

LWV STATE PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2007 - 2009

Please review the State program position statements listed below before coming to our meeting on Saturday, Dec. 9th. This is our opportunity to give direction regarding the issues that State League will emphasize through advocacy, community education, and/or study in the next biennium. Your input is vital!

The Process: 10:15 - 10:20 Introduction
10:20 - 11:00 Breakout groups: 1. Government; 2. Natural Resources; 3. Social Policy
11:00 - 12:00 Breakout Group Reports and Voting.
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

BRIEF SUMMARY OF STATE LEAGUE POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT

Campaign Financing adopted in 1973, updated in 1976

Support campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions which will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

Constitution adopted in 1957, updated in 1965-67

Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified state constitution; provisions which enable the legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state.

Election Systems adopted 2001, amended by concurrence 2003

Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.

Initiative and Referendum Process adopted in 1984, updated in 1999

Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process.

Intergovernmental Relationships adopted in 1981

Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public.

Public Libraries adopted in 1998

Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

Redistricting adopted in 1988

Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. Supports a bipartisan commission as the preferred redistricting body.

State and Local Finances adopted in 1969, updated in 1975, new positions in 1976, 1977, 1981, and 1995
Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services, that contribute to a system of public finance which emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy, which include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process which maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures; that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and which encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue, with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly.

Voting Rights adopted in 1972, reviewed in 1986

Support measures which will protect every citizen's right to vote and which will ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture adopted in 1983

Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource which must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs which include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy which affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance.

Air Quality adopted in 1971, updated in 1973

Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards.

Energy adopted in 1978, updated in 1980 and 2006

Support development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures.

Hazardous Materials adopted in 1986 and 1987

Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposure through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bioaccumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures.

Land Use adopted in 1975

Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation.

Solid Waste adopted in 1973

Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials.

Transportation adopted in 1981, revised in 1985; new position in 1991.

Support a transportation system to move people and goods which includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; services all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment, is integrated with land use, and is supported by extensive public education.

Water adopted in 1959, updated in 1961, 1967, 1971, and 1979

Support measures which promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use.

SOCIAL POLICY

Child Care adopted in 1989

Support state and local policies, legislation and programs that meet the need for accessible, affordable, and qualify child care.

Community College System adopted in 2003

Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Government should allow greater authority with the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs.

Education adopted 1973, updated in 1985 and 2005

Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system which meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Support a system of public education funding which is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program.

Housing adopted in 1970, updated in 1973 and 1993

Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.

Juvenile Justice/Dependency adopted in 1997 and 1999

Support a juvenile justice/dependency system which works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, which serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and which rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services which work with children, youth, families and schools. Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual.

Legal Aid: Adopted in 1971, revised in 1983

Support measures which will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services.

Mental Health Care adopted in 1998

Support for an adequately funded mental health care system which provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintain optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.