



# Summary of Policy Positions

Detailed descriptions for each category follow this Summary.

For LWVUS statements, see the current LWV Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions, Summary of Policy Positions.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

## REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

The overall goal is that government should be open, accountable, ethical, and responsive to citizens. Consistency in the election process should be implemented along with a permanent uniform voter registration and training of election officials.

**Election Laws** Safeguard the rights of voters, eliminate barriers to voting, promote full participation of citizens, and be applied consistently in every county.

**Election Process** Support centralization of authority for administration and enforcement of election laws.

**Redistricting** Support redistricting process performed by an open, diversely representative, and independent special commission that adheres to specific timelines for planning, disclosure processes, public hearings, remedies, and standards enforceable in a court of law among other provisions.

**Campaign Finance (or Money in Politics)** Improve methods of financing political campaigns to enable candidates to compete equitably and ensure the public's right to know.

**Citizen Rights** The constitutional right of privacy to make reproductive choices should be preserved.

**Non-partisan Selection** A broad-based judiciary nominating commission should be used for the selection of well-qualified nominees. Support option for counties to select commissioners on a partisan or non-partisan basis.



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## NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

**Organize State Agencies** Consolidate NC environmental regulatory agencies for natural resource management and regulation.

**Resource Management** Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

**Offshore Oil and Gas** Promote policies, procedures, and regulations governing the NC Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and Tidelands regarding offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development that comply with all federal and state laws that protect the environment and manage natural resources.

**Environmental Protection and Pollution Control** Preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality** Support high air quality through control of pollutants including acid rains and toxins including reducing pollution from vehicular sources, stationary and ambient toxic air.

**Energy** Support energy goals and policies that acknowledge responsible world community membership.

**Land Use** Support land use and property taxation policies of statewide and regional application that effectively guide conservation of resources under development to meet present and future needs.

**Water Resources** Promote high water quality standards through equitable financing and use of all responsible stewardship means available.

**Waste Management** Support comprehensive programs and policies that encourage waste prevention, reduction, recovery, and recycling and discourage underground storage of hazardous materials.

**Public Participation** Promote public understanding of and participation in decision-making.

## SOCIAL POLICY

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, and combat discrimination and poverty.

### Equality of Opportunity

**Equal Rights** Promote economic, social, legal, and constitutional equality for all.

**Public Education** Support full access to a PK-12 public education that prepares the student for future global citizenship, and is considered a basic right not subject to discrimination on any basis. Support full

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implementation of the Leandro Comprehensive Remediation Plan. Support enacting policies, standards and practices that promote equity of opportunity and access while recognizing that diversity of professionals and students is a positive factor. Hold all schools and entities that receive public funds to the same educational accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools.

**Fiscal Policy** Support an equitable and efficient system of taxation to adequately fund needed services, including corporate income taxes, highway fund taxes, individual income tax, property taxes, and sales tax. Support giving local governments options for new revenue sources.

**Housing** Promote equal access to housing for all citizens; support adoption of statewide housing policies and minimum housing codes; support a state initiative to increase the supply of housing for low-income persons.

**Child Care** Promote the availability of quality day care to all families regardless of socioeconomic status through adequate state and federal standards, financial assistance and monitoring enforcement of standards.

**Early Intervention for Children at Risk** Support policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

**Elder Care** Support NC agencies in taking an aggressive role in the provision of services to dependent older adults by creating standards and enforcement mechanisms, ensuring access to services, and requiring minimum services.

**Criminal Justice** Promote fair and equal treatment of all citizens involved in the criminal justice system, including victims and witnesses. Build public trust with law enforcement agencies, staff offices to reflect community diversity, conduct comprehensive background checks on recruits, provide accountability via citizen oversight, and disseminate all pertinent law enforcement policies, and procedures, including the rights and responsibilities of citizens and officers when interacting with each other.

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