

PROGRAM PLANNING 2014

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

INTRODUCTION

Program planning is the opportunity for members to tell our League board what public issues they want to explore. We take a look at our Lane County program positions every year and our state and national positions in alternate years. This year we will review the LWVUS positions, in addition to our local League positions.

The League was founded to educate voters on public policy issues and soon developed a list of “needed legislation.” League advocacy/lobbying have always been linked to member study and agreement. Those agreements, or, in League parlance, *positions*, are part of what we refer to as *program*.

When we consider our existing program positions, we are thinking about 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 require a new study.

As a handbook from the LWV of California noted, “The critical step before we take action is to learn about the issue and come to agreement. League allows many ways of reaching a decision on a program issue. But the crucial connection...is always, *Study makes action possible.*”

Our new directory, which you should have received last month, has summaries of our local, state and national positions. Please review them before the unit meetings and bring the directory to the meeting for reference.

Before suggesting a new local study, members should remember that we can use both state and national positions to take action at the local level. In proposing a new study, the crucial element is whether there are people to do the work.

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 a report on national positions to the LWVUS board, which will decide what to recommend to delegates at state Convention.

The program planning material is adapted from LWVOR and LWVUS, and the material below provides an overview of the process, criteria, options and definitions to use in discussion of our local and national positions.

2014 LWV Program Planning

The following statement comes from the LWVUS website: "Every two years state and local Leagues and ILO's participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues - this is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially with email and forums - to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning reporting deadline of March 1, 2014."

The following information is adapted from LWVOR information on program planning:

EXISTING PROGRAMS

When discussing program, members must consider existing programs and whether to retain, drop, update or restudy them. Following are some definitions that may help as League 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 again 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.

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

PROPOSING NEW STUDIES

When proposing new studies, please keep the following things in mind:

1. "What are issues of importance that are most critical in your community?"
2. "How could League of Women Voters of Oregon, along with your local League, have greater visibility and credibility?"
3. "What issues will stir the imagination of your members and attract potential members?"

4. "What studies of educational/advocacy projects would help your League to link with individuals and organizations representing different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities, or other diverse groups that are underrepresented in the League?"
5. "Why should the League focus its time and resources on this study or project?"
6. The issue must be one that can be addressed by governmental action.

Also consider that:

- 1." The issue must fall within the Principles of the League of Women Voters.
- 2." The issue should add balance to the League program and have good appeal for our members.
- 3." League of Women Voters' volunteer time and financial resources must be available.

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

LWVUS PROGRAM				
CURRENT POSITIONS	RETAIN	DROP	UPDATE	RE STUDY
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT				
<i>VOTING RIGHTS</i>				
Citizen's Right to Vote				
DC Self Government/Full Voting Representation				
<i>ELECTION PROCESS</i>				
Apportionment				
Campaign Finance				
Selection of the President				
<i>CITIZENS' RIGHTS</i>				
Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation				
Individual Liberties				
Public Policy on Reproductive Choice				
<i>CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY</i>				
Congress				
The Presidency				
Privatization				
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS				
United Nations				
Trade				
U.S. Relations with Developing Countries				
Arms Control				
Military Policy and Defense Spending				
NATURAL RESOURCES				
Natural Resources				
Resource Management				
<i>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL</i>				
Air Quality				
Energy				
Land Use				
Water Resources				
Waste Management				
Nuclear Issues				
Public Participation				
Agricultural Policy				

LWVUS PROGRAM				
(Continued)				
CURRENT POSITIONS	RETAIN	DROP	UPDATE	RE STUDY
SOCIAL POLICY				
<i>EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY</i>				
Equal Rights				
Education, Employment, Housing				
Federal Role in Public Education				
<i>FISCAL POLICY</i>				
Tax Policy				
Federal Deficit				
Funding of Entitlements				
Health Care				
Immigration				
<i>MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS</i>				
Housing Supply				
Income Assistance				
Support Services				
Child Care				
Early Intervention for Children at Risk				
Violence Prevention				
Gun Control				
Urban Policy				
Death Penalty				
Sentencing Policy				