

Proposed 2021-2023 LWVO Positions & Priorities (“Program”)

Program planning responses were received from 13 of 29 local Leagues and 2 At-Large units. Responses were recorded from: Ashtabula County, Athens County, Cincinnati Area, Delaware County, Greater Cleveland, Greater Dayton Area, Hudson, Kent, Licking County, Marion, Metro Columbus, Oxford, and Perrysburg Area. Based on those responses, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Ohio recommends the following Positions and Priorities (a.k.a. “Program”) for 2021-2023.

Existing Program

The LWVO Board recommends retaining all positions. No Leagues recommended dropping a position.

Review or Update a Position

A review or update is a study of limited scope to evaluate a position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position. The League should consider:

- Is the position sufficient as it stands to achieve the desired change?
- In there a need and is there member interest in altering the position?
- Are there enough interested members to form the core of that study committee?

Three Leagues (Athens, Greater Dayton and Hudson) recommended reviewing or updating current positions. Two of those Leagues (Greater Dayton and Hudson) recommended multiple updates.

Two of Hudson’s updates involved changing terms or language to correspond to current usage without changing the substance of the position. The LWVO Board found one other place that a change in terms was needed. These changes were in the **Higher Education Position** (Hudson and LWVO Board) and one in part of the **Juvenile Justice Position**. **These changes are recommended by the Board.**

- **Position on Juvenile Justice**

8. LWV of Ohio supports the development and utilization of *gender-specific treatment* programs.

a. Treatment programs should meet the specific needs of each individual.

b. Research-based gender-specific services should be available ~~for both boys and girls.~~ **for all minors that are sensitive to gender identity and expression.**

c. Research on effective services and treatment ~~for girls~~ **for those identifying as female** is needed. It should be encouraged and funded.

9. LWV of Ohio supports the right of juveniles to unbiased treatment regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or socio-economic status. (Amended May 2017)

Rationale: In light of the addition of #9 which was done on 2017, #8 needs to reflect the proper language to reflect common usage today.

- **Position on Higher Education Post-Secondary Education**

LWVO believes that: (adopted May 1997)

1. The Board of Regents Ohio Department of Higher Education should be a planning and coordinating Board Agency with broad policy-making powers.

2. The Board of Regents Ohio Department of Higher Education should be appointed by the Governor with confirmation by the Senate. The legislature should establish appropriate criteria for board members to ensure that the Board Agency can function effectively and efficiently as a policy-making/planning body.

3. The state should provide funding to ensure that all Ohio citizens (meeting given institutional academic standards) have access to higher education public post-secondary education that provides general education and job preparation. Ability to pay should not determine admission. (Amended May 2005)

4. In order of priority a state funding system for public higher education post-secondary education should be to: (Amended May 2005)

a. provide a basic level of support to all public institutions of higher education post-secondary education,

b. provide partial funding for capital improvements and maintenance, and c. provide scholarships.

Nonrecommended updates include:

Selection of Judges (Athens and Hudson): Athens wanted to include specifics for the nominating committee that would provide the list of approved judges to be considered.

Nonrecommended: It would require an updating study and consensus. Hudson wanted more emphasize that judges be non-partisan and not outwardly identify as from one political party as candidates. **Nonrecommended since the position covers nonpartisanship.**

Education (perhaps government) (Greater Dayton) - A policy on Civic Education taught in K-12 schools in Ohio is needed. **Nonrecommended and not to be considered: we do not specify how to specifically fulfill a requirement. There is a state requirement that schools cover civics/government.**

State Government Finance (Greater Dayton). **Nonrecommended since the request was not specific as to the section/sections.**

Ohio Primary Election System (Greater Dayton) Request to review position to consider rank choice, open primaries and other options for well-supported candidates. **Nonrecommended because a review of the original study packet determined that these were all considered and did not reflect consensus.**

Solid Waste (Greater Dayton, Hudson). Greater Dayton wanted a change in #2 in that instead of encouraging reclamation and volume reduction, it would be required.

Nonrecommended since there are many factors that go into such complex decisions (cost, efficiency, etc.) that "encourage" leaves the flexibility of the position. Hudson wanted the

position expanded to all waste produced. **Nonrecommended since solid waste is a defined term in the statutes.**

Term Limits (Hudson) Expand the current statement to apply to local government (e.g. county, town/city etc.). **Nonrecommended since this is not appropriate for a state position.**

Juvenile Justice (Hudson) Add to (4) "Appropriate and adequate training"
Nonrecommended. Position covers it.

New Studies/Concurrences

1. Study for a position on Police Reform. Greater Dayton League

Scope: Police reforms need to specifically address: diversity training, crisis training, improved screening of applicants (especially those with ties to white nationalism and hate groups), reallocation of funding to mental health and other policing options.

Rationale : A study was done by Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley concerning police reform. This study might be useful to development of a state wide position. Violence against minorities by people in positions of police authority after several high profile cases including, but not limited to Trayvon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery, have garnered the attention of the public.

2. Criminal Justice Reform Concurrence Metro Columbus

Recommending concurrence: LWV California <https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions/position-criminal-justice>

Rationale: We would like to support a concurrence with LWV California's strong criminal justice reform position especially to help advocate for the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing, incarceration and sentencing of marginalized communities in Ohio.

These are nonrecommended. While there is a willingness to take on some leadership, there is no support from other Leagues and not enough information given. There are definitely overlaps in the two proposals. Neither group has fully investigated what else has been done.

To be moved for consideration at Convention, a non-recommended item must be moved for and granted consideration before delegates can debate adopting them as amendments or substitutes to the Proposed Program. (LWVUS directive)

3. Domestic Violence Study. Greater Cleveland (Shaker Heights)

This study is not recommended for debate at the convention. LWVUS position on violence prevention is broad enough for advocacy on domestic violence.