

LWVIL STATE PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT FOR THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM

Program Planning Summary

The local League program recommendations for 2017-2019 are itemized on the following pages and have been reviewed and considered by the Issues Committee. Recommendations are based on the responses of 16 Leagues representing 43% of all local leagues in Illinois. These local Leagues reported 291 member participants representing an estimated 1290 members from those Leagues.

Participating Leagues overwhelmingly recommended retention of all current positions. Updates/new study recommendations were proposed by at most one League which indicated a willingness to lead the effort. At this time, those Leagues are still considering whether they will be ready to propose an update/new study at the convention.

I. Recommended Program Items

The LWVIL Issues Committee recommends the following items be presented to the 2017 convention delegates for consideration as the Recommended Program:

1) Readopt Current Positions

- a. Representative Government - Retain all positions.
- b. Natural Resources - Retain all positions.
- c. Social Policy - Retain all positions

2) Action Foci for the 2017-2019 Biennium (in alphabetical order)

- a. Election Laws including Voting Rights, Redistricting, and Campaign Finance
- b. Environmental Issues
- c. ERA
- d. Fiscal Policies with a particular focus on Education and Human Services
- e. Gun Violence Prevention
- f. Healthcare and Reproductive Choices
- g. Immigration

3) State Board recommendations of additions/corrections

a. Election laws:

- i. "A combined in-person, **digital**, and mail registration system should be maintained."

b. Mental Health:

- ii. "A comprehensive and coordinated system of services for **mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents'** **mental/behavioral health**. The **Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities** **Illinois Department of Human Services** should ensure both adequate state hospitals and community services to treat and rehabilitate the seriously mentally ill. These services should be integrated

with those of other state agencies." These services should be integrated with those of other state agencies."

c. School Finance:

- i. The League believes that "Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade public schools should be provided stable, reliable, and adequate revenue through a combination of federal, state, and local sources."

4) Concurrence:

Recommended: Higher Education Funding position of Central Kane County

The Central Kane County League supports sustained allocation of state funds for public higher education that will provide quality postsecondary programs throughout the state.

Objectives for adequate public funding should be to:

- Provide affordable educational opportunities which foster global competitiveness for the people of Illinois and their employers
- Eliminate and prohibit barriers to funding higher education: constitutional, statutory, and regulatory
- Invest in capital construction and long-term maintenance of higher education facilities
- Attract, maintain, and retain quality teaching staff

In addition, the League supports sustained funding to attract, support, and retain qualified Kane County students through:

- State-funded, need-based financial aid
- State-funded, merit-based scholarships
- State-funded grants paying for research assistantships
- State-subsidized internships

II. Non-Recommended Program Items

According to the LWVIL bylaws, only program items submitted three months in advance of the convention are eligible for consideration by the convention. The following items were submitted in Program Planning and any of them may be moved for consideration at convention after the recommended program is presented. Further details on how to move non-recommended program items are outlined in the proposed convention rules.

- Term Limits for leadership positions – League not willing to lead a study to update
- Merit Selection of judges – League not willing to lead a study to update
- County Government – study not specified
- Reducing number of governmental units in Illinois – Leagues need to consider implications of the current position
- Electronic vs. scanned/paper trail ballots – LWVUS updated their position;
- Redistricting by an independent commission – LWVUS updated their position;
- Fracking – LWVUS position covers it

- Water – study not specified
- Mental Health – The Issues Specialist believes that the concerns are currently addressed. Discussions are underway.
- School Quality – Rockford and Central Kane members are considering changes needed
- Fiscal policy: study the “expenditure” side of fiscal policy to balance the revenue position – League not willing to lead a study to update. The Issues Committee thinks that the LWVIL positions in *Where We Stand* support adequate and consistent spending for education, human services and other issues. The Fiscal Policy position describes how LWVIL thinks the state should raise money. The other positions describe how the monies should be spent.
- Criminal Justice -study updating criminal/juvenile justice (see separate attachment in this E-News from Janet Kittlaus, LWVIL Criminal Justice Specialist).

Membership Participation as Reported by Local Leagues

Local League	Number Participating in Program Meeting	Total Membership
Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and Buffalo Grove Area	22	45
Central Kane County	13	43
Chicago	38	220
Deerfield/Lincolnshire	14	31
Downers Grove, Woodridge & Lisle	15	57
Elmhurst	6	50
Glen Ellyn	18	117
Glenview-Glencoe	35	130
Greater Rockford	14	93
Homewood-Flossmoor Area	29	105
Kewanee Area	6	16
Lake Forest/Lake Bluff	30	113
Park Forest Area	12	57
Rochelle	5	43
Wheaton	17	68
Wilmette	17	102
TOTAL	291	1290

Membership Participation as Reported by Local Leagues

Position	Retain	Restudy/Update	Correction	Drop
Representative Govt.				
Constitutional Implementation	15			
County Govt. Structure	15	Rochelle		
Consolidation of Governmental Units	14	LF/LB Rochelle		
Registration & Elections	16 (15)		2 'electronic' Rockford & Glen Ellyn	
State Board of Elections	15			Rochelle
Election Systems Criteria	16			
Term Limits	15 (14)	Rochelle	Rockford	
Redistricting	16(15)		Rockford	
Natural Resources				
Land Use	15			
Development Impact Fees	15			
Large Scale Livestock Facilities	15			
Pesticides	15			
Water	14	Rochelle		
Social Policy				
Children's Services	16			
Criminal Justice	16			
Death Penalty Abolition	16			
Gun Violence Prevention: Handguns	16			
Gun Violence Prevention: Assault	16			
Immigration	16			
Income assistance	16			
Low/Moderate Income Housing	16			
Mental Health	15 (14)	Central Kane	Rockford	
Schools: Quality	15	Central Kane		
School Finance	15	Rochelle	"Pre-K"	
Charter Schools	16			
State Fiscal Policies	15	Wheaton		
Statement on Gambling	15			