

## PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2017

Program is the League's reason for being, the basis for both advocacy and education efforts. - *League Basics*, LWVUS

The beginning of a new year prompts us to look at where we have been and decide if we are headed in the right direction. That can be true of organizations as well and is why Leagues across the country currently are reviewing what we call program, our advocacy agenda.

The League's program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state, and local levels. The program process includes the following steps:

1. Formal adoption (by members at local League annual meetings or by state or national convention delegates) of an issue for study.
2. Member study and agreement on broad concepts. The agreement is generally referred to as consensus. Besides consensus, a League may act on a position reached through the concurrence process. This is reserved for those few issues on which further study seems redundant. A League's membership or its board may concur with the recommendations of a task force, a League resource or study committee, decision statements formulated by League boards, or positions reached by other Leagues.

The recent LWVUS position on Behavioral Health is an example of concurrence with a state League position. At the 2016 national convention, the LWVUS recommended adoption of the Colorado position on behavioral health, and the convention attendees voted to concur with the position.

3. Formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors. The LWV of Florida has an excellent description of the end result:

“League positions often are expressed in general terms so that they can be used to take action on many facets of an issue over time. They do not usually spell out one specific solution. Instead, they are often supplemented with a list of criteria that are useful in judging the merits of a particular proposed solution. The League calls these lists of criteria yardsticks. It is not necessary for a proposal to comply with every criterion or yardstick for it to secure League support.”

4. Action as directed by the board of directors. This may include testifying before a city council or state legislature, submitting a letter to the editor, or joining a coalition.
5. Annual or, for LWVUS and League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR), biennial review and re-adoption of the position.

This last step is our task in December's program units. This year we will be reviewing our local and state positions. A brief description of each is included in the local League directory.

Issues for Action, LWVOR's complete statements of position and action history, can be found on its website at [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org).

When we review our existing program positions, we consider whether we still agree with the conclusions, if changing conditions require additional information, or if there is an area where we might want to take action that would mean a new study is needed.

Though the idea of a new study may be alluring, we might be able to take action or learn more about an issue by using an existing position at the local, state, or national level. A new study involves significantly more time and work than an update or even a restudy and consequently more member involvement in research and writing. Remember, as a local League we may base advocacy and/or study at the local level by using the positions of both our state and national organizations.

In discussing program, members consider existing positions and whether to retain, drop, update or restudy them. Following are some terms to keep in mind as we review our current program:

Retain: means keep position as is; no change.

Drop: means remove the position completely from our list. All further advocacy will be discontinued. It may not again be incorporated into the program without a new study.

Update: means study the position topic for informational purposes only, with no intention to update the position, only to update the knowledge base for the members.

Restudy: means undertake a review of the position in order to potentially change it.

After our unit meetings, the LWVLC board will compile the reports on local program and decide what to recommend for member consideration at our Annual Meeting in April. We will also forward the report on state positions to LWVOR in Salem, and that board will decide what to recommend to delegates at state Convention.

---Sue Boyd

| <b>LWVLC Program Planning</b>                    |               |             |               |                 |
|--|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Current Positions</b>                         | <b>Retain</b> | <b>Drop</b> | <b>Update</b> | <b>Restudy*</b> |
| <b><i>GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND PROCESS</i></b> |               |             |               |                 |
| Boards, Commissions and Committees               |               |             |               |                 |
| Lane County Government                           |               |             |               |                 |
| Urban Services                                   |               |             |               |                 |
| Structure of Local Government                    |               |             |               |                 |
|  |               |             |               |                 |
| <b><i>ECONOMIC POLICY</i></b>                    |               |             |               |                 |
| Capital Improvement Financing                    |               |             |               |                 |
| Local Government Finance                         |               |             |               |                 |
| Sustainable Economic Management                  |               |             |               |                 |
| Urban Renewal and Tax Increment Financing        |               |             |               |                 |
|  |               |             |               |                 |
| <b><i>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</i></b>              |               |             |               |                 |
| Housing  |               |             |               |                 |
| Planning and Zoning                              |               |             |               |                 |
| Sign Control                                     |               |             |               |                 |
| Sustainable Metropolitan Management              |               |             |               |                 |
| Transportation                                   |               |             |               |                 |
|  |               |             |               |                 |
| <b><i>GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES</i></b>              |               |             |               |                 |
| Elementary and Secondary School Facilities       |               |             |               |                 |
| Library Services                                 |               |             |               |                 |
| Mental Health Services for Adults in Lane County |               |             |               |                 |
| Parklands  |               |             |               |                 |
|  |               |             |               |                 |
| <b><i>NATURAL RESOURCES</i></b>                  |               |             |               |                 |
| Solid Waste                                      |               |             |               |                 |
|  |               |             |               |                 |
| <b><i>SOCIAL POLICY</i></b>                      |               |             |               |                 |
| Ending Violence in Lane County                   |               |             |               |                 |

## LWVOR Program Planning: Existing Programs

| LWVOR Positions                             | Retain | Drop | Update | Restudy* |
|---|--------|------|--------|----------|
| <b>GOVERNANCE</b>                           |        |      |        |          |
| Constitutional Provisions                   |        |      |        |          |
| Economic Development Revenue Bonds          |        |      |        |          |
| Election Methods                            |        |      |        |          |
| Election Laws                               |        |      |        |          |
| Emergency Board                             |        |      |        |          |
| Fiscal Policy – Tax System                  |        |      |        |          |
| Initiative, Referendum, and Recall          |        |      |        |          |
| Oregon State Courts                         |        |      |        |          |
| Redistricting in Oregon                     |        |      |        |          |
| <b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>                    |        |      |        |          |
| Air Quality                                 |        |      |        |          |
| Offshore and Coastal Management             |        |      |        |          |
| Energy Conservation                         |        |      |        |          |
| Nuclear Energy                              |        |      |        |          |
| Land Use                                    |        |      |        |          |
| Parks                                       |        |      |        |          |
| Seismic Risks                               |        |      |        |          |
| Water Policy: Quality and Quantity          |        |      |        |          |
| Water Resources of the Columbia River Basin |        |      |        |          |

| <b><i>SOCIAL POLICY</i></b>                   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Adult Corrections                             |  |  |  |  |
| Child Care                                    |  |  |  |  |
| Children at Risk                              |  |  |  |  |
| Public Postsecondary Education                |  |  |  |  |
| Farm Worker Issues                            |  |  |  |  |
| Adult Mental Health in Oregon                 |  |  |  |  |
| Mental Health Services for Children and Youth |  |  |  |  |
| Homeless Youth in Oregon                      |  |  |  |  |
| Juvenile Justice                              |  |  |  |  |

\*Please explain any positions that you want to restudy. Why do you feel it's necessary? What do you hope to gain?