

## Program - League of Women Voters Montana April 2026 - March 2027

Additions and changes from Program 2025-2026 are underlined.

### Approved Existing Positions at Member Retreat on April 26, 2026

All of the positions of LWV Montana can be found at <https://my.lwv.org/montana/positions>.

#### **Recommit to Foundational Values: Nonpartisanship and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.**

We neither support nor oppose candidates and political parties. We encourage outreach to and support of diverse groups with emphasis on Native Americans, young people, immigrants, residents of rural areas, those with disabilities, and other diverse groups. We use a land acknowledgement statement at the beginning of every League meeting. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

#### **Level One Priority: Leadership in Making Democracy Work**

***Support for National action:*** Individual members contact their members of Congress and the President to follow through on Actions taken by National. State officers forward National League President updates and calls to action from LWVUS to local leaders and members as needed. Also, ongoing campaigns such as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and national voting rights legislation.

***Eliminate the Electoral College Campaign*** in providing public education, and in working with young people and civics education. Collaborate with Leagues across the country – The Deerfield, Illinois League, which is providing leadership on this issue.

***Support for Montana Constitution:*** public education and defense of the framework for democracy contained in the Montana Constitution. Work in collaboration with Friends of the Montana Constitution and other organizations to engage Montanans in learning more about their constitution and appreciating the rights and responsibilities we share. Engage in advocacy work and lawsuits as necessary. Support the balance of power between the three branches of government and foundational institutions.

***Take Actions During Montana 2027 Legislative Session:*** Continue cooperation with Pro-Democracy Working Group. Monitor, send out Action Alerts, and testify from League positions in 2027 Montana Legislative Session.

***Voting Rights and Voter Protection in 2027 Legislative Session and Interim Committees:***

Support positive reforms such as online voter registration for all, portable voter registration within each state, and reforms to provisional voting, and to oppose any bills that curtail voting rights. Defend existing voter rights if needed during the 2027 session. Monitor and participate in Interim Committees related to voting and elections including Native American voting rights. Participate in lawsuits as necessary to defend state Constitution. Continue cooperation with Pro-Democracy Working Group.

***Money in Politics:*** Lobby in legislature according to League positions on bills affecting the Commissioner of Political Practices and other money in politics bills in the 2027 Legislature. Support federal legislation. Support the Montana Plan. Support public education on barriers to money in politics such as Citizens United SCOTUS decision and the Transparent Election Initiative

***Voter Registration:*** Coordinate with local Leagues to expand voter education and registration efforts, with a special focus on voters who are between the ages of 18 to 29, voters who have been formerly incarcerated, voters who are part of any minority demographic groups in Montana, and new citizens. Collaboration with other organizations and Clerks and Recorders, Election Officials, and Native American voting rights groups.

***Voter Education:*** Inform people about existing on-line voting resources as part of our election voter registration and voter outreach, such as the Montana Secretary of State website, VOTE411/Voter Resources webpage and FollowTheMoney (now merged with OpenSecrets.org) as well as the data site on campaign finance from the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices. Provide public education on what has changed since the 2025 Legislature that affects voting in 2026. Provide voter education on state ballot initiatives proposed for the 2026 general election ballot. Work in coalition to counter misinformation about Montana's election system and safety of voting. Fundraise and collaborate to secure state-wide VOTE411 for 2027 election season. Also develop news literacy materials (mis- and dis-information) and create awareness of changes in ownership in the news media. Include outreach to Native American voters.

***Youth Voter Engagement and Civics Education:*** develop and implement civics education materials and engagement program for high school, college-age, and adults who have missed civics education. Potential to work with Voter Girl program and Suffrage Timeline, Nitty Gritty of Voting, and Media Literacy presentation with mock elections. Collaborate with other organizations and do outreach to Native American youth. Develop Youth Advisory Board.

***Protecting Reproductive Freedom in Montana:*** Protect the right to privacy under the Montana Constitution to protect reproductive freedom in Montana, and the amendment to the Constitution that passed in November of 2024.

***Nurture Ourselves for the Long Haul:*** incorporate nurturing resilience practices into League meetings and relationships, the importance of meeting face-to-face, having times for food and fun, while holding strong the values of the League.

### **Level Two Priority: Work in Collaboration with Other Groups**

***Climate Change:*** provide public education in collaboration with other organizations on climate change, what can be done.

### **Level Three Priority: Be an Ally to Other Groups**

***ERA:*** Public education and support for women’s rights (ERA) and a woman’s right to health and safety and the right to make and carry out decisions about one's own pregnancy, including the right to abortion.

***Affordable Housing:*** Continue membership in the statewide Housing Coalition and support their efforts where possible.

***Education:*** Education Working Group continues to monitor education funding issues through communications with existing non-profit education organizations, with support for actions where needed.

**STUDIES FOR 2026-2027: Library Study (Book Banning, Ensuring State Funding)**