

How Does The League Select Issues for Emphasis?

In League, Program means the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both education and action.

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money.

Every two years, members of local Leagues engage in Program Planning. Based on the results of this, the Board of Directors makes recommendations to the biennial convention delegates about the program to be adopted for the coming two year period

What is a Position?

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue only when we have a position addressing that particular issue. Members must study and come to consensus on an issue, in order to form a position. This thorough grassroots process ensures that our advocacy is well considered by a broad range of people, understood by our members, and we have a sense of the political environment.

Positions

STUDY CONSENSUS PROCESS

The League chooses issues at the federal, state and local levels for its members to study. Through its consensus/concurrence process, the League examines all aspects of a selected subject and tries to reach agreement on which to base a position. The League's reputation for fairness rests on its practice of thorough and impartial study. Members discuss the issues; pros and cons are researched; and everyone has an opportunity to express an opinion. Once the League has a position on an issue, material is published to promote that position, always ensuring the distinction between League action on specific issues and the League's nonpartisan voter information.

CURRENT LEAGUE POSITIONS

- **Federal:** [LWVUS Impact on Issues 2018-2020](#) (online)
- **State:** [LWV New York State Impact on Issues 2020](#)

STUDY / CONCURRENCE TOPICS

- **Criminal Justice Position**

The 2021 LWVNY adopted a [Criminal Justice position](#).

Position in Brief: The League of Women Voters of New York State supports:

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;
- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and
- reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness)