

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

Program Planning for the LWV of Washington State (2019-2021)

As a grass roots organization, the League of Women Voters **Program Planning Process** begins at the local level (see relevant program bylaws attached). During this process, members all over our state consider what issues their own local League believes are important and need to be addressed. The inputs from the local Leagues are gathered and discussed by the LWVWA board who will decide on a recommendation to the delegates at Convention 2019 where members will decide which issues from the local Leagues are to be placed on our state level public policy agenda for the next two years (2019-2021).

Identification of these issues is part of our Citizen Education program aimed at helping people understand the complexities of an issue and encouraging people to participate in reaching a solution. It also lays the groundwork for successful advocacy.

ISSUES FOR STUDY:

During your local League discussions you can also decide which topics to identify for a local study or the topics to recommend for a State study. This process culminates when a local study is presented for a vote at your local annual meeting or, in the case of a proposed State study, is presented to the State membership for a decision at Convention 2019.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE:

Local League planning usually takes place in January. In 2019 our State Convention will be held June 4-6 in Tacoma, hosted by the Tacoma-Pierce County League. The process outlined in this document will help identify what issues and study topics your league thinks are important for the LWVWA to consider at the convention. Your local League recommendations must be received by the State office by **February 28, 2019**.

To begin the process, it is important to be familiar with our current positions. Positions in Brief are attached below with the entire PIA linked [Program in Action 2017-2019](#).

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

A good way to determine a state issue or study you want to suggest and would be willing to work on is to ask yourself, **“What are my community’s passions?”** Here are some suggestions to consider as you select an issue for League work.

- Consider which issues hold such vital concern to our members, our communities and our state that they demand attention now.
- Consider issues where the League’s special expertise or perspective would be valuable.
- Consider issues that can more likely result in positive changes when informed citizens work on them.
- Consider issues where the League has opportunities to collaborate with other individuals and groups.
- Consider that League members are motivated to work on an issue that has a measurable impact on our communities and/or our state; issues where there is a way to evaluate the results.