

Program Planning 2022-2023

What is League Program?

Program planning is the grassroots process of recommending and selecting governmental issues for study and agreement in reaching a position. League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. Leagues around the country meet to review LWVUS program and propose issues for study or action. During January and February 2022, local Leagues conduct program planning and make program recommendations. They are also asked to share information with the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® as well as identify LWVUS positions that they intend to use in education and lobbying.

During the program planning process, Leagues should incorporate an emphasis on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). A DEI lens is a way of examining the process considering how it is perceived by a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives, and what, if any, barriers may exist that prevent it from being equitable or inclusive of everyone. A key part of applying a DEI lens is ensuring that all members feel informed and included in program planning.

Recommended LWVUS Program: The Campaign for Making Democracy Work®

The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2022-2024 continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on:

- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting

The campaign for Making Democracy Work® – includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. Leagues at every level continue to work to protect and advance voting rights and election reform at this critical time for our democracy, as well as fight efforts in Washington, D.C. and state legislatures to suppress voters. (Leaders Guide to LWVUS Program Planning 2022-2024)

A League's *position* states the League's formal stance on a policy issue and is the cornerstone of League work. A position is formed through member-conducted study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board, and then used as the basis for League action. Each position affirms a basic philosophy in general terms, defines the goals desired, and establishes guidelines against which proposals can be measured. The term *program* encompasses the entire process--from proposing a topic for study to acting on the position reached through that study, as well as including all positions that were previously adopted by the League (at local, state, or national levels). (Introduction:2021 LWVOR Program Planning)

Everymember Material

LWVUS Report Form

1. Do you support the proposed LWVUS program focus, continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work[®] (which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting, and Money in Politics)? (Yes/No).
2. Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work[®]? (Yes/No) *Provide a statement (300 words or less) describing the scope of your recommendation, including a description of the issue area, its importance in advancing the League's mission as well as resources needed to carry out the recommendation.*
3. Which areas of the 2020-2022 national program priorities (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Money in Politics, Redistricting) within the Campaign for Making Democracy Work[®] has LWVLC worked on during the current biennium? Circle all that apply.
4. Which LWVUS Positions listed below does LWVLC use to act at the state and local level? Please list *all that apply*.

LWVUS Positions

- Citizen's Right to Vote
- DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation
- Apportionment
- Redistricting
- Money in Politics (Formerly Campaign Finance)
- Selection of the President
- Voter Representation/Electoral Systems *
- Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation
- Constitutional Amendment Proposals
- Constitutional Conventions
- Individual Liberties
- Public Policy on Reproductive Choices
- Congress
- The Presidency
- Privatization
- United Nations
- Trade
- US Relations with Developing Countries
- Arms Control
- Military Policy and Defense Spending
- Natural Resources
- Resource Management
- Transfer of Federal Public Lands*
- Air Quality
- Solid Waste
- Nuclear Waste

Everymember Material

- Climate Change
- Water Resources
- Nuclear Issues
- Public Participation
- Agriculture Policies
- Equality of Opportunity
- Employment
- Fair Housing
- Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action
- Pay Equity
- Equal Rights for Women
- Same Gender Equality
- Education
- Federal Role in Public Education
- Fiscal Policy
- Funding of Entitlements
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
- Income Assistance
- Transportation
- Housing Supply
- Child Care
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk
- Violence Prevention
- Gun Policy
- Urban Policy
- Death Penalty
- Sentencing Policy
- Human Trafficking

*New position

Program Planning for LWVLC

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 researching a topic or issue for informational purposes or for updating language.

Criteria for Choosing Program

- Does the issue fall within the Principles of the League of Women Voters? (2021/22 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.

Giving the Proposed Study's 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. 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 focus and scope:

1. Focus: "Lane County's implementation of HB2001(Housing Choices) and HB2003 (Housing Needs and Production)"
Scope: "Examine the Lane County findings from the regional housing analysis and funding for housing and shelter"
2. Focus: "Role of the city/county in assuring adequate broadband access for all K-12 students"
Scope: "Examine who provides and pays for enhancements in broadband access for public schools"

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.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

When discussing the local 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.

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

The current LWVLC program positions are included on the following page. Brief position statements can be found on pages 40-43 of the new LWVLC Directory. More detailed summary of local positions are in the *Issues for Action 2019*. Members that are not able to attend a unit meeting are asked to complete the table and email responses to program@lwvlc.org or mail to the League office 380 Q Street, Ste 250, Springfield, OR 97477. Please also include any suggestions(with focus and scope) that you may have for topics or issues to be considered for Program 2022-2023.

Material prepared by Linda Ferdowsian, edited by Merle Bottge and Carol Hildebrand.

LWVLC Program

Current Positions

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

	Retain	Drop	Update	Restudy
Boards, Commissions and Committees	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lane County Government	_____	_____	_____	_____
Urban Services	_____	_____	_____	_____
Structure of Local Government	_____	_____	_____	_____

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	_____	_____	_____	_____
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SOCIAL POLICY

Ending Violence in Lane County	_____	_____	_____	_____
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*Please explain any positions that you may want to update or restudy. Is there another issue you think should be considered? Include the focus and scope.
