

Suggested Position Changes to Consider

From several State Board members, including Trish Montgomery (Director for Racial Justice)

Suggested positions related to Racial Justice:

LWVSC supports gender and racial equality, and the promotion of fairness in hiring, advancement, pay, and representation in public appointments.

Enhance public education and advocacy campaigns to fight barriers to voter participation and to ensure election laws and processes are applied in a uniform and non-discriminatory manner.

Prevent and remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

Support legislation targeting hate crimes.

Suggested position related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

We commit to making deliberate efforts to ensure LWVSC is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respectfully heard, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion.

.....
The following comments may help guide your discussion.

LWVSC supports gender and racial equity, including ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and the promotion of fairness in hiring, advancement, pay, and representation in public appointments.

Source: LWVSC Gender and Racial Equity position

Enhance public education and advocacy campaigns to fight barriers to voter participation and to ensure election laws and processes are applied in a uniform and non-discriminatory manner.

Source: LWVUS Impact on Issues, 20180-2020, p 11 in Voter Protection in the 21st Century section: *LWVUS collaborates with state Leagues to enhance their public education and advocacy campaigns to fight barriers to voter participation and to ensure election laws and processes are applied in a uniform and non-discriminatory manner.*

Prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

Source: LWVUS Impact on Issues, 20180-2020, p 68, Equality of Opportunity Section: *The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.*

Support legislation targeting hate crimes.

Source: LWVUS Impact on Issues, 20180-2020, p 11, Same Gender Equality section, p 72: *In the 106th Congress (1999-2001), LWVUS supported federal legislation targeting hate crimes.* (note: SC is one of three states without hate crimes legislation).

Position related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

We commit to making deliberate efforts to ensure LWVSC is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respectfully heard, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Source: LWVSC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy.

Position Recommendations from the Education Working Group

The Education Working Group invites local Leagues to consider the following recommendations in the education section for review in your state program planning process.

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. *At present members are selected from judicial circuits, which vary widely in population. Need to rewrite? Do we want them to add a teacher?*
- 2. Gubernatorial appointment of the State Superintendent of Education.** The appointee must have substantial administrative and/or teaching experience of P K-12 public education. *Should this include with the advice and consent of the General Assembly (or the Senate) to be consistent with the other appointments represented in the government section? Add a requirement of a relevant graduate degree? OR do we want to revisit this whole appointed vs. elected issue?*
- 3.** Non-partisan election of local board of education members for four-year terms **with limited self-succession.** *Why do we call for term limits here and nowhere else?*

Effective Education

- 25.** 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. *Is 4-K kindergarten a fait*

accompli that can be deleted ?

26. 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:
- a. Offering 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.

Do we want to revisit this whole evaluation section? Here is what it says. Working group recommends deleting c, d, and e as too narrow or prescriptive, especially as a state position, since evaluation is a local responsibility.

38. 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, 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.

Include sexual orientation? Repeat or cross reference or move to the new Race and Gender Equity section?

From Lynn Teague
Suggested additions are underlined, deletions are strikethrough.

Voter Registration/Voter Access

Ensuring access to registration and voting for all citizens by:

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. Removing the requirement for a witness signature on absentee by mail ballots.
4. Notifying voters whose ballots are received with technical deficiencies that their ballots could be rejected and providing an opportunity for those voters to cure the defect so that their ballot would be counted.
5. Providing drop boxes for ballots at secure locations during the full period when voting is permitted.
6. ~~Devising simplified procedures~~ Providing easy online, mail, and in person access to voter registration procedures with sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud.
9. 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.

Election Management

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

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

LWVSC supports development and monitoring of government structures, processes, and procedures that are efficient, responsive, representative, transparent and accountable; providing citizen access to, and participation in, decision-making; and a system of state and local taxation that is equitable and provides adequate revenue for public purposes.

Transparency and Accountability

~~Stronger lobbying rules to prevent~~ Prohibition on former legislators ~~from~~ lobbying on the floor.

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

Commented [LT1]: Already prohibited

Commented [LT2]: General Assembly oversight is now in place as part of the reorganization that eliminated the BCB.

satisfaction/politeness, equity (treating all citizens equally), and results.

General Assembly

A General Assembly that is more efficient, effective, accountable and responsive, including:

Provision for ~~more~~ roll call votes on most bills other than congratulatory and honorary resolutions.

Subsistence pay for ~~Senators~~ members of the General Assembly only when present ~~(as in House)~~.

Pre-session orientation and organization for the Senate ~~(as in House)~~.

Modification of the Senate committee assignment procedures to include criteria other than just seniority.

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.~~

Commented [LT3]: This is in place for 9 years now, and the "more" suggests an infinite progression of roll call voting

Commented [LT4]: As far as I know, reimbursement policies are now the same for both

Commented [LT5]: This is in place for the House -- committee assignments and chairmanships are not by seniority

Commented [LT6]: The 24 hour rule already exists, but some ignore it. The Legislative Information System is still the technical name but unfamiliar to most.