**LWVSC Local Program 2020-2021**

**Justice and the Law**

Support improvements to the local criminal justice system by:

* monitoring and strengthening the Probation and Parole procedures, with an emphasis on rehabilitation and supportive services with programs such as the Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program in Schenectady County.
* facilitating the implementation of alternative courts (problem solving courts) in Schenectady County and promoting collaborations to support them.
* monitoring the juvenile justice system including Family Court and promoting community-based rehabilitation.
* supporting restorative justice programs such as the Community Accountability Board.
* improve accessibility to police complaint procedure
* Improved Mental Health Crisis Intervention

**Local Government**

* Monitor activities of county governmental units, including town boards, the Schenectady City Council and the Schenectady County Legislature, monitor activities of other quasi-governmental units, public authorities and agencies such as Metroplex, IDAs and Planning Boards, monitor activities of elected public Boards of Education.
* Support standards of high professional qualifications and political nonpartisanship in manager form of government.
* Evaluate opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation and examine options for the consolidation of governmental services in Schenectady County.

**Children at Risk**

* Collaborate with other organizations to identify the needs of children in Schenectady County, facilitate programs on their behalf and educate the community about their needs and challenges. \* Study early childhood education and caregiving needs in Schenectady County from a policy and financing perspective.

**Local Education**

* Monitor local initiatives related to schools and promote and advocate adequate and equitable funding for all school districts so the students can reach their potential.

**Environmental Issues**

Support the protection of environmental resources, land, water and air in Schenectady County:

* Advocate for the protection of water resources in the County.
* Promote understanding of global climate change and support efforts to mitigate its effects.
* Support energy conservation and development of renewable energy alternatives.
* Support solid waste management programs that increase reuse and recycling in the County and City.

**Health Services**

* Educate and advocate for national/state/local health care reform that provides quality physical and mental health care for all citizens.
* Encourage and support countywide comprehensive health care planning and access***,*** equity, and safety in health care.