



PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2022-2023

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*.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

1. The LWVCO Board recommends retaining all current LWVCO positions.
2. The LWVCO Board recommends no new study or review of positions.
3. The LWVCO recommends continuing the campaign **Making Democracy Work®** with the local Leagues throughout the state with an emphasis on the following.
 - Voting Rights
 - Improving Elections
 - Money in Politics
 - Redistricting (limited activity)

NON-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

A non-recommended program issue may be adopted provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote on the first day of convention and on a following day the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths (3/5) vote.

Non-recommended issues for study or review:

- 1) **Zoning laws** - LWV Arapahoe-Douglas)
 - When reviewing their local position on land use, LWV Arapahoe-Douglas members realized that zoning laws impacted where certain types of house could be built. Upon closer examination it was felt that current zoning laws needed to be evaluated as they may be using them to "discriminate" against certain types of housing for different SES levels, thus restricting access to affordable housing.

LWVCO Recommendation: Because zoning is a local issue, LWVCO recommends that interested members refer this issue to the LWVCO Housing Committee.

2) **Homelessness** - LWV Jeffco (Bette Seeland)

- As a group, LWV Jeffco feels there is a hole in the LWVCO current positions that do not enable us to advocate in the legislature for programs addressing homelessness.

LWVCO Recommendation: LWVCO regularly advocates for programs addressing homelessness using housing and other positions. Refer this issue to the LWVCO Housing Task Force as a possible focus area for their work due to the overlap of subject matter.

3) **Review LWVCO Positions for updating and current relevant terminology** - LWV Denver

- a) Include language related to entire range of non-binary person's types of sexual expression (LGBTQ+)

LWVCO Recommendation: This language is already included in LWVUS's Impact on Issues (p. 117-8) and DEI Policy

- b) Include 'justice' and 'right to liberty' where appropriate

LWVCO Recommendation: This language is already included in LWVUS's Impact on Issues (p.121-3) and DEI Policy, as well as the US Constitution

- c) Discuss possible new concepts to organize and categorize positions: "public health and safety" to include issues on homelessness, policing, gun violence and behavioral health

LWVCO Recommendation: This language is already included in LWVUS's Impact on Issues (p. 128, 142-3) and LWVCO Positions for Action (p. 81, 85)

- d) Re-categorize "reproductive rights" under healthcare

LWVCO Recommendation: This was attempted several years ago and failed, because LWVUS studied repro rights under Government Relations (p. 56) and therefore it needs to stay there. No action is recommended.