



PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM

Per the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, Article XI, Sections 1, 2, and 3, the LWV of Illinois Board of Directors proposes the following Program for the 2023-2025 biennium.

This proposal is based on Program Planning input solicited from all local Leagues and MAS units. This year, the LWV of Illinois Issues and Advocacy committee received input from 19 local Leagues, representing a total of 1,827 members, with nearly 300 members participating in the process.

PRIORITY ISSUES: Proposed for the 2023-2025 Biennium

The following pillars are aimed at working toward a better democracy:

Voting Rights and Election Processes

The LWV of Illinois works to ensure free, fair and accessible elections, promote equitable voter access, protect voting by mail, voter registration, election security, and to standardize best practices and processes across election authorities. The LWV of Illinois supports initiatives which conform to our positions regarding campaign finance and ethics reform, redistricting, and abolishing the electoral college

Environment/Climate Crisis

The LWV of Illinois advocates for policies to mitigate climate change and support the equitable and sustainable adaptation to the impacts of climate change, including: promoting renewable energy sources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and reducing waste. The LWV of Illinois works for environmental justice and policies that ensure an equitable distribution of environmental risks and benefits across all communities. In addition, we advocate for the protection of the air, land, and water, to promote healthy ecosystems, biodiversity and a clean and healthful environment.

Equitably Meeting Basic Human Needs

The LWV of Illinois advocates for policies that equitably meet basic human needs for all residents, to include: health care, including reproductive health and behavioral health, economic support, housing, education, safety, freedom from violence, and justice. To support these initiatives, the LWV of Illinois advocates for a state revenue system that is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive, and simple.

NEW STUDIES: Proposed for the 2023-2025 Biennium

Per the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, Article XI, Section 3, Program recommendations submitted by local League members and boards three months in advance of Convention are eligible for consideration by the LWV of Illinois Board of Directors and Convention delegates. The following were submitted accordingly and the recommended proposal will be considered and the non-recommended proposals may be moved for consideration during Convention.

Recommended Proposal

The LWV of Illinois Board of Directors recommends the undertaking of a study on the current Gun Violence Prevention position. This study would consider whether the current LWV of Illinois statement on handgun safety education needs to be broadened and whether there needs to be a more inclusive statement on the types of guns that are addressed by the position.

Non-Recommended Proposals

The LWV of Illinois Board of Directors does not recommend the following proposals due to an insufficient number of local Leagues demonstrating interest in conducting a study. Local Leagues are encouraged to collaborate during the coming biennium on these issues to determine whether or not to recommend position updates by concurrence or by taking on a new study in 2025.

During convention any of the following may be moved for consideration after the recommended program is presented. Further details on how to move non-recommended Program items during Convention can be found in the proposed Rules of Convention.

Illinois State Constitution: Repealing Article VIII, Sec. 5

- Only one local League proposed this

Gambling Update of the position

- Only one local League discussed, but is unable to assist with a study

Pensions: Adding a position addressing the problem of unfunded pensions in Illinois

- Only one local League expressed interest

Schools: Update of the position on School Quality

- Three local Leagues expressed interest
- Only two local Leagues offered assistance