

Vision & Voices

NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY A VOICE FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

The Organization Dealing with Issues Concerning Women, Children and Families



Surprisingly bad news,
Elizabeth. We finally won,
but they're not voting!

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (standing) review the voting rates for Nevada women.

WOMEN'S VOTE

"The women were innocent and defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of 'obstructing sidewalk traffic.' They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her

cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the 'Night of Terror' on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote. For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food—all of it colorless slop—was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied

her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press."

This was written by a woman in Illinois after she watched *Iron Jawed Angels*, a movie that chronicles the final phase of the suffrage movement in America. The movie is available at video rental stores now: rent it; watch it; share it! Women who watch this movie will vote.

Our foremothers made tremendous sacrifices for our right to vote. When we fail to exercise that right, we dis-

honor those sacrifices and the memory of the courageous women who made them. We can't let that keep happening!

In 2000, only 43.8% of Nevada's voting age population voted, tied with Georgia. Only Texas and Arizona fared worse. Too many of Nevada's voting age women failed to vote. Single women voted in even smaller numbers than married women.

Policymakers are very aware of who votes and make decisions accordingly. If we want women's issues to be considered seriously, we have to show up and cast our votes in greater numbers. It's that simple.

Voting Options

- **Mail Your Vote/Absent Ballot**
Any registered voter may vote by mail. Download your county's application at: www.co.washoe.nv.us/voters/forms/abrequest.pdf, or www.co.clark.nv.us/election/MBReq.htm (other counties, contact registrar). Application deadline 10/26 (fax ok). Ballot due by mail 11/2.

- **Early Voting October 16 to 29**
Avoid the rush; choose a convenient site, day and time; bring your friends and reluctant voters

Early Voting Sites & Times:

Check Local Papers, or their websites (see page 2), or your voter registrar:

Clark County: (702)455-8683
www.accessclarkcounty.com

Washoe County: (775)328-3670
www.co.washoe.nv.us/voters

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Need more facts before you vote? Find out how your candidate answered key questions on your issues, what groups endorsed him or her and other facts. Here are some resources:

Voter Guides:

League of Women Voters

Non-partisan 2004 Voter Guide at www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org/VoterGuide.pdf, and companion Easy Voter Nevada at www.easyvoter.org/Nevada

Surveys and Endorsements:

American Association of University Women (enclosed)
www.aauwnv.org/survey.html

Nevada State Education Association
www.nsea-nv.org/Govt.htm

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
www.votingprochoice.org/voter_guide

Nevada Eagle Forum (though NWL disagrees with the Eagle Forum on most issues, the candidate responses to their survey are revealing)
www.nevadafamilies.org/2004_legislative_questionnaire.htm

Video on Women's Vote:

www.onevote.com (6-8 minutes)

Candidate Forums - See Page 4

Newspapers' Candidate and Election Information:

www.lasvegassun.com/election

www.rgj.com/election (Reno)

www.nevadaappeal.com

www.reviewjournal.com/news/election

CHOICE

is still an issue!



Because your personal life is none of the government's business!

THE YOUTH VOTE

Young people in Nevada and throughout the Nation are concerned about unemployment, health care, and rising housing costs, and these youth have the potential to swing the presidential election, according to 18to35, a national group dedicated to engaging young adults in the political process. However, candidates don't seem to be paying much attention.

Nevada is a "hot" state to watch, as 18 to 30 year-olds comprise a substantial part of our state's population. With housing costs, insurance, and living expenses on the rise, young people now more than ever are seeking to get involved. In Nevada and other battleground states groups are engaging young people in the electoral process, fostering a revolution in the way young people view politics.

In Nevada, PLAN's Nevada Young Activist Project is engaging young people through pop culture activities, phone calls and voter registration. Coordinator Inger McDowell says, "We want to know what young people are thinking about, how they view national issues, and how they are dealing with the rising insurance rates, tuition costs, and gas prices right here in Nevada.

"Our issues are just as relevant as those of someone twice our age. They ring loud and clear, and need to be addressed by candidates running for elected office. Young people are going to participate in droves this coming election. Candidates would be wise to pay attention."

THE GRANNY VOTE

"We pledge to vote for our grandchildren because they cannot vote for themselves."

Grandparents seeking to influence their grandchildren's futures are banding together to make the "Granny Vote" count. The idea arose from meetings of ten women leaders over age 60, including Ellen Goodman, Pat Schroeder and Geraldine Ferraro, where they explored what they hoped to do with the rest of their lives. Goodman's comments below describe the nonpartisan project:

"A GrannyVoter, in our vision, is someone, granny or not, who is focused on the long-term impact of current policies upon our grandchildren, and is ready to hold every political candidate accountable for the long-term consequences of the positions he or she holds today... the emphasis is on five specific areas with an obvious and powerful impact on the future:

- 1) Environment
- 2) Peace and Security
- 3) Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- 4) Opportunity and Fairness
- 5) Budget Deficits...

We have lived long enough to know that it takes time to build good institutions and programs, a healthy economy and international cooperation. We have lived long enough to know that damage to communities or to the environment is cumulative and not easily reversed...

We're asking older people to cast their votes for the kids who don't yet have the votes or the voices to speak for themselves. We're asking grandparents, if possible, to go into the ballot box with their grandchildren — literally hand in hand, to educate them about the electoral process.

Our goal is to change the national consciousness — to help Americans see beyond the next stock dividend, annual report, or breaking crisis, to what life will be like in this country twenty years from now as a result of what we and our elected representatives decide to do today. Our intention is to motivate the grandparent generation to register voters and mobilize them to vote the interests of their grandchildren — and yours."

For more information and to join GrannyVoters, see www.grannyvoter.org.



BALLOT QUESTIONS

State ballot questions are not always what they seem. Here are NWL's comments and positions.

Question 1: NO

If legislators must first fund education, anti-tax legislators could decimate funding for other essential services such as health care and childcare, using the excuse that the money had already been spent on education.

Question 2: No Position

A "yes" vote recognizes the importance of raising Nevada's sorely inadequate funding for education to the national average. However, some legislators would use this measure to avoid funding other essential services as above.

Question 3: NO

This measure is deceptive in that doctors are not leaving Nevada and malpractice caps have not been shown to reduce insurance rates. What it would do is drastically reduce the ability of non-wealthy victims of malpractice to recover any damages by reducing their access to the legal system; and it devalues women, children and the elderly since damages would be based on earnings. It also has the very real potential of shifting uncovered future medical costs from insurance companies to Medicaid, creating another taxpayer burden.

Questions 4, 5 and 6: Good Ideas/ Bad Procedure

Despite NWL's strong support for the Efforts to lower medical malpractice insurance rates are best served by requiring lower insurance rates (as in Question 4), not by keeping injured consumers from collecting just jury verdicts (Question 5 would prohibit such limits).

Question 6 addresses both the critical need to raise the minimum wage and the need for health insurance coverage. These are high priorities for NWL and would relieve the plight of the working poor. Under Question 6 employers can avoid paying the higher wage if they give employees meaningful health care coverage.

Despite NWL's strong support for the proposals in 4, 5 and 6, we do not

support addressing these via constitutional amendment. Our constitution should specify overarching positions and should not be used to legislate.

Question 7: YES

This is clean-up language to bring our state law into compliance with federal constitutional law.

Question 8: No position

While a yes vote would extend some tax exemptions for certain medical items, it also extends certain "sweet-heart deal" tax exemptions and negatively affects local revenues.

TAXES - A ROSY SCENARIO

For the first time in many years, we can rejoice that state revenue is exceeding projections and the state will be able to fully fund the programs and services that were approved in the 2003 legislative session. What a difference from previous years when programs we lobbied so hard to fund had to be cut or never implemented due to budget shortfalls.

Nevada's economy and job market are improving. Recently, Governor Guinn stated, "I could not be more pleased with these figures. As other states struggle, Nevada continues to thrive. For me, this is a testament to our attractive business environment and talented workforce."

So much for the nay-sayers who were sure the sky would fall when the tax plan was passed last legislative session. Businesses are not suffering; sales are up in all areas. Revenues are exceeding projections.

Maybe, just maybe, if this trend continues, we can fund our services sufficiently to move Nevada up from the bottom of most social indicators in the nation! And we can replenish the "rainy day fund" which was depleted from \$136 million to \$1 million to fund state services in past years.

Without the new revenue, Nevada would be facing the worst budget crisis we have ever experienced.

"Power is life. Life is power. We (women) are the carriers of life. Let's embrace power not just by bringing life, but by taking what belongs to us."

Margarita Lopez, New York City Council Woman

GRASSROOTS LOBBY DAYS



March 6-8

Mark your calendars! Join NWL and other sponsors for three days of learning and lobbying at the legislature. Watch for details.

NWL TO WELCOME LEGISLATORS

NWL Southern Region will host a reception for legislators December 2 in Las Vegas. Members and guests are invited to meet their legislators and discuss the 2005 legislative session. Watch for invitation to be mailed after the election or call (702)615-2383.

NWL PREPARING FOR 2005 SESSION

A very rough Nevada legislative session will begin February 7. The outcomes of the election will be critical to NWL's success on behalf of women and children. In the balance will be the monies for our chronically underfunded and already diminished education, health and social programs.

Remember the "Mean 15," the block of legislators who held up passage of the 2003 tax bill? Their obstruction resulted in two special sessions, costing the taxpayers over \$500,000. Of the 15, Sharron Angle, Bob Beers, John Carpenter, Chad Christensen, Pete Goicoechea, Tom Grady, Don Gustavson, Lynn Hettrick, Ron Knecht, Garn Mabey, Rod Sherer and Valerie Weber are running for re-election. If elected, they will continue their battle. John Marvel was the only one to cross over and vote for the tax bill in the end; Walter Andonov and David Brown did not run this year. The tax issue is prominent in many campaigns against incumbents who supported the bare-bones tax measure. We have to make our votes count so a small block of votes won't defeat our agenda again.

NWL has contracted again with expert lobbyist Bobbie Gang, who will represent us in Carson City. We're already reviewing bill drafts and interim committee recommendations as they come in, and are working on our priorities and goals for this tempestuous session.

CALENDAR

Until November 2: **ELECTION WALKS, PHONEBANKS**, etc.

- ☐ Candidate(s) of Your Choice
- ☐ Democratic Party (775)348-8691
- ☐ Republican Party (775)827-1900
- ☐ PLAN: (775)348-7557
- ☐ Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, (775)688-5560 x277
- ☐ New Voters Project (775)324-7001
- ☐ America Coming Together (775)337-2555

•October 21, Thurs., 7 to 9 pm, Washoe County School Board Trustee Candidates, McQueen High theatre, AAUW-Reno, (775)828-1993

•October 22, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Task Force Conference, Reno, www.childabuseprevention.com

•October 23, Women's Forum, Silver Sage & Reno BPW, Belle's Tea Cottage, Reno, (775)835-6091

•October 23, Day of Action, Planned Parenthood Advocates; walks focusing on women voters, (775)688-5560

•October 31, 2 to 5 pm, Education Scholarship Fundraiser, AAUW-Reno, Wilbur May Museum, Reno, (775)828-1993

•November 6, 7-10 pm, Chocolate Festival, Tahoe Women's Services, Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, (775)298-0010

•March 6-8, Grassroots Lobby Days, Nevada Women's Lobby and multiple co-sponsoring organizations, Carson City, www.nevadawomenslobby.org

•April 29-May 1, AAUW Nevada State Convention: Purpose, Power, Progress, Sparks, (775)826-9494

NWL Principles of Unity

Nevada Women's Lobby is a voice for women and children. We are dedicated to equity, non-violence and reproductive choice.

NWL CONTACTS

Email NVWL@aol.com
Web www.nevadawomenslobby.org
North
Vicki LoSasso (775)329-7560
South
Arley Ann Goris (702)658-5965
Voicemail (702)615-2383

MEMBERSHIP

Send to: Nevada Women's Lobby

Northern Region
P.O. Box 5565, Reno, NV 89513

Southern Region
P.O. Box 46292, Las Vegas, NV 89114

Or join online: nevadawomenslobby.org

Name _____
Organization _____
Mail Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Physical Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone (day) _____
Phone (night) _____
Fax _____
E-mail _____

Dues:

- Individual \$40
- Living Lightly \$15
- Sustaining \$100
- Circle of Empowerment \$250
- Organization \$75

NWL dues are not tax deductible.



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INSIDE

In this election issue:

- ☐ Candidate & Election Information
- ☐ AAUW Candidate Survey
- ☐ Ballot Questions
- ☐ Women's Vote, Youth Vote, Granny Vote
- ☐ Nevada Tax Status & Session Preview

VOTE !

CALENDAR

Until November 2: ELECTION WALKS, PHONEBANKS, etc.

- Candidate(s) of Your Choice
- Democratic Party (702)737-8683
- Republican Party (702)258-9182
- PLAN (702) 791-1965
- Planned Parenthood (702)878-3622
- New Voters Project (702)459-9060
- America Coming Together (702)382-4541

- October 16, 9:30 am, Pros & Cons of the Ballot Questions, Las Vegas League of Women Voters and AAUW, Las Vegas Social Club at Main & Stewart; lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org or (702)464-7887 for breakfast reservations
- October 22, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Task Force Conference, Reno, www.childabuseprevention.com
- November 20, 9:30 am, Issues for Nevada 2005 Legislature, Las Vegas League of Women Voters, Las Vegas Social Club at Main & Stewart; lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org or (702)464-7887 for breakfast reservations

- December 2, Legislator Reception, Nevada Women's Lobby, Las Vegas, Details on invitations or (702)615-2383
- March 6-8, Grassroots Lobby Days, Nevada Women's Lobby and multiple co-sponsoring organizations, Carson City, www.nevadawomenslobby.org
- April 29-May 1, AAUW Nevada State Convention: Purpose, Power, Progress, Sparks, (775)826-9494

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Voicemail (702)615-2383
North
Vicki LoSasso (775)329-7560

MEMBERSHIP

Send to: Nevada Women's Lobby
Southern Region
P.O. Box 46292, Las Vegas, NV 89114
Northern Region
P.O. Box 5565, Reno, NV 89513
Or join online: nevadawomenslobby.org

Name _____
Organization _____
Mail Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Physical Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone (day) _____
Phone (night) _____
Fax _____
E-mail _____

Dues:

- Individual \$40
- Living Lightly \$15
- Sustaining \$100
- Circle of Empowerment \$250
- Organization \$75

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