

League of Women Voters of Washington

2017 Convention

Program Planning Committee Report to be considered at Convention, June 2-4, 2017, Seattle WA

Submitted by Michelle Valentine, Ann Murphy and input from 12 local Leagues.

The Proposed Program is recommended by the LWVWA Board of Directors

I.

LWVWA Board of Directors recommends the following program for the next biennium to provide material for citizen education and action by local leagues:

1. Promote public education and action concerning the status of the health care coverage in Washington state subsequent to the end of the 2017 Legislative session and any resultant fallout from federal actions.

Scope: Continue efforts resulting in an ongoing action campaign to educate the public about a universal healthcare plan and its comparison to the ACA.

Outlook for Work – 1 year to survey needs and then create action plan for materials for local meetings and supporting Lobby Team.

Interested Committee members

Susan Eidenschenk, Tacoma-Pierce
Karl Kleeman, Bellingham-Whatcom
Sheri Lambert, Bellingham-Whatcom
Clare Kelm, San Juans
Paul Spencer, Pullman

2. Update the current LWVWA Position HC-1 to focus on behavioral health status with a survey of the status of behavioral health diagnosis, treatment, in-patient and out-patients facilities, and state housing needed in WA state.

Scope: Complete study with recommendations for any changes in state fiscal support of behavioral health services.

Outlook for Work – One year study with materials ready for local League study and consensus in Fall 2018

Background: Program in Action 2015-17 has a 1 page summary on health care that focuses on universal access and seamless coverage regardless of one's health status. It does not address behavioral health. At the LWVUS 2016 Convention, delegates adopted a behavioral health concurrence with the LWV Colorado position (see Impact on Issues, page 85.)

Interested Committee members

Susan Eidenschenk, Tacoma-Pierce
Karl Kleeman, Bellingham-Whatcom
Sheri Lambert, Bellingham-Whatcom
Clare Kelm, San Juans
Paul Spencer, Pullman

3. Public Education on tax structure in Washington State.

Scope: Review the LWVWA tax structures positions of Washington State in light of the ongoing changes in fiscal restrictions outlined in the state Constitution and provide educational materials for local Leagues

Outlook for Work – Six-12 month review and production of public education materials

Interested Committee members

Cynthia Stewart, Tacoma-Pierce Co.
Nora Leech, Seattle King County
Sharon Wilhelm, Tacoma-Pierce Co.
Ned Witting, Tacoma-Pierce Co.
Judy Payne, Tacoma-Pierce Co.
Ethel Williams, Seattle-King Co.
Alison McCaffree, Tacoma Pierce

II.

LWVWA Board of Directors recommends re-adoption of the current positions as written in 2015-17 Program in Action.

III.

Not Recommended Program List.... To be included in the Convention Workbook

EDUCATION

1. Education - citizen education
2. Adequately fund WA state education as required by the McCleary Decision – citizen education
3. Civics education – update

ENVIRONMENT/TRANSPORTATION

4. Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and protect the environment - action
5. What can be done about oil tanker traffic in the Salish Sea? - citizen education
6. Update to state League energy position – update
7. Water in Washington State – adequacy, sustainability and quality –action
8. Federal public lands should remain in public hands – citizen education
9. Carbon tax-action

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

10. Strengthening and Making Democracy
11. Combatting Voter suppression - action
12. Administration of justice – study
13. Lobbying – citizen education
14. Initiative and Referendum –how is it faring in WA state - update

CAMPAIGN FINANCE/CITIZENS UNITED

15. Follow up with next steps on I-735(WAamend) – action and citizen education
16. Creation of a Public Bank - study

SOCIAL POLICY

17. Homelessness in Washington State – study
18. Housing Affordability Crisis - study
19. Discontent of nonurban population in WA state – study
20. Universal basic income – citizen education