

## LWVLPC Legislative Action Report March 2010

### Actions

- Notice of Legislative letters 5 & 6 sent to members and placed on web site
- LWVUS Senate alert on health care reform sent to members
- LWVCO at our request reviewed HB 10-1348 (Increase Oversight of Radioactive Materials) and agreed that it should be supported at state level. Passed second reading in the House 4/1 with amendments
- Discussion with LWVCO on HB 10-1017, Voluntary Affordable Rental Options, resulted in permission to support at the local level based on our position, letter to be sent to Senator Whitehead for final vote on amended bill coming up in Senate, then back to House for concurrence.

### Colorado General Assembly

- Colorado's budget still remains the hottest topic, painful cuts everywhere but especially education
- House Bill 10-1001 which requires our largest utility companies to generate 30 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020 was signed by Gov. Ritter. Six years ago Colorado adopted the nation's first voter-approved renewable energy standard, 10 percent by 2015.
- The Curry bill HB 10-1271 "Concerning the registration date for eligibility of a person seeking to be placed in nomination as a candidate for a partisan office" passed on final vote 58-7. It passed through the Senate committee unamended and is in the full Senate for second reading, laid over 4/1.
  - The bill shortens the period during which a person seeking nomination must be affiliated with a major or minor political party, or unaffiliated, if reaching the ballot by petition as an unaffiliated candidate, as shown on the books of the county clerk and recorder. The bill specifies that such a person must be shown as affiliated with the major or minor party, or unaffiliated, as applicable, no later than the January 1 immediately preceding the election at which the person desires to be placed in nomination. It would not take effect until next year.
- An election-reform bill that would allow voters to register until just before Election Day 2010 may be filed, allowing Colorado voters to register up to the Friday before the Nov. 2 general election this year. As the bill is currently written, by 2012, Coloradans could register and vote on the same day.
- Gov. Bill Ritter and Secretary of State Bernie Buescher are backing an effort that would force corporations that want to spend money on Colorado elections to face tighter requirements for telling the public about their campaign activities. This may be introduced in the Legislature this year in a response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in January that said corporations have the First Amendment right to spend freely on elections.

### U.S. Congress

- Amended Health Care Reform bill passed, in case you missed it...
- Colorado Attorney General John Suthers joined with 13 states to legally challenge the national health care reform law on various grounds: the insurance mandate, states' rights, etc...
- What's next? Financial reform and regulation is the next big issue: addressing the problem of too big to fail and consumer protections for financial products. The bill is expected to at least partially reverse the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 and restore some transparency to the over-the-counter derivatives market which goes to the heart of what turned the mortgage crisis in 2008 into a systemic financial crisis. "Over

the counter” refers to the fact that derivative sales are executed privately, directly between two parties with no transparency, no oversight, and pretty much no regulation.

- Climate Change will likely stay on the back burner –so to speak

Ellen Park