

State Leagues and the Death Penalty

Following is a list of State Leagues which have adopted positions on the death penalty or have responded to the death penalty situations in their states in some way. Explore the websites below. They contain a wealth of research and information.

Abolition Positions

Illinois: The League supports abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. http://www.lwvil.org/where_we_stand/government.doc

Iowa: The League of Women Voters of Iowa opposes capital punishment and its reinstatement in Iowa. <http://www.lwvia.org/Positions.htm#justice>

Kansas: The LWVK opposes a death penalty for the following reasons:

1. It is not a deterrent to others.
2. A guilty person may be acquitted because juries may be less willing to return a guilty verdict if the penalty is death.
3. An innocent person may be wrongfully convicted.
4. It is too costly to the state in terms of legal fees and court time.

<http://www.lwvk.org/files/cjs.pdf>

Maryland: The League supports the abolition of the death penalty in Maryland. <http://www.lwvmd.org/ELib/LWVMD-deathpenalty.html>
<http://www.lwvmd.org/position.html#LAW>

Massachusetts: The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has steadfastly opposed the death penalty since 1985.

[http://www.lwvma.org/PDFFiles/Testimony%20-%20Capital%20Punishment%207-14-05%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.lwvma.org/PDFFiles/Testimony%20-%20Capital%20Punishment%207-14-05%20(2).pdf)

Michigan: "The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the Michigan constitutional prohibition on enactment of a death penalty." http://www.lwvmi.org/p_prison.htm (near bottom of page)

Minnesota: The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports abolition of the death penalty and opposes its reinstatement in Minnesota. This concurrence with the LWV of Illinois position was adopted at 2004 LWVMN Council. <http://www.lwvmn.org/ProgramAtAGlance.asp>

New Jersey: The League of Women Voters of New Jersey believes that capital punishment should not be a sentencing option for murder or any other crime. <http://www.lwvnj.org/action/StudyAction2005-2007.pdf>

New York: The League of Women Voters of New York State opposes the death penalty. <http://www.lwvny.org/dpposition.htm>

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Ohio: The LWVO supports the following: (1) Abolition of the death penalty; (2) A moratorium on the use of the death penalty. www.lwvohio.org/possummary.htm (the website is currently under construction, and the position may not yet be posted --under Social Policy).

Wisconsin: The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is proud of our state's long tradition of support of fair and humane criminal sanctions for capital offenders. Reinstating the death penalty in Wisconsin, we believe, would do great violence to this tradition and undo 148 years of state history. <http://www.lwvwi.org/positions/summaries/capitalpunish.htm>

Other Positions/Activity

Florida: The LWV of Florida has no position, but in the fall of 2005, the LWV Florida board voted to sign a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty as drafted by the State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator for Florida (SDPAC) of Amnesty International USA. The executed resolution will be sent with others collected by SDPAC at a propitious time to the Governor and to all members of the Florida House and Senate

Pennsylvania: The LWV of Pennsylvania supports government action for a moratorium on the death penalty in Pennsylvania. <http://pa.lwv.org/issues/deathpenalty.html> The state League position supporting a moratorium was adopted by concurrence with the position of the LWV of Greater Pittsburgh in 2003.

Texas: *The Texas position supports the reformation of the capital punishment system in Texas and the establishment of a moratorium on all executions in Texas while an official study of the capital punishment system is conducted.*

Study: http://www.lwvtexas.org/PDF%20Files/IS_CapPun.pdf <http://www.lwvtexas.org/wesupporttxt.shtml>

Connecticut and New Mexico: *The Leagues in these states are currently engaged in capital punishment studies which will be concluded prior to the LWVUS convention.*

Connecticut <http://www.lwvct.org/issues/death-penalty>

New Mexico <http://www.lwvnm.org/deathpenalty.html>