



LWVNC Social Policy: Criminal Justice Position

Promote fair and equal treatment of all citizens involved in the criminal justice system, including victims and witnesses.

Promote swift, sure, and fair disposition for every defendant and promote measures to assure the relief of overcrowding and inmate idleness; support improved services to juveniles through mandatory statewide guidelines, special training for personnel, and elimination of inter-agency fragmentation, support improvements in education and/or training for employment, and family visitation for incarcerated females; provide special assistance to handicapped inmates; and encourage increased use of alternatives to incarceration for non-violent crimes.

Support the establishment of a witness assistance program in every court district.

Support limited compensation for all victims of violent crimes, including services and financial support for all victims regardless of their income.

Establish community alternatives to incarceration in state training schools and local jails.

Encourage increased attention by policy makers to the needs of inmates in jails and prisons (family visitation, education, vocational training and work release opportunities).

Build public trust and positive community relationships through law enforcement engagement with community members and encourage community participation in the development of law enforcement policy.

Staff law enforcement departments to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, establish recruitment efforts that reflect this principle and conduct comprehensive background checks, to include such history as PTSD, domestic violence, sex offenses and affiliations with domestic terrorist groups, for all applicants to law enforcement positions.

Provide law enforcement accountability via independent citizen oversight of law enforcement and publicly available data on officer conduct. Disseminate information to the public about law enforcement policies, recruitment, procedures for complaint/commendation, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens and officers in interactions with each other.