



# SUGGESTED CHANGES TO POSITIONS FOR ACTION 2023 ("Program Planning")

## BACKGROUND:

Annually, members are asked if they'd like to suggest additions or changes to League positions for action, a process known as program planning. For the past several years, both LWVUS and LWVCO have discouraged such additions or changes, for a number of reasons:

- The LWVUS Transformation Roadmap specified that members and Leagues should prioritize action over study to encourage membership growth and visibility around **making democracy work**.
- Positions are deliberately written to be broad so that they may work across a variety of areas and can be combined with other positions for additional efficacy.
- Positions are categorized under the original study issue and cannot be re-categorized; for example, reproductive rights was originally studied under Government Relations, so LWVUS wants it to stay there. LWVCO strives to have *Positions for Study and Action* parallel LWVUS's *Impact on Issues*.

Two Colorado Leagues submitted ideas or suggestions for program planning; LWVCO recommendation follows each.

1. LWV Boulder County is requesting a Primary Election Reform Study. Across the US, significant changes are being proposed and enacted for the Primary Election processes. Here in Colorado, bills have been introduced to abolish the assembly process for selecting primary candidates for the major political parties. The League's interest in assuring that better voting methods are used whenever possible leads us to propose a study of primary election processes so that we can make clearly supported recommendations when similar bills or initiatives arise.

The LWVCO Board of Directors has approved this study and asks for statewide membership approval.

## 2. LWV of the Uncompahgre Valley

- Individual liberties - Strengthen language to include more specific individual liberties.
- Election Security - Clarify who can vote electronically.
- Campaign Finance - Address foreign money and issues local to Colorado.
- Water - The 1971 water position needs to be updated due to extreme drought and climate change.
- Hydraulic Fracking - The title should be changed to "Oil and Gas Exploration and Development".
- Education - add "Support a fact-based curriculum that is free from political bias and attempts to sanitize history. Promote minorities, LGBTQ plus, and other marginalized groups' history and contributions" as part of curriculum.
- Add "social studies curriculum to include civics and American government".
- Need to address programming, book banning and censorship.
- Reproductive Rights and Health Care - strengthen statement to read "protect the right of privacy of individuals to make reproductive choices through legislative efforts until constitutional protections can be restored."

Recommendation: With the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point (Water), the LWVCO Board of Directors suggests LWVUV establish a small team to research, provide justification for, and draft direct language for making these changes to positions and report back at the 2024 Annual Meeting on their findings and proposed next steps.

The LWVCO Board has voted to approve the suggested water study and asks for statewide membership approval.