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General Information

1. The Denver Accord:

https://denveraccord.org/recommended-legislation-and-policies/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

2. Illinois Summary

https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/state/illinois/

Local Government

1.1. Should the LWVIL add the following to the positions statement

The LWVIL believes that all levels of government, and their respective law enforcement agencies, should be required to fulfill their duty to enforce firearms laws and standards mandated under state and federal laws.

____ Yes ____ No

2. Should the LWVIL add the following to the positions statement

The LWVIL supports an Illinois law allowing local municipalities to implement local restrictions and bans of firearms, ammunition, and accessories.

_____ Yes _____ No

3. Should the LWVIL add the following to the positions statement

The LWVIL supports that the Illinois National Guard is the only recognized militia to operate in the state of Illinois and will oppose any law that would recognize a private militia.

_____ Yes _____ No

4. Should the LWVIL add the following to the positions statement

The LWVIL supports comprehensive firearm licensing procedures, with firearm safety education, fingerprinting and photographs of the licensee, and verification of the applicant's qualifications.

_____ Yes _____ No

5. Should the LWVIL add the following to the positions statement

The LWVIL opposes "open carry" within the state.

_____ Yes _____ No

Government Research

2.1Should the LWVIL add the following to the positions statement:

The LWVIL supports state government funding of evidence-based research into causes of and solutions to firearm violence.

_____ Yes _____ No

Enforcement

3.1 Should the LWVIL add the following to the position statement:

The LWVIL supports that the state should adequately fund enforcement of firearm laws.

_____ Yes _____ No

3.2**.** Should the LWVIL replace the current position statement with the following**: The LWVIL supports regulation of all firearms, augmentations, augmentation devices, silencers and ammunition, including a ban on the manufacture, sale, transportation and importation of firearms and their parts to include reproductions, augmentation devices, silencers and ammunition.**

_____ Yes _____ No

3.3 Should the LWVIL support a modification to the current position as follows**:**

The LWVIL supports appropriate penalties for crimes committed with a firearm to include alternative programs such as restorative justice and community service.

_____ Yes _____ No

3.4 Should the LWVIL support a modification to the current position as follows**: The LWVIL recommends high fees, annual renewal of licenses and frequent,**

thorough inspections of firearm dealers and their places of business. The LWVIL further supports publication of inspection results for easy access by the public. The LWVIL supports the regulation of firearm dealers.
_____ Yes _____ No

3.5 Should the current LWVIL position include the following:
The LWVIL supports the need for controls or elimination of the sale or exchange of firearms, firearm accessories (bump stocks, switches, scopes, silencers, etc.) and ammunition via online, mail order, or interstate shipments. The LWVIL further supports restricting any of these items from being transferred between unrelated parties as prizes or other non-commercial means prior to complying with state licensing and safety regulations.
_____ Yes _____ No

3.6**.** Should the current LWVIL position be deleted in its entirety and replaced with:
The LWVIL supports legislation to require the owner of any firearm whether purchased, inherited or found to register the firearm with the state by serial number or other tracking characteristics such as, but not limited to, ballistics data so that the firearm can be traced to the owner. The LWVIL supports legislation requiring the person who currently has possession of the firearm, whether the firearm is inherited or found, to have a FOID or turn the weapon over to law enforcement.
_____ Yes _____ No

3**.**7 Should the LWVIL add to the current position statement the following:
The LWVIL supports a law requiring law enforcement to publish clearance rates of firearm crimes.
_____ Yes _____ No

Prevention

4.1 Should the LWVIL delete the current positions statement to be replaced with the following:
The LWVIL supports efforts to improve public safety by mandating firearms safety training. We support required training as part of the initial issuance and renewal of FOID cards. The LWVIL supports firearms safety training for family members and unrelated parties in the home. The LWVIL supports that securing a gun in the home is the responsibility of the gun owner. The LWVIL supports state regulations on the type of safe, lock, etc. that must be used to secure firearms and ammunition. The LWVIL also supports the need for evidence that

such security is present as a condition of obtaining or renewing a FOID card and of the purchase of a new firearm.
LWVIL supports the criminal and civil liability of firearm owners who fail to secure their firearms. We support requiring firearm owners to carry liability insurance.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.2 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports laws to hold firearm manufacturers and dealers responsible when their product causes death or injury.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.3**.** Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports armed school resource officers appropriately trained and no other school employee or other personnel to be armed.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.5 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports the legal age to own a firearm of any type to be 21 years old or older
_____ Yes _____ No

4.5**.** Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports laws requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms
_____ Yes _____ No

4.6 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports tracking of the quantity of ammunition purchased by individuals.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.7 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports the serialization of ammunition.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.8 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP positions statement:
The LWVIL supports state or local funding of community violence interruption (CVI) programs.

_____ Yes _____ No

4.9 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP position statement:
The LWVIL supports a requirement for thorough and completed background checks on every sale or transfer of a firearm whether the seller is a dealer, a seller at a gun show or private citizen with completion of a background check not to be limited by time.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.10 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP position statement**:**
The LWVIL supports regulation of firearm buyback programs requiring the subsequent complete destruction of the firearms collected.
_____ Yes _____ No

4.11 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP position statement**:**
The LWVIL opposes allowing firearms, whether concealed or open carry, at polling places.
_____ Yes _____ No

Personal Rights

5.1 Should the following be added to the LWVIL GVP position statement**:**
The LWVIL opposes "stand your ground" (SYG) laws.
_____ Yes _____ No

Where We Stand
Positions On Gun Violence

Gun Policy

1990, 1994, 1998

LWVUS Position (page 101 of the 2023-2025 document)

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.

The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

LWVIL Gun Violence Prevention (page 119 – 120 of the 2023-2025 document)

Handgun Control

1976

LWVIL Position

To curb the proliferation of the private ownership of handguns and their irresponsible use, the League supports a ban on the further manufacture, sale, transportation and importation of handguns and their parts.

The League supports restrictive regulation of all handguns and ammunition, enforcement of existing regulations and strict penalties for crimes committed with a handgun.

The League favors federal legislation governing the use of handguns, but will support legislation at all levels of government meeting League criteria. The League will not support state or federal legislation for specific areas only, such as metropolitan or high crime areas.

To ensure that handgun owners assume complete responsibility for their handguns, the League supports registration of the handgun itself so that it can be traced to its owner. There should be comprehensive licensing procedures, with gun safety education, fingerprinting and photographs, plus a verification of the applicant's qualifications and a permit system that restricts handgun ownership. Sufficient fees should be paid by handgun owners to cover administrative costs. Ideally, local or state governments should enforce federal standards.

The League supports handgun safety education only if it is required for owners as part of the licensing procedure, does not promote or glorify handgun usage or ownership, and is used to convey the dangers of handgun misuse and ownership.

The League supports regulation of handgun dealers. All dealers selling handguns must be carefully regulated to assure that they are legitimate dealers and not merely persons wishing to have access to interstate shipments. The League recommends high fees, annual renewal of licenses and a thorough investigation of dealers and their places of business. The League supports the need for further controls or elimination of mail order sales and interstate shipments.

Assault Weapons Control

1989

LWVIL Position

The League advocates restricting access to automatic and semi-automatic assault type weapons by private individuals. These weapons present a clear and unequivocal danger to public safety. Therefore, the League believes that it is essential to restrict or prohibit the possession and sale, manufacture, importation and transportation of semi-automatic assault type weapons for private ownership. Additionally, the sale of ammunition for these weapons should be restricted or prohibited. The League favors restrictive legislation at both the state and federal levels.

Background

The LWVIL position on handgun control was reached in 1976 after a statewide study. The assault weapons control position was adopted by concurrence at the 1989 LWVIL Convention. LWVIL led the successful effort to adopt a national gun control position at the 1990 LWVUS Convention.

LWVIL is an active coalition partner with the Illinois Campaign Against Handgun Violence and maintains ties with the Brady Campaign.