

**LWW**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>**  
OF THE COOPERSTOWN AREA

# PROGRAM PLANNING 2023

**Speak Up! Take Action!**

# PROGRAM PLANNING: WHAT IS IT?

**Program Planning is the heart of the League's commitment to grassroots participation.**



**Program Planning is an opportunity for members to recommend to their local, state, and national boards which issues are most important to them.**

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"Program" is the issue or issues that will be the central focus of work for a League for a specific time period.

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Leagues at each level—national, state, local—select a "program"

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Why? Selecting a program keeps the League focused. Focusing brings results.

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If other needs arise, we adapt and our focus may change.

## **PROGRAM PLANNING? WHAT'S PROGRAM?**

# PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS

## How it works...



Local Leagues gather.



Members discuss and weigh issues.



Discussion leads to recommendations.



Recommendations are sent to the relevant board—LWVUS, LWVNY, or LWV Cooperstown.



Board makes recommendation for program adoption to convention delegates or at local annual meeting.

## Did you know?

- LWVUS holds its convention in even years.
- LWVNY holds its conventions in odd years.
- LWV Cooperstown Area holds annual meetings.

# UNDERSTANDING LEAGUE POSITIONS



All Leagues may use LWVUS positions to support action in their communities.



All Leagues in NY State may use LWVNY positions to support action in their communities.

# PROGRAM PLANNING 2023

## Current LWVUS Positions

Citizen's Right to Vote • DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation • Money in Politics • Apportionment • Redistricting • Selection of the President • Congress • The Presidency • Voter Representation/Electoral Systems • Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation • Constitutional Amendment Proposals • Constitutional Conventions • Individual Liberties • Public Policy on Reproductive Choices • Privatization •

United Nations • Trade • Developing Countries • Arms Control • Military Policy and Defense Spending • Natural Resources • Resource Management • Transfer of Federal Public Lands • Air Quality • Solid Waste • Nuclear Waste • Climate Change • Water Resources • Nuclear Issues • Public Participation • Agriculture Policies

Equality of Opportunity • Employment • Fair Housing • Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action • Pay Equity • Equal Rights for Women • Same Gender Equality • Education • Federal Role in Public Education • Fiscal Policy • Digital Equity

# PROGRAM PLANNING 2023

## Current State Positions

Full a full description of all LWVNY positions, download <https://lwwny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Impact-on-Issues-2022-FINAL.pdf>.

Registration/Ballot Access	Citizen Rights	Court Structure	Employment	Erie/Barge Canal
Voting Qualifications	Ethics & Lobbying	Adequate Judiciary Funding	Fair Housing	Great Lakes Ecosystem
Absentee Voting	Individual Liberties	Judicial Selection	Fiscal Policy	Transportation
Servicemen's Voting	Reproductive Choices	Judicial Discipline	Welfare Reform	Fiscal Policy
The Primaries	Voting Rights	Pre-Arrest Profiling	Child Care	Welfare Reform
Uniform Administration of Election Law	Apportionment	Pretrial Procedures	Transportation	Education
Electronic Voting	Constitutional Convention	Grand Jury	Gun Control	Financing Education
Equipment	Filling of Vacancies In The State Legislature	Legal Services for the Indigent	Human Trafficking	Financing Public Higher
Petitioning Process: Ballot Access	Indirect Initiative	Alternatives to Incarceration	Equality For All	Tuition Tax Credits, Vouchers, & Charter Schools
Simplification of Election Law	Consolidation of Governmental	Trial Jury	Women & The Law	Campaign For Fiscal Equity
School Elections	Health Care	Cameras In The Court	Child Support/Custody	Tuition Tax Credits, Vouchers, & Charter Schools
Campaign Financing	Access To Health Care	Death Penalty	Death Penalty	Financing Public Higher Education
Term Limits	Disease Prevention & Health Promotion	Civil Legal Services	Civil Legal Services	Property Tax & Star Public Authorities
Government	Personal Health	Criminal Justice	Criminal Justice	State Budget Process
Public Authorities	Decision-Making	Natural Resources	Tuition Tax	Pay Equity
State Budget Proces	Financing Health Care	Air Quality	Credits, Vouchers, & Charter Schools	Domestic Violence
		Energy	Financing Public Higher Education	Ratification of ERA
		Waste Management	Property Tax & Star	
		Superfund		
		Hazardous Waste		
		Water Resources		
		Land Use		
		Urban Sprawl		



## SO MANY ISSUES, SO LITTLE TIME

You can see why FOCUS is so important!

You can understand why our state League asks us to choose areas of focus.

Read full LWVNY positions [here](#) and full LWVUS positions [here](#).



# PROGRAM PLANNING 2023

**LWW**<sup>®</sup>



Focus on  
New York State Issues

LWVNY Convention

Albany, N.Y., June 2-4, 2023

**LWW<sup>®</sup>**



OUR CHANCE TO  
SPEAK TO THE  
STATE LEAGUE

Should we drop any  
LWVNY positions?  
Should we update  
any positions?

# BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!!!

Program Planning is also an opportunity for each League to tell the LWVNY which other issues concern our League.

If enough Leagues have the same concern, the LWVNY Board may decide to recommend other issues to the delegates at convention.

This year there are two issues other Leagues have put forth for consideration for concurrence:

1. Rank Choice Voting
2. Solid Waste



# MEMBER AGREEMENT USING CONCURRENCE

Before the League can take action, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about various aspects of the policy issue. The nature of the issue will affect how it is studied and how positions are reached.

The appropriate (local, state or national) board usually selects the method to be used:

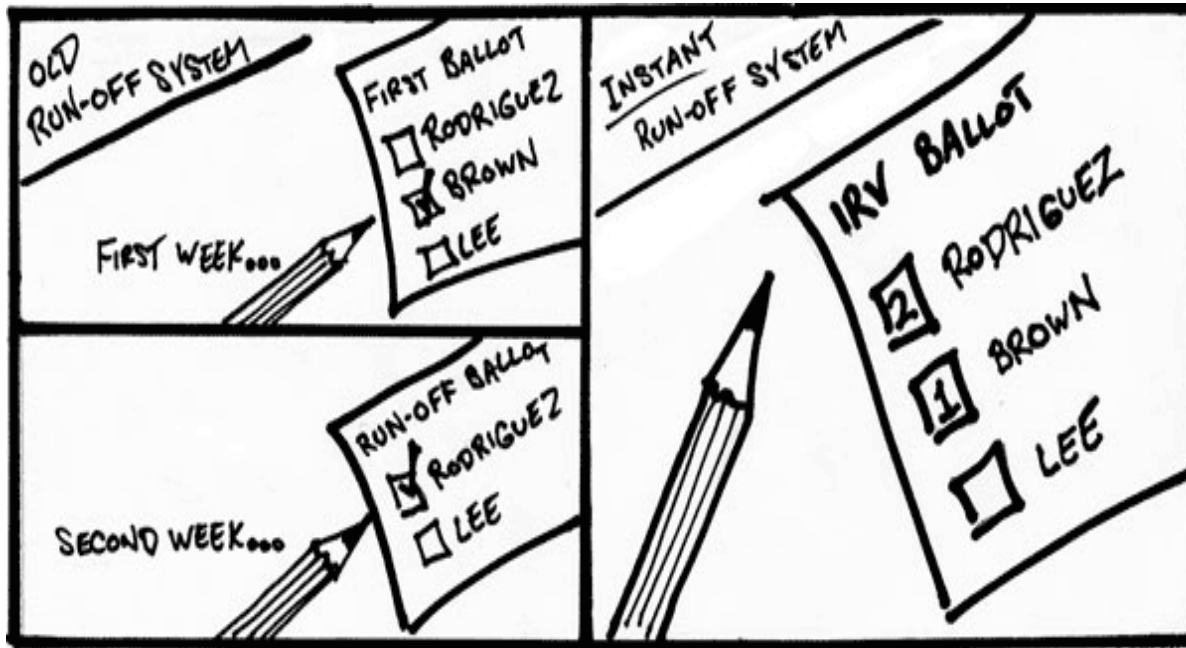
**Consensus:** where agreement is reached using League responses to specific questions

**Concurrence** where agreement or a vote on a pre-stated position is required. Will our League agree that to concur with one or both of the following positions?

The technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement is CONSENSUS by group discussion. It is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the *overall sense of the group* as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a meeting of the full membership or a series of smaller discussion meetings.

# CONCURRENCE ISSUE I

## RANK CHOICE VOTING



Should the LWV of the Cooperstown Area concur with the LWVNYC's position on Rank Choice Voting?

Should the League support ranked-choice voting (sometimes called —IRV— “instant runoff voting”) in all local elections, including primaries, specials, and general elections in all state-wide elections even when restricted to primary elections only. If the proposed Rank Choice Voting concurrence passes at convention, the LWNVY would support a voting system that allowed voters the option to rank at least three and at most six candidates for a given office. Read more on our [website](#).

## CONCURRENCE II: WASTE

Members of the League of Women Voters in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties agree that effective policies concerning waste are integral to ensuring the clean water, clean air and healthful environment guaranteed in the Environmental Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution. We also agree that we're embedded in an ecosystem, and that the land, water, air, energy, waste and biota in our ecosystem are dynamically interrelated. Learn more on our [website](#).



# WHAT RECOMMENDING WILL MEAN

## Moving Issue Forward

If enough Leagues agree that we should concur, the LWVNY board will decide if the issue should be a recommended item.

## No recommendation

Items not recommended by the LWVNY board may still be considered, but proponents must convince delegates to put forth the issue for a vote.



# FOCUSING ON OUR COMMUNITY

## Choosing Local Priorities

### What Are Our League's Priorities?

What is our League's part in Making Democracy Work® ?

What issues are we actively working on currently?

What other issues should we consider?

What is the outlook for action?





OUR WORK  
LOCALLY  
REMEMBER:  
WE CAN'T DO  
EVERYTHING!

## Consider Our Current Commitments

At program planning 2022, our League accepted its responsibility to continue the LWVUS's campaign for Making Democracy Work® by working with Leagues throughout the country on:

- Protecting Voting Rights
- Improving the Election Process, and
- Encouraging Participation in Government

Locally, as part of our effort in Making Democracy Work, the board has decided to re-establish our Observer Corps.

# OUR CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS

Natural Resources

Reducing Polarization

Voters Service: registering voters, candidates debates and related activities.

Youth Program

Our Local Positions are found on our website.

We do not take on all the positions, but focus our work on areas of emphasis.

Our current areas of focus are listed at left. These are the issues that members have agreed are important AND have volunteered to participate in the work.

# OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Last year our League committed to improving responsiveness of local governments and engaging citizens in making democracy work in our community.

One way to accomplish the goal is by following the actions of local governments through an Observer Corps. Read about Observer Corps in [our last newsletter](#).

# OUR PROGRAM PLANNING TASKS

Should we retain, modify or drop any LWVNY positions?

Should we support the two concurrences?

What should be our focus locally?

# PREPARE FOR PROGRAM PLANNING ON FEBRUARY 15

1. Briefly review the LWVNY positions.
2. Consider which positions should be retained, deleted, or modified.
3. Consider if we should recommend new positions.
4. Read about the two concurrences and be prepared to recommend them for consideration.
5. [RSVP if you plan to come.](#)

## WE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING

Remember that our League the LWVNY have made commitments to pursue certain issues. Our task is to think carefully about how we will focus our energy.

# BRING YOUR IDEAS TO PROGRAM PLANNING ON FEBRUARY 15, 6 PM

## Zoom Link

Topic: Cooperstown LWV Program Planning Time: Feb 15, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86391106341?pwd=OGdQMogvc1RXaVltMohTYnZoboJYZzog>

Meeting ID: 863 9110 6341. Passcode: 492909

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Find your local number: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/kc1uaIWYHW>