
FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Impact on Issues: 2022-2024

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Agenda

Housekeeping

Convention 2022 and Program Planning

Process and New Positions

Taking Action & LWVUS Support

Applying a DEI Lens

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

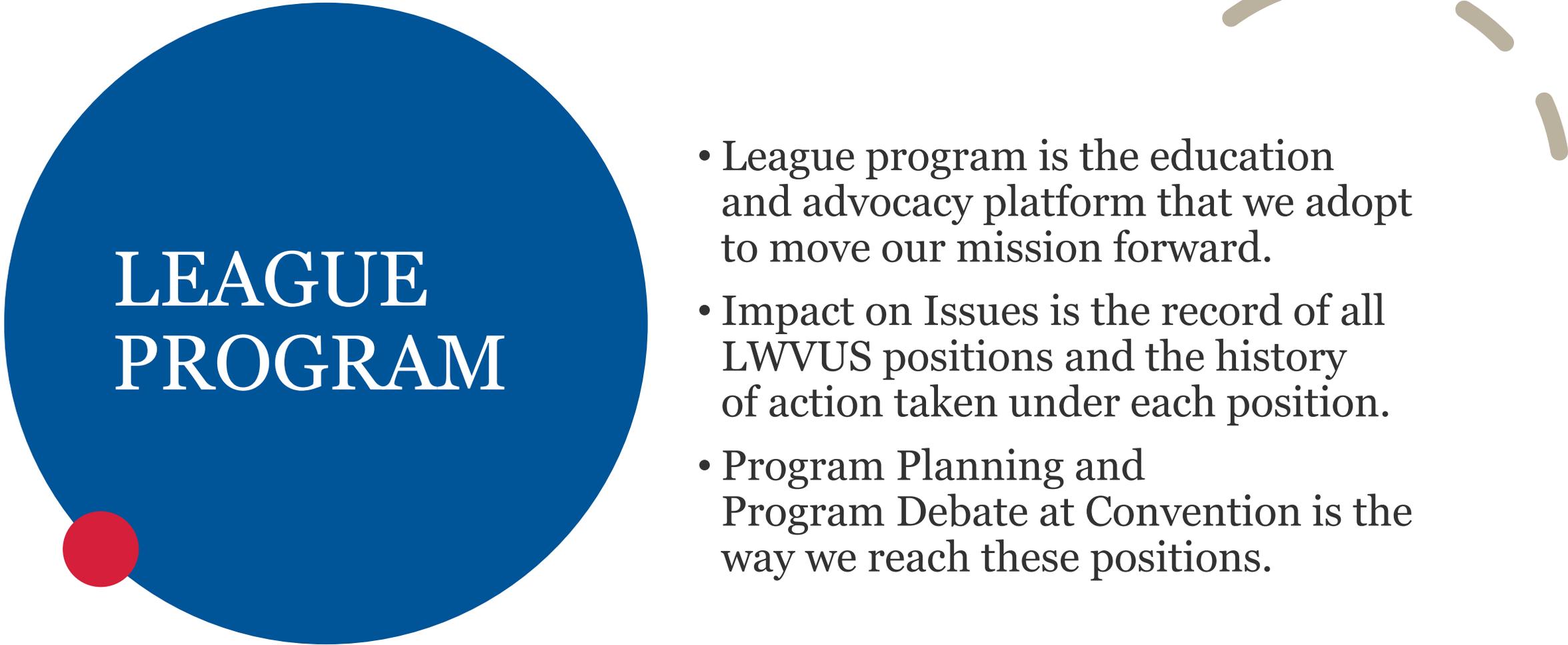
 Assume best intentions

A photograph of a business meeting with a dark overlay. Several people in business attire are gathered around a table. One person is holding a smartphone, another is holding a tablet displaying a chart. There are coffee cups on the table. The text 'POLL!' is centered in the upper half, and a question is centered in the lower half.

POLL!

How often do you consult Impact on Issues
for your work?

Convention 2022 & Program Planning



LEAGUE PROGRAM

- League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward.
- Impact on Issues is the record of all LWVUS positions and the history of action taken under each position.
- Program Planning and Program Debate at Convention is the way we reach these positions.

Program Planning Timeline



Program planning begins with the Program Planning Leaders Guide which is sent to all state and local Leagues around 7 months before convention.



Leagues meet in January and February of a Convention year and submit their recommendations.



In March the LWWUS board proposes a program.



At convention in June, delegates consider, debate and pass a program for the next biennium.

Program Planning Numbers 2021-2022

300 Leagues submitted Program Planning surveys

45% increase over 207 reports in 2020

100% of responding Leagues supported the campaign for Making Democracy Work®

Leagues in 40 States and the District of Columbia participated

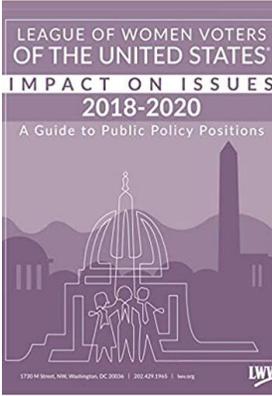
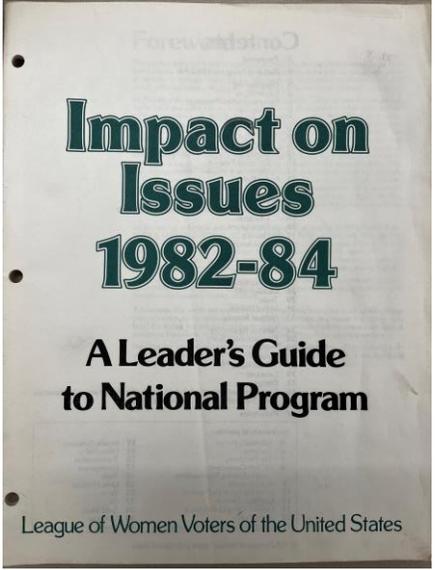
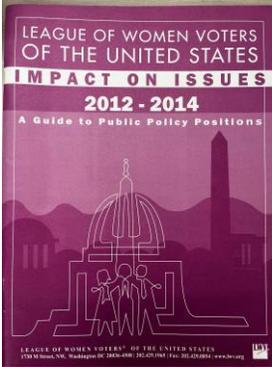
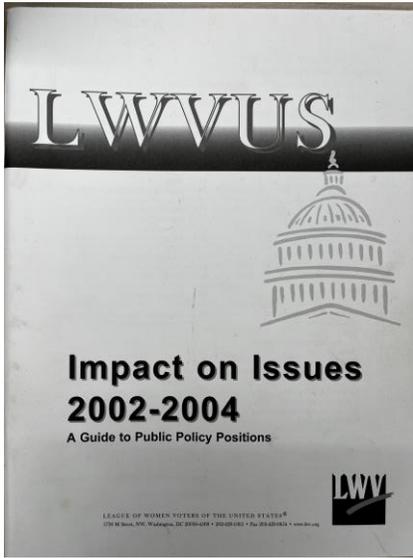
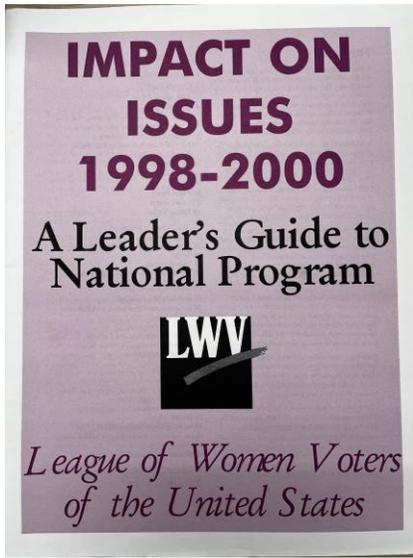
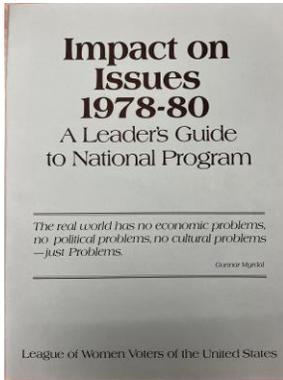
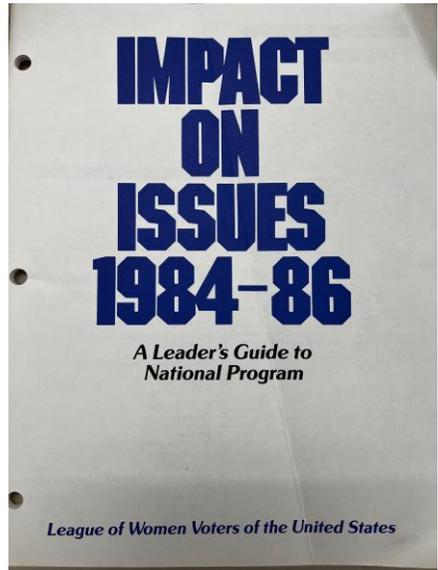
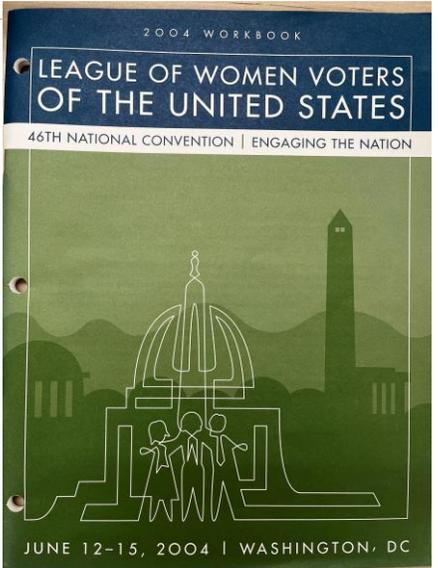
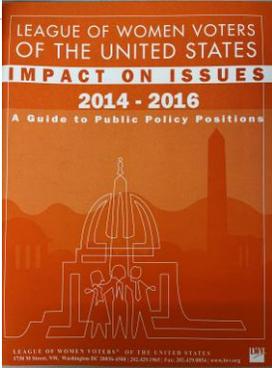
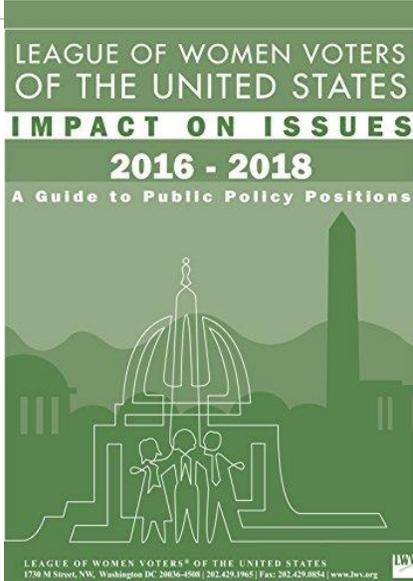
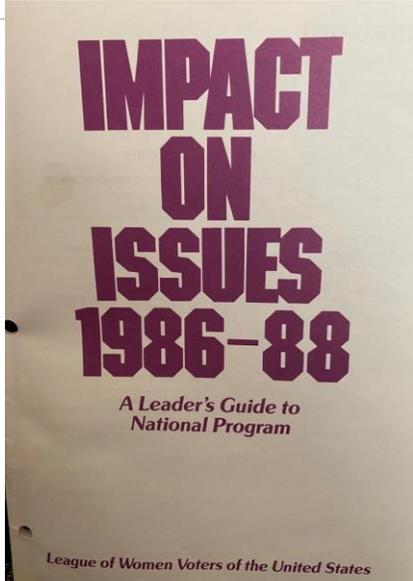
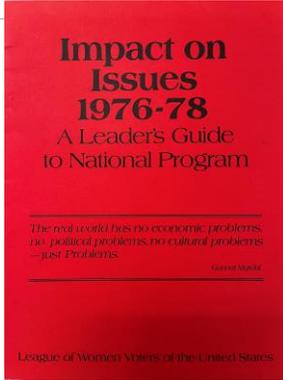
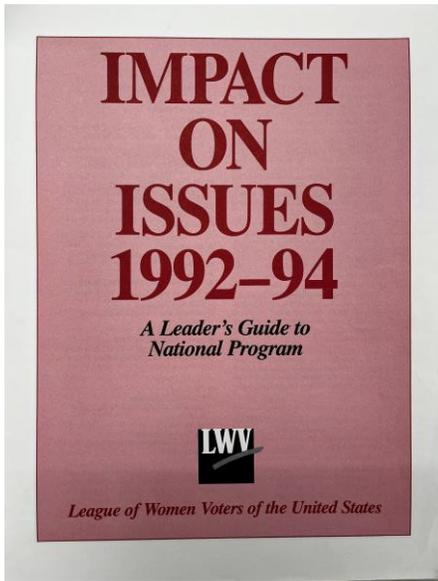


Program as Passed by Convention 2022

Retained all positions in Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

Passed a League-wide campaign for Making Democracy Work®: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

Adopted by concurrence the LWVNY Health Care Update, the LWVCA Criminal Justice position and the LWVCT Digital Equity position.



IMPACT ON ISSUES OVER THE YEARS

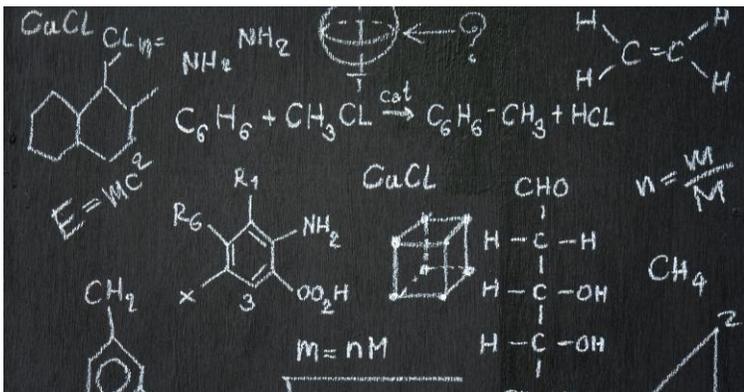
Process & New Positions



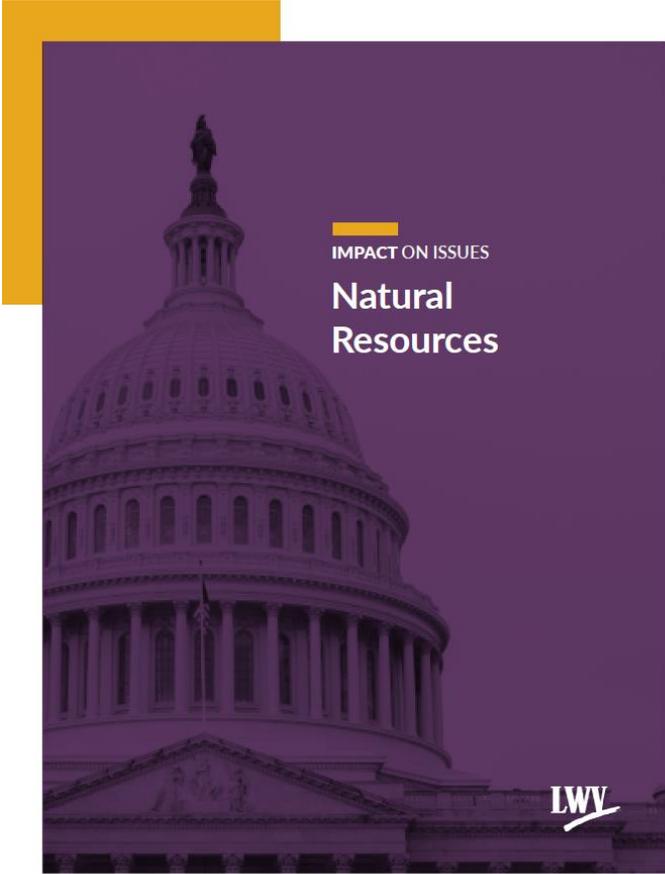
The Updating Process



- At least 10 people editing
- Update all history sections
- DEI committee involvement
- Editing process: July-January



New Cover and Design Features



New Design Features: Table of Contents

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Positions in Brief

- A quick view of LWVUS positions



Summary of Public Policy Positions

League of Women Voters® of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting. Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics. (formerly Campaign Finance) Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing super PACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

🔍 Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Voter Representation/Electoral Systems. Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage

Updated Section: Taking Action

- Revamped guidance for taking action at the federal level
- Clarity around using the federal action request form
- Defining ownership around elected officials
- Information on applying a DEI lens to our positions

Taking Action

WORKING TOGETHER TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

In the League, we tend to focus our efforts on influencing legislative measures in the US Congress and state and local legislative bodies by preparing testimony, lobbying legislators, and initiating advocacy campaigns on issues of interest to our members. We also file lawsuits, file "friend of the court" (amicus) briefs in court cases, and monitor and comment when regulations are being written for executive branch agencies. The following guidelines apply to all these activities.

General Guidelines

This section is organized with general guidelines for action, followed by the role of the national office and staff in advocacy, then how to use Impact on Issues to take action at the state and local levels, and finally how state and local Leagues can request permission to take national action on non-priority federal issues.

The goal is to work collaboratively among the levels of League with consistent messages and strategies. Effective advocacy efforts on national issues depend on a partnership at all League levels — lobbying in Washington and constituent lobbying at home. This one-two punch reinforces the League's impact in influencing national and state legislation.

Working Together to Influence Public Policy

The process used in formulating positions and acting at the grassroots level makes the League unique and sets the League apart from other organizations. The fact that we are members of not only a local League, but a state League and the League of Women Voters of the United States, makes us a powerful force.

New Design Features: DEI lens

These positions are indicated with a  symbol throughout this document.

Equality of Opportunity

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Equality of Opportunity, as revised by the national board in January 1989, based on positions announced by the national board in January 1969, adopted by the 1972 Convention, expanded by the 1980 Convention and the 2010 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

New Positions in 2022-2024 version

Social Policy

- **Criminal Justice**

Support a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that foster public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry.

- **Health Care (updated)**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

Representative Government

- **Digital Equity**

High-speed affordable internet access is an essential service that should be readily available to all US residents and businesses.

Taking Action & LWVUS Support

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.*



[Form Here](#)

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

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:
advocacy@lww.org

Applying a DEI lens

Positions Examined with DEI lens

Climate Change

Death Penalty

Equality of Opportunity/Equal Rights

Gun Control

Health care

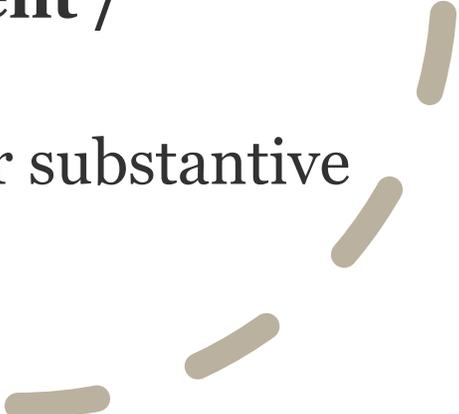
Immigration

Selection of the President

Sentencing Policy

Violence Prevention

Key Takeaways That Emerged

- **Gun Control:** update outdated language describing gun types
 - **Immigration:** update to reflect current law, change “undocumented workers”
 - **Sentencing Policy/ Violence Prevention:** new criminal justice position passed at Convention 2022
 - **Health care:** position updated through concurrence during Convention 2022
 - **Death Penalty / Sel. Of President / Climate Change:** updated
 - **Equality of Opportunity:** deeper substantive work needed
- 

Looking Forward



There are **58 positions** in the 2022-2024 edition



All positions should be looked at through the DEI lens



What do we use to evaluate other positions?



Applying Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Lens to Our Work

- Who is involved in the process?
- Who will be impacted?
- What are the intended/unintended outcomes?
- Alignment with LWVUS vision for an equitable and inclusive org?
- What changes could be made to make this work more equitable and inclusive?



POLL!

**Do you feel better acquainted with
Impact on Issues?**



Questions?