

Program in the League of Women Voters

Program Planning Is Where It Starts

National Board Director & Trustee League of Women Voters of the United States, Toni Zimmer

LWV Delaware President, Gwendolyn Miller

LWV Delaware Program Chairs, Marjorie Johnson and Letty Diswood

League of Women Voters

- A nonpartisan political organization
- A living laboratory of democracy, organized on three levels like the government itself
- Purposes are same in all LWV bylaws: *To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.*
- Mission: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*
- A grassroots organization

Two Kinds of League Work

Voters Service

Program

Both are nonpartisan, Local, State, and National (3-level)

Program in
League =
Study and
Action

Not just the topic for the next meeting.

The **positions** on which we **act** are derived from **study** of topics chosen during **Program Planning** and any resulting **member agreement**

League Principles

In brief, we believe in ...

representative government, individual liberties, balance of powers,

citizen's right to know, adequate notice, open meetings, open records,

the right to vote, free public education, equal opportunity, no discrimination,

League Principles

efficient and economical government responsive to the will of the people, equitable and flexible taxation, conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, a sound economy, domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems, and

cooperation with other nations, the promotion of world peace.

Action in the League


Action is our effort to bring about governmental change based on **positions** we derive through member study and agreement.

Study and Action Occur at Three Levels

- **Local** Leagues study local issues that may be addressed by **local** government.
- **State** Leagues study issues that may be addressed by **state** government.
- Leagues across the country study **national** issues that need to be addressed by the federal government.
- Some state positions also can be used locally, and some national positions used at all levels.

The Study Process

Study identifies the issues related to the problem, gathers facts needed to understand them, considers options for governmental change to address the problem, and looks at the pros and cons of those options -- in an unbiased, balanced way.



Members then try to reach agreement on the actions needed to resolve the problems. They often do, but not always.

Boards Oversee Study and Action

The board of directors at the study's level assesses whether **member agreement** has been reached and issues a statement of the League's new **position**.

Program Planning

Conducted at each level of League before state and national Convention and local Annual Meeting. During this grassroots process, members may:

- suggest topics for study where the League currently has no position.
- request review of a current position or an update of it
- propose amending or dropping a current position
- propose that the state convention adopt a local League's position.

Local League Board Submits Program Planning Report Form to LWVUS

- Members have the opportunity to participate in process but the board, not individuals, submit report forms. Program Chair looks for areas of agreement and reports them to the local board. The board determines whether there was member agreement and submits report form to the LWVUS for national program planning.
- Mar. 1 -- LWVUS deadline

LWVUS Convention Delegates Adopt Program

- LWVUS boards examine reports from Leagues across the country. This board develops a **Recommended Program** and provides it to local and state Leagues to inform their delegates before Program is considered on the floor of Convention.
- State and national League bylaws have provisions for considering **Not-Recommended Items**.
- Convention delegates vote on Recommended Program and any Not-Recommended Items voted consideration.
- The adopted Program guides the League's work for the next biennium.

Program Planning Resources



LWVUS websites



Leaders Guide to Program Planning

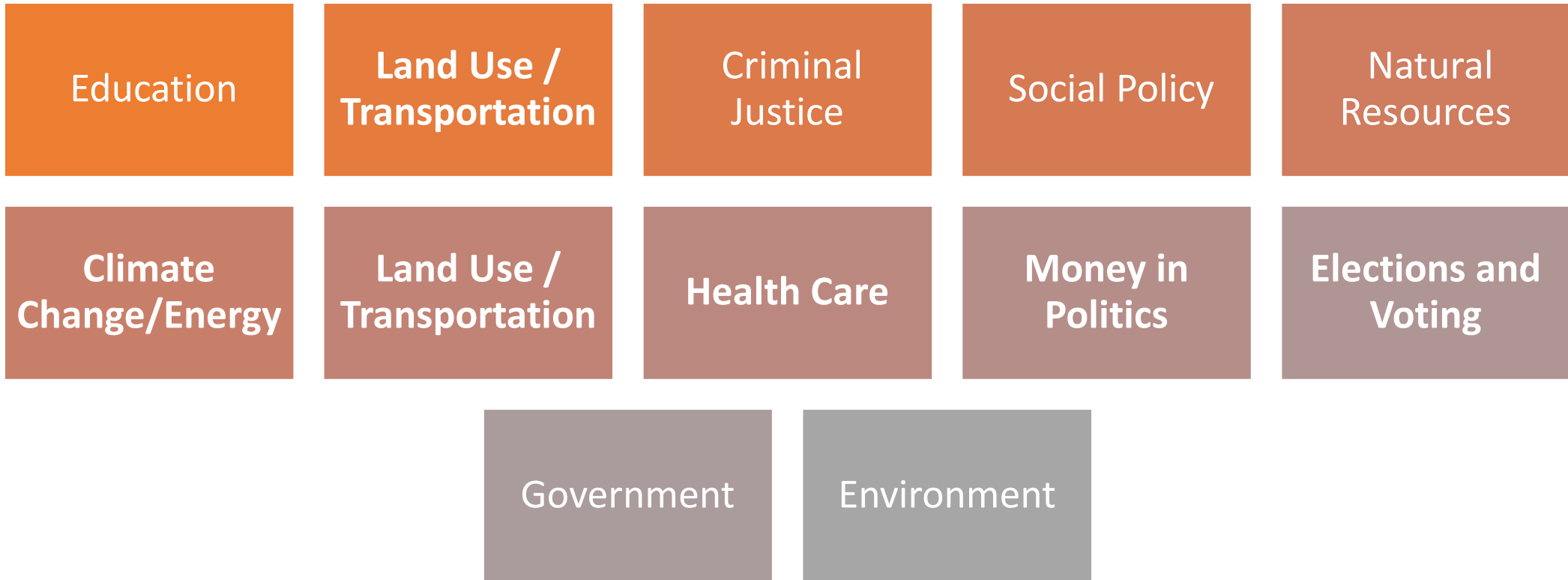


Report form/survey



Leaders Guide has links to positions and other resources

LWVDE Positions



LWVUS Positions

Representative Government

International Relations

Natural Resources

Social Policy

The LWVUS Board Recommends That Program 2022-2024

Recommended Program: The Campaign for Making Democracy Work®

The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2022-2024 continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on:

- **Voting Rights**
- **Improving Elections**
- **Money in Politics • Redistricting**

The Campaign For Making Democracy Work®

- Includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters.
- Leagues at every level continue to work to protect and advance voting rights and election reform at this critical time for our democracy, as well as fight efforts in Washington, D.C. and state legislatures to suppress voters.
- In the 117th Congress, the LWVUS continued its major lobbying campaign in support of the For the People Act and the Freedom to Vote Act as well as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

The Campaign For Making Democracy Work Included:

- In September 2019, the League officially launched our People Powered Fair Maps™ initiative.
- The LWVUS has also supported full funding for the census.
- The League continues to do litigation work relevant to the Making Democracy Work® campaign.
- The 2020 election led to the League's busiest litigation year with 77 cases filed in 37 states all to increase voter access, encourage greater voter participation leading to protecting more than 25 million voters.

State Leagues Are Starting To Recommend Delegates Vote For:

A Concurrence with the LWV California ON Criminal Justice reform that the LWV of Delaware has concurred with and the state board adopted in December 2021.