



2019 Statehouse Day Policy Asks

Protecting Women, Families, and Communities

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters of Ohio has advocated for policies that protect women, families, and communities. Our members from across the state approve our stances on social policy, after intensive study and deliberative dialogue.

➤ **SUPPORT FAIRNESS IN SALES TAXES: DIAPER SALES & PINK TAX EXEMPTION**

Under Ohio law, food and medicine are necessities, and therefore not taxed. Diapers and feminine products are also necessities that should not be taxed. Please support two bipartisan bills that bring much needed economic relief to women and families by exempting diapers (HB 60) and feminine hygiene products (HB 19) from sales tax.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE YES on HB 60 & HB 19.

➤ **INCREASE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROHIBITIONS**

SB43 is bipartisan legislation that strengthens Ohio's domestic violence laws. Domestic violence accounts for about half of all female homicides in Ohio, and many of those deaths are caused by gun violence or strangulation. Passage of SB43 strengthens the ability of the judiciary to restrict firearms access for offenders convicted of domestic violence. The bill also adds increased penalties for strangulation. Even if no visible sign of injury is present, strangulation can cause permanent injury to the brain and even death weeks after the act of violence was inflicted.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE YES on SB 43

➤ **PROTECT AND RESTORE LOCAL CONTROL OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

A paramount duty of the State of Ohio is to provide for an efficient, safe, and high-quality school system, sharing this responsibility with locally elected boards of education that are constitutionally established to provide oversight and direction to the local school district. Ten additional school districts are slated for likely state takeover in the next two years, but state takeover in the current three school districts has proven to be highly disruptive, frequently leading to dismantling of the public system not strengthening it. Using test scores as the basis for state takeover is questionable, given that there is a clear correlation between income and test scores, and all of these districts face high poverty rates.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE YES on HB 124 to restore local control to schools currently under state control, and VOTE YES on HB 154 to halt the Distress Commission Process.

➤ **PROTECT WOMEN’S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

Prohibiting abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected is unconstitutional, and it would effectively prevent patients from getting the care they need from their doctors. No fetus is viable during such an early stage of development, and many women do not know they are pregnant until weeks after a heartbeat is detected. This proposed bill also does not make exceptions for rape, incest, or severe mental illness—all conditions that should evoke compassion, not a one-size-fits-all legalistic imperative. Finally, the State of Ohio would be saddled with the costs of defending the bill in the courts. Instead, the state should focus on reducing unintended pregnancies through increased access to medical care, emergency contraception, and comprehensive sex education.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE NO on SB 23 and HB 68

➤ **PROTECT FREE SPEECH**

By liberally expanding definitions of “criminal trespass,” “criminal mischief,” “critical infrastructure facility,” and “economic harm,” SB 33 could result in criminal charges and fines for workers peacefully striking at their workplace, even if no criminal trespass or property damage occurs. Even innocuous acts like advertising events by posting flyers on telephone poles could be considered unlawful. The bill could also be used to penalize whistleblowers trying to keep their communities safe from harm if they believe that a disaster could occur. This bill is unnecessary, because acts of vandalism, trespassing, and terrorism are already adequately covered and prosecuted under existing Ohio law.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE NO on SB 33

League of Women Voters of Ohio
100 E Broad St, Suite 1310
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-469-1505
www.lwvohio.org
lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org