

## **LWVLA Program 2020-2021**

The League of Women Voters adopts and acts on positions through a multi-step study and consensus process. The League at each of its levels – National, State and Local – annually or bi-annually adopts a Program of official policy positions on issues it has reached consensus upon. LWVUS Program positions can be found in its publication entitled, *Impact on Issues*.

In accordance with a request from the National League, for purposes of their Program Planning and in anticipation of their National Convention this summer, we did complete a survey based on information we received during our Focus Groups. We also provided information on what work we have done at the local level and how it fit into their new National Program focus called “Campaign for Making Democracy Work” and which LWVUS Positions our local League has conducted activities on or about in the last 2 years.

### **LWVPA Program Positions 2020-2021**

“Where We Stand” is the official adopted state program of the LWVPA. At the State level, the League has adopted a Program of policy positions in three areas:

- **Representative Government**  
This Program includes positions on Apportionment and Redistricting; Election Laws; Governmental Authorities; Initiative and Referendum; the Judiciary; the Legislature; and Municipal Government.
- **Natural Resources**  
This program includes positions on Land Use and Natural Gas Extraction from Marcellus Shale.
- **Social Policy**  
This Program includes positions on Child Health and Welfare; Juvenile Justice; Collective Bargaining in The Public Sector; Education; Family Issues and Laws; Fiscal Policy; Gambling; and Transportation

### **LWVLA Program Positions 2020-2021**

#### **Regional Cooperation and Union County Planning (adopted 1970; updated 2007)**

Because planning is essential to a viable and sustainable community, the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area strongly supports planning in Union County. By a thoughtful effort to anticipate both changes and desirable continuity, planning furnishes guidance on the community’s behalf for choices made by municipal and county officials, developers, and individuals. It is especially important that it take place in a community that is observably growing and changing, as is the case in Union County.

Specifically, the League supports planning in a number of essential areas:

- To establish reasonable regulation of land use in order to encourage and enable fruitful zoning.

- To preserve farmland and encourage the continuance of rural living.
- To manage with thoughtful care the expansion of growing towns and suburbs.
- To protect and preserve the natural environment
- To preserve the health of watercourses, watersheds, aquifers, and wetlands.
- To provide opportunities for affordable housing and meaningful employment for all residents.
- To supply and maintain ample parks and other recreational sites and opportunities.
- To preserve historic sites and existing buildings, encouraging re-use rather than replacement.
- To supply and maintain such needed infrastructure as roads, water supply, sewerage, and storm water drainage.
- To coordinate, expand and update emergency services.

Planning and governing are made difficult by the arbitrary division of geography, responsibility, and authority among small municipal units. Therefore, the League strongly supports cooperation of all kinds that cross existing municipal boundaries to gain greater efficiency and more far-reaching effectiveness.

### **Election Procedures (adopted 1977; updated 2002, 2010, 2013)**

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area supports a county voting system that protects the right of all its citizens to vote and guarantees an accurate count of the votes cast. We support the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible.

Specifically the LWVLA supports:

1. Increased efforts to distribute Pennsylvania Voter Registration mail applications, making them visible and accessible to citizens throughout the county;
2. A limited number of voter registration opportunities to be held at well-frequented locations or events;
3. Careful adherence to state regulations governing voting procedures and the Help America Vote Act requirements.
4. Continued training sessions for all election officials. Sessions should include a carefully prepared explanation of duties by a qualified instructor, utilizing current teaching techniques and providing an updated manual.
5. Ongoing efforts to provide polling places accessible to all voters.
6. Advocacy of procedures which maximize enfranchisement and minimize disenfranchisement of voters, as well as opposition to laws and procedures which increase disenfranchisement.

### **Education (adopted 1990; updated 2004)**

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area supports the planning of facilities that:

1. Meet the needs of the school district's curricular and extra-curricular programs, recognizing that both implement the district's philosophy and educational goals;
2. Allow for the incorporation of technology into the curriculum and all aspects of school operations;
3. Are flexible and allow for changing curriculum, demographics, society, and community needs;
4. Reflect input from primary users, i.e. teachers, administrators, and students.

In assessing the cost of the proposed facilities, the League supports the use of methods that weigh costs and benefits, and take into account the long-term viability of the facilities.