

## PROPOSED LWVSC PROGRAM for 2019-2021

The response to our request for program planning recommendations was wonderfully strong this year; eleven of our twelve local leagues responded, and they sent in some solid proposed changes. This demonstrates our members' enthusiasm for issues and for the work that we can do as a state league. The LWVSC Board recommends the following revisions to our positions, based on the program planning responses from the local leagues in March 2019.

| Current text   | Recommended revisions   |
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| <p><b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b><br/><i>(Agenda for Action, p. 14)</i></p>   |   |
| <p>LWVSC supports:</p> <p>5. Inclusion of successful completion of academic, vocational, or technical education courses to be credited toward the reduction of an inmate's term of incarceration.</p>  | <p>LWVSC supports:</p> <p>5. <b>Access to education and giving credit toward reducing an inmate's term of incarceration</b> for successful completion of academic, vocational, or technical education.</p>  |
| <p><b>STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b><br/><i>(Agenda for Action, pp. 24-25)</i></p>   |   |
| <p><b>ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY</b></p> <p><b>Election Management</b></p> <p>Ensuring management of elections to encourage voter participation and fair and transparent outcomes.</p> <p>18. Extend the 50%-plus 1 rule to all state and local primaries and general elections for single seats.</p> <p>19. Adopting election systems that ensure better proportional representation of the varied segments of our voting population, within South Carolina, by city, county or statewide, as appropriate in order to achieve better election and/or influence for minorities and women in proportion to their numbers in the population, reduce</p> | <p><b>Election Management</b></p> <p>Ensuring management of elections to encourage voter participation and fair and transparent outcomes.</p> <p>18. <b>Extending</b> the 50%-plus 1 rule to all state and local primaries and general elections for single seats.</p> <p><b>19. Retaining the current practice of open primaries, in which citizens can vote in either party primary but not both.</b></p> <p><i>Note: This is a concurrence with a Florida LWV study in which they recommended changing their closed primaries to open primaries.</i></p> <p>20. Adopting election systems that ensure better proportional representation of the varied segments of our voting population, within South Carolina, by city, county or statewide, as appropriate in order to achieve better election and/or influence for minorities and women in proportion to</p> |

election costs, in part by eliminating costly runoff elections, lessen polarization among segments of the population, increase voter turnout and provide more opportunity for third party candidates.

20. Encouraging and supporting local communities to develop their own election system for local elections, after careful examination of the demography of its community. Systems which may be considered include Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), Limited Voting, Cumulative Voting, more use of at-large seats, and others.

21. Implementing automated systems of voting from a statewide list approved by the S.C. State Elections Commission to standardize voting procedures, lessen voter confusion, increase the accuracy of the count, and ensure that all provisional ballots cast by voters lacking Help America Vote Act-required ID are counted by using any of the HAVA provisos.

22. Protecting the integrity of the electoral process in the way elections are conducted by:

- a. Purchasing only voting machines that include a paper ballot. Acceptable machines must ensure protection of privacy, allow the voter to verify his/her vote, and provide a reliable basis for a recount if required.
- b. Mandatory random testing of voting machines during every election.
- c. Requiring that source code of voting machines be open for inspection.

their numbers in the population, reduce election costs, in part by eliminating costly runoff elections, lessen polarization among segments of the population, increase voter turnout, and provide more opportunity for third party candidates.

21. Encouraging and supporting each local community in developing its own election system for local elections, after careful examination of the demography of its community. Systems which may be considered include Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), Limited Voting, Cumulative Voting, more use of at-large seats, and others. **The method used to determine the winner(s) must be clearly described in advance of the election.**

22. **Implementing voting systems that provide paper ballots that are read by optical scanners at the precincts. Except as necessary to meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) , the paper ballots should be marked by hand.**

23. Protecting the integrity of the electoral process in the way elections are conducted by:

- a. Purchasing only voting **systems** that include **paper ballots as the official record of the election.** Acceptable **systems** must ensure protection of privacy, allow the voter to verify his/her vote, and provide a reliable basis for a recount if required.
- b. Mandatory random testing of the voting **systems** during every election.
- c. Requiring that the source code of **voting systems** be open for inspection.

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| <p><b>EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b><br/><i>(Agenda for Action, p. 27)</i></p>  |  |
| <p>1. Implementation of Article VIII (Home Rule) of the SC constitution to provide for additional options for the structure, methods of election, and financing of local government bodies.</p>   | <p><b>LWVSC supports:</b></p> <p>1. Implementation of Article VIII (Home Rule) of the S.C. Constitution to provide for additional options for the structure, methods of election/<b>and or appointment</b>, and financing of local government bodies, <b>including councils and commissions</b>.</p>                                 |
| <p><b>STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION</b><br/><i>(Agenda for Action, p. 29)</i></p>  |  |
| <p>LWVSC supports:</p> <p>7. Retaining existing property tax relief for households (homestead exemption for the elderly, school property tax relief, reduced assessment on automobiles), with any expanded relief to be directed primarily to low-income households through some kind of means testing.</p>   | <p>LWVSC supports:</p> <p>7. <b>The position that</b> any expanded <b>property tax</b> relief <b>should be state funded and</b> to be directed primarily to low income households through <del>some kind of</del> means testing.</p>   |
| <p><b>HEALTH CARE</b><br/><i>Agenda for Action, p.32</i></p>  |  |
| <p>4. The LWVSC is supportive of programs to encourage lifestyle health issues, but does not undertake direct advocacy or services in these areas. These issues include food deserts, nutritional education, physical education and activity, access to green spaces, gun safety and violence prevention, obesity, and discouraging the use of tobacco products (including vaping).</p> | <p>4. The LWVSC is supportive of programs to <b>address</b> lifestyle health issues, such as food deserts, nutritional education, physical education and activity, access to green spaces, gun safety and violence prevention, <b>domestic and family violence</b>, obesity, and the use of tobacco products (including vaping).</p> |
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A number of other suggestions were received, some of which are already reflected in our existing positions. Items submitted before March 2, 2019, but not recommended here by the LWVSC Board, may be proposed from the floor at convention. Such non-recommended items may be placed on the agenda by a simple majority vote, and adopted after debate by a two-thirds vote.

### **ACTION PRIORITIES:**

1. Given our focus on achieving good government (making democracy work), issues related to **voter access, redistricting, electoral democracy, regulatory oversight, ethics, constitutional revision, structure of state government, campaign finance reform, and home rule** will always be priorities for active lobbying at the State House. In any particular year, some of those issues may offer opportunities for advocacy and others may not. Sometimes these priorities may combine with other positions—for example, the Duke Energy rate controversy which involved regulatory reform, energy conservation, and protecting low income households, or the “plastic bag ban ban” legislation which involves both home rule and environmental protection.
2. The League offers subcommittee testimony and encourages citizen advocacy on additional areas of concern. We work in coalitions with a number of other groups, especially in education, women’s issues, health care, and the environment. As we work to strengthen our representation in these coalitions, members will be notified of opportunities to advocate and will be given background information.
3. The LWVSC also supports personal, citizen advocacy on other issues supported by LWV positions but precluded from active lobbying by the importance of focusing on our top priorities and not diluting the effectiveness of our work on those issues.
4. The State Board encourages and provides assistance to local Leagues in programming related to our Action Priorities.

### **PROGRAM PRIORITIES:**

The State board recommends that LWVSC

1. Form a statewide working group to assist local Leagues in devoting at least one meeting, as well as other efforts, to informing, updating, expanding, and advocating on our **education** positions.
2. Form a statewide working group to assist local Leagues in devoting at least one meeting, as well as other efforts, to informing, updating, expanding, and advocating on our **natural resource** positions. Possible expansions include impact of climate change, clean energy, protection of habitats, including the ocean, water and air quality.
3. Strengthen our collaborative efforts with other groups at both the state and local levels to expand access to **health care** for South Carolina citizens through educational programs and advocacy.