

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND PROGRAM PLANNING 2019-2021

League \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Participants \_\_\_\_\_

Our State “Program” includes LWVMD positions, development of new LWVMD positions through consensus or concurrence, and action (advocacy based on those positions). State League positions allow us to support or oppose issues before the General Assembly and the Executive Branch at the state level. As part of program planning, the LWVMD Board is soliciting League members’ ideas for the 2019-2021 State Program, which will be discussed and formally determined at our Biannual Convention in Montgomery County in June 2019.

There are two parts to program planning for LWVMD: **(1) Review of Current League Positions** and **(2) Proposals for New Studies**.

## PART I

Please review the current LWVMD positions and mark Retain, Drop or Update if necessary in the columns below. Please refer to the 2018 *Studies and Action* publication ([lwvmd.org/positions](http://lwvmd.org/positions)) for complete positions and action taken.

<b>I. GOVERNMENT</b>	Retain	Update	Drop
<b>ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:</b> Action to secure an effective, nonpartisan judiciary; and to promote fair and appropriate sentencing, including abolition of the death penalty; and a correctional system, including probation and other alternatives to incarceration, that protects society and prepares offenders for successful reintegration to the community. Action to support access by indigent criminal defendants to legal counsel at every decisional stage of the judicial process, including bail hearings. (1963, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1987, 1989, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)			
<b>ELECTION PROCESS:</b> Action to assure an election system that is representative, feasible to implement and increases voter participation, as well as equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable. Action to support same day registration. Action to assure fair campaigns and elections. Action to institute elections to fill vacancies in the General Assembly. Action to support <del>a closed primary election</del> more open primary elections and taxpayer-funded primary elections for all recognized parties. Action to support a mix of single and multi-member legislative districts and coterminous boundaries. Action to oppose term limits for members of the General Assembly. Opposition to a requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state. (1972, 1985, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018)			
<b>FIREARMS CONTROL:</b> Action to strengthen gun control laws. (1991)			
<b>FISCAL POLICY:</b> Action to promote an equitable and efficient fiscal structure for Maryland and to improve the fiscal relationships between the state and its political subdivisions. Action to support or oppose proposed changes to Maryland’s revenue structure, using certain principles to analyze and evaluate the proposed changes. Action to increase the budgetary authority of the legislature and to achieve a more effective budget process. (1976, 1981, 1999, 2004)			

	Retain	Update	Drop
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT:</b> Action to support county home rule, with preference for charter. (1967, 1983, 1985)			
<b>REDISTRICTING:</b> Action to assure a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. (2004)			
<b>STATE CONSTITUTION:</b> Action to secure a constitution that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals. (1962)			
<b>II. NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
<b>COAL:</b> Action to oppose the granting of eminent domain for, and the construction of, a coal slurry pipeline through Maryland. Action to support the collection of taxes and fees from the coal industry for costs to the public resulting from the mining of Maryland coal. Action to oppose strip mining on slopes steeper than 20 degrees. (1986, 1987, 1993)			
<b>HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT:</b> Action to promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and to educate the public on safe disposal procedures. (1984)			
<b>LAND USE/GROWTH MANAGEMENT:</b> Action to encourage the State to establish goals, guidelines, and standards for land use, with local implementation of land use policies. (1975, 1979, 1991)			
<b>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:</b> Action to promote informed decisions affecting solid waste management. (1995)			
<b>TRANSPORTATION:</b> Action to support an integrated transportation system and mass transit systems which are efficient, safe, clean and accessible. Support for adequate and equitable funding and cooperative regional programs is necessary to achieve these goals. (2002)			
<b>III. SOCIAL POLICY</b>			
<b>ADULT LITERACY:</b> Action to ensure availability of free or low cost basic English language instruction for adult Maryland residents who are not proficient in reading writing, speaking and understanding English. (2009)			
<b>CHILDREN’S SERVICES:</b> Action to support a comprehensive range of child-centered services to ensure all children a chance to grow toward stable, productive adulthood. (1995)			

	Retain	Update	Drop
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:</b> Action to support preventing initial and repeat occurrence of violence against spouses, domestic partners, the elderly, and children. Action to support a strong statewide response to violence that is integrated, interdisciplinary, and adequately funded, involving all segments of the law-enforcement and judicial systems, the medical community, the schools, social services, animal care and control agencies, and the private sector, with a primary focus on the safety of victims. (2000)			
<b>DRUG AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ABUSE, POLICIES AND LAWS IN MARYLAND:</b> Action to legalize the use of marijuana for any use, including medicinal, subject to restrictions on production and distribution. (2012)			
<b>DRUNK DRIVING:</b> Action to promote strong governmental measures and educational programs to address the problem of the drinking driver. (1983, 2001)			
<b>EDUCATION:</b> Action to support measures which recognize the primary responsibility for funding public elementary and secondary education lies with the state. (1972, 1975) Action to support the state aiding local school systems in attracting and retaining competent teachers. (1989) Action to oppose using public funding for vouchers to enable parents to send their children to private elementary and secondary schools. Action to encourage the inclusion of certain criteria in any legislation or regulations governing the establishment of Public Charter Schools. (2001) Action to insure students have an opportunity to pass high school graduation tests. (2005)			
<b>MARRIAGE/CIVIL UNION EQUALITY:</b> Action to ensure that Maryland law does not discriminate in its recognition of all marriages/civil unions on the basis of gender or religious definitions of marriage. (2007)			
<b>HEALTH CARE APPEALS:</b> Action to ensure a health care appeals system which protects patients, makes insurers accountable, and objectively addresses patients' concerns. (1999)			
<b>HOUSING:</b> Action to develop a state housing policy responsive to the need for more affordable housing and to clarify landlord/tenant relationships. (1982, 1983)			

Notes:

**PART II. PROPOSALS FOR NEW LWVMD STUDY OR PROJECT:**

**EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR NEW STUDIES:**

- Does the League already have a position?
- Is government action needed? Or possible?
- Is the state the appropriate level to address the issue?
- Is the issue timely?
- Will League involvement make an impact?
- Is there member interest? Will it attract new members?
- Do we have people power to conduct the study?
- Does the title specify the focus of the study?
- Does it support the LWVUS Roadmap?

**Proposed studies from individuals and other Leagues**

- 1. Study of Civic Education in Schools:** Development and implementation of a curriculum to provide means for students to be knowledgeable and informed and encourage active engagement in the democratic process. This proposed study is a continuation of the state League study adopted in 2017.
- 2. Study of Initiative Process for Putting Legislation on Ballot** (suggested by Montgomery County LWV)
- 3. Other new study, project or update in the following format:**

**Title:**

**Purpose:** (Scope of Study)

**Comments:**

Please list members who would be interested in chairing or working on a particular study.

More study ideas and comments can be provided on a separate page.

Please return your program planning suggestions to Melanie Cox, LWVMD Program Chair, at [sharon398@verizon.net](mailto:sharon398@verizon.net) by February 28, 2019.