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Legislative Outlook 118th Congress

Presented by: LWVUS Advocacy team



Presenters



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Agenda

Housekeeping

118th Congress Composition

Legislative Outlook and Strategy

LWVUS Support Tools

Questions

Housekeeping

- All trainings will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.
- If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.
- Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions
- **Staff will be monitoring the chat box.** If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

Community Norms

! Bring your full self and limit distractions

 What is learned here, leaves here

 No one knows everything, together we know a lot

 Don't yuck my yum

 Oops, ouch, and educate

 Assume best intentions

Update: Congress Composition

Senate

- 50 Democratic caucus
- 1 Independent- no caucus commitment
- 49 Republican caucus

House

- 222 Republicans
- 213 Democrats

Senate Majority Climate

•Leadership

- Democratic Leader and Chair of the Conference: Senator Charles Schumer
- Democratic Whip: Senator Dick Durbin
- Senate President Pro-Tempore: Sen. Patty Murray
- One additional Dem seat = committee structure change
 - Power-sharing arrangement of 117th Congress no longer necessary

Senate Committees

Key committee leadership:

- Appropriations
 - Chair: Sen. Murray
 - Ranking member: Sen. Collins
- Judiciary
 - Chair: Sen. Durbin
 - Ranking member: Sen. Grassley
- Rules and Admin
 - Chair: Sen. Klobuchar
 - Ranking member: TBD

POLL!



Source: https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2023/01/07/gettyimages-1454757741_wide-7a2df1cbce9886af27b16b8ae266a09b7cd82e4c-s1100-c50.jpg

House Speaker Votes

House Majority Climate

- Speaker McCarthy's (R-CA-23) Commitment to America
- Promise to investigate:
 - Cabinet members
 - COVID
 - Big Tech
 - Border concerns
- Rules changes

An Economy That's Strong

Fight Inflation and Lower the Cost of Living

- ✓ Curb wasteful government spending that is raising the price of groceries, gas, cars, and housing, and growing our national debt
- ✓ Increase take-home pay, create good-paying jobs, and bring stability to the economy through pro-growth tax and deregulatory policies

Make America Energy Independent and Reduce Gas Prices

- ✓ Maximize production of reliable, cleaner, American-made energy and cut the permitting process time in half to reduce reliance on foreign countries, prevent rolling blackouts, and lower the cost of gas and utilities

Strengthen the Supply Chain and End Dependence on China

- ✓ Move supply chains away from China, expand U.S. manufacturing, and enhance America's economic competitiveness and cyber resiliency

A Nation That's Safe

Secure the Border and Combat Illegal Immigration

- ✓ Fully fund effective border enforcement strategies, infrastructure, and advanced technology to prevent illegal crossings and trafficking by cartels
- ✓ End catch-and-release loopholes, require legal status to get a job, and eliminate welfare incentives

Reduce Crime and Protect Public Safety

- ✓ Support 200,000 more police officers through recruiting bonuses and oppose all efforts to defund the police
- ✓ Crack down on prosecutors and district attorneys who refuse to prosecute crimes, while permanently criminalizing all forms of illicit fentanyl

Defend America's National Security

- ✓ Support our troops, invest in an efficient, effective military, establish a Select Committee on China, and exercise peace through strength with our allies to counter increasing global threats

A Future That's Built on Freedom

Make Sure Every Student Can Succeed and Give Parents a Voice

- ✓ Advance the Parents' Bill of Rights, recover lost learning from school closures, and expand parental choice so over a million more students can receive the education their parents know is best
- ✓ Defend fairness by ensuring that only women can compete in women's sports

Achieve Longer, Healthier Lives for Americans

- ✓ Personalize care to provide affordable options and better quality, delivered by trusted doctors
- ✓ Lower prices through transparency, choice, and competition, invest in lifesaving cures, and improve access to telemedicine

Confront Big Tech and Demand Fairness

- ✓ Provide greater privacy and data security protections, equip parents with more tools to keep their kids safe online, and stop companies from putting politics ahead of people

A Government That's Accountable

Preserve Our Constitutional Freedoms

- ✓ Uphold free speech, protect the lives of unborn children and their mothers, guarantee religious freedom, and safeguard the Second Amendment

Hold Washington Accountable

- ✓ Conduct rigorous oversight to rein in government abuse of power and corruption, provide real transparency, and require the White House to answer for its incompetence at home and abroad
- ✓ Save and strengthen Social Security and Medicare

Restore the People's Voice

- ✓ End special treatment for Members of Congress by repealing proxy voting, and increase accountability in the election process through voter ID, accurate voter rolls, and observer access

House Minority Leadership





House Committees

Key chairs

- Ways and Means: Jason Smith (MO)
- Judiciary: Jim Jordan (OH)
- Homeland Security: Mark Green (TN)
- Administration: Bryan Steil (WI)
- Rules: Tom Cole (OK)
- Oversight and Accountability: James Comer (KY)

- Ethics Committee in jeopardy

Legislative Outlook and Strategy

1. Voting rights reforms
 - a. Executive Order on voting rights implementation
2. Reform campaign finance
3. Protect DC
4. Redistricting

**tentative and subject to LWVUS board approval*



Legislative Outlook and Strategy: Watchlist

1. Certify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the Constitution
2. Comprehensive immigration reform
3. The climate crisis
 - a. Climate risk mitigation
 - b. Climate justice
4. Healthcare
 - a. Reproductive rights
 - b. Basic health care for all
5. Gun safety

**tentative and subject to LWVUS board approval*





Executive Advocacy Strategy

LWVUS is considering strategic opportunities to advocate the executive branch on each of our Legislative Outlook issue areas.



LWVUS Federal Advocacy

Federal Action Alerts

Letters and Memos to Members of Congress and the Administration

Voting Rights Taskforces

Emerging Issues Taskforces and Coalitions

FEDERAL ACTION REQUEST FORM

State and local Leagues wishing to work on a federal issue or at the national level on an issue that has not been the subject of an LWVUS Action Alert can use this form to contact the national office to consult on the intended action.

Please use this form to make requests

administration officials)

1. The proposed action and the message to be conveyed;
 - a) If you are requesting to send or co-sign a letter, please attach that letter in the appropriate section of this form.
2. The LWVUS position on which the action is based;
3. The timeline for action (e.g., sending the message or deadline for signing the letter); and
4. Details about other groups that are involved in this effort;
 - a) If the request pertains to a regional issue, or the issue affects multiple Leagues, please coordinate with those affected Leagues before completing this form (for example, if multiple Leagues would like to sign a letter addressed to a Federal official, please acquire confirmation from each affected League that they will participate and then one League may submit this form on behalf of all affected Leagues).
5. Evidence that the issue is a priority for that state or local League. Evidence of an existing policy position is required. *If a local League is requesting permission to contact its U.S. Senator(s) on an issue that has not been the subject of an LWVUS Action Alert, it should provide evidence that the action has been authorized by its state League. Additionally, if a local League is joining a coalition letter at the state level, you must also have sign-off from your state League.*

Federal Action Requests

Advocacy Actions

- Communicating with an elected or appointed official
- Writing an op-ed or letter to the editor
- Joining a coalition
- Participating in a press conference or rally

Communication with Federal Officials

- Coalition letters to Members of Congress, the executive branch, etc.
- League letters to Members of Congress
- Meetings with federal officials
- Note: Officials must represent your jurisdiction



[Form Here](#)

LWVUS Support for State and Local Advocacy

1:1 State Check-ins

Legislative Office Hours

[Sign Up Here](#)

Legislative Tracking

Impact on Issues Interpretation

Legislative and Policy Analysis

Legislative Testimony Writing

Advocacy Strategy Development

LMS Resources

[Webinars](#), [Leg Trends](#), [ERA Toolkit](#), [Abortion Adv. Strat](#)



Contact Us:
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Questions?