

LWV LA PLATA COUNTY

LWVUS Policy Priorities and Program Planning Meeting

What are our Priorities?

January 11, 2012

Agenda

- Overview of LWV Processes
 - Advocacy in a nonpartisan organization
 - How we advocate
 - Studies and Program Planning
- Summary of LWV National Positions
- Studies and Program Planning
- 2011 and 2012 National Advocacy Priorities
- Local Program Planning
- Introduction of the Nominating Committee
- Matching Grant for P/A System

Overview of LWV processes: How we advocate

- **3 levels of government: National, State, Local**
- **Based on prior grass-roots studies and subsequent positions**
 - Studies → Positions → Advocacy
- **Lobbying on national issues is a partnership of LWVUS Advocacy Dept. in Washington and constituents at home**
 - Congressional lobbying
 - Membership alerts to call or email
 - Local lobbying of our senators and representatives

{Note: Advocacy at federal level must be requested or approved by LWVUS}
- **LWVCO lobbying similar, based on state positions**
 - 2012 Colorado Legislative Session begins January 11, runs for 120 calendar days
 - State Legislative Action Committee, Member Alerts, Legislative Letter
- **Local lobbying at County and Municipality levels, based on LWVLPC positions**

Overview of LWV processes: Studies and Program Planning

- No action without a position
- No position without study and consensus
- No study without grassroots suggestion/approval of Convention

- Federal Role in Education
- Immigration
- National Popular Vote Compact

Unique LWV Meaning of 'Program'

- League Program includes the body of positions League uses to affect public policy, as well as the procedure for adopting these positions.
 - Selection of an issue
 - Study of that issue, consensus and formulating a position
 - Use of that position to influence public policy
- LWV Program now consists of almost 50 positions
- Upon joining, members buy in

Summary of LWV National Positions

- Representative Government
 - ***Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.***
 - Voting Rights
 - Citizen's Right to Vote
 - DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation
 - Election Process
 - Apportionment
 - Campaign Finance
 - Selection of the President
 - Citizen Rights
 - Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation
 - Individual Liberties
 - Public Policy on Reproductive Choices
 - Congress and the Presidency
 - Congress
 - The Presidency

Summary of LWV National Positions (2)

- International Relations
 - ***Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations***
 - United Nations
 - Trade
 - U.S. Relations with Developing Countries
 - Arms Control
 - Military Policy and Defense Spending

Summary of LWV National Positions (3)

- Natural Resources
 - ***Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.***
 - Natural Resources
 - Resource Management
 - Environmental Protection and Pollution Control
 - Air Quality
 - Energy
 - Land Use
 - Water Resources
 - Waste Management
 - Nuclear Issues
 - Public Participation
 - Agriculture Policy

Summary of LWV National Positions (4)

- Social Policy
 - ***Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans***
 - Equality of Opportunity
 - Equal Rights
 - Education, Employment and Housing
 - Fiscal Policy
 - Tax Policy
 - Federal Deficit
 - Funding of Entitlements
 - Health Care
 - Immigration

Summary of LWV National Positions (5)

- Social Policy (continued)
 - Meeting Basic Human Needs
 - Income Assistance
 - Support Services
 - Housing Supply
 - Child Care
 - Early Intervention for Children at Risk
 - Violence Prevention
 - Gun Control
 - Urban Policy
 - Death Penalty

LWV General Principle

- *Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.*

What Do We Need That's Missing?

- Position on Federal Role in Education and Privatization by Convention in June
- LWVCO Study on Hydraulic Fracturing
- What suggestions do you have for national studies for the 2012-2014 biennium?
- What current national positions need updating?

National Legislative Advocacy Priorities

Advocacy based on established positions

- Goals for setting LWWUS advocacy priorities
 - Enhance effectiveness by concentrating resources on priority issues
 - Build credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image
 - Ensure we have sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably
 - Enable the League to manage resources effectively

- In setting priorities, the LWW Board considers
 - Opportunities for the League to make an impact
 - Program decisions made at Convention and/or Council
 - Member interest
 - Resources available to manage effectively.

LWVUS 2011 National Priorities

- **2011 national priorities based on LWVUS Board and local League input**
 - Clean Air Defense, based on Natural Resources position
 - Healthcare, based on Healthcare position
 - Voter Right Threats, based on Representative Government position
 - Money in Politics, based on Representative Government position
- **Our key issues are under attack**
 - Environmental Protection Act and Agency weakening and/or removal
 - Health Care Act Repeal threat
 - 3rd party voter registration restrictions and restrictive voter ID requirements that seem to target minorities and the elderly
 - Citizen's United decision, Super PACs, special interest money,, campaign financing

2011 LWVUS Advocacy Priorities

- Natural Resources – Clean Air Defense
 - The LWV believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect health.
 - 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 transboundary air pollutants, such as ozone and those that cause acid deposition

2011 LWVUS Advocacy Priorities (cont.)

- Healthcare

- Goals: The LWV believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.
- Basic Level of Quality Care
- Financing and Administration
- Taxes
- Cost Control
- Equity Issues
- Allocation of Resources to Individuals

2011 LWVUS Advocacy Priorities (cont.)

- Representative Government

- Voter Rights Threats

- The LWV believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.
 - (Much longer discussion of history of LWV's involvement)

- Money in Politics

- The LWV 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 and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

LWVUS 2012 National Priorities

- Suggestions

- Clean Air Defense
- Healthcare
- Money in Politics
- Voter Rights Threats



Continue?

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform, based on Immigration Position
- Education (subject to Convention approval of 2011 Education Study)
- Payment of UN dues, based on United Nations Position
- Other?

Local Program Planning and Studies

- What needs to be studied at the local level?
- Criteria:
 - A Local Governmental Issue or Issue Impacted by Local Government
 - Timely
 - Member/Community Interest
 - (Reasonable Scope)
 - (Availability of Energy)

Our new PA system

- Portable Samson XP40iW with 1 wireless and 1 wired microphone, stands and carrying case

