

RECOMMENDED LWVSC PROGRAM FOR 2021 – 2023

Program planning responses were received from 12 local Leagues. The LWVSC Board reviewed all comments and suggestions from responding Leagues. After reviewing the responses, the state Board recommends all current positions be retained with the changes outlined below. Wording to be deleted is indicated with strike-through; wording to be added is underlined.

PLEASE SEE *PROGRAM AND ACTION AGENDA 2019-2021* FOR A FULL STATEMENT OF CURRENT LWVSC POSITIONS [[HTTPS://MY.LWV.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES//LWVSC_PROGRAMACTIONAGENDA_2019-2021_REV_5-20_FINAL.PDF](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files//LWVSC_PROGRAMACTIONAGENDA_2019-2021_REV_5-20_FINAL.PDF)]

ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

REDISTRICTING

RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS

VOTER REGISTRATION/VOTER ACCESS

LWVSC supports ensuring access to registration and voting for all citizens by:

1. Retain
2. Creating clear and accessible registration procedures and access to ~~absentee~~ early mail or in-person voting for all ~~eligible~~-citizens eligible to vote, including those with disabilities.
3. Retain
4. Retain
5. ~~Devising simplified~~ Providing easy and secure online, mail, and in person voter registration procedures ~~with sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud.~~ (Recommended by Charleston)
6. Developing and publishing uniform, non-discriminatory rules for moving registered voters to the inactive rolls ~~by the Election Commission~~ and making the list of voters reclassified as inactive publicly available no later than 60 days prior to an election.
7. Removing the requirement for a witness signature on absentee by mail ballots.
8. Defining technical deficiencies in ballots consistently and notifying all voters whose ballots are received with technical deficiencies that their ballots could be

rejected; providing an opportunity for those voters to cure the defect so that their ballot would be counted.

9. Providing ballot drop boxes at secure locations during the full period when in-person voting is permitted.
10. Permitting same-day registration.
11. Providing automatic voter registration with driver's license.
12. Joining the National Popular Vote Compact.
13. Allowing universal no-excuse early voting
14. Allowing part-time poll workers.
15. Prohibiting discriminatory practices related to polling places, including impediments to access through inaccessible location, frequent changes of location, excessive consolidation, insufficient staffing, insufficient or defective voting systems.

ELECTION MANAGEMENT

5. Providing for proper conduct of elections through:
 - a. Instituting authority to poll watch in elections for a ballot issue.

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Appointments by the executive and legislative branches of state government that:
 - b. Ensure representative government by including people of different races ethnicity, sexes, gender, and ages.
2. ~~Stronger lobbying rules to prevent~~ Prohibition on former legislators from lobbying on the floor.
3. Retain
4. Retain
5. Retain

6. An audit process that includes the following:
 - a. An independent state agency that audits state government programs.
 - b. Retaining the Legislative Audit Council under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly.
 - c. Audit and oversight of state government programs by ~~request~~ of the legislature, randomly and periodically, and/or in response to special need in order to determine efficiency/cost effectiveness, compliance with state and federal statutes and regulations, how programs compare to similar programs in other states, customer/citizen satisfaction/politeness, equity (treating all citizens equally), and results.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LWVSC supports making the General Assembly more efficient, effective, accountable and responsive through:

1. Provision for ~~mere~~ roll call votes on most bills other than congratulatory and honorary resolutions and unanimous consent motions
2. Subsistence pay for ~~Senators~~ members of the General Assembly only when present. ~~(as in House).~~
3. Pre-session orientation and organization for the Senate (as in House).
7. Modification of the Senate committee assignment procedures to include criteria other than just seniority.
9. Full publicizing of all committee meetings year-round in a timely manner, with at least 24 hours notice, giving date, time and place, including at www.scstatehouse.gov ~~including listing with the Legislative Information System.~~

EXECUTIVE AND REGULATORY	RETAIN
JUDICIARY	RETAIN
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION	RETAIN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOME RULE	RETAIN
STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION	RETAIN

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES

RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY

RETAIN

EDUCATION

GOVERNANCE – EARLY CHILDHOOD (EC) THROUGH GRADE 12

1. State Board of Education, ~~with the majority of members elected by the legislature on the “one person one vote” principle and the remainder appointed by the Governor~~ appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, to include two members from each Congressional district. At least three appointees must be teachers, one each from the elementary, middle, and high school levels. (Recommended by Charleston, Greenville, Horry, and Hilton Head)
2. Gubernatorial appointment of the State Superintendent of Education, with the advice and consent of the General Assembly. The appointee must have substantial administrative and/or teaching experience of P K-12 public education. (Recommended by Charleston, Hilton Head)
3. Non-partisan election of local board of education members for four-year terms ~~with limited self-succession~~. (Recommended by Hilton Head, Charleston) *Question was raised about term limits, which the League supports in no other context.*

FUNDING

RETAIN

EFFECTIVE EDUCATION

26. Continued offering of full day kindergarten, expansion of full day 4-K to all area of the state, and expansion of pre-school with small class size, low pupil-teacher ratio, aides and developmentally appropriate programs, and with parental choice of full day or half day. *The question was raised whether 4-K should be deleted as a fait accompli. No. League positions are not contingent on the current status of state statutes and constitution. Reference to this position would be needed, for example, if there was an attempt to remove state funding for 4-K.*
30. Recognizing that the teacher is the most important school-based component of academic achievement, school districts should implement a comprehensive teacher evaluation. The fair and comprehensive evaluation system should occur regularly and be a clearly communicated process: (Recommended by Hilton Head)

- a. Offer educators a wide variety of support before and during evaluation.
- b. Assure that all teachers are evaluated on a regular basis;
- c. Include three or more qualitative rating categories to identify and retain effective teachers (for example, categories of: Highly Effective, Effective, Needs Improvement, rather than letter grades)
- d. Include student progress as one of the factors used for rating teacher effectiveness;
- e. Use clearly defined, widely accepted standards, and consistent, well-trained evaluators;
- f. Use teachers in developing and implementing the evaluation system;
- g. Provide feedback to teachers to help them develop skills and support decisions for retention, dismissal and assignments;
- h. Be equitably and fully funded across the state's public school systems.

39. Equal Access: Charter Schools must maintain racial and ethnic balance among students unless imbalances are justified by a special program. They must not practice discrimination based on disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, need for special education, or economic status. Free transportation must be provided within the territorial jurisdiction of the Charter School. There should be no requirements for parental participation or support which might limit access for minority or disadvantaged students. (Recommended by Hilton Head)

41. Civics Education: The League supports comprehensive civics education in middle and high school developed through the state and local review and development process for social studies curricula.

HEALTH CARE

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS

RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS

RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS

CONCURRENCE

No Concurrence Items

PROPOSED NEW STUDIES

No Proposed New Studies are recommended. See “Non-Recommended Items” for a study proposal.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

No Proposed Resolutions

NON-RECOMMENDED ITEMS

In general, items covered under LWVUS *Issues and Action* are not recommended for inclusion in the LWVSC *Program and Action Agenda* document, both because it is redundant and because it would require on-going monitoring and revision to ensure that there are no discrepancies between the two that would confuse efforts to educate and advocate on League issues.

ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

Holding municipal elections in even years when turnout is typically higher. (Recommended by Greenville)

Since municipal elections are a home rule issue local leagues are encouraged to do a local study of this issue in their communities.

RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY

Recommended statements under this heading replicate positions covered in the LWVUS *Issues and Action*. Rather than repeat those the relevant statements will be referenced and linked from the LWVUS document.

EDUCATION

The LWVSC does not recommend at this time major revision of the teacher evaluation items, which were adopted after lengthy and contentious debate statewide.

Greenville recommended a provision that charter schools not teach a religious point of view. This is not recommended because it is already covered under the SC Constitution of 1895.

Charleston recommended editing Statement 5 under Early Childhood through Grade 12 into two provisions. We believe it is clear as written.

Sumter recommended that professionally certified staff should be in the classroom for a minimum of 80% of the school year. This issue can be very complicated, and we believe would requires a study in order to make a recommendation,

RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY (STUDY)

A proposal was made for a study of the removal of Confederate monuments & flags from public spaces

Rationale: As part of racial equity, inclusion, and social justice, the League should advocate and support the removal of public displays of the Confederacy, especially monuments and flags. The SC Heritage Act should be challenged or its latest challenge supported by the League which would at least put the matter into local municipalities' jurisdiction and authority. (Recommended by York)

This is an important issue and a thoughtful and timely proposal. LWVSC does not recommend a study of this issue, however, because we believe the League already has strong positions, national and state, that address racial justice and equity and also the concept of home rule. In this case, home rule is a crucial aspect of advocacy and education, because the underlying problem in the SC Heritage Act is that it violates home rule and overrules local decision-making. LWVSC an advocate for repeal of the Heritage Act on grounds of that violation, at which point local Leagues should address local monuments and buildings associated with the Confederacy.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM PRIORITIES

At each state convention, we decide on priorities to guide the work of the next biennium. These are issues that we will emphasize to the extent possible in legislative lobbying, in the SC Voter and at statewide meetings such as League Leaders' Day, and State Council/State Convention. These are the areas which we encourage Local Leagues to have informational programs on and to emphasize when talking to their local legislators. However, we also recognize that we must be prepared to address both opportunities and threats in all of our areas of interest.

- Protection of Voter Rights, Voter Access (7)
- Redistricting (5)
- Education (3)