

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING (PP)



LWVHP/HWD 2021 - 2022

Only with input from our members will we have a viable and exciting action oriented program to move us forward in influencing public policy in Highland Park/Highwood.

We review our local public policy positions every year and LWV Illinois and the national League on alternate years, prior to state or national conventions – this year we will review our state positions with participation via zoom. Here are the dates for both State and Local Program Planning:

LWV of Illinois Program Planning: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 3:30 pm

Local Program Planning: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

WHAT IS PROGRAM PLANNING?

At each meeting we will go over positions in their brief form – asking if we retain/restudy/drop each position by category. The more prepared you are, the faster the process will go. We'll point out where action has been taken this year. The fastest way to update yourself is to read over the positions (see our Local [Long Position](http://www.LWVHP.org) on our website (www.LWVHP.org), and, the [State's Positions](http://www.LWVIL.org) on the State's website (www.LWVIL.org.) State PP will be from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, *prior to a Leadership Team Meeting*, on February 10th. Local PP will be a self-contained meeting on March 10th from 7 – 8:30 pm.

Ideas for study and action at the State level include action on the Electoral College and redistricting. At the local level there is renewed interest in an update of our Park District position.

WHAT HAPPENS AT PROGRAM PLANNING?

1. REVIEW OUR CURRENT POSITIONS, determining whether:
 - A. The goals addressed by the position have been met.
 - B. There is still member interest, understanding, and agreement on the item.
 - C. The position is still relevant.

2. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT POSITIONS as follows:
 - A. RETAIN - continue to act upon the current position as is.
 - B. RESTUDY/UPDATE - modify or change all or part of a current position. *A position restudy/update requires a study. The entire position is reviewed and no action on the position can be taken until a new position is approved.*
 - C. DROP - eliminate a position from the League's agenda.

3. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STUDY AND/OR A NEW ACTION FOCUS ITEM

- A. **NEW STUDY:** Local Leagues study an issue to educate members on a public policy issue as a prelude to action. A new study is only necessary if there is no League LWVIL or LWVUS position on the issue.
- B. **AN ACTION FOCUS:** An action focus recommendation is appropriate if there is an existing local, national or state position. It can combine citizen education and advocacy. A local action focus implies concerted effort to develop an action plan to influence local public policy.

PLEASE NOTE: *When deciding to recommend a new study or action focus we should be guided by the careful consideration of the League's resources needed to accomplish any item(s), relative to the interest and commitment of the members. A study or action focus means on-going League involvement and activity on the item. It is therefore particularly important for Leagues to consider new items in the context of its local program and activities and its own willingness or ability to participate. So when evaluating a new study idea or proposed action focus, consider the following key questions:*

- a. Does our League have a strong and broad member interest in the issue?
- b. Is our League willing and able to work on the issue?
- c. Is the issue of wide interest?
- d. Will timing and political realities permit effective League action?
- e. Is League involvement likely to make an impact?
- f. Is there an existing state/national position that can be used as a basis for action? If yes, an action focus is needed. If no, a new study is needed.

WHAT RESOURCES WILL HELP YOU COME UP TO SPEED ON HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD'S POLICY POSITIONS?

Essential for our local Program Planning: Highland Park/Highwood's Local Positions. Our Positions can be found [here](#).

Please feel free to contact Program Co-Chairs, Barb Lippai: bglippai@gmail.com or Carole Kohn: carolekohn@aol.com to help develop your ideas for a study or action item.

