

League of Women Voters of Schenectady County

Proposed Local Program 2023-2024

Justice and the Law

Support improvements to the local criminal justice system by:

- * Monitoring and strengthening the Probation and Parole procedures, with an emphasis on rehabilitation and supportive services with programs such as the Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program in Schenectady County
- * Facilitating the implementation of alternative courts (problem solving courts) in Schenectady County and promoting collaborations to support them
- * Monitoring the juvenile justice system including Family Court and promoting community-based rehabilitation
- * Supporting restorative justice programs such as the Center for Community Justice
- * Improving accessibility to police complaint procedure
- * Improving Mental Health Crisis Intervention
- * Supporting the efforts of the Schenectady Police Reform and Re-invention Collaborative and other juvenile and adult reform initiatives.
- * Support the monitoring of the Schenectady County Jail, including complaint resolution, public health measures, transparency, and greater oversight of day-to-day conditions

Local Government

- * Monitor activities of county governmental units, including town boards, the Schenectady City Council and the Schenectady County Legislature, monitor activities of other quasi-governmental units, public authorities and agencies such as Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority, Metroplex, IDAs and Planning Boards monitor activities of elected public Boards of Education
- * Support standards of high professional qualifications and political nonpartisanship in manager form of government
- * Evaluate opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation and examine options for the consolidation of governmental services in Schenectady County

Children at Risk

- * Collaborate with other organizations to identify the needs of children, including physical and mental health, in Schenectady County, facilitate programs on their behalf and educate the community about their needs and challenges; increase child and adolescent mental health services
- * Study early childhood education and care-giving needs in Schenectady County from a policy and financing perspective
- * Support greater coordination between child service agencies
- * Encourage the availability and affordability of day care services for young children

Local Education

- * Monitor local initiatives related to schools and promote and advocate for adequate and equitable funding for all school districts so the students can reach their potential
- * Ensure school districts are adequately prepared and staffed for virtual education

Local Education (con't.)

- * Address disparities exposed by the need for virtual education
- * Bolster public schools' ability to respond to needs of students
- * Ensure that all school districts in Schenectady County are actively seeking to hire teachers of color
- * Develop initiatives to bolster student attendance and retention

Environmental Issues

Support the protection of environmental resources, land, water and air in Schenectady County:

- * Advocate for the protection of water resources in the County
- * Promote understanding of the global climate emergency and support efforts to mitigate its effects.
- * Support energy conservation and development of renewable energy alternatives
- * Support solid waste management programs that increase reuse and recycling in the County and City

Health Services

- * Educate and advocate for national/state/local health care reform that provides quality physical and mental health care for all citizens
- * Encourage and support countywide comprehensive health care planning and access, equity, and safety in health care
- * Educate about the Ellis and St. Peter's merger and its impact on end of life procedures
- * Monitor the availability of services for the homeless including homeless veterans

Proposed February 2023