

REVIEW IMMEDIATELY

LWVSC PROGRAM PLANNING MATERIALS FOR 2021-23

1) GUIDE TO PROGRAM PLANNING FOR LOCAL LEAGUE LEADERS

Read immediately to help plan your local League's Program Planning meeting.

2) RESPONSE FORM (Each Local League returns one response form)

Complete only one with your League's responses to send to LWVSC by March 1, 2021

3) CURRENT STATE LEAGUE POSITIONS

We suggest you provide copies of positions in brief for each person attending your meeting. Have available full copies of Program and Action Agenda available for further detail.

4) PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

A separate attachment has some suggestions from working groups and state board memes for possible changes to positions for you to consider.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT EITHER

JoAnne Day at 803-920-7094

Lynn Teague at 803-556-9802. Email to: TeagueLynn@gmail.com

*THIS INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LWVSC WEBSITE,
<http://www.lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>*



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC, 29202, (803) 251-2726, www.lwvsc.org

TO: Local League Presidents and Member-at-Large Unit Chairs
FROM: Holley Ulbrich and Christe McCoy-Lawrence, Co-Presidents
Lynn S. Teague, Issues and Action Vice President
JoAnne Day, State Issues Director
RE: Leader's Guide to 2021 LWVSC Program Planning

In odd-numbered years, local Leagues participate in the LWVSC Program Planning process by reviewing existing positions and making recommendations for changes, additions, or deletions. The League's program planning process reflects the grassroots influence of League members. One of the highlights of state convention in May 2021 will be the adoption of changes to our state program that will guide our education and advocacy in South Carolina. In recommending changes and selecting areas for study for the next two years, you can ensure that the League will impact the significant policy issues facing our state.

In order to guarantee that our program planning is genuinely grassroots, it is important to encourage maximum participation in the process. Your program planning meeting invites every member to review existing public policy positions and recommend changes. We also seek your priorities for educational programming at the state and local level. Based on local League responses (see "LWVSC Program Planning 2021-2023 Local League Response Form" enclosed), the state Board will develop a proposed agenda to discuss, debate, revise and adopt at convention.

This Leader's Guide is designed to provide information on the program planning process. We are asking for your input on all LWVSC positions. We are also asking you to recommend any new studies or educational programs and program resources that you would like LWVSC to undertake during the 2021-2023 biennium.

In an effort to make the program planning process as easy as possible, this Guide, along with the report form, will be available to Leagues online at the LWVSC website, <http://www.lwvsc.org/>.

The website also includes Program and Action Agenda in its entirety so that League members with access to the Internet can read the LWVSC public policy positions in depth before the meeting.

Local Leagues meet during January and February to discuss, debate and come to agreement on program recommendations for the next biennium. Leagues often combine their state program planning meetings with planning for local League study and action. The state League program planning report form is then sent to LWVSC, which compiles the results. Based on this information, the state board makes recommendations for the upcoming biennium's program. These state board recommendations are sent to League delegates at least four weeks before the state convention. At the virtual state convention on May 1st, delegates will vote on program related issues, including the state board recommendations and any not-recommended items approved by convention for consideration.

We look forward to receiving your recommendations and working together to create the LWVSC program for 2021-2023.

THE PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

- Have fun and increase member awareness of current LWVSC positions.
- Engage in a lively discussion to identify and recommend any positions that need to be dropped or updated; make suggestions for issues that require new studies.
- Consider any suggested changes or additions sent to you by state board, working groups, or other local Leagues.
- Prioritize areas in which League in South Carolina should be most active in educational programming for 2021-2023.

WHAT TO DO

- Set a date in January or February for your Program Planning Meeting and identify a person to facilitate the discussion. In some Leagues, the Program Vice President is assigned this responsibility.
- Invite members to participate. Provide them with information on the LWVSC public policy positions. Notify members that they can review the Leader's Guide and Report Form and Program and Action Agenda at <http://www.lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>.
- In order to have a brisk and interesting meeting, you might, well in advance of the meeting, assign board members to review and make recommendations in the LWVSC program areas: Electoral Democracy: Effective and Accountable Government: Human Rights and Human Services; and Environmental Policy. Discuss the LWVSC positions and recommend whether each should be retained as is, reconsidered or dropped.
- Assign a recorder to complete the Report Form for your League. **Please complete only one response form to send to LWVSC to record your League's wishes.** Please provide a rationale for any "drop" or "reconsider" you recommend.
- Use the "Recommendations for New Study" section to make suggestions for League program, such as a new study to be undertaken by the consensus or concurrence method. Provide supporting information on study scope and resources available or required. New studies should reflect a need for significant change or additions to existing national or state position statements in order to support state advocacy efforts.

- Use the “Recommendations for Educational Programming Priorities” section to identify the educational programming priorities that you want to LWVSC to address during 2021-2023.
- Report consensus and concurrence items to the State Board. *Return the attached Response Form to the LWVSC by the postmark deadline of **March 1, 2021**, either by postal mail or e-mail. Be sure to note your League’s name.*

SEND TO:

LWVSC, PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC 29202 or E-mail to: teaguelynn@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- LWVSC public policy positions are published in ***Program and Action Agenda 2019-2021*** and can be found at <http://www.lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>
- ***Dimensions of a League Study***, a guide to the study process is at <http://www.lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>

Considerations in League Program Planning

WHAT TO CONSIDER REGARDING CURRENT LWVSC POSITIONS:

- Have our goals been reached or is further action needed?
- Are there “gaps” in the position that will limit the League’s effectiveness in advocating for it?
- Is the issue timely today?
- Is there need for LWVSC oversight?
- Is member interest and understanding sufficient to continue the item?
- How might an updated position further the League’s mission? This is an opportune time to discuss your League’s view of the League in the 21st century, where we are headed and what positions will help us to fulfill our mission.

WHEN CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND A NEW STUDY, PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN MIND (THE LWVSC BOARD WILL USE THE SAME QUESTIONS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONVENTION.):

- Would a study on this issue result in a position that is needed to support educational programming and could be used to influence legislative action at the state government level?
- Is there sufficient member interest in this issue?
- Can the League make a unique contribution by adopting this issue as a program item?
- Is it feasible to adopt it as a program item: Do we have knowledgeable leadership for statewide study? Do we have local League leadership to conduct study on that level?
- Are we ready to commit financial resources to this study?
- Do we have the personnel to conduct the study? Keep in mind that a study takes a great deal of time from a dedicated study committee. A study has a greater chance of success if some commitment from members is obtained to serve on the study committee before the study is proposed.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES:

- Can this issue be addressed most effectively through state (rather than federal or local) government?
- Does this issue relate to the core mission of the League, especially as outlined in LWVSC positions and the national goal of “Making Democracy Work?”
- Are members well informed about this issue/position, or should LWVSC work to ensure that they become better informed?
- Is this issue of current interest to members and the public?

IF YOUR LEAGUE WANTS TO PROPOSE A NEW STUDY

To propose a new study, you need to fill out that section of the Report Form with a brief description of the scope and intent of the study. Additional suggestions on methods of conducting the review and/or study would also be helpful.

IF YOUR LEAGUE WANTS TO LOBBY OTHER LEAGUES IN SUPPORT OF A POSITION FOR UPDATE AND REVIEW OR STUDY

Reach out to other Leagues that may have similar interests. You can contact other Leagues that you know are interested in a particular issue. Or you may want to directly lobby other Leagues. For contact information for local Leagues in South Carolina, check the *LWVSC Leaders Directory* or go to http://www.lwvsc.org/local_leagues.html.

DEFINITIONS:

Retain--Members are committed to the position and will be involved in supporting League efforts to pursue position's goals.

Drop--Position is no longer useful in its present form or is not supported by members. Action on this position will end. Any future action will require adoption of a new study.

Reconsider--A study of limited scope is needed to evaluate a position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position. The aim is to consider position change.



Timeline for State League Program Planning and Adoption

December 2020	League leaders receive Program Planning Leader's Guide
January-February 2021	Individual Leagues determine what program planning activities they will conduct.
January-February 2021	Leagues conduct meetings to provide opportunities for participation in program planning.
March 1, 2021	All report forms due to LWVSC.
March 13, 2021	LWVSC board reviews Report Forms and approves a Proposed Program for the 2015-2015 biennium.
April 4, 2021	Proposed Program is sent to all local Leagues. Leagues review proposed program.
May 1, 2021	At LWVSC Convention in Charleston, delegates adopt 2019-2021 LWVSC program after debate and discussion of proposed program as well as any not-recommended items granted consideration by convention.
May 2021	LWVSC board implements adopted program.

LWVSC Bylaws related to program

ARTICLE X - Principles and Program

Sec. 1. Principles. The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program.

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the LWVSC shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those state governmental issues chosen by the convention for concerted study and action as follows:

- a. Local League boards and MAL units may make recommendations for state program to the state board provided they are submitted at least eight weeks before the convention.
- b. If a local League has studied a local issue and adopted a position that might be applicable to other communities in the state, the League should appropriately reword their position so that it would apply to other communities and recommend it to the state board for concurrence by submitting it to the state board at least eight weeks before the convention.
- c. The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and the chairs of MAL units at least four weeks before the convention.
- d. Changes in the proposed program, because of altered conditions, may be recommended by local League boards and MAL units up to two weeks before the state board acts upon the proposed changes, allowing local League boards and MAL units to respond before the state board meeting.
- e. The convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations submitted to the state board but not proposed by the board may be adopted by the convention only if they were submitted at least eight weeks before the convention and provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and adoption is voted on a following day. A two thirds vote is required to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention.

Sec. 3. Program Action. Local Leagues, MAL units, and MALs not in units may act on state program in the name of the LWVSC only with approval of the state board.