



## LWVSC Lobbying and Advocacy Priorities, 2025 Session

A statement related to the decision-making process around LWVSC legislative and advocacy priorities is posted at <https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina-state/advocacy/league-leader-partner-educator>.

### Making Democracy Work (Lynn Teague)

#### Voting and Elections

Voting and elections are always a high priority for LWVSC. One of the greatest dangers in 2025 is closing primaries by party. This has not moved forward in previous sessions but sponsorship by a member of House leadership for H.3643 points toward the potential for a more difficult fight this year.

We support a bill eliminating runoffs for primary elections, H. 3552.

We will advocate for a reasonable and responsible legal approach to organizations – like LWVSC – that conduct voter registration drives. H.3459 is a bill addressing this issue and other elements of voter registration. It is very likely to receive a hearing.

#### Constitutional Conventions

South Carolina has already passed resolutions in support of constitutional conventions. We continue to oppose additional resolutions in support of a national constitutional convention, for example H.3007, H.3008, and H.3558. We support rescinding all such resolutions previously passed, as in H.3395.

#### Judicial Reform

Judicial reform may be active at the General Assembly, following reforms in 2024. If so, we will be active advocates consistent with LWVSC and LWVUS positions on the judiciary. At present the most promising pre-filed bill is H.3530, which would require JMSC review of candidates for magistrate positions. S.92 ending the practice of keeping magistrates in holdover status is also important.

#### Redistricting

We are waiting for the South Carolina Supreme Court to move our redistricting case for gerrymandering of SC CD 1.

It is likely that one or more bills will be filed addressing independent redistricting mapping. If such a bill receives a hearing we will support it.

## Energy (Lynn Teague)

Energy is once again moving to the forefront at the State House. We will continue to advocate for fair and responsible regulation, especially avoiding transfer to other ratepayers of the massive costs of data centers that use massive amounts of energy and water. We will oppose many of the provisions of H.3309, a House bill supported by the Speaker that repeats the regulatory gutting of last year's major House energy bill.

S.12, which would authorize the SCPSCA (Santee Cooper ) to enter into joint projects with investor-owned utilities, subject to the usual PSC review, is a more judicious bill that can be supported.

We also support requiring additional lobbying reports from those who lobby the Public Service Commission or Office of Regulatory Staff (for example, H.3475). Senator Davis' bill S.51 that would enable corporations to attempt completion of V.C. Summer 2 and 3 entirely at their own expense is also a positive bill that we will consider.

## Equity Issues Including Abortion, Trans Rights, etc. (Lynn Teague)

We must continue to work for the rights of girls, women, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons of color. A very extreme abortion ban bill that would allow exceptions only for medical emergencies (excluding psychological conditions), while ending judicial bypass provisions for minors, has been filed with the support of the Speaker of the House, H.3457.

Publicity around an even more extreme abortion ban, a personhood bill that would make abortion a capital crime, has tended to overshadow the very dangerous and far more likely. H.3457.

Other bills related to pregnancy (for example H.3107 protecting IVF and similar procedures) may be heard and we would speak on those bills as well.

We will also continue to press for adoption of a hate crimes bill, for example H.3039.

## Education (Janelle Rivers)

Public schools will continue to be a battlefield where privatization advocates attempt to undermine public trust and divert available funds to unaccountable private schools.

We foresee continued attempts to restrict instruction in public schools, including higher education via bills such as [H.3185](#). Although the controversy over restriction of instructional materials, including resources for school libraries, was moved to the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education by enacting [Regulation 43-170](#), censorship advocates will continue their attempts to restrict materials in public libraries with bills such as [S.104](#).

Privatization forces will continue to push for increased funding of schemes that funnel public money to private schools with little or no accountability. In a third attempt to circumvent the SC Constitution's prohibition against funneling public funds to private and religious schools, a pseudo-voucher bill, [S.62](#), which proposes to divert South

Carolina Education Lottery money for private educational expenditures, is likely to be one of the first bills debated in the Senate. Ultimately, this bill would expand eligibility for these funds to families whose income is up to six hundred percent of the federal poverty index, which currently equates to an annual income of \$187,200 for a family of four.

## Health Care Access (Teresa Arnold)

We will continue to advocate for Medicaid Expansion for SC with a goal of introducing legislation in the 2025 General Assembly. Teresa Arnold represents the League on the Cover SC Medicaid Expansion Coalition and is co-chair of the coalition. At present one bill has been filed on Medicaid Expansion, H. 3377. Cover SC will be looking to garner local support from counties and municipalities, well as from key constituents. For more information on Medicaid Expansion efforts, League members can go to

[www.cover-sc.org](http://www.cover-sc.org) .

Some concerns about public health may be tracked as well, specifically as it relates to vaccine access.

## Other Issues

We must retain flexibility to respond to issues relevant to LWVSC and LWVUS positions as they emerge at the State House. It is certain that issues not addressed here will appear and demand our attention.