

FOREWORD

Where We Stand 2009-2011 is the platform of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. It is a companion to **Impact on Issues**, the League of Women Voters of the United States' program book. Taken together, these publications and the **League Principles** (pg. 1) form the basis for all action taken by Illinois Leagues on state and national issues.

PROGRAM Where We Stand reflects the LWVIL program – state positions and action foci – adopted at the 2009 Convention and is designed to assist local Leagues in using the state program effectively. The material is organized into four topic sections: Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Each section begins with a summary of relevant LWVUS positions and major action taken by Illinois Leagues under those positions. LWVIL positions are then listed in full, followed by a brief history (background) of how the League arrived at the positions and recent action taken, with references to the interrelationship between positions. A two page, camera-ready position summary, **Positions in Brief**, is included; local Leagues are encouraged to reprint this section for their members.

ACTION Local Leagues are encouraged to apply national and state positions to local and/or regional issues. Before taking action on national issues, local Leagues must consult with the LWVIL Issues and Action VP and the national League. Before taking action on statewide issues, local Leagues must consult with the LWVIL Issues and Action VP. On regional issues, local Leagues must consult with all affected Leagues. See “Action Guidelines for Local Leagues” (pg. 77) for consultation guidelines.

PURPOSE The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots, multi-issue organization. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League, male or female, may become a member of the League. The League's purposes are:

- To establish positions on public policy through member participation and agreement.
- To take concerted actions that secure policies consistent with League positions.
- To enhance citizen participation in federal, state and local government decisions.
- To increase citizen participation in the election process.

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