

LWVUS Program Planning Leader's Guide 2007-2008

LWV of La Plata County

Every two years state and local Leagues and ILOs participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues a chance to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially via e-mail and discussion lists - to organize support based on factual materials before the **Program Planning deadline, March 1, 2008.**

Selecting an issue for study

Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. While it is extremely important for every League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss possible issues for study at the national level, it is not essential for every League to select an issue. This year's form includes a new line for you to indicate that issues were discussed, but no change is recommended. This important change will give the LWVUS a more realistic picture of participation.

Program Planning Meeting

The LWV of La Plata's National Program Planning Meeting will take place on February 14, 2008 in the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 419 San Juan Drive, from 12:30 – 1:30.

During this meeting, we will only be proposing changes by suggesting new studies, a review or concurrence. Leagues are no longer being asked to adopt the existing program during program planning, although Convention delegates will continue to do so.

Resources and Volunteer Time

Before recommending a study, review or a concurrence, members need to consider the resource commitment required for their own League as well as for the national League. A recommendation of a new study, review or concurrence is a request to give the recommendation a high priority for the biennium at both the local and national League levels. If a recommendation is adopted, local Leagues and the LWVUS, with limited resources – money and, even more importantly, volunteer time – probably will find it necessary to drop other activities in order to participate. Although technology has made it possible to reduce expenses, an increase in PMP may be required to help fund the work at the national level.

New Study/Program Item

To propose a new study, we will need to provide a brief statement (25 words or less) concerning the scope of the study under the appropriate general heading – Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources or Social Policy (see Impact on Issues for detailed descriptions of these headings or Positions in Brief for a summary of

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these positions. A statement of scope lists the areas to be explored, the emphasis on a particular aspect of the issue and the parameters of the study. Using these headings and a brief statement of scope will enable staff and the Program Planning Committee to compile responses more effectively.

Review

Following an earlier decision by Leagues, Program Planning includes a systematic review of all LWVUS positions. Leagues may select one LWVUS position for consideration for review each biennium. If adopted, a Review Committee will be appointed to examine the position and, if appropriate, suggest changes and updating.

Concurrence

The Report Form includes the option of proposing a program item for concurrence. As with other proposed program items, a concurrence must be proposed by a League or Leagues by March 1, 2008, in order to be eligible for consideration at Convention. You need to provide the title and scope of the position your League proposes for concurrence as well as the name of the League that did the original study.

Return Report Forms by March 1, 2008

LWV La Plata must return forms to the LWVUS by the postmark **deadline of March 1, 2008**, whether responding electronically, by mail, e-mail or fax. An interactive Report Form will be available. Additional information will be provided in the Program Planning Section.

Timeline

October 1 – LWVUS Program Planning Leader's Guide and Response Form sent out and discussion list available online.

November 2007 to February 2008 – Leagues provide opportunities for members to participate in LWVUS Program Planning.

March 1, 2008 – Deadline for receipt of all Report Forms.

March 27-30, 2008, LWVUS Board Meeting - LWVUS Program Planning Committee analyzes Report Form responses and drafts proposal for LWVUS Board review.

April 2008 – LWVUS Board considers draft and approves a Proposed Program for the 2008-2010 biennium.

May 2008 – Proposed program is sent to all Leagues for review.

June 2008 – After debate and discussion, Convention delegates adopt 2006-2008 LWVUS program as well as any not-recommended items granted consideration by Convention.

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July 2008 to June 2010 – LWVUS Board implements the adopted program.