



WELCOME TO

CONVENTION

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023

BALLY'S DOVER * DELAWARE ROOM

(The former Dover Downs Convention Center)

1131 N. Dupont Highway Dover, DE 19901

League of Women Voters of Delaware

2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing

Room 1, Lower Level

Wilmington, DE 19806-1311

(302) 571-8948

www.lwydelaware.org

lwvde@comcast.net

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

**We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and
the confidence to participate.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page 1
HISTORY OF THE LWV OF DELAWARE	Page 2-4
ORDER OF BUSINESS & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE	Page 5
PROPOSED CONVENTION RULES	Page 6
CURRENT STATE BOARD	Page 7
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Page 8
TREASURER REPORT	Page 9
PROPOSED LWVDE INC. BUDGETS	Pages 10 - 11
PROPOSED PROGRAM REVISIONS & CONTINUING STUDIES 2023-25	Pages 12-17
PROPOSED & CURRENT 2023-2025 PROGRAM FOR ADOPTION	Page 12-17

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

The history of the League goes back to 1920, the year that women won the right to vote. Ms. Mabel Lloyd Ridgely was President of both the Delaware Equal Rights Association and the Suffrage Committee of Delaware. From these groups the League of Women Voters of Delaware was founded. The organization of this first League in 1921 with members from Dover, Middletown, Milford, Smyrna, Delmar, Georgetown, Newark and Wilmington led to the first annual convention in Wilmington at the Hotel DuPont in 1923 with Mrs. A.D. Wagner of Wilmington as President.

Some activities of this early League included voters service activities, work toward abolition of child labor and support of school construction in the state. There is also mention of a tour of new highways. In 1926 there were League directors from all three counties, but there is little more mention of the League later in the decade. There is some indication that the group lacked the organization needed to continue.

The League reappeared in Delaware in 1953 with the formation of the Newark League. Among charter members who organized Newark's League was Norma Handloff, who also served as the first president of the newly reformed state League in 1958, and later as Mayor of Newark.

The Greater Wilmington League was also founded in 1953 with Evelyn Lord as first president. She was the second LWVDE president, and later became a state senator. The Laurel League was formed in 1957 and reorganized as the Sussex County League in 1976. The Dover League was recognized in 1966. The Wilmington and Newark Leagues merged in 1994 to form the League of Women Voters of New Castle County.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) was established at a convention in Dover on March 29, 1958, with recognition given by the League of Women Voters of the United States. In preparation for becoming a state League, intensive studies of local governments as well as one on state government were undertaken. The municipal studies were published. The first study was "An Evaluation of the Financial System of the State of Delaware." After study the following position was announced in April 1961: "Support of measures which promote the needs of a growing state."

The fiscal aspects of education became a separate study in 1961, and by 1963 LWVDE reached a position favoring equalization of school support and increased funding for state schools. In the summer of 1964 members of the LWVDE education committee worked hard in support of a school equalization bill. This was their first experience at successful lobbying with the General Assembly. The bill passed in the fall of 1964 and was signed by Governor Carvel with a line item veto of a section dealing with funds for school construction. Unfortunately, the state Supreme Court later declared the bill unconstitutional because of the veto. However, Elise Grossman, LWVDE education chairman, went on to serve for many years on the state Board of Education and helped to implement many reforms favored by the League.

In 1960 LWVDE instituted two enduring programs. The first was the *Voter's Guide*, a statewide candidate information supplement published for many years in cooperation with *The News Journal*. This was discontinued in 1998 when *The News Journal* decided to publish its own *Voters Guide*. However, the League continues to provide election information via VOTE 411.ORG, which includes an online voter's guide. The second is League Day in Dover, an annual event for League members and guests which includes a program on timely issues and a luncheon to which state legislators are invited.

In the 1960s and 1970s League studies on government structure and function included studies of election laws, the state constitution and the state legislature. Interest in the environment led to studies on water

and solid waste management. The League also studied the state correction system. During this period the LWVDE had a busy action program, with mixed success. A "sunshine" law to open up government functioning was passed with LWVDE support. A revision of the constitution came very close but failed to pass. After several years of hard work a limited bottle bill was passed by a coalition headed by LWVDE.

In 1976 LWVDE celebrated the national bicentennial by publishing *Delaware Government: All You Wanted to Know and Didn't Know Where to Ask*, under the editorial guidance of Liz Ryan. The book proved very useful and was revised and reprinted as needed. For this and other contributions Liz was named to the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. In 1999 a completely revised *Delaware Government* fourth edition was printed for us by Mellon Bank (now called Citizens Bank). In 2002 *Delaware Government* went on line and has again gone through a complete revision and can be accessed on the LWVDE webpage.

In 1977, the Delaware League began dispensing information about voting and government to all newly naturalized citizens of the state. To fund this and other citizen education projects the Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund was established in 1985 under the leadership of Terry Dannemann.

1995 marked the 75th anniversary of women's right to vote. During this year the LWVDE received several awards: a House Concurrent Resolution from the state legislature, recognizing the League for its continuing commitment to voters service and citizen education; the Volunteer of the Year award from the Governor's office; and an award for leadership in the cause of civil liberties in Delaware from the American Civil Liberties Union.

During 1997-98 campaign financing became a target for reform by both LWVDE and the three local Leagues. We cosponsored, with the Pew Charitable Trusts, the LWV Education Fund and a coalition of other state organizations (including the YWCA, NAACP, and *The News Journal*), a statewide citizen caucus on campaign finance reform. This event took advantage of the interactive distance learning facilities at the University of Delaware. Also, prior to the 1998 elections the Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund for the first time modified its policy governing the invitation of candidates to participate in forums originating in a television studio.

Several LWVDE presidents besides Norma Handloff held positions in local and state government. These include Marcie Bierlein, June MacArtor and Jane Tripp in the executive branch, Ada Leigh Soles, Myrna Bair and Jane Maroney in the legislature, and Phyllis Laffey in the judicial branch. Among other members holding positions in the state government were Barbara Crowell, Family Court Judge; Bethany Hall-Long (now Lt. Governor), Deborah Hudson, and Earl G. Jaques, Jr., legislators. The League of Women Voters maintains its status as an important citizen group in Delaware, active in informing voters of their rights and responsibilities. The LWVDE continues to lobby the state legislature on many vital issues .

For the League of Women Voters 95th anniversary the state League held a celebratory dinner at Dover Downs and received a resolution from both houses of the General Assembly that recognized and honored the work that the League has done. The LWV of Delaware and New Castle County provided a workshop on Climate Change at the LWVUS Convention 2014.

On February 14, 2020, the LWV of Delaware celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters at the Rehoboth Historical Museum. A resolution from the General Assembly was presented and Dr. Cynthia Newton, the Chair of the Political Science Department at Wesley College spoke on "*From Civil Disobedience to the Ballot Box*," setting the stage for the League's centennial theme, "*Women*

Power the Vote.” A reception followed. In partnership with Dogfish Head Beer, Centennial Suds, crafted by women brewers was presented in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary at a virtual Happy Hour on August 26, 2020.

LWVDE PRESIDENTS

1958 - 61	Norma Handloff	1988 -1993	Joann Hasse
1961 - 62	Evelyn Lord	1993 -1995	Carole Walsh
1962 - 63	Lorraine Olson	1995 -1997	Cathy DeBovis
1963 - 65	Grace Stirba	1997 -1999	Jackie Harris
1965 - 67	June MacArtor	1999- 2001	Anita Puglisi
4/67 - 9/67	Doris Johnson	2001- 2003	Letty Diswood and Nadyne Rosin
9/67 - 71	Phyl Laffey	2003-2005	Joyce Johnson and Sue Soltys
1971 - 72	Mary Field	2005-2007	Christine Stillson and Letty Diswood
1972 - 74	Liz Ryan	2007-2009	Rashmi Rangan
4/74 - 12/74	Jane Tripp	2009-2011	Sandy Spence
1/75 - 4/75	Liz Ryan	2011-2013	Carol Jones
1975 - 76	Marcie Bierlein	2013-2015	Charlotte F. King
1976 - 78	Kit Kallal	2015-2017	Jill Fuchs
1978 - 80	Ada Leigh Soles	2017-2019	Joann Hasse
1980 - 82	Ruth Helm	2019-2020	Carol Jones & Sue Claire Harper
1982 - 84	Joyce Johnson	2020-2021	Sandy Spence
1984 - 86	Terry Dannemann	2019 – 2021	Sue Claire Harper & Carol Jones
4/86 - 12/86	Joann Hasse	2021-2023	Gwendolyn Miller
1/87 - 9/87	Rita Smith		
9/87 - 4/88	Liz Ryan		

ORDER OF BUSINESS

8:30 am Registration and Coffee/Tea/Greeting Old Friends and Meeting New

BUSINESS MEETING

- 9:00 am Call to Order: President, Gwendolyn Miller
Report of Credentials Committee: Letty Diswood
Introduction of our Parliamentarian: Chandra Owens
Adoption of Order of Business
Adoption of Rules of Convention
Minutes
Treasurer's Report 2022-2023: Jill Itzkowitz
- 9:30 am Proposed Budgets 2023-2024 and 2024-2025: Marj Johnson, Finance Chair
Proposed Per-Member Payment of \$11.00 for individuals and \$5.50 for each additional household member for FY 2023-24: Jill Itzkowitz
Proposed Per-Member Payment of \$11.00 for individuals and \$5.50 for each additional household member for FY 2024-25: Jill Itzkowitz
- 9:45 am Proposed dropping the continuing Study Item under State Government Alternatives Election Methodologies- Jack Young
Proposed Continuing Study under Social Policy - Justice System: Lori Yadin
Proposed Continuing Study under Social Policy- Education System in Delaware: Linda Barnett
Proposed Continuing Study under Social Policy-Health Care: Judy Butler
Proposed Update under Social Policy to replace language of the Needle Exchange position: Linda Barnett
Proposed Update under Energy/Climate position: Peggy Schultz
Proposed Updated under Natural Resources on Transportation/Land Use Position: Anna Quizel
Proposed Program 2023 - 2025: Linda Barnett
- 11:30 am **Nominating Committee Report:** Pat Newcomb, Nominating Committee Chair
Nominations from the floor
Election of Officers and directors: Pat Newcomb
- 11:45 am President's Report: Gwendolyn Miller
Introduction of State Board: Gwendolyn Miller
- 12:00 pm Buffett Luncheon**
- 12:30 pm Keynote Speaker: Ayo Atterberry, Chief of Culture with the League of Women Voters.**
- 1:00 pm Reconvene: Tiffany Lydon**
Report of the Credentials Committee: Letty Diswood
Roundtable discussions: Lori Yadin
Local League President's Reports: Tiffany Lydon presiding
(Chandra Owens (KC), Martha Rothenberg (SC), Richard Johnson (NCC)
Fundraising idea presentation and discussion: LWNCC & others
Directives to New Board
Announcements
- 3:00 pm Adjournment

PROPOSED CONVENTION RULES

(The Convention will be held virtually by Zoom)

1. Admission: Admission to the convention shall be open to accredited delegates, alternates, observers, visitors and special guests. At plenary sessions, the credentials chair is required to report the number of voting delegates present. A delegate and her/his alternate cannot change places during the Convention, except as provided for in Article VIII, Section 3 of the League of Women Voters of Delaware bylaws.
2. Debate: Only delegates may vote. There shall be no absentee voting. Delegates wishing to speak give their name and the name of the League they represent. No delegate may have permission to speak twice until all who wish to speak on the subject have spoken once. A delegate may not speak for more than two minutes.
3. Motions: Each substantive motion not included in the Order of Business shall be put in writing, signed by the mover, and sent immediately to the secretary. Motions and amendments which might change the action should be written and given to the secretary.
4. Minutes: Minutes of this convention will be read, corrected and/or approved by a committee composed of the presidents or delegates of at least two local Leagues.

CURRENT STATE BOARD 2021-2023)

OFFICERS:

President: Gwendolyn Miller	(2021-2023)	(LWVSC)
1st Vice President: Tiffany Geyer Lydon	(2021-2023)	(LWVNCC)
2nd Vice President: Linda Barnett	(2021-2023)	(LWVNCC)
Secretary: Marjorie Johnson	(2021-2023)	(LWVNCC)
Treasurer: Jill Itzkowitz	(2021-2023)	(LWVNCC)

DIRECTORS:

Sue Claire Harper	(2021-2023)	(LWVSC)
Mary Ann Coe	(2021-2023)	(LWVKC)
Denise Davis	(2021-2023)	(LWVSC)
Charlie Garlow	(2021-2023)	(LWVSC)
Jack Young	(2021-2023)	(LWVSC)
Lori Schulman Yadin	(2021-2023)	(LWVSC)
Ellen Wasfi	(2021-2023)	(LWVKC)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pat Newcomb, Chair	(2021-2023 (SC)
Letty Diswood	(2021-2023 (NCC)
Melody Taylor	(2021-2023 (NCC)
Ellen Wasfi	(2021-2023 (KC)

LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS or their designees serve on the state board

Chandra Owens, President, Kent County
Richard Johnson, President, New Castle County
Marge LaFond, representing Sussex County

Activity/Portfolio Chairs:

Chris Assay – Money in Politics
Linda Barnett & Penny Deiner - Pay Equity
Lorraine Botticelli– New Citizen Coordinator
Judy Butler – Health Care
Mary Ann Coe - Webpage Master
Letty Diswood - Advocacy Corps Scribe
Charlie Garlow & Coralie Pryde – Natural Resources
Jill Itzkowitz – Vote411 & Vote411 School Board Elections & Elections Chair &
Pat Petchel – Finance Committee member
Kim Wells - Social Media
Peggy Shultz, Energy and Climate Change
Jack Young – Government, Finance & Taxation, Redistricting
Marj Johnson – Finance Chair
Anna Quizel- Land Use/Transportation
Marjorie Green – Criminal Justice Acting Chair
Ellen Wasfi – Candidate Forums
Kim Wells-Vote411.org and Action Network

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICERS:

- **Presidents – Tiffany Geyer Lydon** (2023-2025 (NCC))
- **1st Vice President — Marjorie Johnson** (2023-2025 (NCC))
- **2nd. Vice President – Linda Barnett** (2023-2025 (NCC))
- **Secretary–Pat Newcomb** (2023-2025 (SC))
- **Treasurer: Jill Itzkowitz** (2023-Dec. 2023 (NCC))

Directors:

1. **Mary Ann Coe** (2023-2025 (KC))
2. **Sue Claire Harper** (2023-2025 (SC))
3. **Vicky Sessoms** (2023-2025 (SC))
4. **Melody Taylor** (2023-2025 (NCC))
5. **Dr. Marlene Saunders** (2023-2025 (SC))
6. **vacant** (2023-2025 (-----))

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (The committee consists of three elected members and two appointed from the new Board by the President, with consent of the Board.)

1. **Letty Diswood, Chair** (2023-2025 (NCC))
2. (2023-2025 (SC))
3. **Ellen Wasfi** (2023-2025 (KC))

Note: The newly elected president can appoint an additional six directors with consent of the Board.

Bylaws: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Pat Newcomb, Chair (SC)
Letty Diswood, (NCC)
Ellen Wasfi (KC)
Melody Taylor (NCC)

League of Women Voters of Delaware
Statement of Financial Position
4/30/2020 - 4/30/2023

	<u>April 30, 2023</u>	<u>April 30, 2022</u>	<u>April 30, 2021</u>	<u>April 30, 2020</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings	19,344.85	23,395.82	14,664.40	12,020.85
Accounts Receivable	487.19		452.71	
Vanguard	28,344.85	27,166.55	26,897.73	18,191.52
	<u>48,176.89</u>	<u>50,562.37</u>	<u>42,014.84</u>	<u>30,212.37</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				
	<u>48,176.89</u>	<u>50,562.37</u>	<u>42,014.84</u>	<u>30,212.37</u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable			304.80	
			<u>304.80</u>	
Total Current Liabilities	-	-	304.80	
Net Assets				
Board Restricted Net Assets	28,344.85	27,166.55	26,897.73	18,191.52
Grant/Don. Restricted Assets	9,627.93	12,051.77	5,978.90	3,689.23
Unrestricted Net Assets	10,204.11	11,344.05	8,833.41	8,331.62
	<u>48,176.89</u>	<u>50,562.37</u>	<u>41,710.04</u>	<u>30,212.37</u>
Total Net Assets	48,176.89	50,562.37	41,710.04	30,212.37
	<u>48,176.89</u>	<u>50,562.37</u>	<u>42,014.84</u>	<u>30,212.37</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
	<u>48,176.89</u>	<u>50,562.37</u>	<u>42,014.84</u>	<u>30,212.37</u>

League of Women Voters Budget Proposal

Budget Report for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

#	Description	Budget. 2022-2023	Forecasted 2023 - 2024	Forecasted 2024 - 2025	Comments
	LWV revenue				
1	Reimbursement - Shared Expense	4,000.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	Closing office 2024 - 2025
2	Local League Dues \$11/5.5 @ mbr	3,600.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	Changed to actual 3200
	Fund Raising Events				
3	League Day in Dover - Attendee	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,500.00	Increased due to costs rising
4	League Day in Dover - Sponsor	750.00	750.00	750.00	
5	State Convention/Council	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	
	Fund Raising				
6	DE Mass Mailing Members	3,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	Changed to reflect actual
7	Grants	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	New citizens
8	Restricted donations				
9	Other Donations	7,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	This was a plug. Changed to reflect 4 yr average
10	Fund Raising		6,227.00	4,027.00	Here is where we put the plug
11	Total Income	22,600.00	22,427.00	19,477.00	
	Expenses				
	Projects Expenses				
12	Fundraising paper folders, envelopes/stamps	250.00	250.00	250.00	
13	New Citizens Project w/ postage	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
14	Fair Maps				
15	Vote 411	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	Increased to \$1600
16	Elections				
17	DEI				
	Events Expense				
18	State Council/Retreat	1,000.00	500.00	1,500.00	
19	National Council/Convention	2,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	
20	League Day in Dover	3,000.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	Changed to reflect venue increase
	Board & Administrative Comm.				
21	Board Tools & Expenses	100.00	100.00	100.00	
22	Affiliations & Contributions	200.00	500.00	500.00	

23	Advocacy	500.00	500.00	500.00	
24	Meetings & Workshops	200.00	200.00	200.00	
	Office Operations				
25	Bulk Mail Permit ***	240.00	275.00	275.00	Increased to \$275
26	All Postage Mailed	500.00	100.00	100.00	
27	Rent ***	2,300.00	2,300.00	0.00	Office closed
28	Internet and Phone ***	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	
29	My Lo	650.00	400.00	400.00	Actual cost is \$400
30	Accounting Services	200.00	0.00	0.00	We do not need
31	Office Manager	4,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	Increased to \$1500 a quarter
32	Liability *** insurance	804.00	804.00	804.00	
33	Directors & Officers insurance	765.00	803.00	803.00	
34	Supplies	500.00	250.00	100.00	Actuals less than \$100
35	Outside Printing	50.00	50.00	50.00	
36	Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00	100.00	
37	Equipment	150.00	150.00	150.00	
38	Franchise Tax	25.00	25.00	25.00	
39	Zoom	220.00	220.00	220.00	
40	Technology charges		500.00	500.00	password, action network, domain, one drive
41	Total Operations	12,504.00	13,977.00	10,527.00	
42	Total Payments	22,254.00	22,427.00	19,477.00	
43	Income - Expenses	346.00	-	-	

LWVDE INC budgets submitted by the members of the Finance Committee:

Marjorie Johnson, Chair
Owen Cheevers
Jill Itzkowitz
Pat Petchell

PROPOSED RECOMMENDED PROGRAM 2023-2025

The board recommends adopting the current program with additions in **Green font or highlighted in green** and items to drop/delete in **red font**.

(Pages 11-16)

(Below are the overarching statements of the PROGRAM. Note the full detailed positions are not listed here, only those section with detail that have changes in them) such as the Needle Exchange position, and part of the full Transportation position)

STATE GOVERNMENT

Delaware General Assembly - Support of measures to promote a more effective and responsive legislative branch of state government, including strengthening the committee system and use of the budgetary process to review and evaluate state programs.

Ethics - Support of ethics legislation in the areas of campaign finance, conflict of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying disclosure.

Delaware State Constitution - Support of a Constitution for the State of Delaware which would be confined to broad principles and would promote more efficient and responsive government.

Public/Private Partnerships - Support the use of public/private partnerships by governments in Delaware if a project can be better undertaken with public/private cooperation. Public input, careful controls and adequate safeguards need to be part of these partnerships.

Redistricting - Support for an open unbiased process for redistricting with opportunities for public participation. (Amended 6/2021)

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: VOTING RIGHTS

Citizen's Right to Vote - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote. (Adopted 6/2021)

Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems - Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters. Support Ranked-Choice Voting for elections in Delaware. (Adopted 6/2021)

~~Alternative Election Methodologies—Continuing study of alternative election methodologies, with a goal of selecting for further study any of those methodologies that appear to have promise to improve the democratic process in Delaware. Such alternative election methodologies include approval voting and proportional voting (multi-representative districts). (Adopted convention 2019) (Readopted 6/2021)~~

Rationale for dropping: *Removal approved at March 2023 State Board meeting, since no further continuing study will take place as of 2023 and our position currently is Rank Choice Voting.*

SOCIAL POLICY

Justice System - The LWV Delaware supports:

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;
- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and
- reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness)

(Position adopted at the 11/ 2021state board meeting after concurrence with LWV California position)

Continuing Study: A re-evaluation of Delaware's criminal justice system and the impact of the current policies and practices on society. [Action will continue to be taken under LWVDE current position. (Adopted at convention June 2017) (Readopted 6/2021) The study is worded intentionally broad so that the study committee can start where it sees the most effective effort and timeliness.]

Support for the adoption of consistent policies which, within budgetary constraints, will permit the disposition of offenders in the best interests of society, the victim(s), and the offenders and their families.

We oppose mandatory sentencing.

We support the expansion of drug courts and mental health courts for all nonviolent offenders and the appropriate science based health and mental health treatment of all offenders.

Gun Control - Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety. (LWVUS position applies)

Family Court, Related State Programs for Children, Domestic Violence - Support of uniformity in operation of the Family Court system; automatic expungement of certain juvenile records; state provided diagnostic services, care, education and treatment to age 21 for youths and young adults who have mental or physical illness or who are developmentally delayed or are substance abusers or abused/neglected; strong educational programs on the rights of victims of family violence.

Before and After School Child Care - Support for state government involvement in encouraging, establishing and/or supporting child care programs.

Public Education- Support of equal access to quality public education for all students to reach their individual, fullest, potential as contributing citizens of our state, nation and world. (Adopted 6/2021)

Support of methods of financing quality public education which are equitable, flexible, transparent, measurable, and effective. (Adopted 6/2021)

Education - Continuing Study: A study of the public education system in Delaware with special focus on financing, charter schools, and transparency and accountability to citizens. (Adopted at convention June 2017) (Readopted 6/2021)

Health Care - Continuing Study: A study of the financing and delivery of health care in Delaware. (Adopted revision at convention June 2019)(Readopted 6/2021)

LWVDE also acts under the LWVUS health care position: "Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs."

End of Life Options -Support for state laws that grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life and that such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel. (Position adopted at April, 2019 state board meeting after concurrence with LWV Utah position)

Needle-Exchange Syringe Service Programs - Support for ~~comprehensive needle-exchange programs to provide clean syringes to those suffering from addiction to injectable drugs, which also offer education and referrals to appropriate services,~~ as part of a comprehensive **a public health** effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis ~~C~~. **Such programs should also offer education and referrals to appropriate services.**

Rationale for language change: revision reflects updated 'best practice'; information contained in Centers for Disease Control guidelines. The removal of Hepatitis C to just Hepatitis is done because Hep C is not the only type of Hepatitis that can be contracted.

(Full proposed position: ~~NEEDLE-EXCHANGE~~ SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS)

Support for ~~comprehensive needle-exchange programs to provide clean syringes to those suffering from addiction to injectable drugs, which also offer education and referrals to appropriate services,~~ as part of a comprehensive **a public health** effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis ~~C~~. **Such programs should also offer education and referrals to appropriate services.**

The League of Women Voters of Delaware believes that the possible transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases such as Hepatitis ~~C~~ via the sharing of contaminated ~~needles~~ **syringes** puts uninfected addicts and their sexual partners at risk and is a public health problem which should be addressed by the State. We believe the strategy of ~~exchanging clean needles for used needles~~ **providing clean syringes on an as-needed basis**, as part of a structured program which includes education and referral services, will result in more positive interactions with the addicted population. We also believe that while ~~needle-exchange~~ **these** programs may not change or reduce addiction rates, ~~needle-exchange~~ **such** programs will accomplish the primary goal of preventing further spread of blood-borne diseases.

~~We support programs which follow the National HIV Consortium/CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines:~~

~~“Well-planned needle-exchange programs provide the following services:~~

~~Participants are issued an identification card and registered with the program.~~

- ~~• One clean needle/syringe is provided for one dirty needle/syringe~~

- ~~Dirty needles are collected in proper container for safe disposal~~
- ~~Service providers are accessible on a regular basis at specific locations~~
- ~~Information is kept confidential and used only for public health research/education~~
- ~~Security of the exchange sites and equipment is required~~
- ~~Referrals are made to appropriate treatment and health & social service providers~~
- ~~Appropriate levels of staff have expertise in working with injecting drug users~~
- ~~Education about contracting HIV and other diseases through injection drug use/sexual contact is provided."~~

We also support programs to decrease the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases specifically targeted to youth and young **adults**.

Public School Libraries - Support policies and funding for public school library media centers that promote their central role in providing equal opportunity for all children to achieve educational excellence.

ENERGY/CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewable Energy Portfolio – Support for an increase in the percentage of renewable energy sources in Delaware’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) provided that they: have minimum environmental impact; use the best current technology as measured by reliability, proven effectiveness, and being state-of-the-art; have long range cost effectiveness including all net costs such as health and environmental costs, state and federal subsidies, and price stability. Support of measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the RPS.

Support **aggressive increases, by increments, of the percentage goals of renewable energy resources** of electricity sold in Delaware beyond the goal of **25% 40%** renewable energy resources by **2025 2030**, with increased goals for 2035 and 2050. (Updated **6/2017 5/2023**)

Rationale: Changes reflect more aggressive targets that the State Board approved at its March 2023 meeting.

Transmission and Distribution – Support for maximizing the development and delivery of renewable energy to Delaware when designing and developing new transmission plans for the region. In addition to delivering reliable, adequate electric service to Delaware, the key factors to be considered in making a decision on any transmission plan/transmission enhancements are: Degree of environmental impact; Degree of utilization of the transmission for renewable resource power vs. fossil- fuel generated power; True cost, including all cost- externalities; Safety and security of the grid.

Support for an **aggressive and comprehensive energy use/climate change plan** for Delaware. Some key points that should be included:

- Accelerate bringing new green businesses, jobs and industries to Delaware, and investigate emerging energy technologies. Set targets and a timetable for reducing Delaware’s total greenhouse gas emissions. Plan for extensive adaptation measures at all levels of government for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided--- especially sea level rise.
- Support increasing the currently recommended 2030 goal of reducing Delaware’s emissions of all greenhouse gases from 30% to **50% by 2030** ~~percentage, e.g., 40-45%, relative to 2008. 2005~~ A longer-term goal is ~~should be set at 90% by~~ **and be significantly higher, e.g., 90% by** 2050, relative to ~~2008-2005~~ emissions. (Updated **6/2017 2023**)
- Support public education and outreach; expand renewable energy and climate change in Delaware curriculum standards. As Delaware calculates energy costs, full life cycle analyses, with all externalities, must be included. Social and economic justice must be considered in implementing energy and climate change policy.

Rationale: Revised wording approved at the March 2023 State Board meeting is: " ..to 50% relative to 2005 by 2030. A longer-term goal is to reach 90% by 2050, relative to 2005 emissions." These targets reflect

aggressive targets supported by the State Board.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) involves pricing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from electricity generation in Delaware and eight other Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states. It uses a system of cap and trade, and now has a decreasing emissions cap of 2.5% per year. The League supports decreasing the RGGI cap by 5% per year, starting 2021 through 2030. (Updated 6/2017)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Support of policies that protect air and water quality, and reduce solid waste.

Coastal Zone - Support for Coastal Zone planning which considers the best possible outcome for people, the land, and the coastal environment.

LAND USE/ TRANSPORTATION

Critical Land Areas - Support for preservation and/or protection of certain critical areas (ecologically fragile estuaries and coastal areas, farmland, flood plain, aquifers, and natural areas); erosion and sedimentation controls; and coordination among all levels of government in decisions involving major facilities.

Farmland - Support of a farmland preservation program.

Support of the **regulation of growth and optimum use of land through comprehensive planning policy.** Monitoring of land use policies and procedures and their relationship to human needs, population trends, transportation planning, and ecological and socioeconomic factors. Encouragement of continuing cooperation among governmental agencies.

~~The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is similar to RGGI in that it is a regional effort to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector.~~ The League supports Delaware having an increasing price on carbon emissions from transportation fuels - especially on a regional basis - provided that some of that revenue is used to ease the burden on low-income families, such as offering gas stamps, or returning part or all of the revenue as a rebate to adult residents on a per capita basis; to promote walkable/bikeable communities; to be used for refurbishing transportation infrastructure; to stimulate research and innovation; to encourage vehicle energy efficiency; to provide additional electrical charging stations for hybrid and all-electric vehicles; to develop economic opportunities and create jobs. (Updated 6/2017 1/12/23)

Rationale: The Transportation and Climate Initiative has apparently failed, so climate advocates are no longer even discussing it. That said, as laid out here the underlying principles are still sound and worth promoting.

~~TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE~~

~~Background~~

~~The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is similar to RGGI in that it is a regional effort of Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector, which is now the largest source of carbon emissions in Delaware and other RGGI states. TCI is currently discussing pricing carbon emissions from transportation fuels as a way to reduce emissions from the sector. Delaware currently has a gas tax of 23 cents per gallon—the lowest among the neighboring states of NJ, PA and MD.~~

Position on Pricing Emissions from the Transportation Sector

The League of Women Voters of Delaware:

Supports Delaware having an increasing price on carbon emissions from transportation fuels - especially on a regional basis - provided that some of that revenue is used:

- To ease the burden on low-income **individuals; families, such as offering gas stamps, or returning part or all of the revenue as a rebate to low-income adult residents on a per capita basis;**
- To promote walkable/bikeable communities;
- To be used for refurbishing transportation infrastructure;
- To stimulate research and innovation;
- To encourage vehicle energy efficiency;
- To provide additional electrical charging stations for hybrid and all-electric vehicles.
- To develop economic opportunities and create jobs.

Rationale: At the March 2023 meeting, the State Board agreed to remove the language as noted. This kind of detail limits us; there may be other approaches to support in the future.

Support of a **balanced, intermodal transportation system interconnected with land use and based on interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination.**

Support **reducing transportation-generated greenhouse gas emissions by wiser land use planning and by enhancing public transit options.** Some key points that should be included:

- Direct development towards growth zones, except for environmentally sensitive areas within those growth zones; assure availability of infrastructure, services and walkability before developing.
- Build compact, or dense, development within established development areas in which pedestrians can safely and conveniently access services; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- Modify Delaware's paratransit fee schedule to establish separate classifications for ADA and non-ADA service.
- Reform the system to establish fairer pricing for non-ADA paratransit use.
- Tighten eligibility requirements for all paratransit use in situations where the state has discretion.
- Establish a dedicated funding stream for public transit; explore a variety of funding sources.