

The League of Women Voters of Ohio

Position on Issue 1 in the November 2018 General Election:

To Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining, Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs

The LWV Ohio takes a neutral position on Issue 1. We agree with the LWVUS position regarding sentencing for drug related offenses, which states “alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized.” This corresponds with the aims of Issue 1 on the 2018 general election ballot. However, LWV Ohio has a long-standing position that the Ohio Constitution should be a “clearly stated body of fundamental principles,” and we have opposed other initiative amendments on the basis of that position.

In summary, the LWV Ohio supports the goals of reforming drug sentencing and improving treatment alternatives, but does not believe those goals are best achieved by amending the Constitution. Additionally, the directives contained in Issue 1 are too specific, and the implementation of those directives could lead to unintended negative consequences.