



GENERAL MEETING REPORT
Local Government – Where Saving Democracy Begins
Salt Lake County Building: 2001 South State, Room N2-800
Live and on Zoom

[Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

- 4 guest panelists
- 20 in-person attendees (including seven new members)
- 14 attendees on Zoom
- Moderators: Betty Van Pelt, LWVSL Local and County Government Chair, and Susan Sandack, LWVSL Salt Lake County Council Observer

GUEST PANELISTS

- Ann Granato, Former SL County District 4 Council Member
- Natalie Pinkney, Salt Lake County Council – At Large C
- Cindy Wood, West Valley City Council Member
- Mayor Troy Walker, Draper City

MEETING SUMMARY

Betty Van Pelt introduced the panelists, and Susan Sandack began the evening's discussion by asking about building relationships between local leaders and constituents. Panelists described the importance of one-on-one engagement, compromise, and conversations that are deep, open, transparent, and fact-based. They encouraged constituents to focus on the issues that local leaders can control and to understand that sometimes state government in particular prevents local government entities from taking the actions they would like.

Based on audience questions, panelists also discussed how to ensure that local government meets the needs of average people (rather than corporations and the wealthy) and how to address political violence. When asked what issues were at the top of their lists, panelists mentioned the increasing cost of municipal services, funding for mental health services, and housing that is affordable and attainable.

Betty Van Pelt wrapped up the topic by encouraging League members and guests to get involved and get active. Examples for activism include writing letters, talking to family and neighbors, scheduling meetings with local representatives, sending emails, and making phone calls. She suggested we thank leaders for what we agree with, make suggestions, and know our facts.

League members were also invited to join the Observer Corps, which attends county and local government meetings and reports to our members. To join the Corps or receive their reports, contact betty@lwvsl.org.

ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

Susan Sandack provided attendees with a [handout listing the Salt Lake County councilmembers, their contact information, and primary areas of concern](#).

Contact information and preferences for our panelists who are still in office:

- **Cindy Wood.** Prefers email at cindy.wood@wvc-ut.gov. Please include your name and contact information. A phone call is second best at 801-232-0870.
- **Troy Walker.** Prefers to talk live. Call and leave a message at 801-576-6513. You can also send an email to troy.walker@draperutah.gov.
- **Natalie Pinkney.** Prefers to be contacted on cellphone with a text first and then a call (no voicemail) at 385-775-498. Email is also a good option at NPinkney@saltlakecounty.gov.

RECORDING

Click [here](#) to watch a full recording of the meeting.

UNIT MEETING DISCUSSION AND ADVOCACY

Here are some ideas for unit discussion and consideration:

- How would you describe the importance of local government in preserving democracy?
- What county and city issues are most important in your area?
- What have you already done to build relationships with your county and local officials?
- What specific actions (if any) should we take as a local League to support openness and transparency in local government? (Have the unit leader share these ideas with either Deborah Dilley, LWVSL Organization Director, or Charlene Rynders, LWVSL Program Director.)
- What individual actions should we take to influence county and local government? Is anyone interested in joining the Observer Corps? We have openings for observers and backups for several city councils in our area as well as for commissions.