail and special interests. One wonders if a document which must pass through the legislature can ever have the traits just mentioned.

AFDC FUNDING

The focus of our Human Resources effort was the improvement of the AFDC payments, which meant we were dealing with the appropriations process rather than any specific bill. Budgetary decisions in the House are traditionally made by a handful of leaders, all of whom are particularly resistant to lobbying. For the very first time in memory, the House Appropriations Committee formed special subcommittees to actually study the budget and give input to the full committee. (The infamous ''Green Door Committee'' has traditionally done all this and asked the Appropriations Committee to rubber-stamp it). We worked with the members of the Human Resources subcommittee in testifying for our AFDC requests.

We **FAILED** to get the Department of Human Resources to adopt a **new** standard of need (an up-dated, more realistic basis for need) which was one of our primary aims. However, there is $30 million more in the budget of AFDC than last year and the request for at least 85% funding of the current (1969 tables) standard of need **PASSED**.

LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION BY JUDI WILLIAMS, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

This legislative session was difficult at best. There were so few of us at the Capitol we could have all met in a phone booth and each invited a friend. Our scope of work was staggering and the types of bills we lobbied was myriad. Because we were short-handed on lobbyists we had to prioritize our time and efforts for the "biggies". As a result, we "missed the boat" on several bills and just made a "one-shot" effort at some others. The constitution package was such a large and complex effort we devoted extra time to that area and some other things had to take a back seat.

I applaud many of you for your action efforts in responding to the information you received via our new project, the weekly "spotmaster" report. For those of you who don't know: the "spotmaster" was a weekly legislative up-date that I taped each Fri. afternoon as a recorded message on the state office answering machine. Local leagues could call in and listen for action alerts and progress reports on various bills. This is patterned after the National Spotmaster service provided by LWV/US.

You can see the results of our action efforts in the failure and/or passage of bills we supported or opposed; an impressive record and the end product of hours of tireless efforts and exhaustive days on the part of your lobbyists in the halls of the capitol.

Now that we have patted ourselves on the back we need to take a long, hard look at the demands we make on each other. I am concerned about the unrealistic expectations we have and the lack of pragmatic evaluations of our scope of legislative work. With fewer members having less volunteer time the lobbying team has decreased appreciatively, BUT we've **not** decreased the workload we expect of them. We are demanding too much of too few people.

At the same time, IF we're going to continue to be a viable lobbying force we need to educate our members better as to the demands of the legislative process. A lot of misunderstanding exists with the average League member as to exactly how "the game is played" (and believe me it is a game). Forget most of what you learned in school about "how a bill becomes law"; it's a fairy tale with exaggerated simplicity. Pressure on legislators is the name of the game and it MUST begin at the local level with the constituent (i.e., you!).

I challenge each League member to support streamlining our legislative priorities and really give some meaning to the word PRIORITIES. I also urge you to aid in the search for lobbyists to work during the legislative session. (We keep expecting the same people year after year to carry the burden). **I will accept requests to visit local Leagues to help you improve your knowledge of the political process.** I'm willing to "hit the road" if you're willing to learn. The grass roots is where it's at!

we do something right!

ERA

For seven years we have heard our legislators say they can not support the Equal Rights Amendment because of the "Feds," but that they would do anything on the State level to assure women's equality under the law.

In the Senate this session four hours were spent debating the addition of an equal protection clause to the state constitution which would have accomplished women's equality under the law at the state level. IT DID NOT PASS.

If you wish to see what your Senator thought of your rights we have a print-out of the vote and an accompanying explanation available in the LWVGA office. This will be yours for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

[Thanks to Elaine Bolton, Anne Hagar, Dotsie Holmes and the Clerk of the Ga. House of Representatives for submitting material for this issue of the VOTER — Ed.]

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GEORGIA, INC.

[redacted]

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MRS. DIANA S. CLARK
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS
1212 GUADALUPE, #109
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
460 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair 07042

February 1978
Post Board Report

FEB 27 1978

TO: Presidents and Action/Legislation Directors
FROM: Marj Jones, Trenton Director 201-376-6237
RE: Legislative Interviews

I hope the vast majority of you have conducted the interviews with your legislators prior to receipt of this communication. I do know from talking with many of you that scheduling has been a problem, due to the weather and/or the availability of Leaguers and legislators.

When we originally set February 17th as the deadline for return of the interview questionnaires, it seemed very reasonable and reachable. We were not clairvoyant; we didn't anticipate blow after blow from the weather! The legislators' schedules, like our own, have been rearranged numerous times.

So, please continue with your efforts to make appointments and complete your interviews. We will be glad to receive your reports whenever you can complete your assignments. Remember too, the responsible local League must send copies of the interview report to all other local Leagues within the same legislative district. (See my December Post Board Report.)

I have one further comment on this subject. The numerous calls I have had from local Leagues concerning their problems in setting up the interviews has once again reaffirmed my belief that League members are uniquely dedicated and dependable individuals. The concern shown for attempting to meet deadlines, for pursuing recalcitrant legislators, for being prepared to do a creditable interview, and for contacting and including the other local Leagues listed as participants proves beyond a doubt that League members in most situations will put forth 150% effort to accomplish tasks and complete projects. It is most rewarding to a director, believe me; it is the encouragement that we need when plans and efforts are bogging down. It is certainly reassuring to know that you are there, supportive, interested and even sympathetic when we foul up! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

FEB 1 1978

Jan A.

File folder

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
460 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair 07042

January 1978
Post Board Report

TO: Presidents and Action/Legislation Director at once
FROM: Marj Jones, Trenton Director 201-376-6237
RE: Legislative Interviews (Deadline: Report forms due Trenton office, February 17); "Day Under the Dome" Information; and Legislative Priorities

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

By the time you receive this memo, I sincerely hope that all Leagues responsible for scheduling the interviews with the legislators will have done so; if not, do it at once! Additionally, the League arranging the interview must contact the other League(s) and/or individual assigned to participate. Reminder: Last month's Post Board Report had complete information regarding the interviews, questions to be asked, and the Leagues assigned to each individual legislator by district. The first League listed after the legislator's name is responsible for the interview arrangements, etc. As a cross reference, this mailing includes a list of assignments, by League, and includes the changes requested by some Leagues. Remember, some Leagues have assignments outside their own districts, so please check both lists carefully.

If you have further questions or concerns, please call me or either state office. Good luck and enjoy!

Deadline: Report forms must reach the Trenton office by February 17, 1978!

Please note: By the time you interview your legislator, your state Board and Legislation Committee will have held a combination Legislators' Party and Press Conference on January 30 in Trenton. At that time we will announce our legislative priorities for the 1978-79 session, your upcoming interviews with the legislators, "A Day under the Dome" date and plans, and our joint monitoring project with Common Cause of all legislative committee meetings in Trenton (beginning January 23 for approximately six weeks of sessions). Additionally, we will give each guest a packet of League publications. Hopefully you will see some mention of this in the press or hear about it through other media sources. Perhaps your legislator will mention this during your interview; if so, we would appreciate your recording his comments. (Refer to my November 1977 Post Board Report for more information on this event.) Also, during your interview remind your legislator of the "A Day under the Dome" date, etc. Invite him/her to attend if time permits for coffee and Danish if there early enough. Try to arrange plans for meeting on that day for lobbying, for lunch or whatever your mutual schedules can accommodate.

BILL NUMBERS FOR INTERVIEW QUESTION #2

Legislative Reform

A.424 (McConnell) - provides for the filling of vacancies in the Legislature by appointment until the General Election.

ACR.7 (McConnell) - proposed constitutional amendment prescribing the procedure for filling legislative vacancies.

File

DEC 27 1977

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
460 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair 07042

December 1977
Post Board Report

TO: Presidents and/or Legislation, Action Directors
FROM: Marj Jones, Trenton Director [redacted]
RE: Legislative Interviews - Qeustions and Background Information

Following are the questions for the legislators as well as the background information and additional sources for data, League consensus positions, etc.

We all know some legislators are chatty and/or difficult to move along through a specified agenda; others may be reluctant to give much time or opinion on particular issues. Therefore, we have starred (*) those questions (or topics) which we believe are most relevant to our legislative priorities. (We realize you will not be able to cover the entire list of topics with your legislator, but please try to get responses to the starred questions.)

Interview Questions

Note: In addition to any background information and references included below, you will need to know League positions on all the issues covered. For state items, positions are included in Study and Action, State Program 1977-79, LWVNJ, 50¢. For national items, refer to Impact on Issues, 1976-78. A Leader's Guide to National Program, LWVUS, #386, $1.00.

Interesting format

1. ELECTION LAW REFORM

*Question: Do you favor the Election Law Revision Commission's proposal (Title 19A) of a state level commission, similar to the Election Law Enforcement Commission, to unify administration of elections?

*Question: What amendments to this legislation, if any, would you support? Eliminate/amend the 50-day party declaration provision? Include funding for gubernatorial Primaries? legislative races?

Background: The LWVNJ has targeted Election Law Reform and, in particular, proposed Title 19A, as an action priority for 1978. In February, local Leagues will be studying this election law revision, and considering ways in which we would like to see it amended. (See background material in January 1978 New Jersey VOTER.) At the same time, we will be sounding out our legislators to see where our support and opposition are and what points each position stresses. This latter job will be yours in the legislative interview.

2. LEGISLATIVE REFORM

*Question: Do you believe that New Jersey needs a simplified, less costly procedure for filling legislative vacancies, such as Assemblywoman McConnell's bill (we expect to have the bill number for the January Post Board Report), so that all constituencies will be equally represented?

Background: Present law (19:27-4) says that when a vacancy occurs in the Legislature, it may be filled in this manner:

1. A writ of election (which in this case means a special Primary Election as well as a special General Election) shall be issued by the house in which the vacancy occurs, unless it's in the last year of the term and the house decides that the services of a legislator who would fill the vacancy are not required.

2. The Governor can issue the writ of election, under certain circumstances, with the same reservations.

(over)

3. The Board(s) of Freeholders in the county (counties) can call for the elections. This is unlikely to occur, since they would have to pay for them. Like much of the election law, this is a hangover from the days when election districts followed county lines.

NOTE: Where possible, the special elections are scheduled to coincide with the regular Primary and General Elections; thus, if a legislator goes to Congress in January, and, if the house decides to fill the vacancy, his successor would not take office until after the November General Election.

Additional provisions on vacancies may be found at 19:27-6 and 19:27-11.

The League objects to the present system because it is subject to political manipulation; the majority party can fill a vacancy or not, to its own advantage. We feel strongly that all of the citizens of New Jersey are entitled to full legislative representation at all times. It is absurd to fill a vacancy only "if it's considered important to do so." Important legislation is under consideration at all times in the session; indeed, some of the most important bills may be taken up in the final weeks. Present law is inconsistent with the "one man, one vote" doctrine which was adopted after the election law was written.

Special elections held immediately to fill legislative vacancies might be the ideal solution, but they are very expensive and the voter turnout is likely to be extremely low.

The legislation to change the law affecting vacancies includes a constitutional amendment and enabling legislation. The constitutional amendment would provide that vacancies be automatically filled at the next General Election, unless it occurs in the last year of the term. Until the election, the vacancy would be filled by appointment within 30 days of its occurrence, as provided by law. The enabling legislation would provide for each vacancy to be filled by a person of the same party as the "incumbent," selected by the members of that party's county committee who represent those portions of the county (counties) which comprise the legislative district.

The League supports this solution because: (1) each vacancy would be treated in the same manner; ambiguities of the present law would be eliminated, and the law would be much simpler and more easily understood; (2) each district would be fully represented at all times; (3) the appointment of a member of the same political party would be consistent with the decision of the voters who chose that party's representative at election time.

We expect legislative vacancies to be a priority issue early in this session, due to the number of vacancies -- seven -- that occurred during the last session.

Question: Would you be willing to disclose your sources of income? your spouse's? your total worth? your spouse's?

3. NATURAL RESOURCES

*Question: Would you be willing to support strong land use controls if that were necessary to protect drinking water sources?

Background: Fifty or a hundred years ago, residents of New Jersey could drink water directly from reservoirs or lakes. Today, increased development with more people, homes and factories, has brought the process of water degradation. Now

(more)

all reservoir water requires some form of treatment. Urban runoff from cars, trucks, buses, factories and lawn fertilizers has added to the problems of water suppliers using rivers as sources of supply.

Meanwhile, there is no acceptable sustitute for chlorine as a disinfectant, although concern is increasing over the effects of chlorination on organiz materials found in our water. The combination of chlorine with certain of these organics produces cancer causing agents.

Stricter land use controls in watershed areas combined with more stringent controls of urban runoff would decrease the pollution of our water supply and, hence, decrease the amount of chlorine needed.

Question: Do you believe the state and/or federal government should have the authority to protect and preserve the most vital acreage within the Pine Barrens? If not, how would you control development and safeguard the natural resources?

Background: See Pine Barrens report in December 1977 Post Board Report.

4. TRANSPORTATION

*Question: Will you support transportation legislation which: (a) establishes a new agency within the Department of Transportation and transfers the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) regulatory power to the new agency? (b) strengthens the transportation planning process? (c) authorizes the new agency to take over private companies which cannot operate under the Standard Cost Formula?

Background: The Transportation Improvement Act of 1977, which included the above provisions, will be reintroduced in the next session, but without the provision for state takeover of private bus companies which cannot operate profitably under the Standard Cost Formula subsidy program. The 1977 Act, along with League testimony on the bill, was summarized in the June 1977 Post Board Report.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Question: Are you in favor of determinate sentencing?

Do you have a strong position on the death penalty? for special situations or categories?

6. FISCAL POLICY

Question: Now that the income tax has been made permanent, do you have any specific concerns about the program? expenditures? revenues?

Background: A resonable answer to this question might be that the legislator would like to wait until there has been more experience with the program before supporting any changes. If that is the case, a general response indicating his/her concerns about various parts of the program would be very helpful. So, another way of getting the answer to the question might be to rephrase the question:

What areas of concern do you have about the income tax program? Have you seen any areas on which you would like studies? If there were a movement in the Legislature to make the tax more graduated, would you be likely to support it?

If we get some of the legislator's general concerns, such as desire for more

(over)

equity, need for more revenue to help the cities or cut back government costs, we then have an idea of what position the legislator will take on specific legislation that comes up.

Review New Jersey VOTER, October 1976, or Fiscal Policy Post Board Report, August 1976, for the provisions of the income tax program.

Question: Do you think the budget caps should be changed? If so, in what way? and why? raise? eliminate? change the formula? make exceptions within the formula? other?

Background: Formula for school caps is in New Jersey Issues: Thorough and Efficient Public Schools, October 1975; formula for municipal, county and state caps is in New Jersey VOTER, February 1976, and Fiscal Policy Post Board Report, August 1976. Some of the problems created by caps are discussed briefly in League testimony -- see Fiscal Policy Post Board Reports, February 1976 and November 1977.

7. GENERAL

Question: What are your particular legislative interests?

*Question: Are there specific issues on which you intend to introduce bills or concentrate your efforts? Would you welcome League input? resource material? suggestions on inclusive provisions? data on other supportive legislators or groups?

8. FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS ONLY (12 Assembly, 1 Senate)

Question: Do you believe the women legislators should organize a bipartisan coalition? If so, what specific issues should they address?

File Ideas Grant!

DEC 27 1977

League of Women Voters of New Jersey [redacted]

December 1977
Post Board Report

TO: Presidents and/or Legislation Directors
FROM: Marj Jones, Trenton Director 201-376-6237
RE: Legislative Interviews -- General Instructions

Deadline for Report Form to Trenton Office, February 17, 1978.

Your state Board, and the Lobby Corp in particular, depend upon the local Leagues to provide us with vital information on every member of the Legislature at the beginning of each two-year session. We firmly believe that the interviews you conduct in your home districts are the grassroots of successful lobbying in Trenton as well as the initial contact for your League's effectiveness with your own legislators during their terms of office.

It is, therefore, imperative that you fulfill your assignment and follow through on the reporting forms. If, for any reason, you find it impossible to participate, please notify at once, the Trenton office or me so that we may make any necessary adjustments in the assignments.

Interviews are to be conducted during the first two week of February. The League in charge of the interview is responsible for contacting the legislator to arrange the place, date and time for the interview; try to allow approximately one hour. If other Leagues or state Board members are involved, they should be notified immediately of the confirmed plans. If your legislator absolutely refuses to grant you an interview, call me at once, at home or at either League office.

Three League members is an ideal number for the interview; enough to share the conversation and questioning, yet not overwhelm the legislator! You may find it useful for the interviewers to meet beforehand to plan your questioning and format. Immediately after the interview, the participants should review their notes and thoughts on the discussion. This will assure a comprehensive report, agreement by interviewers and increased accuracy (before your information grows "cold").

Please remember: This is not a lobbying session. We all want to find out as much as possible about the legislator: his/her opinions on issues, interests, et al. Of course, it is proper to inject a League opinion, but generally let the legislator talk. This is your opportunity to get acquainted and to feel comfortable (now and later) discussin issues with your representative in Trenton. If you are interviewing a new legislator, he/she may want to know more about the League -- great! Your state Board members and Lobby Corps will have met your legislator (hopefully) the end of January and given him/her an overview of our organization and legislative priorities; this could generate questions on our Program and procedures for you.

Perhaps most important, try to relax and enjoy the interview. League members are much better informed and knowledgable than we realize. Do not hesitate to admit you don't know the answer to a specific question; this only adds to your credibility on other answers. Offer to get the information and report back; then do it. This gives you another opportunity to speak with him/her. Take a Handbook and any local or county publications you wish to give away; this is a good opener for the interview. (The Lobby Corps is compiling a packet of state/national publications for each legislator, but will not include a Handbook.) Fill out the reporting form completely, adding any pertinent comments or suggestions on how we might best work with this legislator. Send one copy to the Trenton office, 212 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608. The League in charge must send one copy to each local League within the legislative district (see enclosed sheet) and keep one for file. The Trenton copy must reach us no later than February 17, 1978, so we can review and distribute the information to the lobbyists at the

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earliest possible date. Remember we need this information from you in order to be effective for the League in Trenton.

I thank you all for your cooperation. It is this kind of team work that makes the League such a rewarding experience for the members while enhancing our image with the Legislature and the citizenry. To know us is to love us -- or at least to respect us!

I look forward to seeing you at the "Day Under the Dome" in Trenton.

You might also mention this to your legislator; that you hope to see him there, maybe treat him to a lunch or a coffee break or whatever.

Hopefully, we can pin down the legislative session schedule and have a firm date for this before your interviews.

Legislative Newsletters
EB
FYI
OCT 12 1982

League of Women Voters of New Jersey [redacted]

September 1982
Post Board Report

TO: Presidents and Government Directors

FROM: Carol Kurtz, State Government Director, [redacted]

RE: November legislative units
suggested formats, I-IV
government committee list, notice of next meeting

The object of these units is to see that each member attending leaves with more knowledge than when he/she arrived. We've focused on action in the legislature at our September action units: our emphasis now is on structure and procedure. We also want to stress our grass roots approach. Each local League contact is infinitely worthwhile; it can be the door opener to action. Example: Sandy Corbitt of the Maplewood League was present at a state government committee meeting where Marie Curtis, state voters service director, was outlining the cliff-hanging scenario for this year's school elections. Marie stressed the importance of a legislative mechanism to provide for emergency procedures. Sandy's local League had a function where Assemblyman Robert D. Franks, District 22, was present. She recounted the problem and asked if he could do anything. Sandy notified Marie and me to contact Assemblyman Franks. We called him and after Marie's discussion of what provisions legislation should contain if an emergency occurs on election day, Franks introduced A.1706, which establishes the channels of communication to be employed whenever the governor postpones an election by executive order.

Bibliography for these informational units.

A Citizens Guide to the New Jersey Legislature (updated April 1982)
Study and Action, State Program pp. 21-23.
New Jersey Spotlight on Government pp. 17-41 (only hardcover available: reprint underway.)
New Jersey Reporter Political Almanac

The following are a number of suggested formats. Each League can tailor the information to fit the type of presentation it prefers. Use any or all of the following sections. All this information will be discussed at the September workshops. If you have questions or need further information, call me.

Sample Formats Part I

A sample quiz (attached) might be reprinted and distributed at the start of the meeting. Each person can check his/her own knowledge of how the legislature works.

or

Flip charts can be employed with an informal presentation: Organization, committees, terms, membership, salaries, support services and procedures.

(more)

Part I of suggested format

What's Your Legislative I.Q.?

(Please find answers to questions at end of quiz.)

1. The NJ Legislature is a bicameral body. T or F

2. Dual office holding is permitted in our state. T or F

3. The legislature has investigatory powers and can subpoena witnesses. T or F

4. Our legislature is part time and meets two days per week. T or F

5. Each NJ citizen is represented in the legislature by one senator and two assembly-persons from each legislative district drawn by the NJ state apportionment commission. T or F

6. State senators must be at least 30 years old, US citizens and residents of the state for one year. T or F

7. When are state senators elected for 2 year terms?

8. In which house do revenue bills originate?

9. When a legislative vacancy occurs, what is the proper procedure for filling the seat?

10. When does the legislature usually take a recess to evaluate the budget following the governor's budget message?

11. What is the name of the presiding officer in the General Assembly?

12. What is the presiding officer of the Senate called?

13. Name 5 standing reference committees in each chamber to which proposed legislation is referred for study?

14. How is our legislature paid?

15. What is the salary for each legislator?

16. What is a Legislative Agent?

17. To pass a bill, a majority vote of _____ is needed in the Assembly, in the Senate _____.

18. What is the fraction of legislative votes needed to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot?

19. What is the name of the publication which is a privately printed cumulative record listing bills and resolutions by subject, sponsors, and by house in order of introduction?

(over)

20. When a majority of either house is required to establish a quorum, on what is this based - a majority of those present or the total authorized membership?

21. Will any legislator recorded as present when the house is under call have his/her vote registered as negative to the measure if he/she abstains or leaves his/her desk?

22. What is the name of the custom by which a senator may block consideration of nominees to appointment from his home county?

23. What is my legislative district? Who are my representatives?

Answers:

1. F, 2. T, 3. T, 4. T, 5. T, 6. F, 7. The first term following redistricting, 8. The General Assembly, 9. A writ of special election must be issued within 10 days following the vacancy and no later than the session following the 10 day-period by the house in which the vacancy occurs., 10. March, 11. The Speaker, 12. The President, 13. Agriculture and Environment, Banking and Insurance, Commerce and Industry, Corrections, Health and Human Services, County Government, Education, Energy and Natural Resources etc.; Senate: County and Municipal Government, Education, Energy and Environment, Institutions, Health and Welfare, Judiciary, Labor, Industry and Professions etc. 14. In two semi-annual payments, 15. $18,000 until 1984 when it will increase to $25,000. 16. Those seeking to influence the passage or defeat of legislation, 17. 41 & 21, 18. 3/5 48 in Assembly, 24 in Senate 19. Legislative Index, 20. Total authorized membership, 21. Yes, 22. Senatorial Courtesy, 23. Look in your NJ Citizen's Handbook.

Part II Review our League legislative positions and note what has been effected as rule or law.

League Positions:

Our focus is still on election law reform. As I noted in last month's post board report, the state Assembly Government Committee has been conducting hearings pertaining to a revision of Title 19. The committee will resume hearings in the fall. Unfortunately a more piecemeal revision is expected than the complete overhaul that is needed such as Title 19A would have been. We are still plugging away. A recent Star Ledger column by David Wald on August 22, 1982 was entitled "It's almost time for a tuneup of the election process" and recounted many of the problems which exists in the present law. The column prompted us to respond with a letter to the editor:

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey heartily endorses the "time for a 'tuneup' of election process" called for in David Wald's recent column. We would favor even more a "complete overhaul."

The election machinery in New Jersey is partisan and idiosyncratic by statute as well as practice and the administrative structure is the basis of our election problems. However, the time never seems politically right to tackle the power structure and retoll the election undercarriage.

But now the time is right to take a comprehensive look at particular provisions of the statutes and Assemblywoman Kalik's State Government Committee is doing just that.

A few of the areas the League sees as needing consideration are: absentee ballot procedures, particularly in institutional settings; training of district election workers; emergency procedures for balloting and poll closings; plain language ballot questions; dual office holding; the party declaration timetable; redistricting procedures; nominating petition requirements; and political party organization.

It is a huge task and the assembly committee is to be commended for undertaking the job of tuning up and patching the vintage jalopy that is our election law.

Gloria Jones, Vice President

Carol Kurtz, Government Director

Party declaration law: allow voters to change their declaration of party preference after the slates of candidates are made public.

A financial disclosure bill which would aid in the enforcement of the conflicts law is still a League goal along with a code of ethics for the legislature.

We have a position on campaign financing from 1974. Again check Study and Action, the State Program guide 1981-83 pp. 17-23.

Congressional redistricting and initiative and referendum consensus reprinted in last month's PBR.

Part III A Review of bills pending in the legislature which relate to League positions.

Below are several bills you might want to make note of and use in the preparation of your units.

A.1656
Introduced June 21, 1982
By Assemblywoman Brown

An act concerning the holding of more than one elective office at the same time in certain cases and amending R.S. 19: 3-5 and N.J.S. 40A 9-4.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit members of the Senate and General Assembly from holding local elective public office during their terms as state legislators.

The prohibition in this act will not apply to present members of the legislature who also hold local elective public office on the effective date of the act and will be permitted to do so as long as service in these offices is continuous following the effective date of the act.

Assemblywoman Leanna Brown represents District 26.

S.1584
Introduced June 28, 1982
By Senators Dumont and Ewing

An act concerning dual office holding amending NJS 40A: 9-4 and supplementing Chapter 9 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

This bill prohibits a member of the Legislature from simultaneously holding a municipal or county elective office. There is a "grandfather clause" permitting legislators currently holding dual offices to continue holding the local office until the next municipal or county election as appropriate.

Senator Wayne Dumont, Jr. represents District 24; Senator John Ewing, District 16.

A.1607
Introduced June 14, 1982
By Assemblymen La Courte, Kern, Kosco, Markert, Franks, Assemblywoman Ogden, Assemblymen Palaia, Zimmer and Gill

This bill would amend NJS 40A: 9-4 to prohibit the holding of a county or municipal office by a member of the Legislature. This bill would permit members of the legislature currently holding a county or municipal office to continue to do so only until the termination of their present term as members of the legislature.

Our position allows us to support any of the above bills.

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Part IV Invite a legislator or legislative aide to discuss how the legislature works, its strengths and weaknesses or an ideal legislature for N.J.

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But

Invite a speaker

Only

If a reasonable-sized audience can be guaranteed

If other local Leagues in the district have been invited and the ILO notified, if you have one.

If you are comfortable that the program can be handled in a non-partisan fashion.

State Government Committee List

Ethel Attridge, [redacted]

Marie Curtis, [redacted]

Gladys Gersten, [redacted]

June Greenwald, [redacted]

Ellie Gruber, [redacted]

Marj Jones, [redacted]

Joyce Mims, [redacted]

Gloria Jones, ex-officio, [redacted]

The government committee list is by no means closed. Any League member interested in election law reform, campaign finance, reapportionment, lobbying for legislation, plotting strategy, bill reading will be welcome. Call me or the state office.

Next government committee meeting 10:00 AM Friday October 22 at 171 Laurel Place, Englewood 201-567-7173.

Request for lobbyists - Do you have an area for which you'd like to follow legislation? Would you like to learn about the Trenton scene and see first hand what happens to specific bills? We need you! Please call the office. Training will be provided.

Salute to League of Women Voters of Parsippany-Troy Hill. This League embarked on a project to bring tapes and transcripts of interviews with people important in the history of Parsippany-Troy Hills. Have you thought of doing a project of this type in your town? It certainly would bring visibility and make friends for your League.

~~EB FYI~~

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
212 West State Street, Trenton 08608

DEC 8 1982

November 1982
Post Board Report

Legislative Newsletters

TO: District Lobbyists

FROM: Sandra Potaski, Coordinator-District Lobbyists, 201-270-1684

RE: Letter to district lobbyists, Time for action, background on bottle bill by Ann Auerbach, Do's and Don'ts for Legislative Interviews

It has been a long time since we have communicated with you; however, your lobbying efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. We have recently re-evaluated the lobby corps. The objectives are to assist you in your lobbying efforts; and to develop a more effective lobbying program.

Your job is really two-fold: on those issues on which we have a position, to notify the legislator of the position and to provide background information supporting this position. Secondly, to be an ongoing source of information on all program items. Because of the sheer number of legislative proposals introduced in each session, there is no way a particular elected official can become familiar with all of the material under consideration. It is important that legislators receive information which they can use in reaching a decision on important issues on which they will vote.

We hope you have used the legislative questionnaire sent to you in the June PBR for the initial meeting with your legislator. This was an opportunity to introduce yourself to your legislator and to make him/her aware of your role as the district lobbyists for the LWV. This interview also indicated to your legislator that your local League is actively concerned about the issues which are before the legislature. If you have not had the opportunity to have this interview, call now to make an appointment. This is the time to get the legislator's views on the issues in the questionnaire without promoting the League position unless asked. Be sure to review the League fact sheet on the "Do's and Don'ts for Legislative Interviews" prior to these meetings.

Many hours are spent researching issues to provide League members with enough background material to reach consensus, and from this to establish a position on that issue. Within the last year the League has reached consensus on four important issues: Initiative and Referendum, Tenure, Family Life Education, and Public Policy on Abortion. After all the time and effort spent to establish these positions, we cannot afford to simply file these position papers in our League booklet and sit back. Legislators are far more responsive to local constituent pressure than to any action at the state level. You hold the key to implementation of League positions. We all share the responsibility of keeping our 120 legislators informed about League positions.

What does being the district lobbyist mean in terms of time and work for you? What are your responsibilities? At present the plan is to contact you on a regular basis with some lobbying task or information which you can pass on to your legislator. It may involve one or more of the following actions:

(a) letter or phone call to legislator advising him/her of League position, special conference the League is sponsoring, a new League publication, thank you for his vote in support of a position, or expression of disappointment and hope for agreement next time.

(b) letter to chair of a legislative committee advising of the Leagues' support for bill under consideration.

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(c) letter to editor of local newspaper to create public interest and support for a bill.

Whatever you are asked to do, you will have all the information necessary. A "Time for Action" usually contains background material, sample letters, and references to additional background material. (Ask your president or the appropriate program director for additional background material.) At all times you must work with your League president and/or action chair, and the appropriate program director on any lobbying action. A copy of all correspondence to any legislator should be sent to the state office (smudged carbons are fine).

Your basic responsibility, therefore, is to build up a rapport with your legislator, keep him/her informed of and urge support for League positions and, to assist your League in responding to a "Time for Action". The mechanism for responding to a "Time for Action" will vary from League to League depending upon the organization of the board. Make sure you, the president, action chair and the program director have a clear understanding of how your League will handle it.

What can being the district lobbyist mean to you personally? It gives you a chance to become actively involved in a vital part of League program, and to serve in a particularly important and interesting position within your local League. It gives you an opportunity:

.....to meet with your legislators and build up rapport with them and their staff.

.....to gain first-hand experience with the legislative process.

.....to see how effective lobbying can strengthen the League's position with the legislature and with state government officials.

What can being the district lobbyist mean to your local League? It gives your League an opportunity to have direct contact with a legislator and keep him/her informed of League program. Lobbying efforts have a greater impact if they are done by a League member who is a member of the legislator's constituency (along with the knowledge that many members of the local League are also constituents.) Leagues which cover more than one legislative district should have a lobbyist for each district ideally. Local League has greater accessibility with the legislator to discuss local issues and concerns. If your League does not have an action chair, the district lobbyist can be of great assistance to the president by accepting the responsibility of coordinating all lobbying efforts. If your League does have an action chair, the district lobbyist can be part of the lobbying team and share in these responsibilities.

We are pleased that you have accepted the challenge to be the district lobbyist for your League. Now we need the following information from you:

.....Have you developed rapport with your legislator?

.....Is your legislator a member of the League?

.....How does your League act on a "Time for Action"?

.....Are you encountering any problems?

.....Is there anything we can do to help you?

(more)

Please respond to the state office.

Everyone at the state level is very excited about the work that can be accomplished by strengthening our lobbying efforts. However, we need some guidance and direction from you so we can help you. This program can only be effective when the local Leagues, and in particular YOU, the district lobbyist, actively participate in an important part of the legislative process.....lobbying.

We appreciate all of your previous lobbying efforts and look forward to working with you in the future. Please let us hear from you!

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
212 West State Street, Trenton 08608

revised Nov. 1982

DO'S AND DON'T'S FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

DO

1. Try to set up a date for the interview as soon as materials are received. In districts with more than one local League, assignments will be made by LWVNJ.
2. Choose two or three experienced, knowledgeable people, usually the president plus action chair or district lobbyist and a program director to do the interview.
3. Notify the participants as soon as the date is set.
4. Plan a meeting in advance of the interview to review the questions and background material and determine what part each person will take; who will talk and who will take notes.
5. Read all material on the items to be discussed (material sent with interview notice, earlier material on this item, newspapers, etc.)
6. Let the legislator present his side fully. It is helpful to learn his point of view. This is not the time to present the League position unless asked.
7. IMPORTANT - Assure the legislator the information is for League use only, and no press release will be made.
8. Remember that the legislator has been chosen by the majority of the voters in the district.
9. Remember that you are representing the League of Women Voters. Don't interject personal concerns.
10. Report by deadline, even if it is a report that an interview has not been arranged or that it is to take place at a later date.
11. Collect some pertinent League materials to leave with your legislator.

DON'T

1. Annoy your legislator for an interview. If you are having trouble, call the office or legislation director.
2. Fail to keep your date. If you have an unexpected problem at home, send a substitute. Your legislator may have given up something important to be with you.
3. Be late. Legislators have more than one job and are busy people. Respect his time limits.
4. Go alone. This is not good for the image of the League as a large organization. Two people can keep the conversation going in the right direction and reporting is better.
5. Send the same person on an interview year after year. Show him some new faces.
6. Stay too long. An hour is usually enough even if all the points to discuss have not been covered.
7. Smoke, unless invited to.