

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA 2025-2026 LOCAL ISSUES/POSITIONS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

- Promote greater citizen participation in the political process by encouraging citizens to become knowledgeable about issues and to actively lobby elected officials.
- Encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote especially among underrepresented populations and young people.
- Support for Ranked Choice Voting on all levels of government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Study and support, where appropriate, legislation which promotes proposals to modernize local government by sharing services among villages, towns, public schools, the City of Syracuse, and Onondaga County.
- Support efforts to contain sprawl with planned growth throughout Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse.

SOCIAL POLICY

- Support the legislative and advocacy initiatives of area organizations, such as the Food Bank of CNY and the Housing and Homeless Coalition of CNY, addressing food, housing, and other critical needs of children and families in poverty.
- Monitor the state school aid formula and its implications for upstate school districts and the Big 5 city districts
- Promote the economic growth of Syracuse and Onondaga County in order to improve the quality of life for all
- Monitor the I81 project (including the rebuilding of the city's 15th ward to ensure that hiring is as local as possible
- Support county wide Wi Fi that guarantees safe technology
- Promote a single-payer healthcare system for all New Yorkers
- Support optional Medical Aid In Dying for the terminally ill
- Promote educational efforts dealing with domestic violence and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Onondaga County, including a childcare program for victims of domestic violence when they appear in court.
- Advocate for mass transit routes to assure the citizens living in the city and county poverty areas have transportation to the areas of employment, education, health care and voting.
- Promote equal opportunity for all regardless of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age or disability.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support the Declarations of Climate Emergency, adopted at the 2021 LWNYS Convention, and take appropriate action to meet the global climate challenge through public policy and legislation on the local level.
- Support efforts to facilitate improvement projects for Onondaga Lake and its watershed.
- Support the protection of wildlife and natural vegetation while making improvements to Onondaga Lake and its surroundings.

LOCAL SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES/STUDIES

- Promote improved training for poll workers, adequate staffing at polling places, and the use of split shifts for election workers.
- Promote improved election processes which extend and encourage voting, including no-excuse Absentee Balloting and Election Day registration
- Monitor Early Voting to ensure it is utilized by providing convenient and adequate polling sites
- Promote efforts to simplify the procedures and format for obtaining petition signatures for candidates and potential candidates
- Promote and encourage meaningful campaign finance reform including the New York State Small Donor Public Financing Program.
- Promote the creation of a citizen led independent redistricting commission on the state and local level.
- Promote the creation of an independent and enforcing ethics commission.
- Promote meaningful oversight of public authorities.
- Promote additional legislative rules reform.
- Promote and encourage meaningful property tax reform.

