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LWVSC Testimony, S.35 (Constitutional Amendment) in Senate Subcommittee

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina is in the process of completing a two-year study of our state's constitutional officers, specifically addressing the question of whether they should be elected or appointed positions. The League process for adopting policy positions requires development of study materials by an organizing committee, consideration of that material by local Leagues across the state, development of recommendations to the state convention on the basis of input received from the local Leagues, and a final debate and vote at convention. This study will not be fully complete until later this year. However, I can report on the recommendations to the convention.

The recommended position statement is:

LWVSC supports more effective implementation of state policies through: [. . .]

2(a) Appointment by the governor of offices that are primarily administrative or functional in nature, currently including the offices of Secretary of State, Comptroller General and Adjutant General.

2(b) Direct election by voters of offices that have substantial policy-making authority and/or that serve particular constituencies, currently including the offices of Superintendent of Education, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture.

2(c) Establishment by the General Assembly of appropriate required qualifications of educational, professional and/or experience-related accomplishment for each of the constitutional offices (*i.e.*, Superintendent of Education, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Comptroller General, Commissioner of Agriculture and Adjutant General).

In keeping with this recommendation, the League supports S.35, which makes the recommended change and also provides appropriate delegation of duties now associated with the position.

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