

LWV Advocacy and Action: What are our Priorities?



League members and guests enjoyed tasty teas and edible temptations in the pleasant and well-provisioned meeting room of the Pine River Valley Bank.

US National Priorities

Once every even year local Leagues convene a members meeting on the topic of National Program Planning. One of our objectives is to provide a list of our priorities (as we do every year) for advocacy by the League's volunteers and paid lobbyists at the national level. This list will be considered along with others at the next LWVUS Board meeting. We are also asked to submit recommendations for new studies or updates to existing studies, to be considered by the LWVUS Board and the 2012 National Convention to be held June 9-12 in Washington, D.C. Finally, we also consider the option of a new local study.

This year our meeting was held on January 11; 20 members and guests attended and were treated to select teas and home-baked pastries, and a vibrant interactive discussion.

Topics covered during the meeting included:

- Action and advocacy in a non-partisan organization
- Brief overview of [LWV National positions](#) all of which are the results of prior grass-roots studies and consensus
- Consensus on our 2012 advocacy recommendations (based on existing positions) to LWVUS
- Recommendations for new or updated national studies
- Recommendations for new local studies (see [Local Positions](#))

For the presentation given at our meeting, [click here](#) and then on Program Planning slides.

The result of our consensus was the following list, in priority order, which has been sent to LWVUS to consider when the national Board convenes in late January:

LWVLPC Recommended 2012 National Priorities

1. **Money in Politics** as related to the requirement for full disclosure of campaign funding sources for all national elections
2. **Full recognition and preservation of Voters Rights** with a focus on fair and equitable voting requirements and the mandating of (photo) voter identification
3. **Support of Clean Air Defense** with a focus on sustainability and the impacts of global climate change. A tie with (4).

LWV Advocacy and Action: What are our Priorities?

4. **Full support for Healthcare** with preservation and full adoption of the The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) as passed in 2010
5. **Immigration** with a focus on the passage of the Dream Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors)

Note 1: LWVLC discussed the addition of **Education** to this national priority list and decided that it is premature to add this topic to the list without full knowledge of the LWVUS position after The Public Role in Education Study, expected in March 2012

Note 2: Items 3 (support of Clean Air Defense) and items 4 (Full support of Universal Healthcare) received equal priority ranking by the LWVLC participants

Colorado State Priorities

The State League, LWVCO, has a team of volunteers who make up the Legislative Action Committee, and a part-time lobbyist who closely follow the activity of the Colorado General Assembly, which convened on January 11, 2012 and will run for 120 days, unless extended.

At the December LWVCO board meeting, the recommendation for 2012 state legislative priorities from the Legislation Action Committee was approved. These are:

- Voting Rights and Enfranchisement
- Fiscal Stability and Impact on Education and Higher Education
- Water Quality/Fracking
- Juvenile Justice
- Child Welfare
- Health Care including Reproductive Health Care

Although these are priorities for the year, other important legislation relevant to LWVUS and LWVCO positions will also be addressed.

The result of our discussion about studies will be described in the March newsletter.



President Trish Pegram welcomed members and guests with new sound system, observed by Marilyn Brown at the projector.

LWV Advocacy and Action: What are our Priorities?



Ross Park demonstrated the new sound system and thanked members who contributed to the purchase.



Ellen Park solicited opinions on what the national LWV should focus its advocacy resources on during 2012.

Ellen Park
LWVLP Legislative Action Chair

Photographs courtesy of Suzanne Becker