



# Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

**\*\*Legislative Interview Reports Due February 22, 2021\*\***

## Introduction

Every year, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) encourages local League members to interview their state legislators or staff. Legislative interviews are a powerful tool - increasing League visibility, gathering information, and raising awareness among California's state representatives about our interest in policies they are considering.

Legislative interviews are an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with local Leagues and develop an understanding of League positions and priorities. Local Leagues discover plans for state legislation that may impact their communities. Furthermore, the state League learns more about legislators and the interests of local Leagues, gaining information useful in planning statewide advocacy and education.

Use interviews to become better acquainted with your legislators and their staff. It's a chance to emphasize that while the League never supports or opposes candidates or parties, we are a political organization, and after thorough study and consensus we take positions on issues.

While some Leagues may prefer to meet their legislators and/or staff in person, most will opt for online meetings. Although this isn't the same as face-to-face interviews, our hope is that using an online platform will give you more flexibility and make the process easier for all involved, including by simplifying scheduling, note taking, and sharing of resources.

## Making Democracy Work: An Equity Lens

The League of Women Voters of California applies an "equity lens" by analyzing what we do from the perspective of how it impacts underrepresented individuals and communities. Legislative interviews offer an excellent opportunity to develop representative League leadership and add rich, diverse perspectives to your work.

In that spirit, we encourage you to front end diversity, equity and inclusion in legislative interviews by proactively reaching out and including League members and potential members who are young, Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, have disabilities, are in the LGBTQI+ community, or otherwise underrepresented.

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## Legislative Interview Questions

The following are short versions of the questions to be posed to your legislator. The full versions of the questions and background information for Questions 1 through 3 may be found starting on [page 8](#).

### Question 1: Land Use and Climate Change

California is working to convert its [natural and working lands](#) – which cover 90 percent of California’s land – from being net emitters of greenhouse gases to lands that remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and [sequester CO<sub>2</sub> to prevent it from re-entering the atmosphere](#). **What do you see as the most important considerations and priorities in the effort to reach a net drawdown of greenhouse gases from natural and working lands? How do we balance the many considerations? What are the funding priorities?**

### Question 2: Housing and Homelessness, Zoning and Affordability

California’s housing shortage and affordability crisis continues to grow. Multi-family housing is still illegal to build in most high opportunity neighborhoods with access to transportation, jobs, good schools, and community resources. As a result, most California families are excluded from these neighborhoods and the economic opportunity they provide. **What can be done to reform exclusionary single-family zoning in California? What reforms do you support to legalize and incentivize more affordable housing (both naturally occurring, and deed restricted) in high opportunity neighborhoods?**

### Question 3: Equitable COVID-19 Recovery

COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities in California. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted underrepresented and underserved Californians, including those who are Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and people with disabilities. Furthermore, Californians with low incomes are significantly disadvantaged. For example, many have lost jobs and those with jobs are often more subject to workplace exposure and have difficulty finding time and resources for childcare and to assist their children with homeschooling. **What can be done to ensure that California’s COVID-19 economic recovery is equitable and focuses on the needs of those most impacted?**

### Question 4: Personal Priorities of Legislator

What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2020? What are your personal priorities? Please make sure to ask this question. It provides us with valuable insight about your legislator.

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## Optional Question 5: Local Issues

Local League Question(s) related to issues of particular local concern. This is entirely optional, but you are welcome to include a question related to local issues.

## The Legislative Interview Process

Advance work by League interview team members is essential to success. This is a short-term project that includes preparation, the interview, and wrap-up. It's advisable to hold a few organizing meetings for your team, especially if it includes people who are new to the process.

1. **Schedule the interview.** This can take time so start early!
  - While some Leagues may prefer to meet their legislators and/or staff in person (in a socially distanced manner), it's fine to conduct these interviews through Zoom or some other online platform.
  - If a legislative district encompasses **multiple League districts** please coordinate your visit among the relevant local Leagues. The [Local League Legislative Directory](#) lists all of the local Leagues in each district (legislators will be updated post-cavass). If you wish to schedule separate interviews because you have different issues to discuss with a particular legislator, feel free to do so.

**It is critical that you keep all other Leagues in the district informed if you choose to schedule a separate interview.**
  - While it is important to try to get an appointment with the legislator, it may be difficult to schedule. Cultivating a relationship with the district director or other staff involved in legislation (as opposed to constituent services) can also be very valuable. If a meeting with the legislator is not possible then ask to meet with staff who have a substantive role in legislation.
2. **Assemble your interview team.** Teams of three to five members are ideal.
  - Coordinators should try to include at least one person with a long-term League background, someone with a history of working with the legislator, someone well versed in the relevant issues, new and young members, and people from underrepresented groups to develop representative League leadership and add diverse perspectives.
  - Check [the FAQs](#) for recommended meeting roles and responsibilities.
3. **Prepare the team.** Hold advance meetings to go over interview roles and the questions and topics to be covered.
4. **Prepare materials.** There are a number of substantive materials we offer associated with each question and [general resources](#) provided for your team's use. You can also develop a set of materials to [send to the legislator's office](#) either ahead of time or afterwards.

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

5. **The interview.** Read over [interview etiquette tips](#) and the [FAQs](#) for detailed recommendations.
6. **Wrap-up and report back**
  - Review reports to be sent to the LWVC and presented to your membership. This should happen as soon as possible after the interview.
  - Please fill out the online [Legislative Interview Report Form by February 22, 2021](#). This makes it easier for us to compile and analyze your responses effectively. **The form will be available on December 7 along with the questions.** Please let us know if you need help using the online report form by emailing Andrew Muse-Fisher at [amusefisher@lwvc.org](mailto:amusefisher@lwvc.org).

## Interview Etiquette Tips

- ★ Be prepared. Study the background materials and the substance of the topics covered in the interview questions.
- ★ Follow your assigned role on the interview team and make space for underrepresented voices among your teammates.
- ★ Opinions expressed should be only those of the League, not of individuals.
- ★ Do not overstay your welcome - stick to the time allotted for the meeting.
- ★ **Secure the legislator's permission and specific conditions under which you may print any part of the interview in a VOTER or other newsletter. If you plan on recording the meeting, make sure you get the legislator's permission to do so.**

## FAQS for the Legislative Interview Process

### Should we send the questions we plan to ask beforehand?

Our recommendation is **not to share the actual interview questions with your legislator in advance**. We believe there's a clear benefit in legislators' unrehearsed responses. The purposes of an in-person interview are to look the representative or their staff in the eye, hear their tone of voice, and get a sense of their interest in an issue. In addition, this gives the legislator an opportunity to interact with our local League members and develop or further an ongoing relationship. A preformed statement of positions that could simply be mailed to us fails to accomplish these goals.

**Please feel free to share the issue areas (land use and climate change, housing and homelessness, and ensuring equity in the context of California's post-pandemic economic recovery) with the representative in advance** so that they may broadly prepare themselves for your questions. Tell them that the specific questions asked by your interview committee will come from those issue areas.

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## How do we divide up roles?

Here are some ideas about roles and responsibilities derived from prior experience.

### Team Leader

- **Make the appointment.** Contact the legislator's local district office. Be persistent. **Ask for an hour, but accept less if necessary.** If you cannot get a meeting with the legislator, ask to meet with the district director. They are often extremely well versed about everything going on in a district and in the legislature. At the very least, make sure that your visit is scheduled with someone involved in legislation and not solely in constituent services. Your visit will still be noted and remembered.
- **Confirm.** Send the legislator and staff a message confirming the appointment, mentioning the topics you will discuss. (**Do not send a copy of the “Questions,” “Background,” or the “Legislative Interview Report Form” sections of this kit that will be available on December 7.**)
- **Set a team prep meeting.** Brief the members of the team on interview etiquette, determine the role each member will take, and discuss each participant's responsibilities as an interview team member. If your team includes members of historically underrepresented communities, please ensure that other members step back to provide an opportunity for that voice and perspective to be heard.
- **Make introductions.** Lead off the introductions at the start of the interview and invite League members to introduce themselves.
- **Watch the clock.** Pace the interview and tactfully keep everyone (including the legislator) on the subject. You will know in advance how much time the legislator has agreed to spend with you, and allot an appropriate amount of time to each question.
- **Send a thank you.** Write a follow-up thank you after the interview. A thank you note gives you an opportunity to underscore points made at the interview, answer any questions you were not sure about, or send a League publication you may have referred to during the course of the interview.

### Researcher

- **Background.** Brief the other members of the interview team on the legislator's relationship with the League and his/her voting record. What are his/her committee assignments and/or leadership positions in the legislature?
- **Check legislator's League membership.** Is the legislator a member of your League or another League in the district? If they aren't a member, then the interview team should ask the legislator to join the League.
- **Check bill history.** Check the [LWVC Bill Status Reports](#) for the past few cycles for information about bill(s) your legislator authored and the League either supported or opposed. You can dig even deeper by checking the legislator's history using [California's legislative information site](#). You may want to take a moment to express the League's appreciation or disappointment about a particular bill on which the state League took a position, and briefly state the League's position.

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

- **Keep a digital research file.** The information you develop should become part of an ongoing file about each legislator.

## Background Briefer

- **Team briefing.** Inform team members as to League positions and history on the interview question topics.
- **Team discussion.** Lead a discussion with team members about the background information on question topics and the substance of the interview questions.
- **Legislator briefing.** If your legislator is new or does not know the League well, plan to spend some time talking about the mission of the League and briefly explain the difference between the League's advocacy and education roles. Describe how we take positions on issues.

## Recorder

- **Document.**
  - ✓ Have the interview questions in front of you.
  - ✓ Make note of bills or policy objectives mentioned by the legislator.
  - ✓ Make note of requests for information or League materials from the legislator.
  - ✓ Write up the material from your notes promptly.
- **Debrief.** Conduct a debriefing with team members shortly after the interview.
- **Report.** Complete the online report form by **February 22, 2021** (available December 7). Responses received by this date will be the most useful for action on League priorities.

## What materials should I provide?

Before or after your interview we recommend sending an email attaching or linking to materials.

- **Membership information** from each local League represented. Ask the legislator and staff members present to join!
- **League publications.** Send links to publications that are appropriate and relevant. You can send the League's [Action Policies and Procedures](#) as a way to help elucidate the areas in which we work. And you might include publications like a local Facts for Voters and copies of local League newsletters.
- **Voter's Edge.** Tell the legislators about [Voter's Edge](#) and ask them to spread the word. Voter's Edge is our unbiased online elections guide covering federal, state, and local races in California. With over 2 million users in the 2018 election and even more in 2020, the site allows candidates to reach voters with direct, unfiltered messages and in-depth information about priorities *at no cost*. Voters access a full, personalized ballot by address, learn about candidates and issues, get clear explanations of ballot measures and find out who's funding them, and check where, when, and how to vote. Check [here](#) for

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

more info and links to flyers. You can also order [Voter's Edge bookmarks](#) and send them as a post-meeting thank you!

## Are there resources to help our team prepare?

You'll find resources related to the substance of the questions linked to throughout the "Background" sections associated with each question and sometimes a few more listed at the end. Here are some **general resources**.

**District maps** from the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Find your:

- [Legislators](#)
- [Assembly Districts](#)
- [Senate Districts](#)

**Local League Legislative Directory.** Please let us know if you find any problems with this cross-referenced list of districts and local Leagues. Legislators' names will be updated post-canvass.

**League Leader Contacts.** Please contact [amusefisher@lwvc.org](mailto:amusefisher@lwvc.org) if you need the password.

**LWVC Bill Status Reports.** Information about bills on which the LWVC has taken a position and recommends action.

**LWVC Advocacy Resource Directory.** A comprehensive set of resources organized by issue area and type of organization with a short description of the nature of each resource.

**LegInfo.** California's comprehensive online site for legislation and law. Scroll down the homepage to click through to "other resources" for more useful information.

**California Legislative Analyst's Office.** The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has provided fiscal and policy advice to the Legislature for 75 years. It is known for its fiscal and programmatic expertise and nonpartisan analyses of the state budget. In addition, the office estimates the fiscal effect on the state and local government of all proposed initiatives (prior to circulation) and prepares analyses of all measures that qualify for the statewide ballot.

**Legislative Scorecards.** While other organizations' scorecards may not align with League positions and priorities, they do offer good insight and substantive information about legislators and their voting history. Some are [collated by Ballotpedia](#). Here are links to a few we recommend checking.

- ★ [Courage Campaign](#)
- ★ [ACLU](#)
- ★ [Sierra Club California](#)
- ★ [California Chamber of Commerce](#)
- ★ [Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association](#)

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## Who do I contact with questions?

If you have any questions about the interviews, please contact LWVC Vice President for Advocacy and Program, Gloria Chun Hoo at [ghoo@lwvc.org](mailto:ghoo@lwvc.org) or LWVC Trudy Schafer Fellow for Public Policy, Andrew Muse-Fisher at [amusefisher@lwvc.org](mailto:amusefisher@lwvc.org)

## Legislative Interview Questions

### Question 1: Land Use and Climate Change

California is working to convert its [natural and working lands](#) – which cover 90 percent of California’s land – from being net emitters of greenhouse gases to lands that remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and [sequester CO<sub>2</sub> to prevent it from re-entering the atmosphere](#).

[California’s Natural and Working Lands Group](#) has developed [a plan to achieve this goal](#) by 2030. It calls for increasing the restoration of lands which are natural carbon sinks (grasslands, savannahs, wetlands and seagrasses, stopping urban/suburban sprawl into open space and farmland, and providing for a five-fold increase in support to California’s agriculture industry. The latter will help farms invest in climate smart agricultural practices to enable them to become both carbon sinks and more drought resilient, and ultimately to increase profits. Yet, none of these goals will happen overnight and all will require significant funding.

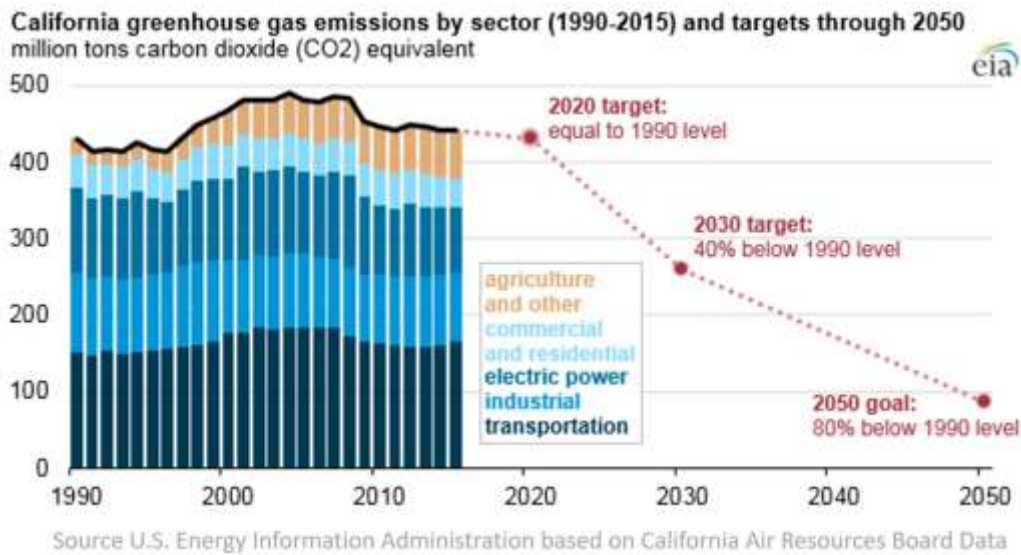
**What do you see as the most important considerations and priorities in the effort to reach net drawdown from natural and working lands? How do we balance the many considerations? What are the funding priorities?**

### Background on Question 1

California’s goal is to reduce greenhouse gases to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. As you can see in the graph below, contributions from agriculture are increasing – that’s going the wrong way. However, California is working to change that trend, partly through agricultural practices to create carbon sinks to cause drawdown. This past autumn, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-82-20](#) to enlist California’s vast network of natural and working lands – forests, rangelands, farms, wetlands, coast, deserts and urban greenspaces – to draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021



## Why is Drawdown Important?

Currently, California's natural and working lands are a net emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>. Moving to net drawdown (negative emissions) is a bold goal. It's also necessary. Globally we need to be at or below 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> to keep temperatures below a 1.5°C increase. We're now at 411 ppm. Since CO<sub>2</sub> stays in the atmosphere on the **order of 100 years**, the only way to get back to 350 ppm is to pull CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere and sequester it – called drawdown.

## California's Plan

Moving to have natural and working lands as a carbon sink is increasingly a priority for California. [SB 1386 \(2016\)](#) identifies the protection and management of natural and working lands as a key strategy to meet our emission reduction goals. In 2019, the [Draft California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan](#) was released. It outlines the need to increase actions to mitigate climate change through improved conservation, restoration, and management of our natural and working lands, and it outlines a pathway to get there. Then in October 2020, Governor Newsom signed the executive order cited above. That order also sets a first-in-the-nation goal to conserve 30 percent of the state's land and coastal water by 2030 to fight species loss, ecosystem destruction, and to preserve natural lands to maintain the state's natural carbon sinks. California joins 38 countries in the [global effort to reach 30 percent](#) of all land in conservation by 2030.

## Why a Five-Fold Increase in Support for Agriculture?

Agriculture accounts for about 25 percent of California's land. California's \$50 billion agriculture industry produces over 400 commodities, including half the fruits, vegetables, and nuts consumed in the U.S. It is both vital to California's economy and to the nation's food security and resilience. It is also most threatened by climate change since it is sensitive to temperature fluctuations and changes in rainfall. Modifying farming and

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

ranching practices to use [climate-smart agricultural practices](#), including soil conservation practices, can change those lands from being net emitters to being carbon sinks, help them become more drought resilient and, importantly, assist the industry in adapting to climate change.

## Where Do We Get the Money?

Changing practices to make our natural and working lands effective carbon sinks will require educating the public about the vital importance of it, how to do it, and money. Competing interests for housing, funding, the need to provide reliable sources of food, and the human resistance to change all combine to make this road difficult.

Lands in our state include federal, state, county, municipal, and private land. Funding sources for restoration projects are equally complex. Motivating smaller districts to fund restoration projects, especially when the return on their investment is not immediately felt, is a challenge. Often such projects take a second position to flood mitigation or other efforts that appear to provide more tangible, immediate, and measurable benefits to specific communities.

## League Position References for Question 1

- [Land Use \(state\)](#)
- [Climate Change \(state\)](#)
- [Environmental Protection and Pollution Control \(national\)](#)
- [Resource Management \(national\)](#)
- [Natural Resources \(national\)](#)

## Resources for Question 1

[LWVC Food, Soils, and Agriculture page](#)

## Question 2: Housing and Homelessness, Zoning and Affordability

California's housing shortage and affordability crisis continues to grow. Multi-family housing is still illegal to build in most high opportunity neighborhoods with access to transportation, jobs, good schools, and community resources. As a result, most California families are excluded from these neighborhoods and the economic opportunity they provide.

**What can be done to reform exclusionary single-family zoning in California? What reforms do you support to legalize and incentivize more affordable housing (both naturally occurring, and deed restricted) in high opportunity neighborhoods?**

# I WVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## Background on Question 2

**A Deliberate Housing Shortage.** California's housing shortage – and the affordability crisis it has caused – is the result of decades of deliberate policies to limit the supply of housing. We can reverse these policies and end the affordability crisis by changing our housing laws at the state and local level to enable more home building.

Discriminatory land use and tax laws of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s enshrined the housing shortage in California law, and set up the current affordability crisis – which has pushed millions of Californians into poverty. However, the origins of these policies date at least to the turn of the 20th century when housing in California and across the United States was governed by [laws explicitly designed to protect and promote whites-only neighborhoods](#). As a result, millions more live in crowded and substandard housing, with higher rent burdens, greater health risks, and multi-hour commutes.

California's housing shortage is dire. [Though the true number may be higher](#), California needs to permit and build at least [3.5 million homes by 2025](#)<sup>1</sup> to ensure all California residents, present and future, have an affordable home. Over the past 10 years, California has built an average of 80,000 homes per year - or about 44 percent of what is necessary to break even.

The same laws that created our housing shortage can be reversed, and new laws passed that can accelerate homebuilding and make California more affordable, equitable, and livable.

**A Deep Problem with Known Solutions.** Current housing conditions in California, and in much of the United States, reflect the accumulated consequences of decades of public policy-making. [Many of these policies, such as redlining and exclusionary zoning, were explicitly racist when they were passed – and continue to exacerbate racial inequality today](#). Our built environment is largely the product of decisions made at the local level to approve or deny housing; but those decisions have been shaped, in turn, by transportation, civil rights, criminal justice, education, tax and related fiscal policies at the state and federal levels.

The accumulated negative impacts of these policies have made [California one of the most difficult and expensive places in the country](#) to build housing, with the [worst poverty rate, worst air pollution](#), and some of the [greatest racial inequities](#) in the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> We have cited the 3.5 million number from McKinsey, but depending on methodology there are other estimates on need. They are listed in the resources section below.

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## What Is Affordable Housing?

Housing advocates use the term “affordable housing” to mean two different things: “naturally” affordable housing, which is generally older homes that become increasingly affordable over time when enough housing is built; and “deed-restricted” or “subsidized” affordable housing, which can only be occupied by people who meet certain income restrictions.

**We must advocate for both types of affordable housing, but they require different policy incentives.**

**Market rate housing.** According to the California Department of Housing and Community Development, [91 percent of low-income households](#) in the state live in market-rate housing. These are homes that were built for a profit, but that were nevertheless affordable when they were built, became affordable over time, or are overcrowded because people need more housemates in order to afford to live in them. While the term “market-rate” may imply that these homes were built for the wealthy, the reality is that, [even in 2020, most homes in California were built before the 1970s](#), during a time when housing construction more closely matched population growth.

This “naturally affordable” housing stock costs less for renters for three primary reasons:

1. Much of this housing is [denser, multi-family housing like fourplexes and apartments](#), which spread the cost of land and construction over more units;
2. In a functioning housing market, [older housing depreciates with time as new housing is built – and depreciated housing is also more affordable](#); and
3. Building enough housing for people at all ends of the income spectrum will both relieve the decades-old backlog of demand, and accommodate population growth from births and new arrivals to the state. By ending the politically-imposed scarcity of housing in California, [prices can finally begin to start falling](#), and the state’s housing crisis can move closer to becoming a thing of the past.

California’s failure to build housing in recent decades is eliminating the phenomenon of “naturally occurring” affordable housing, since a growing population is being forced to compete for a relatively static supply of housing. Examples of this can be seen in many California cities where [uninhabitable shacks have sold for millions of dollars](#) or rent for [over \\$1,000 a month](#).

**Below-market rate housing.** While housing markets have historically met the needs of the majority of people, they have rarely functioned for the very poor. Low-income earners or those unable to work have always struggled with covering the cost of housing. For this reason, most jurisdictions in the United States have a long track record

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

of building subsidized and deed-restricted housing that can only be occupied by residents who meet certain income criteria.

There are [many policy interventions](#) that help address this gap in housing needs, including direct rental subsidies, housing vouchers, cross-subsidies, public finance, and tax incentives. The policies and strategies used to develop low-income housing are vast.

- **Zoning reform** to make it legal to build homes in exclusionary cities and neighborhoods across our state. [Prior to the widespread down-zonings of the 1960s and 1970s](#), some of California’s cities had [zoning that would have allowed enough homes to be built](#) to prevent the current housing shortage. The pre-1970s multi-family homes that are scattered throughout California’s cities are testament to what is possible when we legalize housing.
- **Streamlining housing approvals** will accelerate housing production; delivering new homes faster, cheaper, and more reliably.

## League Position References for Question 2

- [Housing and Homelessness \(state\)](#)
- [Homeless Action Policy \(state\)](#)
- [Transportation \(state\)](#)
- [Meeting Basic Human Needs \(national\)](#)

## Resources for Question 2

[Myth vs. Fact](#), an FAQ by [CA YIMBY](#) that breaks down common housing policy misconceptions.

California’s Housing Shortage, By the Numbers	
Organization	Estimate of Need
<a href="#">McKinsey &amp; Co.</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approximately 1.5 million new units by 2025 to keep pace with demand and an additional 2 million new units to address existing shortage</li> <li>● Total: 3.5 million new units by 2025. *</li> </ul>
<a href="#">California Department of Housing and Community Development</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.8 million new units between 2015 and 2025 to keep pace with demand</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Legislative Analyst’s Office 2015 Analysis</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approximately 210,000 homes per year needed</li> <li>● Approximately 2.7 million home shortage created between 1980 and 2010</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Beacon Economics</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3.4 million home backlog by 2025 at current rates of construction and demographic growth</li> </ul>

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## Question 3: Equitable COVID-19 Recovery

COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities in California. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted underrepresented and underserved Californians, including those who are Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and people with disabilities. Furthermore, Californians with low incomes are significantly disadvantaged. For example, many have lost jobs and those with jobs are often more subject to workplace exposure and have difficulty finding time and resources for childcare and to assist their children with homeschooling. **What can be done to ensure that California's COVID-19 economic recovery is equitable and focuses on the needs of those most impacted?**

### Background on Question 3

This is a broad, complex topic. In order to help you learn about the many factors in consideration and potential solutions, we have compiled a list of materials you can read through. There's a lot here so we encourage you to divide the reading amongst your interview team.

*The America We Need*, an interactive editorial by the New York Times. This anthology compiled by the New York Times has articles, letters, photo essays, videos and more that cover the pandemic and consider the future we can build as we begin to heal. Split into three chapters about the pandemic, investing in cities, and an equitable economy, the anthology is packed with content to help you consider the many problems COVID-19 has created and exacerbated, and proposes forward-looking solutions. Here are links to some of our favorite articles from each chapter.

- *The Jobs We Need* by the New York Times Editorial Board.
- *Are You Willing to Give Up Your Privilege?* by Darren Walker, the president of the Ford Foundation.
- *The U.S. Is Lagging Behind Many Rich Countries. These Charts Show Why.* by David Leonhardt and Yaryna Serkez.
- *Why Do the Rich Have So Much Power?* by Paul Krugman.

**Note:** If you need a password to access these New York Times articles at [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com), sign in as [advocacy@lwvc.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvc.org) with **LeagueLove** as the password.

*California Divide: How COVID is Deepening California's Income Inequality in 5 Charts* by Jackie Botts from CalMatters. This article visually explores how the pandemic has exacerbated inequality specifically within California.

*California's Workers are Increasingly Locked Out of the State's Prosperity* by the California Budget & Policy Center. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, a team of researchers at the California Budget and Policy Center studied wages and affordability for mid- to low-wage workers in California. Their findings reveal increasing economic risk for California's workforce along with a few policy solutions. PDF available [here](#).

# LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021

## League Position References for Question 3

Most LWVC and LWWUS positions on social and economic policy include statements about equity.

### State:

- State and Local Finances
- Childcare
- Community College System
- Criminal Justice
- Education: PreK-12
- Housing and Homelessness
- Juvenile Justice/Dependency
- Mental Health Care
- Public Higher Education

### National:

- Privatization
- Equality of Opportunity
- Fiscal Policy
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
- Childcare
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk
- Urban Policy