



MEMORANDUM

TO: STATE BOARD AND LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS, BOARDS and COMMITTEES
FROM: GWENDOLYN MILLER, PRESIDENT
DATE MARCH 27, 2023
RE: 2st CALL TO CONVENTION 2023
When: SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023
Where: IN PERSON

Hotel, Casino and Resort
The former Dover Downs Convention Center
1131 N. Dupont Highway Dover, DE 19901

Agenda: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, ADOPTION OF BUDGET, ADOPTION OF PROGRAM, CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

This memo is coming to you so that the local Leagues and the state board can plan for input into the program planning process, and bylaw changes.

Registration 8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – noon Business Meeting
Break for lunch
12:00 Socializing and Networking
12:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker
1 p.m. Round Table Discussions and closing remarks
3 p.m. Adjourn

REGISTRATION FEE: \$40.00

Pre-registration at the LWVDE website (the registration form will be set up soon.

DELEGATES

The calculation below is based on the February 1, 2023 count on the LWVUS database and according to the Delaware bylaws that are listed on next page.

Member count delegates
LWVDE - 13 ----- 13 (state board)
LWV KC - 30 ----- 8
LWVNCC -178 ----- 26
LWVSC - 123 -----19

Total delegates 56

State board members who are also serving on a local board are state board delegates and we encourage local league boards and all members to attend, no experience necessary.

BYLAWS: SECTION 4. REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION The members of the LWVUS who are organized into recognized local Leagues in the state of Delaware shall be entitled to representation as follows:

A. Each local League shall have **four delegates**, one of whom shall be the President, or her/his/their designee.

B. In addition, a League may have **a delegate for the first 8** voting members and an additional delegate for each 8 voting members or major fraction (**5 or more**) thereof. The LWVDE office has a record of the paid-up voting members for each local League as of January of the Convention year. This record shall determine the number of delegates from each local League eligible to attend the Convention as voting members.

PROPOSED LWVDE PROGRAM 2023-2025

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

(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 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.

ON NEXT PAGE:

HERE ARE SECTIONS OF THE LWVDE INC. BYLAWS PERTAINING TO THE PROCESS FOR ADOPTION OF PROGRAM, BUDGETS, AND BYLAW CHANGES.

Deadlines listed in LWVDE Bylaws

1. Nominating Committee (from Article VII, Sec. 3)

The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the chairperson and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee **shall be sent to the local Leagues one month before the date of the Convention.**

2. Budget Preparation (from Article VIII)

The board shall submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing two years. **A copy of the budget shall be sent to each local League president within one week following the regularly scheduled April (4/26) state board meeting in that year.**

3. Submitting Program Recommendations (from Article IX)

a) Local League Boards and Advocacy Corps shall make recommendations for revisions to the Program to the board of directors **before the regularly scheduled March (3/22) LWVDE Board Meeting** in the year in which the Convention is held.

b) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed Program that **shall be submitted to the local League boards and the Advocacy Corps following the March (3/22) LWVDE Board Meeting and prior to each regularly scheduled local League Board meeting and Advocacy Corps meeting.**

c) **Recommendations for changes submitted by local League Boards and by the Advocacy Corps shall be considered by the LWVDE Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled April (4/26) meeting, and its final proposed Program shall be sent within one week to local League Boards and the Advocacy Corps.**

SECTION 3. CONVENTION ACTION. The Convention shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

5. Call to Convention (from Article X)

SECTION 1. PLACE, DATE, AND CALL. A Convention of the League of Women Voters of Delaware shall be held in odd numbered years **between May 1 and June 15** inclusive, at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. The president shall send a first call for the Convention to the presidents of the local Leagues in January of the year of the Convention. Thereafter, the board of directors may advance or postpone the opening date of the Convention not more than two weeks. **A final call for the Convention shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least thirty days before the Convention. (April 21, 2023).**

6. Amending the Bylaws (from Article XIV)

a) Proposals for changes shall be submitted by any local League board or individual League members **before the regularly scheduled March (3/22) state board meeting.**

b) All amendments proposed by local boards together with any recommendations of the state board shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues within one week following the regularly scheduled April (4/26) state board meeting.