

LWVC Legislative Interview Report 2022 - 2023

League and Legislator Information

1. Your Name *

2. Your League *

3. Your email *

4. Your phone *

5. Names of local Leagues present at the interview *

6. Name of Legislator *

7. Assembly or Senate District Number (e.g. AD 45, SD 7) *

8. Date of interview (mm/dd/yyyy) *



9. Did you speak with the legislator or a member of their staff? *

The legislator

A staff member - please include their name and title:

Legislator responses

10. Question 1: Shrinking California's Voter Participation Gap

California has a problem. Despite the fact that we are a state where underrepresented groups are a majority of the population, and that we have recently passed laws designed to remove impediments and promote access to voting, there are significant disparities in participation among youth and voters of color compared to our older, non-Hispanic white population. This means that decisions about critical issues of local and statewide importance are being made by a predominantly older, white, and profoundly unrepresentative electorate.

There is also evidence that public awareness of new opportunities to participate in democracy is lacking and that many do not know how to access basic information like where to vote in-person. In addition, a reduction of in-person voting locations (a feature of Voter's Choice Act counties) has discouraged turnout of Black and Latino Californians.

- **Do you believe that targeted voter outreach and education would help to shrink California's participation gap?**
- **Would you support funding to the Secretary of State, county elections offices, and/or community-based organizations to address the problem?**

Note: You can enlarge the text box by clicking and dragging the lines in the bottom right corner of the text box.

11. Question 2: Equitable Funding for California's School Facilities Program

Construction or modernization of school facilities is normally financed by issuing general obligation bonds at the state and local levels. Repayment of state bonds issued is financed from General Fund revenue. Local bond measures are financed by property tax increases during the lifetime of the bonds issued. California's School Facility Program provides grants to local school districts to help fund new construction and modernization.

Dependence on property taxes means that to fund school construction/modernization, taxpayers in districts with low property value per student must pay a far higher property tax rate than those in wealthier districts to raise the same amount of money per student.

- **Would you advocate for changes to the School Facilities Program to reduce this inequity?**
- **One way to do this would be to have the School Facilities Program structured so that the required match percentage from a school district is reduced for low-wealth districts.**

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12. Question 3: Sustainable and Equitable Water Resource Management

Climate unpredictability and drought are making it clear that the ways we are accustomed to managing water in California—for cities, for agriculture, and for the environment—are neither sustainable nor equitable. In the case of agriculture, which is the largest user of water, increasing temperatures, uncertainties about surface water supply, groundwater overdraft, food production costs, and market fluctuations lead to cropping choices that may adversely affect food supply and food prices.

- **How would you propose to transform management of California’s water resources in response to changing conditions to minimize impact on food production and its associated jobs without adversely affecting food security and other users and uses of water?**

Note: You can enlarge the text box by clicking and dragging the lines in the bottom right corner of the text box.

13. **Q4: Personal Priorities of Legislator**

What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2023?
What are your personal priorities?

Please make sure to ask this question. It provides us with very valuable insight about your legislator. Optional

Note: You can enlarge the text box by clicking and dragging the lines in the bottom right corner of the text box.

14. **Q5: Local Issues**

Local League Question(s) related to issues of particular local concern. This is entirely optional, but you are welcome to include a question related to local issues.

Note: You can enlarge the text box by clicking and dragging the lines in the bottom right corner of the text box.

15. Any additional comments or observations: