

# Program

## Program Adoption Process

The vote on the proposed Program at Convention will be the culmination of months of program planning by local Leagues and the state board. The board adopted a proposed Program based on recommendations from three local Leagues.

### Recommendations in Brief

The LWVTX board recommends (a) retaining all current and amended LWVTX positions in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources for the 2018-2020 biennium and (b) review and update of the Criminal Justice and Land Use positions.

### Not-Recommended Items Eligible for Consideration and Adoption

To be moved for consideration at Convention, a not-recommended study must be listed, indicating that it had met the bylaws deadline for submission. Not-recommended items may be ordered for consideration by a majority vote of delegates present and voting. Adoption of a not-recommended item requires a two-thirds vote by delegates present and voting on the following day. (LWVTX Bylaws Article X, Sec. 2[d])

### Concurrence Items Eligible for Consideration and Adoption

Those wishing to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of the convention shall give notice to the state office to be sent to all local Leagues and the state board, of its intent to do so at least 6 weeks before the convention. The proposing League or state board shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement to the state office and the state office shall send the information to all local Leagues, state board, and Leagues-at-large at least 30 days before Convention (LWVTX Bylaws Article X, Sec. 2[c]). No proposals for concurrence were submitted.

### Tips for Involvement in Program Adoption

Read the proposed Program in this workbook and talk with your local League members ahead of Convention. Familiarize yourself with Rules of Convention #11 on the procedure for program adoption. Attend the Q & A: Program session; attend caucuses sponsored by delegates promoting not-recommended or concurrence items.

## Proposed Program

The LWVTX Board of Directors recommends:

1. Retaining all current LWVTX positions in the areas of Government, Administration of Justice, Social Policy/Human Resources for the 2018-2020 biennium, including the Juvenile Justice position that was amended by the LWVTX Board of Directors February 18, 2018.

#### Juvenile Justice 1977, 1994, 2018

As amended January 2018. Words inserted or added: underlined. Words deleted: ~~striketrough~~.

*The League of Women Voters of Texas supports an effective state juvenile justice system and programs and policies to prevent juvenile violence and crime. We support the following:*

- An adequate level of state funding for the juvenile justice system and for addressing the problem of juvenile crime; in allocating state funds for these purposes, highest priority should be given to prevention, followed by intervention and then corrections; funding responsibility should be shared by city and county governments, school districts, and private sources. Juveniles are those under the age of 18 at the time of the offense.

- Rehabilitation as the main goal of the juvenile justice system, with every juvenile committed to the Texas Youth Commission having access to adequate and appropriate rehabilitation services and programs.
- Coordination of information and services between social service agencies and the juvenile justice system.
- Adequate access to juvenile records by law enforcement agencies.
- ~~Provision that juvenile offenders under age 10 may be referred to the juvenile justice system;~~ The minimum age for adult certification of juvenile offenders should not be lower than 15.
- Strict regulation of possession of firearms by juveniles; adults who furnish illegal firearms to juveniles should be held criminally liable.

2. Review and update of the Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform position.

- Focus.* Review the current bail bond system with respect to fairness of practices and the defendant's ability to pay and risk to public safety.
- Scope.* Update to the Criminal Justice position related to "Revision of the bail bond system to permit counties to serve as bonding agencies and provide regulation of all commercial bail bond agencies, including guidelines for more uniform bail amounts."
- Rationale.* The LWV Collin County recommended this review and update. The Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform position was last reviewed in 2010. According to Texas Appleseed,

In Texas, tens of thousands of people are jailed each year for failure to pay tickets, fines and court costs. Many of the people jailed simply did not have the money to pay, despite the fact that it's unconstitutional to jail a person for failure to pay fines that they are unable to pay. Courts routinely fail to ask about defendants' ability to pay fines or costs, or to offer them alternative sentences like community service to resolve the amount that they owe. (Texas Appleseed, 2017)

For further information, read *Pay or Stay: The High Cost of Jailing Texans for Fines and Fees* (Texas Appleseed, 2017) at <https://www.texasappleseed.org/debtors-prisons>.

3. Review and update of the Land Use position.

- Focus.* Review the Land Use position related to eminent domain. Consider application of current law and its impact on the environment.
- Scope.* Update to the Land Use position related to "Protection of the traditional rights of ownership of property, but in conflicts between private interest and public welfare, precedence should be given to the public interest." Include specific reference to eminent domain and the need to consider environmental impact.
- Rationale.* The LWV San Antonio Area recommended a study. However, the state board believes that a review and update would be most expedient. The issue of eminent domain has been active and newsworthy in the past few years. The LWVTX is able to lobby on legislative proposals using the current position, but it was adopted nearly 45 years ago (1974). A review and update will facilitate better member understanding of the issue and clarify the LWVTX advocacy efforts related to eminent domain.

### List of Not-Recommended Items

Eminent Domain in Texas (Study)  
 Juvenile Justice (Review/Update)

### List of Current Positions

For LWVTX positions and background, see *Program Perspectives 2016-2018* at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/publications>

## I. Government

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Texas Constitutional Revision	Campaign Finance/Ethics
Election Laws, Voting Rights	Public School Finance
Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Executive	Public School Testing and Accountability
Financing State Government	Redistricting
Homeowners Association Reform	State-Local Relations
Intestacy (Dying Without a Will)	

## II. Administration of Justice

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Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment Reform  
Drug Laws and Policies  
Immigration  
Juvenile Justice

Spousal Sexual Assault  
Human Trafficking  
Payday & Auto Title Loans in Texas

## III. Social Policy/Human Services

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Child Abuse and Neglect  
Childcare/Early Childhood  
Child Support Enforcement  
Domestic Violence  
Equal Opportunity/Income Assistance

Health Care for Those of Lesser Means/Child Health Care  
Health Care System for Older Texans  
Immigration  
Post-Divorce Payments  
Services for People With Behavioral Health Disorders

## IV. Natural Resources

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Air and Climate Change  
Land Use

Transportation  
Water