



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update for April 19, 2009

Campaign Finance (with information from NC Voters for Clean Elections)

HB-586 and SB 966 - would expand North Carolina's program of public campaign financing to five additional offices. If passed, total offices covered would include State Auditor, Commissioner of Insurance, Superintendent of Public Instruction (current), Sec. of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Commissioner of Labor, and Commissioner of Agriculture (expanded)---or all of the Council of State excluding Governor and Lt. Governor.

HB 120 and SB-938, would authorize municipalities to create public campaign financing programs for their local elections. The bills do not require that any city create a program and it does not appropriate a single dime of state money. It simply authorizes ALL cities in North Carolina to create public campaign financing programs.

Right now, only Chapel Hill has authorization. The town recently adopted a program which will begin with this year's municipal elections.

SB-936 would create a legislative public financing pilot in three Senate and six House districts beginning in 2012. The bill would allow us to test public financing at the legislative level, while demonstrating the clear need for and benefit of creating an alternative campaign financing system for the legislature.

A House version will be introduced soon.

Tax Reform

On Tuesday, The Business Committee on Financing the Future, which was created by the Institute for Emerging Issues, called for state lawmakers to overhaul state's outdated revenue systems this session. The committee led by Former Governor Jim Hunt wants the General Assembly to broaden the base of both the sales and income taxes while lowering the rates.

The call for overhauling the revenue system came the day before the Senate Finance Committee begins public meetings to discuss a Senate tax plan that will raise \$500 million next year. The core recommendations of the committee are being considered by the Senate leaders and they may propose expanding the state sales tax to services not currently taxed and closing several corporate loopholes.

The plan under discussion would lower both the sales tax and corporate income tax rate but unlike the proposal from the business leaders, the Senate would raise revenue to help address the shortfall.

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LEAGUE NEWS

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC) is joining the Stop Cliffside Campaign partners in their Call to Conscience—Cliffside Climate Action rally in Charlotte on April 20, 2009, to protest the building of Duke Energy's proposed coal-fired power plant in Rutherford County.

League of Women Voters members are invited to join the rally at Charlotte's Marshall Park. They will then walk with partner organizations and individuals from across North Carolina to the Office of the Governor and to Duke Energy's headquarters where they will deliver messages urging cancellation of the new plant, which would emit 6 million tons of CO₂ each year from coal extracted through mountaintop removal mining.

LWVNC is taking this action in support of the national League of Women Voters' call for a moratorium on the building of coal-fired power plants. LWV-US issued this call last August after a thorough examination of global climate change issues.

In announcing the League's opposition to coal-fired power plants President Mary G. Wilson said, "Coal-fired electric power plants have a very long lifespan and contribute huge amounts of pollution to the atmosphere. Building these new plants would foreclose the possibility of preventing dangerous global warming."

For more information on the LWV-US position on coal-fired power plants, visit:

www.lwv.org - Take Action - Global Climate Change.

For additional information on The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and our policies and partners, please visit www.lwvnc.org.

The Legislative Update is compiled by Erin Connelly, Project Coordinator for the North Carolina League of Women Voters. If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe, please email Patty Dale at daleph55@gmail.com.

LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.