

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT LWVCO PROGRAM POSITIONS
2007-2009**



GOVERNMENT

APPORTIONMENT

Support of an independent commission to reapportion the Colorado state legislature. Support of apportionment of both houses of the state legislature and Colorado U.S. congressional districts based on specific criteria.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, allow maximum citizen participation in the political process, and close the "soft money" loophole that allows large, unregulated contributions to circumvent existing laws.

This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office – presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

COLORADO CONSTITUTION

Support for clarity of language and suitability of topic and detail in proposed constitutional amendments.

FISCAL POLICY

Support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive and which incorporates social, environmental and economic goals. Oppose earmarking of funds and sales tax on food.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (National Position extended to State Legislature)

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, and effective performance. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within a constitutional framework.

GUN CONTROL

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons.

As adapted by the 1990 LWVUS Convention, amended in 1994 by adding a fourth paragraph on the meaning of the Second Amendment. The 1998 convention added an amendment to support regulating firearms for consumer safety.

INITIATIVE PROCESS

Support for more stringent requirements for the passage of constitutional amendments than for initiated statutes and protection from legislative change for initiated statutes for a minimum of two years.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Support of non-partisan selection of judges on an appointive-retentive basis (reaffirmed in 1977).

In 1993, the following positions were adopted:

Support of sentencing measures which facilitate efficient administration of justice rather than incarceration for nonviolent offenders.

Support of sentencing measures that protect the community, compensate victims and the community for the crimes of adult offenders, rehabilitate offenders, and emphasize the use of community-based sanctions..

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support of a juvenile justice system that has as its primary purpose the rehabilitation, safety and well being of the offender. Support of a system that promotes the juvenile's understanding of the harm done and his/her responsibility to make amends to the victim and the community, emphasizes alternatives to detention or commitment, and promotes the protection of the community and the juvenile's successful reentry into the community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local governments should be accountable, responsive, flexible, efficient, effective, able to raise sufficient revenues to perform their duties, and have adequate constitutional and statutory powers to cope effectively.

PRECINCT CAUCUS/ASSEMBLY SYSTEM

In partisan elections, to assure grass-roots involvement, League supports the continuation of the historic system of precinct caucuses and party assemblies and conventions by the political parties, including the role of assemblies in designating candidates for the primary election ballot. The League supports modifications to make this system more effective. We support the combining of several caucuses at one location, as is currently being done in many counties.

While recognizing the continuing role of the political party assemblies in designating candidates, we also support the opportunity for political party candidates to be placed on the primary election ballot through the petition process. We support modifications to the position process to make it more effective and reasonable.

We support extensive efforts by all concerned, including the political parties, media and League to better educate the public about precinct caucuses. In particular, there must be greatly improved information disseminated regarding the time, location and purpose of the precinct caucuses.

SCHOOL FINANCE (K-12)

Support for a state finance system that would equalize opportunity and relieve the property tax.

TRANSPORTATION

Support for a state Department of Transportation to plan and coordinate all transportation modes in order to provide a balanced transportation system in Colorado which gives consideration to the needs of regional, county and local governments. Funding for transportation should come from federal, state and local sources.

VOTING RIGHTS

Protect the right of every citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Support of:

- Measures to reduce vehicular pollution, including inspection and maintenance of emission controls, changes in engine design and fuel types, and development of more energy-efficient transportation systems.
- Regulation and reduction of pollution from stationary sources.
- Regulation and reduction of ambient toxic-air pollutants.
- Measures to reduce trans-boundary air pollutants, such as ozone and those that cause acid deposition.

ENERGY

The League supports:

- Energy goals and policies that acknowledge the United States as a responsible member of the world community.
- Reduction of energy growth rates.
- Use of a variety of energy sources, with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies.
- The environmentally sound use of energy resources, with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production.
- Predominant reliance on renewable resources.
- Policies that limit reliance on nuclear fission.
- Action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development, financial incentives, rate-setting policies and mandatory standards.
- Mandatory energy-conservation measures, including thermal standards for building efficiency, new appliance standards and standards for new automobiles with no relaxation of auto-emission control requirements.
- Policies to reduce energy demand and minimize the need for new generating capacity through techniques such as marginal cost or peak-load pricing or demand-management programs.
- Maintaining deregulation of oil and natural gas prices.
- Assistance for low-income individuals when energy policies bear unduly on the poor.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Support of measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of governmental units within the state of Colorado and measures which promote integrated planning for environmental management, wise use of Colorado's water resources and other natural resources, comprehensive statewide planning for land use, and a balanced transportation system.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Support for adequate safeguards in the production, transportation, use, treatment, disposal, and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials. (Regarding disposal and storage: the intent is to locate and/or maintain a suitable site or

sites for the disposal and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials, not to totally prohibit the location of sites in Colorado.)

LAND USE

LWVCO supports responsible land use planning by all levels of government. While recognizing that most authority for planning is vested in local governments, LWVCO supports the creation of regional boards and commissions to address regional concerns.

SOLID WASTE MANAGAEMENT AND DISPOSAL

Action at the State Level on National Position

The League supports policies to reduce the generation and to promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous waste; policies to ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health, air, water and land resources; and planning and decision-making processes that recognize suitable solid and hazardous wastes as potential resources.

WATER

Support of measures that promote the wise and balanced use of water in Colorado.

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILD CARE

Support state licensing and continued oversight by an adequate number of trained staff, and ensure availability of affordable, quality child care to all children who need it.

CHILDREN'S SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Support measures to encourage public responsibility for the protection, care, and training of children, while recognizing the primary importance of parental responsibility.

Support measures to insure public responsibility for encouraging the implementation of preventive programs in the interest of optimal child development.

EDUCATION

Support of a pre-K through 12 public education system in which a balanced curriculum of humanities, arts, and sciences leads to life-long learning for all students. Support of a stronger leadership role for the Colorado Department of Education to promote educational improvements and standards for early childhood education.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

LWV believes in our nation's commitment to civil rights laws that ensure equality of opportunity and protection from discrimination. We support the inclusion of an array of American families as "family units" in order to provide equal application of the laws of our state. We call for an environment that is free from violence, harassment and intimidation for all people.

HEALTH CARE

Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is a primary educational, research, cultural, and economic force in Colorado. The State of Colorado has a responsibility to support its public institutions of higher education and to assist the people of Colorado in

attaining a postsecondary education.

State activities should be carried out with appropriate input from all concerned parties, including the general public.

Governance:

- The League believes the state should emphasize coordination rather than control over higher education.
- The League believes institutional latitude and flexibility should be encouraged but with state oversight.
- The Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education should be led and staffed by professionals with relevant skills and/or experience and be free from political influence.

Financing:

- The League supports a sustainable funding mechanism for public higher education that will provide quality postsecondary programs across the state.
- The League supports sustainable funding for financial aid programs in order to provide access to higher education for all qualified students.

Access to Higher Education and Persistence by Students:

- The League believes that all qualified students should have the opportunity to attend postsecondary education and that successful participation should be facilitated by a variety of resources.
- Preschool, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education should be viewed as a continuum leading to life-long learning.

HOUSING

Action at the State Level on National Position

Criteria to apply to programs and policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family:

- The responsibility for achieving housing goals rests primarily with the federal government which should assure that there is sufficient decent housing for all.
- Gives incentives to local jurisdictions to achieve these goals.
- Provides assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing when necessary.
- Develops policies that assure sufficient land at reasonable cost on which to develop housing.

INCOME ASSISTANCE (WELFARE)

Action at state level on LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs position.

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.