

Program Planning for 2021-22

Do you have a public issue that you would like the League to address? One of the basic functions of the League of Women Voters is the study of government issues: local, state, and national. Through program planning, members tell the board what public issues they want to explore for education and advocacy, the two basic missions of the League.

The second function, advocacy, uses positions reached at all three League levels: national, state, and local. For a board and an action committee, the position is the yardstick against which to measure governmental proposals. Each local position is reviewed annually in program planning discussions and must be re-adopted at the local annual meetings. Local Leagues also review state positions in odd-numbered years and national positions in even-numbered years in preparation for state and national conventions. (*Issues for Action, 2019, p.4*)

Exactly What Is a League Position?

Statements of position are expressions of general agreement by a substantial and representative number of members about certain governmental policies and are adopted by a League board, annual meeting or convention after research and discussion. Action may be taken only after a position has been established and with the approval of the League board at the appropriate level. Position summary statements are on pages 28-43 in our 20-21 Directory. Please review the local and state positions so you can participate in our website survey and our January Zoom meetings. More information and the actions taken using the local and state positions can be found in *Issues for Action* on the LWVLC website, www.lwvlc.org, *What We Do, Issues and Advocacy Positions*.

What Is Program Planning?

Program planning is the process for identifying issues for study or restudy, review and update, and/or concurrence.

For a local study, a group of members researches and studies a government issue and writes a report. In unit meetings, members discuss the report findings to reach consensus on the issue's policy implication, and then the consensus committee drafts a position statement for Board approval.

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. An example is the adoption in 2014 by the LWVUS Convention of a state League position on human trafficking.

A League may take action under existing local, state, and national League positions. In these cases, members may want to understand the current local aspects of issues so that their action will be better informed. This does not require a new study. The educational process in this case is called an update. An update can be research for informational purposes or for updating language.

Criteria for Choosing Program

- Does the issue fall within the Principles of the League of Women Voters? (2020/21 Directory, page 17)
- How does studying the issue reflect the mission of the League?
- Is the issue of critical importance locally? Is it timely?
- Will the issue generate opportunities for education and advocacy?
- Is the issue a manageable topic to study? Are the members and resources available? Will there be strong member interest?
- Is the issue one that can be addressed by appropriate government action?
- Will the study of the issue help our League link with individuals and organizations that represent different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities, or other diverse groups that are underrepresented in our League?

Presenting the Program Proposal

Member support for an issue relies on a clear understanding of the study proposal. The proposal should

be carefully worded to describe its focus and the scope. The scope may be defined more thoroughly once the study committee is formed. A study committee will be needed for a program proposal to be accepted by the board for recommendation at the annual meeting. The board will look at the proposals and decide if an issue will fit into the following year's work. There may be recommended and nonrecommended items for the membership to act on at the annual meeting, state or national convention.

Giving the Proposed Study Focus and Scope

The **focus** is the main statement of the topic to be studied. Wording should be brief and understandable, intent clearly stated, and without implied conclusions. Wording should be general enough to allow flexibility and modification.

Good examples of focus:

- "A study of the feasibility of recycling in Lane County"
- "A study of housing alternatives for the elderly in Lane County" (specific, but general)

Bad examples of focus:

- "A study of Recycling" or "A study of Housing"
- "A study to determine whether housing for the elderly in Lane County should be integrated with other public housing or be separate and what types of facilities should it include" (too specific)

The **scope** provides a more detailed explanation of the focus, outlining the areas to be explored and the general parameters of the study.

Good examples of scope:

- “Study the range of possible methods for recycling waste products, with particular attention to paper recycling”
- “Study methods of private and public collection of recyclable materials, including cost effectiveness”

“Study the current housing stock for the elderly; assess future needs, funding availability, community resources and support”

Bad examples of scope:

- “Tour recycling plant”
- “Plan a general meeting with housing experts and senior citizen advocates as speakers”

Program planning gives members and the League the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. After our January unit meetings in Lane County, the Board will discuss the proposals for local programs and make recommendations for member consideration at the Annual Meeting in April/May. Local Leagues are encouraged to review the state positions and/or propose a state-wide study (those proposals are due to LWVOR by February 1,2021).

EXISTING PROGRAMS

When discussing program, members must consider existing programs and whether to retain, drop, update the language or restudy them. Following are the definitions for the survey’s column headers. They may help members discuss existing programs.

RETAIN: means keep position as is; no change.

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

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

RESTDY: means to undertake a review of the position with the potential to change it.

The current LWVLC and LWVOR program positions are included in the following pages. Members that are not able to attend Zoom unit meetings are asked to complete pages 4 and 5 and mail to the office in the included envelope. Members can also email responses to program@lwvlc.org or go to the website, www.lwvlc.org and click on the link for the Program Planning Survey.

LWVLC Program

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

*Please explain any positions that you may want to update or restudy. Is there another issue you think should be considered? Why do you feel it is necessary?

Name _____

Please, also, complete the form on the back. An addressed envelope is included for you to mail your form to the LWVLC office.

LWVOR Program Planning: Current Positions

| LWVOR POSITIONS | RETAIN | DROP | UPDATE | RESTUDY* |
|---|--------|------|--------|----------|
| GOVERNANCE | | | | |
| Citizen Participation and Access | | | | |
| Civil Discourse | | | | |
| Constitutional Provisions | | | | |
| Economic Development Revenue Bonds | | | | |
| Election Laws | | | | |
| Election Methods | | | | |
| Emergency Board | | | | |
| Fiscal Policy - Tax System | | | | |
| Initiative, Referendum and Recall | | | | |
| Oregon State Courts | | | | |
| Redistricting | | | | |
| NATURAL RESOURCES | | | | |
| Air Quality | | | | |
| Coastal and Nearshore Management | | | | |
| Energy Conservation | | | | |
| Nuclear Energy | | | | |
| Land Use | | | | |
| Parks | | | | |
| Seismic Risks | | | | |
| Water Policy - Quantity and Quality | | | | |
| Water Resources - Columbia Basin | | | | |
| SOCIAL POLICY | | | | |
| Adult Corrections | | | | |
| Child Care | | | | |
| Children at Risk | | | | |
| Public Postsecondary Education | | | | |
| Farmworker Issues | | | | |
| Adult Mental Health in Oregon | | | | |
| Mental Health Services for Children and Youth | | | | |
| Homeless Youth | | | | |
| Juvenile Justice | | | | |

* Please explain any positions that you want to restudy. Is there another issue you think should be studied? Why do you feel it's necessary? What do you hope to gain?

ADVOCACY: Please share your thoughts about Advocacy priorities for the LWVOR.