

Social Policy & Human Resources

Action: Achieve equal rights for all; combat discrimination and poverty; and provide equal access to housing, employment, quality education, and health care in Texas which includes:

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Protect children from abuse and neglect through adequate funding and provisions for prevention programs, investigating and reporting procedures, and appropriate correctional measures and counseling.

CHILD CARE / EARLY CHILDHOOD

Support early childhood education professional development and access to affordable, high quality child care.

Expand high quality prekindergarten.

Increase services for children with disabilities/ developmental delays.

CHILD HEALTH

Ensure adequate funding, improve enrollment and retention, and maintain effective delivery systems for the CHIP and Children's Medicaid.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / INCOME ASSISTANCE

Support legislation and administrative action to achieve equal rights for all.

Combat discrimination and poverty.

Provide equal access to housing, employment, and quality education from preschool to higher education and job training for living wage jobs.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR OLDER TEXANS

Support adequate funding for a comprehensive health care system for older adults that ensures a seamless continuum of quality care.

SERVICES FOR THE SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL

Adequately fund services to enable the mentally ill to function at an optimal level in the least restrictive environment.



Natural Resources

Action: To achieve conservation, protection, and judicious development of the state's natural resources which includes:

AIR QUALITY / CLIMATE CHANGE / ENERGY

Support control of air pollution in Texas.

Promote energy policy to reduce global warming, including renewable/clean energy sources and energy conservation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Promote policies for reduced generation of solid and hazardous waste and its reuse and recycling, including its safe transportation, handling, and disposal.

LAND USE

Increase county authority to regulate land development.

Support full funding of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

TRANSPORTATION

Increase funding for public roads, mass transit, and light rail.

WATER

Support funding for safe/adequate water. Enhance protection of environmental flows, rivers, bays, and estuaries.



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Three Priority Issues for the 2017 Legislative Session



ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS

Support every citizen's right to vote (Online Voter Registration & Same Day Registration), uniformly enforced election procedures, clearly stated election laws that facilitate voter engagement and turnout, improve transparency and public input in the redistricting process.



WOMEN'S HEALTH

Support adequate funding for basic health care for those unable to pay. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices with access to comprehensive reproductive health services and medically accurate sexuality education.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Promote adequate state funding for public schools to ensure that all Texas school children receive a high-quality education. Oppose a voucher system. Support achievement tests that measure individual mastery and proficiency for diagnostic purposes, and a fair, nonpunitive accountability system.



we Support

Other Issues that LWV-Texas will support during the 2017 Legislative Session

- (288) Government
- **Administration of Justice**
- Social Policy & Human Resources
- Natural Resources







Government

Action: Achieve an efficient, effective, responsive state governmental system through constitutional revision and legislative action which includes:

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Support revision of The Texas Constitution to make it a framework of basic law.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE / ETHICS

Support fair campaign finance laws to reduce impact of large contributions.

Protect the citizens' right to know.

Strengthen accountability.

Combat corruption and undue influence.

EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, & JUDICIAL

Increase the effectiveness of the executive department and the efficiency of the legislature.

Support the appointment/retention method and/or nonpartisan election of the judiciary.

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

Promote adequate and fair funding for major state responsibilities, such as public education and transportation.

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

Protect against unreasonable foreclosure on homesteads, priority or payments, election safeguards.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Promote transparency and public participation in government.

PAYDAY & AUTO TITLE LOANS

Support regulation of payday and auto title loan businesses to function as a consumer service and successful business.

STATE & LOCAL RELATIONS

Support increased county authority in order to better manage growth in urbanizing areas.



Administration of Justice

Action: Achieve an equitable system of criminal justice in Texas for adults and juveniles which includes:

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Promote a moratorium on the death penalty.

Support the option of life sentence without parole in capital cases.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Provide a secure prison environment with maximum education opportunities and adequate health care.

Promote meaningful sentencing reform.

Support a professional parole and probation staff and work to decrease their caseload.

DRUG LAWS & POLICIES

Support treatment programs for drug abuse and addiction as an alternative to incarceration.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Support measures to prevent the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for sex or labor; prosecute traffickers, and protect victims.

IMMIGRATION

Support state services for undocumented immigrants, especially in the area of education and health care.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support and fund substance abuse treatment, mental health needs, and education for youth at risk and for those incarcerated.

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