

Water Policy Update/Review 2021-2023

Rationale: Water issues are a LWVAZ priority for advocacy and action and are likely to be so for some time to come. Access to clean drinking water and the availability of water to sustain our environment are high priorities, especially in our arid Southwest climate. Our current water policy position was first adopted in 1975, revised in 1995, and amended in 2009. In the 12 years since this position was last reviewed there have been many changes in Arizona water policy, water resources, and water management. Climate change is having pronounced effects on our water future.

Scope: The review/update committee is charged with reviewing our position in light of these changes and updating it as needed.

1. Topics to be considered include unregulated groundwater pumping, ecological uses of water, equity in water access, commercialization of water supplies, regulation of streams and rivers, and water contamination. Other topics may emerge from the committee's work and should be included in their consideration.
2. Consider the work that other Leagues are doing or have done around water issues and positions they may have developed. Also consider the LWVUS position on water.
3. Provide a glossary or explanation of terminology with the report that can be attached as an appendix to the LWVAZ Public Policy Positions document.
4. The committee may reformat or reorganize the structure of the position as needed to best present their recommended changes or updates.

Timeline: Recommendation for review and updating of this position will be voted on by delegates to the May 15-16, 2021 LWVAZ Convention. The committee's report is due to the LWVAZ Board at the March 2023 Board meeting and will be voted on at the May 2023 LWVAZ Convention.

Committee members: Lyn Loveless (GT), chair; Ellie Laumark (CYC), Dawn Abel (MP), Mary Price (GT). Additional members will be added. Advice and guidance will be provided by the LWVAZ Public Policy Positions Committee (PPC).

Betty Bengtson
Chair, LWVAZ PPC Committee
March 25, 2021