

POSITIONS IN BRIEF

These statements are summaries of our positions. Before using a LWVIL position at the local and/or regional level, Leagues should refer to the complete position printed in *Where We Stand*, including background and previous action.

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS: LWVIL takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: Voting Rights; Election Process including apportionment, campaign finance and selection of the President (abolishment of the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment); Citizen Rights including citizen's right to know, citizen participation, individual liberties and public policy on reproductive choices; and Congress and the Presidency. (See LWVUS Impact on Issues.)

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS: LWVIL supports implementation of provisions for governmental change in the Local Government Article, and amendments to achieve merit selection of judges; a graduated income tax; the indirect statutory initiative and the recall of elected judges. The League maintains its support for positions already achieved in the Constitution but which may require effort to preserve.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: LWVIL supports expanded citizen initiative powers to change the structure of county government. Petition requirements for citizen-initiated change should be a percentage of actual voters in a recent jurisdiction-wide election. The League supports changes in the Illinois County Executive Act to provide a clear separation of powers between the legislative

and the executive branches and easily understood referendum language.

CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND SHARING OF MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES:

LWVIL supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review. Administrative and fiscal efficiency should be included in the criteria by which local governments consider whether to consolidate or share major services. *Where We Stand* lists a series of criteria to be considered.

STATE ELECTION LAWS: LWVIL supports uniform election laws and procedures throughout the state to ensure the integrity of the election system and opposes term limits for members of the General Assembly. The League believes that a good election system should provide stability and continuity of governance and should produce a legislature that addresses the problems of society effectively. It should be resistant to both outright fraud and other forms of political manipulation.

STATE REDISTRICTING: The League supports a redistricting process which is timely, orderly, and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POSITIONS:

LWVIL takes action on international relations issues only at the request of the LWVUS. These positions include: United Nations, Trade, U.S. Relations with Developing Countries, Arms Control, and Military Policy and Defense Spending.

NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS:

LWVIL takes action on the state level in the following areas based on these LWVUS positions: Agriculture Policy; Environmental Protection and Pollution Control; Natural Resources; Public Participation; and Resource Management.

LAND USE: LWVIL supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources and providing needed open space. The State should identify, plan for and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the State with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional, and state sources.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES: The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees. Enabling legislation should strive to effect some standardization of impact fee programs statewide with flexibility for each to be designed to meet local needs.

LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES: The League supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels to include statewide environmental controls, public hearings prior to siting and regional and/or county control of siting.

PESTICIDES: The League supports reduction of exposure to all pesticides. The use of non-toxic alternatives should be encouraged.

WATER-GREAT LAKES ECO SYSTEM: The League supports preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence

River Ecosystem with emphasis on water pollution prevention. Water conservation should be a high priority of all governments in the Basin.

SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS:

LWVIL takes action on the state level based on the following LWVUS Social Policy positions: Equality of Opportunity including ratification of the Equal rights Amendment; Support for equal access to education, employment and housing; Fiscal Policy; Health Care, Immigration, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Child Care, Early Intervention for Children at Risk, Violence Prevention, Gun Control and Urban Policy.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: The League believes that the State should play the leading role in meeting the needs of children and their families. This responsibility applies across systems of care regardless of age or legal status. The State has the primary role in funding to ensure that quality services are equitably available throughout the state. The League supports a continuum of community-based services that strengthens and preserves families and fosters healthy growth and development of children. Prevention and early intervention should have high priority.

The League supports a juvenile court system that provides opportunities for effective protection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Detention should be reserved for delinquent children who meet professional screening criteria and provided separately from adult programs. The League opposes the automatic transfer of children to the criminal court and the death penalty for children.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: For each of the following aspects of criminal justice, the League supports

- Investing in Communities to Reduce Crime and Violence
- Addressing Bias in the Criminal Justice System
- Equitable and Appropriate Treatment of People in the Criminal Justice System
- Data Collection & Transparency

Policing: Law enforcement should: protect and promote the dignity of all, work with community organizations to

promote public safety, use alternatives to arrest when possible, be licensed and receive ongoing quality training and healthcare.

Jail Standards

Pretrial Procedures: Cash bond should be eliminated; defendants should be detained only if dangerous or a flight risk; electronic monitoring should not hamper necessary activities; an attorney should be present at all hearings.

Courtroom Procedures & Access: The League supports improvements in courtroom procedures that serve to minimize confusion and delay and increase fairness and efficiency.

Sentencing Laws and Procedures: Evidence-based practices should guide sentencing laws and prosecutorial decision-making.

Alternatives to Incarceration

Illinois Department of Corrections: correctional services that conform to national professional standards. Incarcerated people should be treated humanely and have access to rehabilitative, educational, and job training programs. Pre-release planning and transitional living centers are critical for re-entry into society. Mandatory Supervised Release should be supportive and provide community services; the length of MSR should be based on the completion of goals, not on a strict period of time.

Post Incarceration & Sentence Completion: From Recidivism to Successful Re-Entry: removal of unnecessary barriers.

Citizen Involvement

Funding: adequate funding of the criminal justice system

DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION: The League supports abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: LWVIL supports legislative controls to stop the proliferation of handgun ownership and irresponsible use; and restricted access to automatic and semiautomatic assault type weapons.

IMMIGRATION:

The League supports

- State and local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for all immigrants.
- Provisions for educational programs and materials on rights in the workplace for all workers, driving certificates for undocumented workers and the availability of auto insurance for holders of certificates.

The League opposes

- Deputizing state and local police to enforce immigration laws, and ordinances that penalize landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of business permits to the undocumented immigrants.
- Extending the right to vote to the undocumented immigrants.

INCOME ASSISTANCE: The League supports income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families.

LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING The State should plan for adequate supplies of low and moderate income housing with every community providing a percentage under some kind of fair share plan.

MENTAL HEALTH: The League supports a comprehensive and coordinated system of treatment and rehabilitation services for adults and children with mental illness. There should be adequate funding, planning, program standards, and personnel training requirements for both state facilities and community programs. The League supports a broad array of adequate and accessible community services. Although primary responsibility should rest with the state, funding from local, federal, and non-governmental sources should be encouraged. A system of local boards to levy taxes, administer all funds, and to plan and coordinate services should be required throughout the state. The State should require local governments to provide in their zoning ordinances for residential programs for persons with mental illness.

SCHOOLS: LWVIL supports a system of high quality elementary and secondary schools for all children in Illinois, which provides for local control of school program and budget within minimum program requirements set by the State. The State should provide leadership to local communities for program development and should set standards for recognition and accreditation of schools. Educational programs' effectiveness should be evaluated regularly. The League favors minimum standards for graduation and promotion of students. LWVIL supports increased professionalism for teachers including stringent teacher preparation standards, comprehensive teacher and principal evaluations, changes in tenure, and increased teacher compensation.

The State should assume the major responsibility for funding preK-12 public schools and guarantee an adequate level of financial support. Schools should be provided stable, reliable, and adequate revenue through a combination of federal, state and local sources.

LWVIL supports sustained allocation of state funds for public higher education that will provide quality postsecondary programs throughout the state. In addition, the League supports sustained funding to attract, support, and retain qualified Illinois students.

LWVIL supports accountability, transparency, and equity in the use of public funds for education, including charter schools. Charter school authorizers should evaluate the performance of existing charters before granting new charters or approving additional campuses. The authority to approve & renew charters should reside exclusively in the local school board.

STATE FISCAL POLICIES: The League supports a diversified revenue system, relying principally on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, that is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

ACTION FOCI 2021-2023

The following three program pillars serve as the focus for LWVIL advocacy for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Voting Rights and Election Processes

LWVIL works to protect voting by mail, voter access, voter registration and election security and to standardize best practices and processes across election authorities. LWVIL supports initiatives which conform to our positions regarding campaign finance and ethics reform, redistricting, and abolishing the electoral college.

Climate Change Crisis

LWVIL advocates for the Clean Energy Jobs Act as well as other initiatives promoting renewable energy sources, opposing reliance on fossil fuels, and supporting clean air and water policies. LWVIL fights for environmental justice so that minority communities are not adversely affected by energy policies.

Equitably Meeting Basic Human Needs

LWVIL advocates for policies that meet basic human needs, including healthcare, economic support, housing, safety, justice, and education for all residents. To support these initiatives, LWVIL advocates for a state revenue system that is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.