

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE JANUARY 8-12, 2007

FROM Paulette Vandegriff, Legislative Action Network

The 115th Session of the Indiana General Assembly was gavelled to order on Monday, January 8th. I was there roaming the halls with members of the House and Senate, reporters, interested citizens and other lobbyists/advocates.

My three main goals over the next two weeks are; 1) put names and faces to the legislators who chair the committees of the LWVIN priorities, and the members of those committees, focusing on legislators who are in areas where there are local leagues, 2) make a friend in Legislative Services, and become friends with those who guard the senate and house offices, and 3) meet the advocates representing the coalitions of which the LWVIN is a member.

I obtained the Senate calendar for January and February, and this week's hearing schedule. The House calendar was available on Friday, and by midweek the House began publishing a hearing schedule. Due to the change of leadership in the House, comprehensive leadership and committee information is not yet available.

Friday was a good day, as the legislators were gone and I had staff all to myself for Q & A.

January 8th was the last day a legislator could file an unlimited number of bills. Beginning January 9th legislators are limited to 2 bills per day.

Upcoming dates of importance:

January 16th - Deadline for filing House Bills

January 18th - Deadline for filing Senate Bills

January 18th - Deadline for filing of House Vehicle Bills*

By the end of the month most bills should be assigned to a committee.

How can you help:

1. provide a list of your local legislators including:
name, district number, committee assignments, leadership positions;
2. dates of community legislative meetings that you sponsor, co-sponsor, or attend regularly; let me know what happened;
3. let your legislator know LWVIN has an advocate in the statehouse and the LWVIN legislative priorities for the 2007 session;
4. provide the name of a local newspaper and contact information including, editor name, telephone & e-mail.

* House bill filed with no content, but may be used by leadership at a later date in case something was overlooked. The Senate has no such provision.