



January 14, 2008

LL #1:1

GOOD GOVERNMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

During the opening days of the General Assembly, the Governor and leadership from majority and minority parties laid out their agenda for the session. We were glad to find interest in addressing issues of good government and good governance:

- **Voting Procedures:** The fallout from the 2000 election is with us still. One or more systems for voting will be determined over the next couple of weeks. Will we have all mail balloting? Paper ballots at precincts? County option? Electronic machines? Legislation will have to be crafted and passed because at this point, each option probably violates current statutes.
- **Judges:** The Judicial Performance Commission process is being reviewed and revised to allow more transparency concerning the number of judges who do not stand for retention, some as a result of negative assessments. The process is critical if we are to defeat, once again, an initiative imposing term limits on judges. Colorado can be proud of its system for selecting and reviewing judges for retention, and the changes that are under consideration and will emerge as one or more bills will make it even better.
- **The Constitution:** With all of its provisions regarding fiscal issues and wildlife management and dollar limits for interest groups to entertain legislators, Colorado's constitution is *not* a model of efficiency or of good governance. A DU Panel studying the constitution and the ways to amend it concluded, not surprisingly, that it is a mess and needs some fixes. In particular, they recommended incentives to keep what should be statutes out of the constitution. WE AGREE!!!! The Panel's recommendations appear to be outside League's program positions, but they may be solid, creative ways to gain the broad consensus necessary for action. Since League has been active on this topic, we will be expected to weigh in here.
- **Ethics:** A hold-over from last year and from the 2006 election is the ethics amendment. With certain provisions of Amendment 41 up in the air due to the lawsuit, proposals will be made to put in place *statutorily* some of the aims of Amendment 41, albeit a little less draconian.
- **Fiscal Issues and Single Subjects for Ballot Issues:** After the passage of TABOR in 1992, League joined other groups to pass a measure limiting ballot issues to a single subject (bills in the legislature are subject to similar limitations). It is a measure of good governance, and TABOR's passage garnered a lot

of support for the measure. However, the Gordian Knot of the Gallagher Amendment regarding property taxes, TABOR, and Amendment 23 (funding for K-12 schools) restricted the ability of the legislature to make policy that addressed changing economic realities – which is not good governance. A creative solution that might emerge from this session is a ballot request to suspend single subject for the purpose of addressing this fiscal knot, to be followed by a vote on the specific fiscal proposal at the next general election.

Christine Watson
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League of Women Voters of Colorado		
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Legislative Action Chair	Jeannette Hillery	303.494.7718
Lobbyist	Christine Watson	303.863.0437
Staff	Sandy Eid	303.863.0437

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2008

SENATE

President of the Senate	Peter C. Groff
President Pro-Tem	Abel Tapia
Majority Leader	Ken Gordon
Asst. Majority Leader	Brandon Shaffer
Minority Leader	Andy McElhany
Asst. Minority Leader	Nancy Spence
Majority Caucus Chair	Jim Isgar
Minority Caucus Chair	Mike Kopp

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker of the House	Andrew Romanoff
Speaker Pro-Tem	Cheri Jahn
Majority Leader	Alice Madden
Asst. Majority Leader	Michael Garcia
Majority Caucus Chair	Morgan Carroll
Majority Whip	Andy Kerr
Minority Leader	Mike May
Asst. Minority Leader	David Balmer
Minority Caucus Chair	Amy Stephens
Minority Whip	Cory Gardner
Republican Senators	303 866 4866
Office State Planning & Budgeting	303 866 3317

CAPITOL DIRECTORY

Information Center/Bill Room	303 866 3055
Governor's Office	303 866 2471
Joint Budget Committee	303 866 2061
Legislative Council	303 866 3521
Legislative Legal Services	303 866 2045
Reviser of Statutes	303 866 2045
House Members – both parties	303 866 2904
Democratic Senators	303 866 4865

Toll-free numbers from outside Metro area:

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

Legislative Home Page: www.leg.state.co.us/
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FACTS ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and influence public policy issues through education and advocacy. It is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the long struggle to win voting rights for women in the United States. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age. There are Leagues in more than 900 communities throughout the U.S., and 21 Local Leagues in Colorado. They are: Adams County, Arapahoe County, Archuleta County, Boulder County, Chaffee County, Montezuma County, Delta County, Denver, Estes Park, Greeley/Weld County, Gunnison Area, Jefferson County, Larimer County, La Plata County, Mesa County, Montrose, Morgan County, Pueblo, Pikes Peak Region, Sterling, and Routt County. Individual members in Colorado total 1,870.

The League is organized around two main functions: VOTER EDUCATION and ADVOCACY.

VOTER EDUCATION provides a vital service to the citizens of Colorado. The Education Fund provides the public with factual and unbiased information about ballot issues and candidates to help them in making informed decisions at election time. In addition to encouraging eligible voters to register and vote, the League provides information to help them understand the political process and be active participants in government. Voter Education efforts are administered by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Financial support for the voter education area comes primarily from the following sources: grants, financial contributions, and in-kind contributions.

In the ADVOCACY area, the League studies many public policy issues related to government, natural resources and social policy. We may take action in support of or opposition to an issue after thorough study and consensus by our members. The League takes action at all levels of government. These actions include briefings and workshops to inform our members, lobbying before government bodies, conducting petition drives, publishing information for the general public and the news media, and holding open informational meetings. Program efforts are administered by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization. Financial support for the program area comes from the following sources: membership dues, conferences and special events, contributions, and sale of publications.

Board members and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to a variety of activities including: writing publications, researching ballot issues, lobbying at the legislature and answering the voter hotline.

HOW DOES THE LEAGUE ADOPT POLICY POSITIONS?

League program consists of governmental issues chosen by members for study and ultimate action. These may range from educational activities in the community to legislative lobbying. Study makes action possible by bringing members the knowledge that makes League action uniquely credible and respected. The process gives members an opportunity to examine facts, pro and con arguments, and political realities.

Reaching consensus is a technique used traditionally in the League of Women Voters to discuss and arrive at conclusions on issues. Consensus is not a simple majority vote, nor does it mean unanimity. It is the "sense of the group" as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. League action can take place only after consensus or concurrence has been reached and a position formulated.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado determines what legislation to follow and to support or oppose based first and foremost on our program positions. We can support or oppose only topics on which the League has conducted studies and arrived at positions on the local, state and/or national level. The Legislative Action Committee meets biweekly during the legislative session to review pending bills and determine which to follow based on our stated program. Positions of support, oppose or "watch" are arrived at by consensus after reviewing all information available at the time. As bills change, it is sometimes necessary to change positions, and those decisions are also made by consensus of the committee.

2008 HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Representatives Curry (Chair), Gallegos (Vice-chair), Fischer, C. Gardner, Hodge, Looper, McFadyen, McKinley, McNulty, Rose, Scanlan, Solano, Sonnenberg

Staff: David Beaujohn
Tues & Wed, Adj.-noon (rm 0107)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (rm 0107)
Fri., 2:30-4:00 (rm 0107)

APPROPRIATIONS

Representatives Buescher (Chair), Pommer (Vice-chair), Butcher, Garcia, Judd, J. Kerr, Massey, McGihon, McNulty, Riesberg, Vaad, Weissman, White

As announced
Legislative Services Bldg.
3rd Floor

BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR

Representatives Marshall (Chair), Rice (Vice-chair), Balmer, Butcher, M. Carroll, Ferrandino, Jahn, Liston, Soper, Stephens

Staff: Christie Lee
Mon & Thur, 1:30-6:00 (rm 0107)
Fri., 1:00-2:30 (rm 0107)

EDUCATION

Representatives Merrifield (Chair), Solano (Vice-chair), Benefield, Casso, Fischer, C. Gardner, A. Kerr, Massey, Peniston, Rose, Summers, Todd, Witwer

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

FINANCE

Representatives Judd (Chair), Benefield (Vice-chair), Borodkin, Bruce, Frangas, Garcia, Kefalas, J. Kerr, Labuda, Lambert, Lundberg

Staff: Ron Kirk
Tues & Wed, Adj.-noon (LSB-A)
Wed., 1:30-6:00 (LSB-A)
Fri., 2:30-4:00 (LSB-A)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Representatives McGihon (Chair), Frangas (Vice-chair), Gagliardi, Garza-Hicks, Green, Kefalas, J. Kerr, Marostica, Primavera, Riesberg, Roberts, Stafford, Swalm

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

JUDICIARY

Representatives T. Carroll (Chair), Stafford (Vice-chair), M. Carroll, B. Gardner, Jahn, A. Kerr, King, Levy, Marshall, Roberts, Stephens

Staff: Jessika Shipley
Tues & Wed, Adj.-noon (rm 0112)
Wed, 1:30-6:00 (rm 0112)
Fri., 2:30-4:00 (0112)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Representatives Hodge (Chair), McKinley (Vice-chair), Curry, Gagliardi, B. Gardner, Garza-Hicks, King, Liston, Peniston, Soper, Summers

Staff: Carl Jarrett
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (rm 0111)
Thur, Adj.-noon (rm 0111)
Fri., 4:00-5:30 (rm 0111)

STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Representatives Weissmann (Chair), Todd (Vice-chair), Bruce, T. Carroll, Casso, Ferrandino, Gallegos, Labuda, Lambert, Looper, Lundberg

Staff: Bo Pogue
Tues., 1:30-6:00 (rm 0112)
Thur, Adj.-noon (rm 0112)
Fri., 4:00-5:30 (rm 0107)

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

Representatives McFadyen (Chair), Green (Vice-chair), Borodkin, Levy, Marostica, McNulty, Merrifield, Primavera, Rice, Scanlan, Sonnenberg, Swalm, Vaad

Staff: Jamila Rockette
Tues, 1:30-6:00 (rm 0107)
Thur., Adj.-noon (rm 0107)
Fri., 4:00-5:30 (rm 0107)

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Representatives Buescher (Vice-chair), Pommer, White

Mon - Thur upon adjmt.
See daily calendar. 3rd Floor,
Legislative Svcs Bldg.

2008 SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENERGY

Senators Jim Isgar (Chair), Gail Schwartz (Vice-chair), Greg Brophy, Dan Gibbs, Ted Harvey, Chris Romer, Jack Taylor

Staff: Roegan Robb
Wed., 7:30 am – noon (rm 353)
Thurs., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 353)
Fri., 2:30 – 4:00 (rm 353)

APPROPRIATIONS

Senators John Morse (Chair), Moe Keller (Vice-chair), Greg Brophy, Ted Harvey, Steve Johnson, Mike Kopp, Chris Romer, Abel Tapia, Jennifer Veiga, Sue Windels

As announced
Legislative Services Bldg.
3rd Floor

BUSINESS, LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Senators Jennifer Veiga (Chair), Lois Tochtrop (Vice-chair), Ken Kester, Gail Schwartz, Stephanie Takis, Jack Taylor, Tom Wiens

Staff: Jeannette Chapman
Mon. & Wed., 1:30-6:00 (rm 354)
Tues., 7:30 am – noon (rm 354)
Fri., 1:00 – 2:30 (rm 354)

EDUCATION

Senators Sue Windels (Chair), Ron Tupa (Vice-Chair), Bob Bacon, Mike Kopp, Josh Penry, Nancy Spence, Suzanne Williams

Staff: Jennifer Thomsen
Wed., 7:30 am – noon (rm 354)
Thurs., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 354)
Fri., 2:30 – 4:00 (rm 354)

FINANCE

Senators Paula Sandoval (Chair), Chris Romer (Vice-chair), Greg Brophy, Ted Harvey, Jim Isgar, Mike Kopp, Jennifer Veiga

Staff: Danica Bracken
Tues., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 354)
Thurs., 7:30 am – noon (rm 354)
Fri., 4:00 – 5:30 (rm 354)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senators Bob Hagedorn (Chair), Betty Boyd (Vice-chair), Bill Cadman, Shawn Mitchell, Paula Sandoval, Dave Schultheis, Lois Tochtrop

Staff: Elizabeth Burger
Wed., 7:30 am – noon (rm 352)
Thurs., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 352)
Fri., 2:30 – 4:00 (rm 352)

JUDICIARY

Senators Brandon Shaffer (Chair), Dan Gibbs (Vice-chair), Bob Bacon, Betty Boyd, Josh Penry, Scott Renfrow, Steve Ward

Staff: Sara McPhee
Mon. & Wed., 1:30-6:00 (rm 352)
Tues., 7:30 am – noon (rm 352)
Fri., 1:00 – 2:30 (rm 352)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Bob Bacon (Chair), Gail Schwartz (Vice-chair), Ken Kester, Lois Tochtrop, Ron Tupa, Steve Ward, Tom Wiens

Staff: Raegan Robb
Tues., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 353)
Thurs., 7:30 am – noon (rm 353)
Fri., 4:00 – 5:30 (rm 353)

STATE, VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senators Abel Tapia (Chair), Chris Romer, (Vice-chair), Bill Cadman, Dave Schultheis, Sue Windels

Staff: Geoff Johnson
Mon. & Wed., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 353)
Tues., 7:30 am – noon (rm 353)
Fri., 1:00 – 2:30 (rm 353)

TRANSPORTATION

Senators Stephanie Takis (Chair), Suzanne Williams (Vice-chair), Dan Gibbs, Bob Hagedorn, Shawn Mitchell, Scott Renfroe, Nancy Spence

Staff: Geoff Johnson
Tues., 1:30 – 6:00 (rm 352)
Thurs., 7:30 am – noon (rm 352)
Fri., 4:00 – 5:30 (rm 352)

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Senators Moe Keller (Vice-chair), John Morse, Steve Johnson

Mon - Thur upon adjmt.
See daily calendar. 3rd Floor,
Legislative Svcs Bldg.

DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2007 COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 9	General Assembly convenes.
January 25	Deadline for introduction of Senate bills, except the Long Bill
January 30	Deadline for introduction of House bills, except the Long Bill
February 14	Deadline for Senate committees of reference to report Senate bills.
February 21	Deadline for House committees of reference to report remaining House bills.
February 27	Deadline for final passage of Senate bills in the Senate. Deadline for final passage of House bills in the House.
March 21	Deadline for committees of reference to report bills originating in the other house.
March 24	Deadline for introduction of the Long Bill in the Senate .
March 28	Deadline for final passage of Long Bill in the Senate .
March 31	Deadline for final passage in the House of Senate bills.
April 4	Deadline for final passage of Long Bill in the House .
April 7	Deadline for final passage in the Senate of all House bills.
April 11	Deadline for adoption of conference committee report on Long Bill. Deadline for Appropriations Committee in house of introduction to report bills referred to Appropriations Committee.
April 18	Deadline for final passage in house of introduction of all bills referred to Appropriations Committee in that house.
April 25	Deadline for Appropriations Committee in second house to report bills referred to Appropriations Committee.
April 30	Deadline for final passage in second house of all bills referred to Appropriations Committee in that house.
May 7	Adjournment sine die. (The General Assembly can meet for no more than 120 calendar days. The past three sessions have adjourned early by a few days; thus, while the session must conclude by midnight on May 7, it may do so earlier.)