



## PROPOSED 2010-2012 LWVUS PROGRAM

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### **THE PROGRAM ADOPTION PROCESS**

The vote on the Proposed Program at Convention 2010 will be the culmination of months of Program planning by state and local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs). From October through March 1, 2010, local and state Leagues and ILOs met and discussed League Program and submitted their recommendations to the LWVUS. A total of 273 Leagues participated in Program planning. Of these participating Leagues, 77 chose no study, while the remainder chose review, study or concurrence. In March 2010, the LWVUS Board adopted a Proposed Program. Delegates to Convention will vote on the Proposed Program and on any not-recommended items submitted in accordance with the LWVUS bylaws and voted consideration by the Convention delegates.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRIEF**

The LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Government, International Relations (as amended), Natural Resources and Social Policy for the 2010-2012 biennium. The LWVUS Board proposes a concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position on the floor of Convention (as detailed on pp. 3-4). Based on the Program planning responses from state and local Leagues and ILOs, the LWVUS Board recommends a study of the “Federal Role in Public Education.” Seventy-one (71) Leagues recommended the study. The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time. The LWVUS Board’s entire recommended Program is outlined in detail on p. 3.

### **NOT-RECOMMENDED ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

A list of not-recommended items proposed by Leagues is listed on p. 5. To be moved for consideration at Convention, a not-recommended item must be listed on p. 5, indicating that it met the bylaws deadline for submission of March 1, 2010. Not-recommended items must be moved for and granted consideration before delegates can debate adopting them as amendments or substitutes to the Proposed Program. Those moving for consideration for concurrence at Convention must have met the requirements of LWVUS Bylaws Article XII, Sec2(b). Delegates advocating a not-recommended item should refer to Convention Rule 10.

### **TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM ADOPTION**

- ❖ Join the LWVUS Convention Preparation discussion list to promote your issue and learn of other Program recommendations. You can sign up for the Convention list on the LWV website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by going to the Council & Convention section of the For Members section and clicking on “Discussion Lists.”
- ❖ Read this LWVUS Program portion of the Convention booklet’s workbook section and talk to your members before you head to Convention. Delegates go to Convention “informed, but not instructed.”
- ❖ Attend pre-Convention briefings. If you are a first-time delegate, seek advice from more experienced delegates.
- ❖ Check the Convention booklet’s program section for the Order of Business.
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with Convention Rule 10 on Program Adoption.
- ❖ Know all the Rules and use the Tips on Parliamentary Procedure.
- ❖ Attend the Program Q&As.

- ❖ Go to caucuses sponsored by delegates promoting Program items. The state or local League calling the caucus decides whether anyone other than state and local delegates may attend – including national Board members and staff, Convention visitors, and special guests.
- ❖ Watch the microphones. In the early stages of discussion, the chair recognizes the floor microphones in continuous sequence. When the Convention seems ready for debate, microphones are designated pro and con, so delegates can hear each point of view presented alternately.
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with League Program by reading *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*. No printed copies will be available at Convention so we suggest you bring a copy if you feel you will need one. You may download and print this publication from the LWVUS website.
- ❖ Leave Convention ready to support the Program adopted by delegates. Vigorous debate that ends in organizational commitment is the League way.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR A PROGRAM ITEM

Some Leagues organize campaigns around the Proposed Program or not-recommended items.

- ❖ If you want to promote your issue before Convention, you may want to contact all Leagues to seek support. Once annually a League may order from the LWVUS ([database@lww.org](mailto:database@lww.org)) a list of the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of state and local League and ILO presidents/co-presidents. The list will be transmitted electronically, and there is no charge for this service. (If mailing labels are requested, a fee will be charged.)
- ❖ Join the LWVUS Convention Preparation discussion list to promote your issue and learn of other Program recommendations. To sign up, follow directions under the first bullet in TIPS on p. 1.
- ❖ Consult the parliamentarian, Ann Gilton, at [agilton@roadrunner.com](mailto:agilton@roadrunner.com). She is a neutral source of information.
- ❖ To move an item for consideration, it must be on the list on page 5. The motion would read “*I move consideration of the not-recommended item (give exact wording of the item you are proposing) as an amendment to the Proposed Program.*” Check Convention Rule 10 for the

sequence of presentation and voting. Make sure your motion is clearly (and grammatically) stated.

- ❖ Hold a caucus to promote your issue. Advertise the caucus to interested delegates. Address the issues as passionately as you want, but avoid personal attacks. League policy calls for anyone inviting a non-League speaker to address a caucus or other delegate-sponsored event to request permission from the LWVUS president in advance. Observance of this long-standing League protocol is appreciated.
- ❖ Ask for help in understanding the process, before and during Convention, by contacting LWVUS Program Chair Norman Turrill at [LWVTurrill@mac.com](mailto:LWVTurrill@mac.com) or LWVUS Program Planning staff: Betsy Lawson and Christina Vamvas at the League office 202-263-1329/8 or by e-mail at [blawson@lww.org](mailto:blawson@lww.org) and [cvamvas@lww.org](mailto:cvamvas@lww.org).

## PROGRAM ADOPTION AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, June 13, Morning Plenary Session

Board member presents the Proposed Program and moves for its adoption. *Questions for clarification one minute; no debate or amendments.*

Delegates may move consideration of not-recommended items as amendments or substitutes for the Proposed Program. *Questions for clarification one minute; no debate or amendments. Vote for consideration; majority required.*

### Monday, June 14, Morning Plenary Session

Debate, possible amendments. Vote on the Proposed Program and any concurrences on the floor that were granted consideration. *Two-thirds vote to adopt concurrence on the floor of Convention.*

Those granted consideration are debated, possibly amended and voted on in the order granted consideration. *Majority vote to adopt.*

**Check the Convention schedule for Program Planning Q&As, Delegate Caucuses and Parliamentary Briefings for additional information. Also check the Convention Rules and Procedures, in the Workbook section.**

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2010-2012

Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations (as amended), Natural Resources and Social Policy.

The LWVUS Board proposes a concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position (below) on the Convention floor.

The LWVUS Board recommends a study of the “Federal Role in Public Education.” Seventy-one (71) Leagues recommended the study. The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.

### PROPOSED UPDATED ARMS CONTROL POSITION

*Explanation of notations: Brackets [ ] denote words to be deleted. Underlining \_\_\_\_\_ denotes words to be added. Each paragraph is numbered to correspond to paragraphs in the position as stated in Impact on Issues, 2008-2010, except for paragraphs #4, #5 and #22.*

#1. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that arms control measures are essential to reduce the risk of war and increase global stability. Toward that end, the U.S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that:

- ❖ Limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;
- ❖ Limit proliferation and prohibit first use of nuclear weapons;
- ❖ Prohibit first use and possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons;
- ❖ Prohibit explosive testing of nuclear weapons;
- ❖ Reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

#2. While these objectives should receive the highest level of attention, the U.S. government also should negotiate measures that inhibit the development and improvement of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons that increase

incentives to attack first in a period of crisis.

- #3. [As a long term goal,] As a goal of international negotiations, the League supports the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.
- #4. The League of Women Voters recognizes that peace in an interdependent world is a product of cooperation among nations and therefore strongly favors multilateral negotiations. Leadership by the United States in advancing arms control measures through negotiations and periodic review is encouraged.
- #5. Given the potential for worldwide proliferation of nuclear technology, efforts involving all countries are essential to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to protect commonly held nuclear weapons-free regions such as the seabed and outer space. Multilateral efforts are appropriate as well to achieve bans on the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons; and to achieve limitations on the transfer or trade of all weapons.
- #6. The League of Women Voters [believes, however, that for arms control to be effective, bilateral efforts are also necessary. Bilateral efforts] also supports bilateral arms control efforts which may be especially appropriate in negotiations to limit, safeguard and reduce quantities of weapons. The League believes that unilateral initiatives are not the most appropriate means to achieve arms control.
- #7. The League does not support tying progress in arms control to other issues. The League believes that arms control is too important in and of itself and too crucial to all nations to be linked to other foreign and military policy goals.
- #8. The League of Women Voters believes that arms control measures should be evaluated in terms of the following factors:
- #9. EQUITY. The terms should be mutually beneficial, and each nation’s security and interests should be adequately protected, as should the security of all nations. Equity does not necessarily require equality in numbers of weapons but may be achieved through a relative balance in capabilities.

- #10. VERIFIABILITY. Each party should be able to ensure that other parties comply with the terms of the agreement, whether using national technical means (such as satellites, seismic sensors and electronic monitors) or on-site inspection. The League recognizes the role that multilateral and international institutions can play in assisting verification efforts and believes it is extremely important to ensure compliance, [recognizing] acknowledging that absolute certainty is unattainable.
- #11. Equity and verifiability are critical in efforts to limit and reduce quantities of weapons and to prohibit the possession and spread of nuclear weapons.
- #12. CONFIDENCE-BUILDING. Each party should be assured of the political or military intentions of other parties. Fostering confidence is vital in efforts to stem the development and proliferation of weapons and prohibit [the] their first use; and to reduce tensions.
- #13. WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT. All appropriate parties should participate in and approve the results of the negotiating process. However, the League recognizes that, in specific cases, progress can be achieved even though some key parties do not participate.
- #14. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The quality of the earth's environment should be protected from the effects of weapons testing or use. Environmental protection has special significance in negotiations [to prohibit the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons and to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons] regarding all weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional weapons that have residual effects.
- #15. CONTINUITY. Negotiations should build on past agreements and should be directed toward future negotiations whenever feasible. Innovative thinking and new approaches should, however, be encouraged when appropriate.
- FURTHER GUIDELINES**
- #16. League support of arms control measures includes actions on proposals, negotiations and agreements.
- #17. The League supports efforts to achieve quantitative limits or reductions that focus on nuclear warheads, non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction, missiles and other delivery systems, antiballistic missiles, conventional weapons or troop levels.
- #18. The League advocates limits on the spread or proliferation of weapons, [to inhibit transfers of] nuclear technology, and fissile materials. [or weapons from one nation to another or to a geographic region]The League opposes the proliferation of weapons, nuclear technology and fissile materials to non-state actors or to commonly held areas such as the seabed or outer space. The League supports establishing effective international monitoring, accounting and control of such transfers.
- #19. The League's pursuit of bans on the possession or use of weapons may apply to existing weapons or those not yet developed.
- #20. The League seeks to reduce tensions through better means of communication, exchange of information or prior notification of military tests and maneuvers in order to avoid the risks of miscalculation or accident. Other League-supported measures to reduce tensions and create a climate of trust among nations include scientific and cultural exchanges, conflict resolution training, and strengthening the United Nations and its supporting agencies. Efforts are encouraged to mediate regional issues and arrive at negotiated settlements to minimize arms build-ups and avoid conflicts. The United States should keep lines of communication open.
- #21. The League supports efforts to inhibit the development and improvement of weapons through qualitative limits, including limits on testing of weapons. These constraints may be selective or comprehensive in their application.
- #22. Efforts to improve the arms control regime of international laws, oversight bodies and verification modalities are also supported, and U.S. engagement and leadership in this regard is encouraged. The League supports diligence by the United States in meeting the terms of ratified arms control agreements and in reviewing their effectiveness over time.

## LIST OF NOT-RECOMMENDED ITEMS

*(Numbers in parentheses indicate number of League recommendations 10 and over)*

### PROPOSED CONCURRENCES

Fossil Fuel and Rock Mining (11)  
Marriage Equality  
National Popular Vote  
Financial Institutions

### ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDY OR REVIEW

Agriculture  
Apportionment / Redistricting  
Basic Human Needs  
Campaign Finance Reform (20)  
Citizen's Right to Vote  
DC Voting Rights  
Department of Peace  
Drug Policy and Criminal Sentencing  
Early Voting  
Economic Growth and Job Creation  
Environmental Protection and Pollution Control (15)  
Equality of Opportunity  
ERA  
Financial Industry (10)  
Fiscal Policy  
Foreclosures  
Health Care  
Individual Liberties  
Instant Run Off Voting  
Marriage Equality  
Military Policy and Defense Spending  
Natural Resources  
Nuclear Issues  
Privatization  
Presidency  
Proportional Representation  
Relations with Developing Countries  
Representative Government  
Social Policy  
Trade  
Violence Prevention  
Voting Systems

## SUMMARY OF LWVUS POSITIONS

### 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.

**Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

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

### CITIZEN RIGHTS

**Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

**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 and effective performance.

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

## **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.

### **U.S. RELATIONS WITH 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.

### **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.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL**

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 Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

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

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

## **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.

## **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.

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

## **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 access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

### **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 for essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** 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**

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

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.