Three Priority Issues for the 2019 Legislative Session

**ELECTION LAWS & VOTING RIGHTS**
Support every citizen’s right to vote (Online Voter Registration & Same Day Registration), uniformly enforced election procedures, clearly stated election laws that facilitate voter engagement and turnout, improve transparency and public input in the redistricting process.

**WOMEN’S HEALTH**
Support adequate funding for basic health care for those unable to pay. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices with access to comprehensive reproductive health services and medically accurate sexuality education.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**
Promote adequate state funding for public schools to ensure that all Texas school children receive a high-quality education. Oppose a voucher system. Support achievement tests that measure individual mastery and proficiency for diagnostic purposes, and a fair, non-punitive accountability system.

**AIR QUALITY / CLIMATE CHANGE / ENERGY**
Support control of air pollution in Texas. Promote energy policy to reduce global warming, including renewable/clean energy sources and energy conservation.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**
Promote policies for reduced generation of solid and hazardous waste and its reuse and recycling, including its safe transportation, handling, and disposal.

**LAND USE**
Increase county authority to regulate land development. Support full funding of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

**TRANSPORTATION**
Increase funding for public roads, mass transit, and light rail.

**WATER**
Support funding for safe/adequate water. Enhance protection of environmental flows, rivers, bays, and estuaries.

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**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

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**NATURAL RESOURCES**
Action: To achieve conservation, protection, and judicious development of the state’s natural resources which includes:

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**CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**
Protect children from abuse and neglect through adequate funding and provisions for prevention programs, investigating and reporting procedures, and appropriate correctional measures and counseling.

**CHILD CARE / EARLY CHILDHOOD**
Support early childhood education professional development and access to affordable, high quality child care. Expand high quality prekindergarten. Increase services for children with disabilities/developmental delays.

**CHILD HEALTH**
Ensure adequate funding, improve enrollment and retention, and maintain effective delivery systems for the CHIP and Children’s Medicaid.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / INCOME ASSISTANCE**
Support legislation and administrative action to achieve equal rights for all. Combat discrimination and poverty. Provide equal access to housing, employment, and quality education from preschool to higher education and job training for living wage jobs.

**HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR OLDER TEXANS**
Support adequate funding for a comprehensive health care system for older adults that ensures a seamless continuum of quality care.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**
Adequately fund services to enable the mentally ill to function at an optimal level in the least restrictive environment.
Other Issues that LWV-Texas will support during the 2019 Legislative Session

**Government**

*Action: Achieve an efficient, effective, responsive state governmental system through constitutional revision and legislative action which includes:*

**REDISTRICTING**
Support formation of a redistricting commission following each decennial census.

**CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION**
Support revision of The Texas Constitution to make it a framework of basic law.

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE / ETHICS**
Support fair campaign finance laws to reduce impact of large contributions. Protect the citizens’ right to know. Strengthen accountability. Combat corruption and undue influence.

**EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, & JUDICIAL**
Increase the effectiveness of the executive department and the efficiency of the legislature. Support the appointment/retention method and/or nonpartisan election of the judiciary.

**FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT**
Promote adequate and fair funding for major state responsibilities, such as public education and transportation.

**HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS**
Protect against unreasonable foreclosure on homesteads, priority or payments, election safeguards.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT**
Promote transparency and public participation in government.

**PAYDAY & AUTO TITLE LOANS**
Support regulation of payday and auto title loan businesses to function as a consumer service and successful business.

**STATE & LOCAL RELATIONS**
Support increased county authority in order to better manage growth in urbanizing areas.

**Administration of Justice**

*Action: Achieve an equitable system of criminal justice in Texas for adults and juveniles which includes:*

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**
Promote a moratorium on the death penalty. Support the option of life sentence without parole in capital cases.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
Provide a secure prison environment with maximum education opportunities and adequate health care. Promote meaningful sentencing reform. Support a professional parole and probation staff and work to decrease their caseload.

**DRUG LAWS & POLICIES**
Support treatment programs for drug abuse and addiction as an alternative to incarceration.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
Support measures to prevent the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for sex or labor; prosecute traffickers, and protect victims.

**IMMIGRATION**
Support state services for undocumented immigrants, especially in the area of education and health care.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**
Support and fund substance abuse treatment, mental health needs, and education for youth at risk and for those incarcerated.

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