

## SELECTED LWVUS AND LWVMN POSITIONS

### Representative Government

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

##### Citizen's Right to Vote

**US:** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote. (1982)

##### Restoration of Voting Rights

**MN:** Allow citizens living in the community on probation or parole to vote. (2013)

#### Elections

**MN:** Support improvements in election laws regulating election procedures, voting and school district elections. Specifically:

- Centralized responsibility in the state government for achieving uniform election procedures and for training election officials. (1961)
- Extension of mandatory voter registration prior to election day to cover more voters through inclusion of more municipalities through county-wide registration, or through state-wide registration. (1961)
- Extension of election laws to cover school district elections, including uniform, mandatory voter registration. (1972)
- Rotation of names of candidates for the same office on ballots. (1972)

#### ELECTION PROCESS

##### Selection of the President

**US:** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for

presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates. (1970, 1976)

**MN:** Support improvements in election laws regulating election procedures, voting and school district elections.

##### Apportionment & Redistricting

**US:** Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. (Revised 1982) The League believes responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups. (2016)

**MN:** Support timely redistricting based substantially on population and affecting all state and local governmental bodies. Regular and equitable reapportionment, with definite procedures established to ensure prompt redistricting by the Legislature or by a reapportionment commission; support of procedures which provide for:

- Compact, contiguous districts giving advantage to no particular person or group;
- Public accessibility to legislative or commission deliberations and action;
- Prompt judicial review. (1979)

##### Money in Politics

**US:** Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.

**MN:** Support improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices:

- The public's right to comprehensive disclosure of all political campaign contributions and expenditures: mandatory, timely, uniform and complete reports of campaign contributions and expenditures should be made to a central authority responsible for disseminating such information to the public; responsibility for

reporting contributions to the candidate's campaign and for reporting expenditures by the candidate and those made on the candidate's behalf rests squarely on the candidate; penalties should be stringent enough to ensure compliance by candidates. (1961)

- Judicious use of public resources to finance campaigns. (1972)
- Reduction of the amount of money spent on campaigns. (1972)

#### JUDICIARY

**MN:** Support a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all. (1973) Selection of judges: (a) Initial appointment of judgeship by the governor, who must choose from among a list of qualified candidates forwarded by a nominating commission. (b) End-of-term evaluation of the judge's performance by an evaluation commission, results to be made available to the public. (c) Retention election: voters choose to retain or not retain the judge. (2008)

### Natural Resources

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

#### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**US:** Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL

##### Air Quality

**US:** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**MN:** Development of more energy-efficient transportation systems.

##### Energy

**US:** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

## Water Resources

**US:** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

**MN:** Support a state role in the preservation and management of Minnesota's water resources through protection, allocation, conservation, pricing and interbasin transfer policies protective of current and future needs. (1985)

## Waste Management

**US:** Promote policies that reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**MN:** Support measures to reduce generation of solid waste and ensure safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes.

## Land Use

**US:** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**MN:** Support an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local level, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local concern.

## AGRICULTURE POLICIES

**US:** Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

**MN:** Support a system of sustainable agricultural production which provides safe, healthful food and which preserves and protects the state's human and natural agricultural resources and enhances the environment; research and technical assistance in farming practices and rural economies that improve the economic viability of family farms, environmental health, and the quality of life of family farmers and their communities.

## Social Policy

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

## EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

**US:** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

**MN:** Support policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support state responsibility for and responsiveness to American Indian citizens.

## EDUCATION

**MN:** All Minnesota children should have equal access to a good public education. State funding for education should be at a level that makes programs of comparable substance and quality available to all. A student's access to a good education should not depend on the wealth of his or her school district.

## FISCAL POLICY

**MN:** Support a balanced and diversified revenue system that is equitable, competitive with other states, progressive and reliable. Support long-term financial management, projections and a budget reserve. (1995)

## HEALTH CARE

**US:** Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health, and controls health care costs. Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes: the prevention of disease; health promotion and education; primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health); acute care; long-term care; mental health care.

**MN:** Support a comprehensive and coordinated system of programs and services for mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. Priority should be given to persons with serious and persistent mental illness or acute mental illness.

Public policy and funding should sustain an array of community based services which are available and accessible to persons with mental illness. Administration of that policy should provide clients with appropriate and adequate services. (1989)

## IMMIGRATION

**US:** Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

**MN:** Support incorporating immigrants into our communities by providing access to education, by endorsing the development of secure identification documents, and by respecting the right of law enforcement personnel to perform their duties without the burden of interpreting federal immigration policies. Oppose residents with legal immigrant status running for local office. (2003)

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION

**US:** Support violence prevention programs in communities.

**MN:** Support violence prevention programs in our community. (1994) Support improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence. Support improved services for the victims.

## GUN CONTROL

**US:** Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

**MN:** Supports restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms in the state of Minnesota. The LWVMN definition of firearms includes all manufactured handguns, long guns and assault weapons, and ghost guns (privately-made firearms that are untraceable, such as those made from unfinished frames/receivers or 3D printers – i.e. those without serial numbers).

Supports laws intended to reduce deaths and injuries by firearms and support funding programs and strategies that will reduce homicides, suicides or unintentional firearm deaths or injuries. (1990, updated 2023)