

“MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®” AT THE STATE HOUSE

At every organizational level of the League of Women Voters—national, state, and local—the League engages in advocacy relevant to that level of government. Within each level, the League speaks with one voice, with officers and board establishing priorities at that level of government. Accordingly, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) board determines statewide legislative priorities, grounded in the good governance issues that are at the heart of the League of Women Voters. The national and local boards similarly develop their own priorities, in keeping with appropriate positions and the identity of the League as a strong voice for democracy.

The League of Women Voters does not try to be all things to all people, but to focus on our central “Making Democracy Work®” issues in our advocacy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CORE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & ADVOCACY

► *Is it a core “good government” issue in accountable, transparent government?* If so, it is likely to be a League issue.

Examples of issues on which the League takes a leadership role, advocating independently or helping to guide coalitions, include:

- Redistricting
- Ethics and campaign finance reform
- Judicial reform
- Voting and elections
- Regulatory reform
- Constitutional issues such as separation of powers, overall taxation and revenue policy, and home rule.

Making progress in all issue areas depends on sound accountable government. Most organizations focus on their own specialty areas, whether that is environmental protection or women’s reproductive health or violence prevention. They depend on us to lead advocacy for the fundamentals of accountable government!

LEAGUE PARTNER ISSUES & THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD/BLUFFTON AREA

We tend to advocate most actively on aspects of issues that tie into our central “Making Democracy Work®” concerns. Examples include the home rule aspect of the plastic bag ban issue or the constitutional issues involved in personhood legislation. The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head/Bluffton Area (LWVHHI/BA) works closely with the League of Women Voters of South Carolina on core League legislative issues at the State House level, the League of Women Voters of Beaufort on Beaufort County issues, and with organizations such as the Coastal Conservation League on the issue of seismic testing and off-shore drilling and Wren (Women’s Rights Empowerment Network) on issues of women’s rights.

Adapted from “LWVSC Priorities: Making Democracy Work at the State House” (L. Teague, 2018)

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Issued November 14, 2018