

POSITIONS IN BRIEF

Summarized from

LWVUS, LWVCOLORADO, LWVJEFFCO Position Books

League of Women Voters of The United States Principles

(source: LWWUS Impact on Issues 2020-2022 p10)

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination. The League of Women Voters believes efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace

League of Women Voters of The United States

SUMMARY OF POLICY POSITIONS

(Source: Pages 11-16 League of Women Voters of the United States Impact on Issues 2020-2022)

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting. Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics (formerly campaign finance). Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhances political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influenced in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Voter Representation/Electoral Systems Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Public Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions

Amendment Proposals. Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.

Constitutional Conventions. Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability, effective performance, and transparency.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers; expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.
Arms Control Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Resource Management & Protection

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Climate Change.

Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

Federal Agriculture Policies. Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal

government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Education, Employment, and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Human Trafficking

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

Principles

In addition to the LWVUS Principles LWVCO has adopted the following principle:

Sustainability is a way of life that seeks a balance in meeting current environmental, economic, and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal. The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voter. League positions follow the fundamental principle of Sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

POSITIONS IN BRIEF

(Source: Pages 11-14 of the Positions for Action League of Women Voters of Colorado 2019 – 2021)

GOVERNMENT

Voting

Voting Rights: Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

Voting Methods: Support authorizing and implementing alternatives to plurality voting that improve the election experience, encourage honest voting and consider ease of implementation.

Elections

Redistricting Legislative and Congressional Districts: Support of measures to establish an agency other than the General Assembly to redistrict the Colorado General Assembly and the Colorado Congressional Districts. Support of redrawing the districts of both houses of the state legislature and the Colorado U.S. Congressional Districts based on specific criteria.

Campaign Finance/Money in Politics (MIP): Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influenced in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing Super PACS, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Initiative Process: Support for more stringent requirements for the passage of constitutional amendments than for initiated statutes and protection from legislative change for initiated statutes for a minimum of two years.

Selection of the President: Promote the election of the president and vice-president by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with enough information about candidates.

Citizens' Rights

Citizens' Right to Know/Public Participation: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties: Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Colorado Constitution: Support for clarity of language and suitability of topic and detail in proposed constitutional amendments.

Reproductive Choice: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

General Assembly and Local Government

General Assembly: Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability, effective performance, and transparency.

Local Government: Local governments should be accountable, responsive, flexible, efficient, effective, able to raise enough revenues to perform their duties, and have adequate constitutional and statutory powers to cope effectively.

Transportation

Support for a state Department of Transportation to plan and coordinate all transportation modes in order to provide a balanced transportation system in Colorado that considers the needs of regional, county, and local governments. Funding for transportation should come from federal, state, and local sources. permitting and monitoring of oil and gas operation in the state. Support improved coordination with local government and strong environmental regulations..

Fiscal Policy

Fiscal Policy: Support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive and incorporates social, environmental, and economic goals. Oppose earmarking of funds and sales tax on food.

School Finance for Pre-K-12: Support for a state finance system that would equalize opportunity and relieve the property tax.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Planning and Management

Support measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of governmental units within the state of Colorado and measures that promote integrated planning for environmental management, wise use of Colorado's natural resources, comprehensive statewide planning for land use, and a balanced transportation system. Support policies that enhance public participation in the permitting and monitoring of oil and gas operations in the state.

Climate Change.

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet and steps must be taken to protect the globe immediately.

Land Use

Support responsible land use planning by all levels of government. Support the creation of regional boards and commissions to address regional concerns.

Air Quality

Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy

Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Hydraulic Fracking: Support policies that enhance public participation in the permitting and monitoring of oil and gas operation in the state. Support improved coordination with local government and strong environmental regulations.

Water

Support of measures that promote the wise and balanced use of water in Colorado.

Waste Management

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Hazardous Materials

Support for adequate safeguards in the production, transportation, use, treatment, disposal, and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials

SOCIAL POLICY

Equality of Opportunity

Equality of Opportunity: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Income Assistance: Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

Housing: Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Education: Support of a pre-K through 12 public education system in which a balanced curriculum of humanities, arts, and sciences leads to life-long learning for all students. Support of a stronger leadership role for the Colorado Department of Education to promote educational improvements and standards for early childhood education.

Higher Education: Higher education is a primary educational, research, cultural, and economic force in Colorado. The State of Colorado has a responsibility to support its public institutions of higher education and to assist the people of Colorado in attaining a post-secondary education.

Child Care

Child Care: Support state licensing and continued oversight by an adequate number of trained staff and ensure availability of affordable quality childcare to all children who need it.

Children's Support Systems: Support measures to encourage public responsibility for the protection, care, and training of children recognizing the primary importance of parental responsibility.

Health

Health Care: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

Behavioral Health: Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care including needed medications and supportive services that are integrated with, and achieve parity with, physical health care.

Justice

Justice System: Support of nonpartisan selection of judges on an appointive-retentive basis; measures that facilitate efficient administration of justice rather than incarceration for nonviolent offenders; sentencing measures that protect the community: compensation of victims and the community for the crimes of adult offenders: rehabilitation of offenders: and emphasizing the use of community-based sanctions.

Juvenile Justice: Support of a juvenile justice system that has as its primary purpose the rehabilitation, safety, and well-being of the offender. Support of a system that promotes the juvenile's understanding of the harm done and his/ her responsibility to make amends to the victim and the community, emphasizes alternatives to detention or commitment and promotes the protection of the community, and the juvenile's successful reentry into the community.

Death Penalty: Support abolition of the death penalty.

Gun Safety

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Immigration/Trafficking

Immigration: Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Human Trafficking: Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO

LOCAL PROGRAM IN BRIEF

(Source: Pages 4-5 Program and History 1953-2017: A Guide to Public Policy Positions

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO)

GOVERNMENT

Governmental Solutions: Support of governmental solutions most suitable to the needs of Jefferson County.

Boards and Commissions: Support of structures, procedures and practices for elected and appointed boards and commissions committees and special districts, which insure accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, effective performance and openness.

County Government: Support for increasing county commissioners from three to five members.

Fiscal Policy: Support policies that promote fiscal responsibility, efficiency, economy, transparency, long range planning, and the inclusion of citizens in the financial process. Budgeting should strive to provide adequate funds for programs and services.

Library: Support for the property tax as the primary means of funding a library system.

Highways: Support for evaluation and assessment of costs, long term environmental, economic and social implications in an open and transparent method before a road or highway is built or improved.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use: Support of an integrated, total county approach to planning which provides for the diverse needs of the members of the community while ensuring environmental quality. Support of county-wide wildfire mitigation efforts.

Open Space: Support of the Jefferson County Open Space program as a county-wide program, funded by a sales tax. Support of procedures and criteria for the use of Open Space funds for development.

Environmental Hazards: Support of measures which provide residents with notification of hazards (including wildfire hazards), safety measures and warning systems, related to man-made or natural hazards.

Noise Pollution: Support of implementation of noise standards by local governments with adequate funding for enforcement.

Sustainability: Support of a way of life, which seeks to balance environmental, economic, and human needs, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal.

Wildlife: Support for the conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats for the contribution they make toward the health and sustainability of the environment.

SOCIAL POLICY

Education

Administration / Finance: Support of policies, which promote efficient administrative and financial practices in the Jefferson County School District.

Quality Education: Support for a Jefferson County School budget that provides a high quality of education for all.

Charter Schools: Promote conscientious review of charter school applications and renewals along with comprehensive and continual oversight of charter schools in Jefferson County.

Housing

Support well-planned diversified types and densities of housing with access to public transportation for all income levels. Dispersed low-income housing as an integral part of the community. Support of shelters and transitional housing in Jefferson County as emergency and short-term housing measures with emphasis on assisting people to become self-sufficient. Support manufactured homes, accessory dwelling units, shared housing, and accessible homes for families, individuals, seniors, and disabled in landscaped and regulated settings with adequate open space.

Health Care Services

Support of Jefferson County government leadership in developing health policy and in facilitating and coordinating delivery of physical and mental health care services for county residents. High priority is placed on preventive care, primary care and emergency care. Health services should be evaluated in terms of accountability, availability, and equitable financing.

Human Trafficking (LWVUS Position 2014)

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Consider human trafficking to be a form of modern-day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent it. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

Income Inequality:

Supports policies that lead to reducing income inequality and to promoting inclusive and sustainable prosperity.