



JOIN THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON ISSUES CRITICAL TO OUR DEMOCRACY

A lot is at stake in this Presidential election. Many issues are on voters' minds but often they don't have all the **facts** on every topic of concern to them.

LWV has positions on many issues, but for the purpose of these "talking points," we have focused on six areas to help you engage others in conversation. **The LWV Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters 2022-2024** is the "go-to" resource for all League positions. The link to the guide is https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf. You can order a hard copy at amazon.com.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- The League believes that all people should have access to a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost, including abortion, and that public policy must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.
- Access to reproductive healthcare-including abortion- is vital to gender justice.
- The ability to decide whether and when to become pregnant and parent is crucial to a person's liberty, equality and economic security
- There are long term changes to the human body that come with pregnancy to include tooth loss, increased risk of diabetes, hemorrhoids and varicose veins, changes in body shape and size, decreased sex drive, and increased risk of incontinence and bladder control problems
- States with the most restrictive laws around abortion rights and access have a significantly lower percentage of female statewide elected officials
- State abortion restrictions have taken the form of:
 - Gestational limits
 - Medically unnecessary clinician and facility requirements
 - Abortion method bans, including the criminalization of self-managed medical abortion
 - Parental involvement requirements
 - Mandated, medically unnecessary counseling, ultrasounds, or waiting periods
 - Restrictions on public funding and private insurance; and
 - State constitutional amendments that bar abortion rights protection
- Getting women to the polls is crucial in the fight for reproductive rights

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents
- Every US resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care
- Every US resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive service that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.
- The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums.
- The League supports the single-payer concept as a viable and desirable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access, affordability, and financial feasibility
- In any proposed health care financing system the League favors insurance access independent of employment status

THE ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE

- The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet.
- The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best-available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.
- Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.
- The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment
- The League believes that although environmental protection and pollution control are responsibilities shared by all levels of government, it is essential that the federal government provide leadership and technical and financial assistance.
- The League supports:
 - Regulation of pollution sources by control and penalties.
 - Inspection and monitoring
 - Full disclosure of pollution data
 - Incentives to accelerate pollution control
 - Vigorous enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for states and localities that do not comply with federal standards and substantial fines for noncompliance.
- The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem

EDUCATION

- The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children from pre-K through grade 12.
- A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right
- While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government's involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (e.g., desegregation, special needs population, gender equity), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states
- League believes that the federal government should support the following:
 - Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition, and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families
 - Research that documents quality early childhood education programs.
 - Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.

GUN SAFETY

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of semi-automatic/automatic weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens.
- The League supports strong federal measures to limit accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.
- The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.
- The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.
- The League supports strong limitations on access to semi-automatic/automatic weapons, enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

VOTING RIGHTS

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed
- The leading reason non-voters provide for not voting is not being registered
- The League has played a role in every major reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act
- In response to threats to voting rights, the League has actively pursued litigation and administrative advocacy.
- The League has supported efforts to increase the accessibility of registration and voting for people with disabilities in federal elections and undertaken major efforts to encourage participation in the electoral process
- Since 1988, LWVEF (LWV Education Fund) has been coordinating broad-based voter registration drives, combining national publicity and outreach with grassroots activities by state and local Leagues, other groups, and public officials.
- As a complement, not a substitute, to the NVRA, the League continues to support shortening the period between registration and voting or same-day voter registration. LWWUS has worked with state Leagues interested in promoting such reforms.
- The League advocates for the expansion of voting rights for all eligible voters through expansion of pro-voter policies like early voting, mail, and no-excuse absentee voting, online and same day voter registration, automatic voter registration, etc.