

# **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS**

## **LWVNYS - 2017-2018<sup>1</sup>**

### **ELECTION LAW**

**UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS Support** of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise, including paperless and Election Day registration, no-excuse absentee and in-person early voting. Restore integrity to the election process – specifically support for uniformity in election laws and procedures in their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; support ballot access and fair campaign practices.

**Support** comprehensive campaign finance reform, including public financing of campaigns.

**Opposition** to term limits for members of the NYS Legislature.

**Opposition** to term limits for NYS statewide elected officials.

#### ***Ballot Access Consensus Results***

**New position:** The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the continuation of Fusion Voting in New York State whether or not Wilson-Pakula is repealed.

#### ***Constitutional Convention Update Results***

**New Position:** The League supports the following reforms as positive factors in deciding on support for a constitutional convention. Delegates should be elected by a fair nonpartisan process that complies with federal voting rights provisions and eases ballot access to encourage participation by racial and other minorities. Public financing should be provided for candidates and their positions on issues and convention goals should be widely publicized to enable voters to cast informed votes at their election. Statewide office holders, state or federal legislators, and state judges should not serve as delegates.

### **GOVERNMENT**

**UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS Support** of citizen rights, including reproductive rights.

**Support** of effective regulation of lobbying and ethics.

**Support** of standards to ensure equitable representation in the State legislature and Congress.

**Support** of improved measures to provide representation for legislative districts in case of a vacancy.

**Support** of responsive and responsible legislative processes which increase the role of the individual member and the committee system.

**Support** of procedural reforms in the constitutional convention process to promote openness and nonpartisanship.

**Support** of the consolidation of government/shared services when it promotes effective and efficient operation of government.

### **HEALTH CARE**

**Support** of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care, including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.

**Support** of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions, including extraordinary life-extending procedures.

**Support** for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing with single payer concept as an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment.

**Support** for the option of medical aid in dying for the terminally ill.

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<sup>1</sup> While Impact on Issues is now updated at the end of every legislative session, our positions are only updated after biennial convention.

## JUDICIAL

**Support** of a unified state court system with improved provisions for judicial selection.

**Support** of statewide guidelines for law enforcement at all levels to prevent racial and economic profiling.

**Support** of measures to improve pretrial procedures in the criminal courts.

**Support** of measures to promote a fair and efficient jury system.

**Support** the rights of indigent defendants to representation at public expense.

**Support** of alternatives to incarceration.

**Opposition** to the death penalty, with life without parole as the primary alternative.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS Support** for protection and management of New York's natural resources in the public interest, including energy conservation and energy options from renewable sources.

**Support** for measures to achieve watershed protection including limiting pesticide use and applying Best Management Practices.

**Support** for a state-established, intergovernmental system for land resource management.

**Support** for a proactive role for New York State in regional land use planning, containing urban sprawl and protecting sensitive areas.

**Support** of reconditioning of the New York State Erie/Barge Canal System and its development for recreational uses.

**Support** for preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem.

## SOCIAL POLICY

**UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS Support** for equality of opportunity, meeting basic human needs, childcare, energy-efficient and environmentally sound public transit, and gun control.

**Support** measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities

**Support** of a livable wage for all localities in New York State

## STATE FINANCES

**Support** reforms for greater equity in education financing (K-12) for both pupils and taxpayers.

**Support** raising funds to provide New York's children with a sound basic education through increases in the New York State personal income tax, implemented in a progressive fashion.

**Support** for the replacement of the existing local residential property tax relief programs in which relief goes to all with programs based on need, with annual cost of living adjustment.

**Oppose** in principle the use of public funds to support non-public schools (K-12).

**Oppose** any increase in the maximum number of charter schools without improvements to the Charter School Act.

**Support** the funding of public higher education and the existing formula for financing the community system, 1/3 tuition, 1/3 state aid, and 1/3 county support.

**Support** a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system.

**Support** of measures to provide for openness and accountability in the operation of the New York State public authority system.

**Support** of a timely and responsive state budget.

## WOMEN'S ISSUES

**Support** of measures that hold marriage to be an economic partnership with a presumption of equality between the spouses.

**Opposition** to measures that contain a presumption of joint custody of the children.

**Support** for equity in employment laws and practices and equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.

**Support** of measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.