

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND PROGRAM PLANNING 2017-2019

State “Program” includes LWVMD positions, development of new LWVMD positions through consensus or concurrence, and action (advocacy based on those positions. League positions at the state level allow us to support or oppose issues before the General Assembly and the Administrative Branch at the state level. As we are a grass roots organization, the Board of LWVMD is soliciting program items for the 2017-2019 State Program.

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 2016-17 [Study and Action](#) (LWVMD website, click on Advocacy) for complete positions and action taken

I. GOVERNMENT

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: 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)

ELECTION PROCESS: Action to assure fair campaigns and elections. Action to institute elections to fill vacancies in the General Assembly. Action to support a closed primary election, a mix of single and multi-member legislative districts and coterminous boundaries. Action to oppose term limits for members of the General Assembly. Action to assure an election system that is equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable. Opposition to a requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state. (1972, 1985, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2014)

FIREARMS CONTROL: Action to strengthen gun control laws. (1991)

	Retain	Drop	Update

REDISTRICTING: 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, 2014)

STATE CONSTITUTION: Action to secure a constitution that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals. (1962)

II. NATURAL RESOURCES

COAL: 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 collection of taxes and fees from the coal industry for costs to strip mining on slopes steeper than 20 degrees. (1986, 1987, 1993)

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT: Action to promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and to educate the public on safe disposal procedures. (1984)

LAND USE/GROWTH MANAGEMENT: Action to encourage the State to establish goals, guidelines, and standards for land use, with local implementation of land use policies. (1975, 1979, 1991)

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: Action to promote informed decisions affecting solid waste management. (1995)

TRANSPORTATION: 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. (2001)

III. SOCIAL POLICY

ADULT LITERACY: Action to ensure availability of free or low cost English instruction for adult Maryland residents who are not proficient in reading writing, speaking and understanding English (2009)

Retain	Drop	Update

CHILDREN’S SERVICES: Action to support a comprehensive range of child-centered services to ensure all children a chance to grow toward stable, productive adulthood. (1995)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: 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)

DRUG AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ABUSE, POLICIES AND LAWS IN MARYLAND: Action to legalize the use of marijuana for any use, including medicinal, subject to restrictions on production and distribution (2012)

DRUNK DRIVING: Action to promote strong governmental measures and educational programs to address the problem of the drinking driver. (1983)

EDUCATION: 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)

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: 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.

Retain	Drop	Update

HEALTH CARE APPEALS: Action to ensure a health care appeals system which protects patients, makes insurers accountable, and objectively addresses patients' concerns. (1999)

HOUSING: Action to develop a state housing policy responsive to the need for more affordable housing and to clarify landlord/tenant relationships.

Retain	Drop	Update

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?

Proposed studies from individuals and other Leagues

Let us know if you think any of these are worthy of LWVMD Study and if anyone from your League would be willing to chair or participate on such as study.

Title: **Death with Dignity**

Purpose: (Scope of Study) Is there support for giving terminally ill, mentally competent adults the options to access life ending medications.

Title: **Study of Civic Education in Schools**

Purpose: (Scope of Study) Study would include evaluating development and implementation of civics curriculum in Maryland to understand whether it provides a means for students to be knowledgeable, informed and encouraged to actively engage in the democratic process.

Title: **What is Maryland doing to take care of our Aging Population?**

Purpose: (Scope of Study) What protections and services are available to older adults including Elder Abuse Prevention? How are state and federal resources for services for the elderly allocated and how does that impact care?

Any other new study, project or update in the following format:

Title:

Purpose: (Scope of Study)

Comments

**Please return your program planning suggestions to JoAnn Ross, Program Chair
email: jross.clemens@gmail.com or mail to 53 Merino Ct. Owings Mills, MD 21117 By April 21, 2017**