

### **Program Planning 2019**

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### Agenda

- Background
- LWV/US & LWV/CA priorities
- LWV/CA accomplishments
- More detail on concurrence proposals
- Discussion
- Selection of top 3 LWVP program priorities



### What is program planning?

- Program planning: how we decide where and how we will focus our resources (member time, money, reputation)
- There are a lot of choices!



### How do we plan?

- Discuss League positions and recent program work. What do we know is already on our plate?
  - Reviewing all adopted positions is no longer a requirement
- What opportunities have been identified? Will priorities change as we address new circumstances?



## What are the proposed concurrence positions?

- Alphabetical list:
  - "Civil Discourse" proposed by the LWV of San Luis Obispo County
  - "Criminal Justice" proposed by the LWV of San Francisco
  - Revised "Voter Representation / Election Process" proposed by the LWV of Sacramento County



### What is an "issue of emphasis"?

- Study of an issue
- An updated study of an issue
- Community education about an issue
- Advocacy on an issue
- Any combination of the above
- We will identify and prioritize three issues to send to LWV/CA before 3/3/19
- We can choose to work on any number of issues locally



#### What criteria should we use to choose?

- Will the issue attract new (and diverse) members?
- Does the issue need government action? Is this realistic before 2021?
- Will the results of a study be timely in 2-3 years?
- Is the issue not being well met by other groups?
- Will there be member commitment to this issue?
- Can the league have significant impact?
- Is it consistent with our long-term vision and impact?
- Do we have the capacity (staff, members/volunteers, funds, project management) to take on this issue? Is it an issue that will attract financial support?



### What are the LWV/US priorities? "Campaign for Making Democracy Work"

- LWV/US (2018)
  - Voter protection and mobilization
  - Election reform
  - Money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting
- LWV/CA
  - Expanding the electorate (voter registration)
  - Ensuring that the 2020 census counts all Californians
  - Public financing of local elections and ordinances limiting the size of campaign contributions



### What are other LWV/CA priorities?

- Schools and Communities First corporate real estate tax reform: "Make it Fair"
- Increasing the supply of low and moderate income housing
- Aspects of the criminal justice system
- Water availability and quality, environmental protection, and groundwater management
- To mitigate the impacts of climate change



# What has the LWV/CA accomplished? "Hard Fought Victories for California"

- Campaign finance reform
  - Social Media DISCLOSE Act signed (AB 2188)
  - Defeated "gut and amend" of the Political Reform Act of 1974 (AB 84)
- Vote by mail (VBM)
  - SB 759 requires elections officials to alert voters if there is a VBM signature mismatch
- Bail reform
  - "SB 10 prioritizes public safety over the size of a defendant's bank account."
  - SB 10 passed, but needs amendment.



### "Hard Fought Victories for California"

- Natural resources
  - 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2045(SB 100) signed
  - LWV/CA water committee reports successes and disappointments; SB 988 helped add protections against residential water cutoffs
  - Statewide takeback system of sharps and pharmaceutical drugs passed (SB 212)



#### There's more?

### "Hard Fought Victories for California"

- 5 social policy bills passed
  - -SB 180, 439, 1391 and AB 931
- Bill protecting the rights of immigrant rights passed (SB 54)
- Housing bill passed (AB 60)



# What is the proposed "civil discourse" position? (new language)

- We support policies and actions for a responsive and representative government, promote civil discourse, increase citizen understanding of finances {...}, and provide for the periodic evaluation of locally levied taxes, ...
- We promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes
- Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication





### What is the proposed "criminal justice" position?

- A criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, & transparent at all stages
- Policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve
- A focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful re-entry

- The elimination of systemic bias
- Collaboration between government and community-based programs at every stage of the criminal justice system
- Reliance on evidencebased research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies



## What is the proposed "better voting systems" position?

- Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters
- This concurrence position does NOT support any particular election method
- Current LWV/CA position:
  - require the winner to receive a majority of the votes
  - a separate runoff election should not be used



#### Discussion...



#### There are a lot of choices!

- Concurrence issues:
  - Civil discourse
  - Criminal justice
  - "Better voting systems"
- Making democracy work
- Make it fair
- Housing reform
- Water issues
- Climate change