



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF PENSACOLA BAY AREA

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For 92 years the League of Women Voters has been respected as one of the leading organizations with **IMPACT** across the United States. Nationally respected, locally engaged, our volunteers work on a non-partisan basis to understand issues and encourage informed and active participation by our nation's citizens.



Study of Expansion of Rehabilitation Programs for Inmates in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties Report

February 18, 2012

Study Committee

Tryon Branch Library, Langley Ave.
Coffee 9:15 am - Program 9:45 am

The LWVF justice program 'supports a criminal justice system that emphasizes rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration'. A committee of our local League has completed a review of the expansion of rehabilitation programs in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. In order to appreciate the complexity and importance of this issue, information was obtained from Florida's Department of Corrections, local prisons and jails, and from public, private and faith-based groups, who are involved in rehabilitation programs in efforts to reduce recidivism among this population.

Join us on Saturday, February 18, for a presentation of the findings of our study of local inmate rehabilitation. Committee members are: Lauren Anzaldo, Georgia Blackmon, Janet deLorge, Vivian Faircloth, Mary Knight, Paula Montgomery, Haley Richards, Kelly Richards and Andrea Walker. ◇

LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING

Tryon Branch Library

February 18, 2012 - Immediately following the monthly program

Now is the time for our members to make suggestions to LWVUS for program during the next two years. Leagues across the nation are being asked to review the League's national program prior to national convention where delegates will determine program for 2012-2014. LWVUS program is detailed in Impact on Issues and is available in hard copy or as a PDF.

Following the February program, our members will discuss the current program of the national League and determine whether to propose a new study, suggest an update of a current program or simply become more familiar with the overall program of our organization.

It is important for our local League to have input on decisions of the national organization and its future. Please join us for the discussion as your voice needs to be heard and your input is needed for determining the future of LWVUS.



CoPresidents Paula Montgomery (L)
and Rosemary Hays-Thomas (R)

CoPresident's Message

There is good news from the Eleventh Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals. A three-judge Federal Appeals court this week upheld a lower court's finding that Fair Districts' amendment six is constitutional. Amendment six, which applies the Fair Districts standards to Congressional districts, was challenged by Congresswoman Corrine Brown and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart. That is the good news. It is another small step in actually getting fair district maps drawn

The next step comes about with examination of the district maps proposed by the legislature. When the League and others examined the maps, they found that they were largely inconsistent with the requirements of the Fair Districts amendments. The Florida League in collaboration with Common Cause Florida and the Hispanic advocacy organization the National Council of La Raza, has proposed a set of maps which adhere to the requirements of the amendment. All of us await the final actions of the legislature. Since this is an election year, it is critically important to have the maps ready soon. We all need to know in which district we will be voting. Time is even more urgent for people who are considering running for office. They need to know what their district will be. We will all be watching.

Voting is a key issue for the League. The ability to vote is our way to have a say in this government "of the people." Therefore, we in the League are also closely watching the outcome of the three judge judicial review of the more questionable parts of Florida's recent voting law. The law shortens the early voting period from 14 to 8 days. It does not allow citizens to register address changes at the polls. It also put a 48 hour time limit on the return of voter registration forms by a third party registrar. If the time limit is not met, the fines and penalties are severe. Because of these onerous restrictions the League is not acting as a third party registrar for the first time in 70 years. All of these changes in Florida's voting laws tend to restrict the vote of Florida's minority populations, as well as the young and the elderly. These apparent voting restrictions are the reason for the review, to see if they are in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. There is an excellent article in the Independent News dated February 2, 2012, which explains these problems in more depth.

I have been impressed with the work done by the ad hoc committee headed by Janet DeLorge, examining the programs in place for rehabilitation of prisoners in Santa Rose and Escambia facilities. The February 18th program will share with us all what they have learned. This is an active area and the program promises to be very

interesting.

The Hot Topic Lunch on January 17th at Dharma Blue was attended by about 30 members and interested members of the public. Many thanks to Ellen Roston and Mary Gutierrez for organizing this event. The speaker was Escambia County Administrator Randy Oliver. He explained the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE) extended to those businesses which agree with the county to expand their operation and/or to hire more workers. This issue was placed on the ballot during the Presidential Preference Primary on January 31st. It passed with 87% approval.

The privatization of Florida's Prisons has been in the news lately, primarily because the legislature seems interested in doing it without public notice until after the fact. It is timely that the League of Women Voters of the United State is currently studying the general issue of privatization. Our local chapter is tackling our part in this study under the leadership of Don Freeman. If you are interested in this issue and would like to be part of the study, contact Don, 477-6626, and let him know. We will hear their report and seek consensus at the April meeting.

Mary Gutierrez and Paula Montgomery will be attending the Legislative Summit in Tallahassee this month. If any other of our members would like to attend, please go on line and register. Let one of us know and possibly we can car pool. One of the highlights of the three-day meeting will be a Gala at which young (less than 40 years old) elected officials will be honored. We have nominated Pensacola City Councilwoman, Megan Pratt from our local area.

I urge each of you to read the Capitol Report published by our lobbyist, Ben Wilcox, each week while the legislature is in session. There is a great deal of activity happening, and it may affect us all.

I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday the 18th at the Tryon Library at 9:15. ♦

Paula Montgomery 937-7769

Welcome New Members!

Charles N. Kraselsky
Trudy Cutrone
Phyllis Greenwood
Jenna Emery

[Editor's Note: Mailing addressees, phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the League roster. Email addresses will use the word 'at' instead of '@' for your internet protection.]

Privatization Study

The LWV Pensacola Bay Area is participating in the study and consensus process of the LWVUS study on the privatization of government assets and resources. Links to this and other reference materials are on the [LWVUS website](#). Join the [League Sponsored Email Lists](#) to participate or monitor the discussion on line.

The committee will meet at Azalea Trace, February 16th at 1pm. Contact Dr. Don Freeman, 477-6626

Reference Material



Government Privatization History, Examples, and Issues

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
October 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the growing trend of privatization and public/private partnerships in state and local governments, the Commission has put together this report to inform interested parties on forms of privatization, the history of privatization, reasons for privatization, methods of valuing public assets, examples of privatization that could be relevant to Illinois, and issues associated with privatization.

Some highlights of the report are:

- Privatization is the process of transferring property from public ownership to private ownership and/or transferring the management of a service or activity from the government to the private sector.
- Types of privatization include complete privatization, privatization of operations, privatization through contracts, franchising, and open competition.
- Privatization of public assets has historically occurred more frequently outside the United States. This is most readily seen in nationally run industries in former socialist countries that are moving towards more free market economies.
- Privatization of public services has occurred at all levels of government within the United States. Some examples of services that have been privatized include airport operation, data processing, vehicle maintenance, corrections, water and wastewater utilities, and waste collection and disposal.
- Reasons for privatization include cost reduction, risk transfer, a source of revenue, the desire for a higher level of service, a need for greater expertise, and flexibility.
- Commonly used methods of valuing public assets include net present value, internal rate of return, and multiples.
- Common areas of privatization that are examined in

this report include:

1. Toll Roads, Bridges, and Tunnels (Page 9),
2. Utilities (Page 12),
3. Corrections (Page 14),
4. Lotteries (Page 15),
5. Loan Portfolios (Page 16),
6. Airports (Page 16),
7. Other Assets and Services (Page 17).

• Issues associated with privatization include the effect to public employees, transparency after privatization, ownership of public assets, competition within the system, and the importance of the contract or agreement. [Continue reading...](#)

A Seattle League Study on Privatization

Published in LWV Seattle Voter September 2009

Big Picture

I. Privatization: The Public Agenda and Debate

The following section takes information from two articles, one advocating for and one questioning the privatization agenda.

1. Privatization, Toward More Effective Government, produced by the President's Commission on Privatization, September 1987, David Linowes, Commission Chair.

2. "The Meaning of Privatization," by Paul Starr, published in the Yale Law and Policy Review 6, 1988.

These two articles provide a review of the significant policy agenda described by President Reagan's Commission on Privatization and lay out the basic premises of the debate. We, as citizens of the United States, Washington State, and King County, have been experiencing the effects of the privatization movement since the 1980s. This is a good time to take measure of privatization's impact on our daily lives, and to think about implications for League policy/positions within the greater framework of this debate.

The Idea

Starr's article explains that with the rise of conservative governments in Great Britain, the United States and France, privatization has come primarily to mean any shift of activities or functions from the state to the private sector. Those promoting privatizing government services believe that the result will be more efficiency, quality and innovation, lower taxes and a smaller government. Those against privatization say that the private sector mandate to make a profit can endanger public safety, reduce services, and increase costs to consumers and government to pay off corporate debt loads. The privatization movement is an

Continue reading on page 3

Seattle Study Continued from Page 3

international movement. Outside the United States, it has generally involved outright divestiture of government industries such as utilities, transportation, oil, gas, water and other natural resources. Examples include privatizing Russia's natural gas (Gazprom), Cochabamba's municipal water system in Bolivia¹ and the United Kingdom's British Rail. In the United States, the focus has included deregulation of and reduction of taxes on industry, as well as a move toward privatizing government services such as education, prisons, Social Security, Medicare, military services and parks.

History

According to David Linowes, chair of the President's Commission on Privatization, the movement to deregulate private industry and transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector was a public agenda created mainly in reaction to the Progressive Era of the early 20th century. Linowes explains that the Progressive Era, ascendant after the Great Depression, envisioned a social and scientific administration of government through professional elites free of democratic politics and special interest groups. In the Progressive Era, while other nations were most likely to nationalize an industry, the US was more likely to subject the industry to systematic government regulations. The Progressive Era also envisioned a much stronger role for government in the well-being of its citizens. Programs such as unemployment compensation and workers compensation were established to protect labor. Programs to protect the aging, such as Social Security and Medicare, and to provide for the poor were begun. The government also took responsibility for providing a decent infrastructure that included transportation and utilities.

Linowes reminds us that the Progressive Era policies were themselves a reaction against the Social Darwinism and laissez-faire, free market theories prevalent in the late 19th century, preceding the catastrophic events of World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. Linowes reports that in the 1970s, disillusioned with the Progressive Era agenda, leadership in the increasingly global private sector felt that burgeoning tax rates and government regulations of industry in many nations were inhibiting free trade. President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher were standard-bearers of this dramatic change in the public agenda.

Linowes tells us that the two most important forms of privatization in the United States have been deregulation and tax reduction. Examples include deregulation of the financial services industry and the push to eliminate taxes on capital gains and inheritances.

In September 1987 President Ronald Reagan established the

¹ Gazprom and the Bolivia municipal water system have been renationalized.

President's Commission on Privatization, with Linowes as its chair. Its purpose was "to review the appropriate division of responsibilities between the federal government and the private sector and to identify those government programs that are not 'properly' the responsibility of the federal government or that can be performed more efficiently by the private sector." The commission reviewed a broad spectrum of government activities including:

- Low-income housing,
- Housing finance (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac),
- Federal loan programs (student loans),
- Air traffic control,
- Educational choice (voucher program and charter schools),
- Postal service,
- Contracting out military commissaries and prisons,
- Federal asset sales: Amtrak, Naval Petroleum Reserves,
- Other programs: Medicare, international development programs, urban mass transit.

Theories Supporting Privatization

Paul Starr explains that the normative theories justifying privatization as a direction for public policy have drawn their inspiration from several different schools of thought on what constitutes a "good society."

"Property Rights" and "Public Choice"

The intellectual inspiration behind contemporary privatization in the United States has come from the Public Choice and Property Rights schools of thought, which trace their roots to economic thinkers such as Adam Smith and Fredrick Hayek. Today prominent leaders advocating these theories include [the late] Milton Friedman and the Chicago School of Economics.

The basic assumptions include:

1. Democratic political systems have inherent tendencies toward government growth and excessive budgets.
2. Expenditure growth is due to self-interested coalitions of voters, politicians and bureaucrats.
3. Public enterprises necessarily perform less efficiently than private enterprises.
4. The more individuals stand to gain from tending to their property, the better it will be tended.

Thus, privatization advocates claim that if the private sector is in control of many of the government services, assets and functions, there will be greater efficiency, better services, less cost, and smaller government (which will result in fewer taxes).

What is the Role of Government?

There are fundamental political and economic questions about the proper relationship of government and the

Continue reading on page 5.

Seattle Study continued from page 4.

private sector. For the past 30 years, political and economic concepts that have traditionally given legitimacy to government have been challenged by the forces advocating for privatization, focusing on three policy areas: asset sales, contracting out and deregulation.

Privatization in Practice

Paul Starr describes four types of government policies intended to bring a shift from the public sector to the private sector.

1. Privatization by attrition

Cessation of public programs and disengagement of government from specific kinds of responsibilities. Restriction of publicly produced services in availability or quality may lead to a shift by consumers toward privately produced substitutes. Government lets the service run down.

2. Transfer of assets

Through the direct sale or lease of public land, infrastructure and enterprises.

3. Contracting out (public/private partnerships) or vouchers

Instead of directly producing some service, the government may finance private services, for example through contracting out (also called outsourcing) or vouchers.

4. Deregulation

The deregulation of entry into activities previously treated as public monopolies.

These policies vary in the degree to which they move ownership, finance and accountability out of the public sector. The spectrum runs from total privatization (as in government disengagement from some policy domain) to partial privatization (public/private partnerships and vouchers such as for school or housing). In the case of partial privatization, the government may continue to finance but not operate services, or it may continue to own but not manage assets. Partial privatization dilutes government control and accountability without eliminating them.

Implications for the Seattle League

The federal government's record neglect of basic infrastructure needs, as well as continuing erosion of funds available for programs to support human services over the last 30 years, have strained local governments to find replacements. Two examples of funding losses in our region are the diminution of Section 8 monies from the federal government (subsidization of rents for low-income residents) and the federal decision to move people out of large mental institutions in order to place them in community-based facilities, a plan which never worked because the community facilities were not funded. Loss of funds has put pressure on local governments to figure out how to make up the difference without politically unpopular

increases in rates for services or increased taxation. The result has been a trend in our state, counties and cities to transfer services to the private sector.

With many examples of privatization in our region, it is time to assess. What are the basic services that must be performed by government? How do we pay for them? Which services, functions and assets could be effectively transferred to the private sector? Are there government programs that should never be transferred to the for-profit private sector—and if so, what are the criteria? These questions are critical to the creation of new League policy, positions and actions to fit the times. ◇



Calendar

February

- 7 Tuesday, **Board Meeting** - 5:30 pm at new Tryon Branch Public Library, 1200 Langley Ave. Members are welcome to attend.
- 12 Sunday, **Rehabilitation Study Committee**, 1:00 pm at home of Janet deLorge, 2928 Sundance Dr., Cantonment, 607-9170
- 14 **Happy birthday League of Women Voter!**
- 16 Thursday, **Privatization Committee**, 1:00 pm at Azalea Trace, Contact Don Freeman, 477-6626

General Meeting

Saturday, February 18, 2012

Rehabilitation Study Committee Report

Coffee 9:15 am - Program 9:45 am

LWVUS Program Planning

Immediately following the monthly meeting
Tryon Branch Library, Langley Avenue

- 21- 23 Tues-Th, **Legislative Summit**, Tallahassee, contact Paula Montgomery
- 21 Tuesday, 10 am **International Relations Committee**, Azalea Trace Auditorium; *State of the Oceans Waves of Change* led by Admiral Paul E. Tobin, Jr. He served as Oceanographer of the Navy from 1996 to 1998 and director of Naval History from 2005 to 2008. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1963. For further information, contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352 or *gf1 at students.uwf.edu*.
- 21 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Natural Resources Committee**, downtown library conference room (Gregory and Spring Streets). For more information contact Mary Gutierrez, *gutmy at cox.net*.

March

- 6 Tuesday, **Board Meeting** - 5:30 pm at new Tryon Branch Public Library, 1200 Langley Ave. Members are welcome to attend.



LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2012

The LWVUS Board established the following as Legislative Priorities for 2012:

- ✧ Voter Protection,
- ✧ Campaign Finance Reform,
- ✧ Environmental Defense and
- ✧ Health Care Defense.

In addition, these items were included on the LWVUS Watch List for 2012:

- ✧ Fair Taxation,
- ✧ CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women),
- ✧ UN Support and
- ✧ Immigration.

Items on the Watch List will be acted upon if the opportunity arises for League action, it does not interfere with action on an LWVUS Priority and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact. ✧

The League of Women Voters will celebrate its 92nd birthday on February 14. Founded in 1920 after winning the battle to get women the right to vote, the organization has become synonymous with education and information, especially around elections and voting.



It's easy! Just send your check to:

League of Women Voters, P O Box 2023,
Pensacola FL, 32513

\$55 Individual membership
 \$27.50 each additional household member
 \$27.50 student membership
 Here's my extra contribution to the League \$ _____

My separate Education Fund contribution \$ _____

(Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to LWV Ed Fund and sent to the treasurer.)

I'm renewing my membership

Name(s) _____

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Email Address _____

Your input is needed

Now is the time for you - our members - to make suggestions for a local Program for next year. What local governmental issue should the League select for an in-depth examination? What action should be undertaken in support of a local program position? Please call Rosemary Hays-Thomas or Paula Montgomery with your suggestions or send your proposal to lwvpba@gmail.com.

If you are willing to serve as an League officer or director next year, please call Charlotte Schipman, chair of the Nominating Committee, at 477-7166.



League of women Voters
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