



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
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## **LWVCO PROGRAM POSITIONS IN BRIEF 2007-2009**

### **GOVERNMENT**

#### **APPORTIONMENT**

Support of an independent commission to reapportion the Colorado state legislature. Support of apportionment of both houses of the state legislature and Colorado U.S. congressional districts based on specific criteria.

#### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

##### **Action at the State Level on National Position.**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, allow maximum citizen participation in the political process, and close the "soft money" loophole that allows large, unregulated contributions to circumvent existing laws.

This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office--presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

#### **COLORADO CONSTITUTION**

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

#### **FISCAL POLICY**

Support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs through an equitable tax

system that is progressive and which incorporates social, environmental and economic goals. Oppose earmarking of funds and sales tax on food.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, and effective performance. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within a constitutional framework.

#### **GUN CONTROL**

##### **Action at the State Level on National Position.**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons.

#### **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.

#### **JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Support of non-partisan selection of judges on an appointive-retentive basis (reaffirmed in 1977).

In 1993, the following positions were adopted:

Support of measures which facilitate efficient administration of justice rather than incarceration

for nonviolent offenders.

Support of sentencing measures that protect the community, compensate victims and the community for the crimes of adult offenders, rehabilitate offenders, and emphasize 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.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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

## **PRECINCT CAUCUS/ASSEMBLY SYSTEM**

In partisan elections, to assure grass-roots involvement, League supports the continuation of the historic system of precinct caucuses and party assemblies and conventions by the political parties.

## **REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE**

### **Action at the State Level on National Position.**

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

## **SCHOOL FINANCE (K-12)**

Support for a state finance system that would equalize opportunity and relieve the property tax.

## **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 which gives consideration to the needs of regional, county and local governments. Funding for transportation should come from federal, state and local sources.

## **VOTING RIGHTS**

### **Action at the State Level on National Position**

Protect the right of every citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. (LWVUS, 1986)

## **AIR QUALITY**

### **Action at the State Level on National Position**

## **ENERGY**

### **Action at the State Level on National Position.**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

Support of measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of governmental units within the state of Colorado and measures which promote integrated planning for environmental management, wise use of Colorado's water resources and other natural resources, comprehensive statewide planning for land use, and a balanced transportation system.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Support for adequate safeguards in the production, transportation, use, treatment, disposal, and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials. (Regarding disposal and storage: the intent is to

locate and/or maintain a suitable site or sites for the disposal and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials, not to totally prohibit the location of sites in Colorado.)

## **LAND USE**

LWVCO supports responsible land use planning by all levels of government. While recognizing that most authority for planning is vested in local governments, LWVCO supports the creation of regional boards and commissions to address regional concerns.

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL**

### **Action at the State Level on National Position**

The League supports policies to reduce the generation and to promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous waste; policies to ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health, air, water and land resources; and planning and decision-making processes that recognize suitable solid and hazardous wastes as potential resources.

## **WATER**

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

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

**LWVUS:** Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, achieve universal health care coverage at reasonable cost, promote the well-being of children, and combat discrimination, poverty and violence.

## **CHILD CARE**

Support state licensing and continued oversight by an adequate number of trained staff, and ensure availability of affordable quality child care to all children who need it.

## **CHILDREN'S SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

Support measures to encourage public responsibility for the protection, care, and training of children, while recognizing the primary importance of parental responsibility. Support measures to insure public responsibility for encouraging the implementation of preventive programs in the interest of optimal child development.

## **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.

## **EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

LWV believes in our nation's commitment to civil rights laws that ensure equality of opportunity and protection from discrimination.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary.

## **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 postsecondary education.

State activities should be carried out with appropriate input from all concerned parties, including the general public.

Governance:

- The League believes the state should emphasize coordination rather than control over higher education.

- The League believes institutional latitude and flexibility should be encouraged but with state oversight.
- The Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education should be led and staffed by professionals with relevant skills and/or experience and be free from political influence.

Financing:

- The League supports a sustainable funding mechanism for public higher education that will provide quality postsecondary programs across the state.
- The League supports sustainable funding for financial aid programs in order to provide access to higher education for all qualified Colorado students.

Access to Higher Education and Persistence by Students:

- The League believes that all qualified students should have the opportunity to attend postsecondary education and that successful participation should be facilitated by a variety of resources.
- Preschool, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education should be viewed

as a continuum leading to life-long learning.

**HOUSING**

**Action Taken at State Level on National Position**

Criteria to apply to programs and policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family:

- The responsibility for achieving housing goals rests primarily with the federal government which should assure that there is sufficient decent housing for all.
- Gives incentives to local jurisdictions to achieve these goals.
- Provides assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing when necessary.
- Develops policies that assure sufficient land at reasonable cost on which to develop housing.

See LWVUS [Impact on Issues](#) for more detailed criteria.

**INCOME ASSISTANCE (WELFARE)**

**Action Taken at State Level on LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs Position.**

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

Review this handout and bring it to our

**Health Care Update and State Program Planning meeting**

**Tuesday, January 13, 11:45-1:45**

**Room 3, Durango Public Library (upstairs)**

Jill Patton, health care portfolio director, will update us on the many things going on in health care at the local, state and national level, followed by Marilyn Brown, LWVCO board secretary, facilitating our discussion of state positions, summarized above, and prioritization of a few for focus on action. We will briefly confirm our priorities for action at the national level.