

LWVSC PROGRAM FOR 2011 - 2013

LWVSC Positions

The following program of study and action was adopted at the 2011 LWVSC Convention.

Program planning responses were received from nine local Leagues. The LWVSC Board reviewed all comments and suggestions from responding Leagues.

Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVSC Board recommended all current LWVSC positions be retained with the changes outlined below.

Please see *AGENDA FOR ACTION* for a full statement of LWVSC positions (<http://lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>/ State League positions 2009-2011). *AGENDA FOR ACTION* will be updated in Summer 2011.

CHILD WELFARE

Retain existing positions

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/JUVENILE JUSTICE

Retain existing positions

EDUCATION

Retain existing positions

Add "high quality" to the position summary:

"Support of public state-supported education at all levels which is high quality, effective, equitable and accountable".

NATURAL RESOURCES

Retain existing positions

Refine the position as follows:

Add "habitat preservation" to the position summary:

"Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, habitat preservation, waste management and water resources."

Add "nature biota" to Statement 11 as follows"

"Promoting land use and water resource policies that manage land, water and nature biota as finite resources and that incorporate principles of stewardship and other land use planning strategies at both the state and local level."

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Retain existing positions

STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION

Retain existing positions

TRANSPORTATION

Retain existing positions

ALL RETAINED WITH NOTED CHANGES

Results of LWVSC Studies Undertaken in 2009-2011

At the 2009 state League Convention, two new studies were adopted:

- 1) A study on water supply issues in South Carolina but particularly interstate (NC and GA) water disputes affecting the quality and quantity of water in South Carolina. After 18 months of focused research, the water study group concluded that existing national and state League positions on water resources already cover issues under study. Therefore the water study will culminate in the publication, "***Quenching Our State's Thirst: A Report on South Carolina's Water Resources.***" This report is a service to League members, legislators, and the general public about water resource issues that are critical to the wellbeing of the residents of South Carolina.

- 2) A study on the structure and authority of school districts in South Carolina
Seven Leagues and 5 individual respondents participated in the consensus on school governance. There was consensus on the issue of referendum, but not on anything else. Five Leagues plus most individual respondents would like to have a voter referendum on both changing school districts and changing the structure of the school board. Two Leagues proposed other methods or leaving it with the legislative delegation.

Based on the results of the study, the Board recommended the following addition to both our Education and Local Government positions:

“Changes in the structures of the school board and/or consolidating, splitting, or redrawing school district lines should be subject to a referendum by the voters in the affected school district(s)”.

The rationale for this position follows:

Referenda are required for drawing other local government boundaries (consolidation for cities and counties, one of the two methods of annexation for cities). The form of local government has to be approved by referendum since Home Rule Act was enacted in the 1970’s; school districts are also local elected government bodies in most parts of the state. This change will bring the practice of structuring school districts in line with structural decisions about other local elected bodies without affecting the question of fiscal home rule.

ADOPTED

New State League Study for 2011-2013

A Study on Evaluating Teachers Based on Results—*proposed by LWV of the Charleston Area*

This two-year study would focus on the growing movement toward "results based" evaluation of teachers, nationally and in South Carolina. We would:

- explore what makes a teacher effective;
- examine "best practices" in teacher evaluation and compare them with current practices employed by school districts across our State;
- identify models of school districts in which rigorous methods of evaluation and ongoing teacher support are components of a systematic approach to putting an effective teacher in every classroom.

Throughout the course of the study, we would seek research institutions, faith communities, commercial and community groups as partners in our study and would engage the public in thinking about the issues.

The LWVSC Board recommended a two-year study on teacher effectiveness.

ADOPTED

Concurrence Items

At their program planning meetings, local Leagues were asked to advise the state Board whether to recommend or not recommend the following concurrence items for adoption by delegates at LWVUS Convention.

1) Growth management position--proposed by LWV of the Clemson Area:

“We support intentional and collaborative growth management on a county and regional basis in South Carolina. We encourage regular consultations among public agencies related to growth and development and local elected bodies—city councils, county councils, and school boards. We also encourage an open and frequent dialogue between those agencies and the general public on growth management. We support the concept of managing growth to preserve and enhance quality of life for all residents, old and new, through the effective and coordinated use of such land use management tools as conservation easements, purchase of development rights, development impact fees, and zoning where appropriate.”

Local League Program Planning responses on the proposal to adopt by concurrence the LWV/Clemson Area position on growth management on the Convention floor: 8 recommended; 1 had no recommendation.

The state Board recommended adoption by concurrence of the growth management position.

ADOPTED--This concurrence position will be added to *Agenda for Action* under the Natural Resources positions.

2) Illegal drug position--proposed by LWV of the Charleston Area:

“Illegal drug use should be considered a public health issue, and drug addiction should be addressed by substance abuse treatment programs instead of incarceration.”

Local League Program Planning responses on the proposal to adopt by concurrence on the Convention floor the LWV/Charleston Area positions on illegal drugs: 5 recommended; 5 did not recommend; 2 had no recommendation. There was agreement that the concurrence should be on the convention agenda.

The state Board made no recommendation on the adoption by concurrence of the position on illegal drugs.

ADOPTED--This concurrence position will be added to *Agenda for Action* with the Criminal Justice positions.

Resolution: Off Shore Drilling

On behalf of LWV of Horry County, Peggy Brown presented the following amended Offshore Drilling Resolution and moved its adoption. Elaine Faithful seconded the motion. Hanna Reig moved to amend the last sentence of the resolution by ending the sentence with the word “strategies.” Ada Lou Steirer seconded the motion, which passed.

Be it resolved: that we, the member representatives of LWVSC, pledge our commitment, and call upon the LWVSC Board, to apply the resources of the League in support of, and to advocate for local and national energy policy conversion. We support energy production from non-polluting and renewable systems and oppose off shore drilling permits for rapidly depleting fossil fuels. We call for focused application of resources to develop new energy infrastructure as we abandon failed strategies.

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

Action Priorities for 2011-2013

At each state convention, we decide on action priorities to guide the work of the next biennium. These are the positions that we will emphasize in legislative lobbying, in the SC VOTER and at statewide meetings such as League Leaders' Day, Legislative Day, and State Council/State Convention. These are the areas in which we encourage Local Leagues to have informational programs and to emphasize when talking to their local legislators. It does not mean that we will not act on other positions when the opportunity or need arises.

The result of the vote on Action Priorities for 2011-2013 (listed in priority order) follows:

1. Education
2. Voter Access
3. Tax Reform
4. Criminal Justice
5. Transportation
6. Redistricting (received 50% of the vote)
7. Natural Resource
8. Judicial Independence and Diversity