

PROGRAM PLANNING 2017-2019

New and Updated Member Handbooks will be available at Program Planning

(Copies will also be available in the LWVMC office.)

Our annual Program Planning meetings are your opportunity to indicate support for, or suggest changes to, our current League positions. This year we will review League positions at the state (LWVMD), regional (LWVNCA) and local (LWVMC) levels. We're also looking for your ideas for our numerous programs. New studies are based upon member input as well as suggestions for topics for discussion group meetings and field trips. Our Trending Topics, which are held in county libraries, are chosen for timeliness and their appeal to both League members and the community. The results from our Program Planning meetings are used by the LWVMC Board to decide on the program elements to recommend for member adoption at our Annual Meeting in May, or to recommend to the LWVNCA and LWVMD Boards.

Definition of Terms:

- Retain: the position should remain as is
- Edit: there should be minor wording changes to improve the clarity of the position
- Drop: the position should be deleted because it is no longer relevant or no longer supported
- Adopt: a new study should be conducted
- Readopt: a current study should be continued
- Informational Update: new study not needed, but members should receive information on new developments through discussion group presentations and/or newsletter articles

Evaluation Criteria for New Studies:

Does the League already have a position?

Is government action needed? possible? likely?

Is the study proposed at the right League level? (usually where government action should be taken)

Is the issue timely?

Will League involvement have an impact?

Is there member interest? Will it attract new members?

Do we have the people power to do the study?

Does the title match the focus of the study?

PART 1: LWVMD PROGRAM

Our LWVMD positions are in your Member Handbook on pp. 41 -52. Under the Government heading, there are positions on Administration of Justice, Election Process, Firearms Control, Fiscal Policy, Local Government, Redistricting, State Constitution and Voting Rights & Election Administration. Under the Natural Resources heading, there are positions on Coal, Hazardous Waste Management, Land Use/Growth Management, Solid Waste Management, and Transportation. Under the Social Policy heading, there are positions on Adult Literacy, Children's Services, Domestic Violence, Drug and Controlled Substances (Abuse, Policies, and Laws in Maryland), Drunk Driving, Education, Equality of Opportunity (marriage & civil unions), Health Care Appeals, and Housing.

Proposals for editing current positions and new studies include:

Death with Dignity

Civic Education in Schools

What is Maryland doing to take care of our Aging Population

Possible LWVMD study suggestions from LWVMC members:

How local governments get their power from the State. Each County can then add its own component as to how their local government incorporates these powers and customizes themselves. This might include incorporated towns / cities or not.

How a property might be combined into one jurisdiction, when it crosses county boundaries as happened in Takoma Park. Or how communities adapt to two counties as happens in Riderwood and others.

Transportation and implications for public policy. Infrastructure initiatives, including those with federal support.

PART 2: LWVNCA PROGRAM

LWVNCA positions are in your Member Handbook on pp. 53-57. There are positions on Airports, Beltway Safety, Comprehensive Health Planning, Controlled Substances, D.C. Financing, Land Use/Housing, Regional Governance, Transportation, and Water Resources.

The LWVNCA Board has recommended for possible study:

Please rank 1.2.3.

- Charter Schools vs Public Schools
- Human Trafficking
- Regional Transportation follow-up; Metro funding
- Fracking and Consequences
- Alternative Energy Sources
- Electoral College

PART 3: LWVMC PROGRAM

Our LWVMC positions are in your Member Handbook on pp. 24a - 40. We have positions on Agricultural Policy, Budget Process, Charter and County Government, Child Care, Children's Services, Corrections, Education, Elderly, Election Process, Fire & Rescue Services, Health Care, Housing & Public Accommodations, Land Use Planning, Local Revenue, Police Services, and Transportation.

Ongoing studies from 2016-17 being proposed for re-adoption for 2017-18:

Pre-school education (Education Committee) - Are the preschool programs in Montgomery County Public Schools strong enough to abolish or diminish the achievement gap? The Education Committee has been addressing this question, as well as other topics concerning early education in our first year of the two-year study approved last year. We are asking for re-adoption for the second year.

Rental Housing (Housing Committee) - The committee has been investigating local housing policies regarding all rental housing including affordable housing and short term rentals and plans to continue this study next year.

Economic Development - Montgomery County has completely revamped and reorganized the area of economic development. Plans are to continue to learn more about these new policies and organization for 2017-2018.

Information or updates suggested include:

County Council – How does it work? Number of members, how they're elected and who do they represent? What are the committees and responsibilities? Powers of the Council? Basic calendar items for their agenda. Fact Sheet could be used for our Speaker's Bureau, available to new residents or voters, in realtors' packets, etc.

County Executive Office – Departments under the County Executive? Boards? Committees? Commissions? Basic calendar items for their agenda? Fact Sheet could be used for our Speaker's Bureau, available to new residents or voters, in realtors' packets, etc.

Planning Department – Planning Board and selection of members? Terms? Planning Department responsibilities – Sector plans, Master plans, Zoning, Design, Statistics, Subdivision Staging Policy

Healthcare and Affordable Care Act update / revisions and changes under a new Administration

Redistricting – Efforts for pre-census boundary determinations

Polling Place Support Program – Evaluation and going forward

Health care – Clarity in designations of care (emergency, in-patient, observation, out-patient) services provided, and how coverage is determined

Mobile Med and use by county residents

New LWVMC studies (possibly consensus) suggested include:

Health and Human Services: A study of substance use and treatment in Montgomery County – 2 years

Status of Technical Education in the county: What is being offered? Which high schools are providing to how many students? Success of programs' attendance and job placement figures; Current League position; Need to change position?

Trending Topics Suggestions:

Sexual harassment / abuse

How voting polls operate

Recruitment of Women – Female as President

“Salon” about Alice Paul

Young voters: increasing voter registration, voting and participation

Housing affordability

Traffic – Road congestion, BRT Plan, Purple Line updates, MARC Brunswick expansion

Transportation Planning Board (MWCOG/TPB) and “Activity Centers”

Electoral College

Dedicated funding for Metro --- also for Discussion Groups

Food Security - 2016 County Bill: Health and Sanitation Strategic Plan to Achieve Food Security
--- also for Discussion Groups

Juvenile Justice - Findings of the county’s “School-to-Prison-Pipeline” report. Juveniles’ access to
Attorneys trained in juvenile law --- also for Discussion Groups