

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES
SUMMARY OF LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS
AS OF JUNE 2016**

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

VOTING RIGHTS

Citizen's Right to Vote.

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

ELECTION PROCESS

Apportionment.

Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Money in Politics.

Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing Super PACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President.

Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

CITIZEN RIGHTS

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals.

In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates elected by population, and voting by delegates not by state. Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY

Congress.

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency.

Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

PRIVATIZATION

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

UNITED NATIONS

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

TRADE

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

ARMS CONTROL

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

MILITARY POLICY AND DEFENSE SPENDING

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment. Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy.

Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use.

Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources.

Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management.

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues.

Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Federal Agriculture Policies.

Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Equal Rights.

Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing.

Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education.

Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

FISCAL POLICY

Tax Policy.

Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit.

Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements.

Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

HEALTH CARE

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

IMMIGRATION

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance.

Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services.

Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply.

Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

CHILD CARE

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

GUN CONTROL

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

URBAN POLICY

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

DEATH PENALTY

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

SENTENCING POLICY

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.