



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters Newton Program Planning Part One: National Program 2010-2012

League program is a core component of the League's mission: it is a three-part process comprised of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. Because the League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization, its positions at *all* levels are based on members' study and consensus.

It is important to review our positions on a regular basis. Each year, Newton members review our local positions and provide direction to the Board for recommendations for annual meeting. Our local program planning will take place in mid-March; the March newsletter will have information about our local process.

Every two years, local and state leagues are invited to participate in the LWVUS program planning process by reviewing existing LWVUS positions and making recommendations for LWVUS program for the next two years. The LWVUS will adopt national program for 2010-2012 at its biennial convention that will take place June 11 - 15, 2010, in Atlanta.

LWVUS' current positions can be found in *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*; a pdf version is available online. We have a limited number of print copies for use by members (please email: program@lwnnewton.org if you would like to borrow one). LWVUS sponsored a webinar on national program planning, and the PowerPoint presentation and recording from this webinar can be found online. Additional information about this year's convention and program planning, including a list serve that you can join, is available on LWVUS' website. To access all of the online information, go to: www.lwv.org, then go to the pull-down menu under "Members" and click on "Council and Convention."

This year's national program planning process differs slightly from that of past years. Each local League can make **one** choice from the following:

1. *Review of existing position;*
2. *New study or program item;*
3. *Concurrence (agreeing with a position or statement; e.g., in 2006, LWVUS convention voted to concur with the LWV Illinois' Death Penalty Position); or*
4. *No recommendation (LWVUS would like Leagues to choose this if not recommending review, new study, or concurrence so they know how many Leagues actually did program planning).*

Several local or state Leagues are proposing new national studies and/or advocacy. The LWV of Kansas is recommending a study update on civic literacy in students and adults. The LWV Columbia/Boone County, MO is proposing the adoption of a national study to consider the establishment of a federal cabinet-level Department of Peace. The Leagues of Concord-Carlisle, MA, Boulder, CO and Mesa County, CO, are recommending advocacy for the "The Fair Elections Now Act" (H.R.1826, S. 752). (See: <http://www.campaignmoney.org/campaigns/main/fair-elections>). This is especially timely considering the recent US Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*.

The proposal that is the most complete is a proposal from several Leagues in California: Palo Alto, Los Altos/Mountain View, Berkeley/Albany, and Santa Monica. Their proposal is for a "Study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." The LWVUS does not have a position on public education; traditionally, education has been a local and state issue. But, in the past few years, the federal government has had increased involvement in local education.

The purpose of the proposal is: "To establish national League positions that would enable the League of Women Voters to:

- Review, consider, evaluate and advocate for or against federal education legislation;
- Advocate on issues related to what the federal role in public education should be;
- Join in coalition with other national organizations that speak out on issues of public education."

Please check the LWVNewton website (www.lwvnewton.org) for the program planning page with links to other League websites that include more information about these proposals.

LWV Newton will be having two national program planning meetings. Both will take place on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at two different times: the first from 4:30-6:00pm and the second from 7:00-8:30pm (members are welcome to stay for both!). The meetings will be held at Anne Borg's house (there will be refreshments). RSVP if you will be attending to: program@lwvnewton.org.

If you cannot attend either meeting, you can email your recommendation to program@lwvnewton.org, or use the tear-off below and mail to LWVNewton, PO Box 610207, Newton, MA 02461. Please respond by Monday, February 8. The Board will be considering member input and voting on a recommendation to LWVUS at its meeting on Tuesday, February 23 (all are welcome - the meeting will be held at Bonnie Carter's house). LWVNewton must submit its recommendation to LWVUS via the internet by March 1, 2010.

If you have questions or would like more information, please email: program@lwvnewton.org.