

# NOTES ON ONGOING WORK AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Background for Program Planning 2019-2021

### League of Women Voters of California

This looks like a lot—and it is! That said, it isn't (completely) written in stone, and, if we have enough support from local Leagues, there is room to add or modify the work. We really do want to hear from you, both about your feedback on the agenda as we've outlined it, and on the issues you think we should emphasize.

#### **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN CALIFORNIA:**

Delegates to the LWVUS convention last June re-adopted a national "Campaign for Making Democracy Work" program, with a focus on:

- Voter protection and mobilization
- Election reform
- Money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting.

In California, the League will be involved in implementing Making Democracy Work both at the state and at the local level. Here's some of what we know the LWVC will be doing:

- Expanding the electorate: continuing work to make the electorate in California more representative of the population as a whole.
- Election reform: continued improvements to the voting experience and the elections process:
  - Implementation of SB 450 – vote centers and increased vote by mail
  - Increased and stable funding for elections
  - Design improvements and standards for election materials, including ballots and vote by mail envelopes
- Money in politics:
  - Increasing transparency of the money spent on elections, including both legislation and the implementation of the new campaign finance reporting system (Cal-Access)
  - Local government reforms such as public financing of local elections and ordinances limiting the size of campaign contributions.
- Redistricting:
  - Supporting local redistricting reform efforts
  - Starting the statewide work for the redistricting process following the 2020 census, with attention to measures that count people in prisons appropriately (avoiding "prison gerrymandering"), an adequate budget for the state Citizens Redistricting Commission, and a robust outreach process for recruiting the next members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.
- 2020 Census
  - Ensuring that the 2020 census counts all Californians
  - Supporting state and local government funding for census counts

- Providing public education about the importance of an accurate count

Some of these items are statewide work, but a number—especially implementation issues—are areas in which we hope local Leagues will be active.

#### **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEAGUE IMPACT:**

You can see a summary of the LWVC work over the past year [here](#).

These are a few more issues where the League has been active and/or League leaders anticipate ongoing work:

- Schools and Communities First: There is a lot of community education work to be done to ensure the passage of this critical measure on the November 2020 ballot.
- Housing: increasing the supply of low and moderate income housing
- Aspects of the criminal justice system, including felon disenfranchisement, privatization of prisons (for-profit prisons), and alternatives to incarceration, monitoring the implementation of SB 10 (bail reform)
- Water: The LWVC will continue to act on issues such as water availability and quality, especially for low-income or disadvantaged users; environmental protection; and sustainable management of groundwater
- Climate Change: Advocating for policies to safeguard our environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change.