***Where We Stand - 2021-2023***

Detail positions can be found at

[www.lwvil.org/where-we-stand](http://www.lwvil.org/where-we-stand)

These statements are summaries of our positions. Before using a LWVIL position at the local and/or regional level, Leagues should refer to the complete position printed in ***WHERE WE STAND***, including background and previous action.

***GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:*** *LWVIL takes action on the*

*state level in the following public policy areas based on*

*these LWVUS positions: Voting Rights; Election Process*

*including apportionment, campaign finance and*

*selection of the President (abolishment of the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment); Citizen Rights including citizen’s right to know, citizen participation, individual liberties and public policy on reproductive choices; and Congress and the Presidency.*

*(See LWVUS Impact on Issues.)*

**CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND**

**AMENDMENTS:** LWVIL supports implementation of

provisions for governmental change in the Local

Government Article, and amendments to achieve merit

selection of judges; a graduated income tax; the indirect

statutory initiative and the recall of elected judges. The

League maintains its support for positions already

achieved in the Constitution but which may require

effort to preserve.

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE:** LWVIL supports

expanded citizen initiative powers to change the

structure of county government. Petition requirements

for citizen- initiated change should be a percentage of

actual voters in a recent jurisdiction-wide election. The

League supports changes in the Illinois County Executive

Act to provide a clear separation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches and easily

understood referendum language.

**CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND SHARING OF MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES:**

The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports the

efficient and effective operation of government.

Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of

major governmental services may be a way of

promoting the efficient and effective operation of

government. In achieving this goal, the League supports

a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens

have sufficient and timely information with which to

make informed decisions about proposed actions, and

well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

Administrative and fiscal efficiency should be included

in the criteria by which local governments consider

whether to consolidate or share major services. *Where We Stand* lists a series of criteria to be considered.

**STATE ELECTION LAWS:** LWVIL supports uniform election laws and procedures throughout the state to ensure the integrity of the election system and opposes term limits for members of the General Assembly. The League believes that a good election system should provide stability and continuity of governance and should produce a legislature that addresses the problems of society effectively. It should be resistant to both outright fraud and other forms of political manipulation.

**STATE REDISTRICTING:** The League supports a redistricting process which is timely, orderly, and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POSITIONS:**

*LWVIL takes action on international relations issues*

*only at the request of the LWVUS. These positions*

*include: United Nations, Trade, U.S. Relations with*

*Developing Countries, Arms Control, and Military*

*Policy and Defense Spending.*

**NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS:**

*The Illinois LWV takes action on the state level in the*

*following areas based on these LWVUS positions:*

*Agriculture Policy; Environmental Protection and*

*Pollution Control; Natural Resources; Public*

*Participation; and Resource Management.*

**LAND USE:** LWVIL supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources and providing needed open space. The State should identify, plan for and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the State with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional, and state sources. The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees.

**DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES:**

Enabling legislation should strive to effect some standardization of impact fee programs statewide, with flexibility for each to be designed to meet local needs.

**LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES:** The League

supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock

facilities on the state, regional and county levels to

include statewide environmental controls, public

hearings prior to siting and regional and/or county

control of siting.

**PESTICIDES:** The League supports reduction of

exposure to all pesticides. The use of non-toxic

alternatives should be encouraged.

**WATER-GREAT LAKES ECO SYSTEM:** The League supports preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes – St.

Lawrence River Ecosystem with emphasis on water pollution prevention. Water conservation should

be a high priority of all governments in the Basin.

**SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS**: *LWVIL takes action on the state level under the LWVUS Social Policy position to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. The LWVUS position promotes social and economic justice and safety of all Americans.*

*LWVIL takes action on the state level based on the*

*following LWVUS Social Policy positions: Equality of*

*Opportunity including ratification of the Equal rights*

*Amendment; Support for equal access to education,*

*employment and housing; Fiscal Policy; Health Care,*

*Immigration, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Child*

*Care, Early Intervention for Children at Risk, Violence*

*Prevention, Gun Control and Urban Policy.*

**CHILDREN’S SERVICES:** The League believes that the

State should play the leading role in meeting the needs

of children and their families.

This responsibility applies across systems of care

regardless of age or legal status. The State has the

primary role in funding to ensure that quality services

are equitably available throughout the state. The

League supports a continuum of community-based

services that strengthens and preserves families and

fosters healthy growth and development of children.

Prevention and early intervention should have high

priority.

The League supports a juvenile court system

that provides opportunities for effective protection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Detention should be

reserved for delinquent children who meet professional screening criteria and provided separately from adult programs. The League opposes the automatic transfer of children to the criminal court and the death penalty for children.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** For each of the following aspects of criminal justice, the League supports

**Bias in the Criminal Justice System:** ongoing evidence-based training to check biased behavior.

**Equitable and Appropriate Treatment of People in the Criminal Justice System:** considering gender, age, health, race, ethnicity**,** disabilities, and cognitivedevelopment.

**Data Collection & Transparency:** efficient data collection, analysis and sharing

**Policing**: protecting and promoting the dignity of all.

**Jail Standards:** enforcement of standards for local jails and detention facilities.

**Pretrial Procedures:** eliminating cash bond. Post-arrest detention should only be considered if a defendant is a danger to the community or a flight risk.

**Courtroom Procedures & Access:** procedures minimizing confusion and delay and increasing fairness and efficiency.

**Sentencing Laws and Procedures:** judicial discretion for most offenses.

**Alternatives to Incarceration:** expanding prevention and treatment programs as well as a statewide probation system.

**Jail Standards:** developing and enforcing standards for local jails and detention facilities.

**Illinois Department of Corrections**: correctional services that conform to national professional standards.

**Post Incarceration & Sentence Completion: From Recidivism to Successful Re-Entry**: removal of unnecessary barriers.

**Citizen Involvement:** using professionally directed, screened, and trained volunteers in the criminal justice system

**Funding:** adequate funding of the criminal justice system

**DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION:** The League supports

abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:**

LWVIL supports legislative controls to stop the

proliferation of handgun ownership and irresponsible

use; and restricted access to automatic and

semiautomatic assault type weapons.

**IMMIGRATION:**

The League supports

• State and local community efforts to provide

 orientation and counseling services for all

 immigrants.

• Provisions for educational programs and materials

 on rights in the workplace for all workers, driving

 certificates for undocumented workers and the

 availability of auto insurance for holders of

 certificates.

The League opposes

• deputizing state and local police to enforce

 immigration laws, and ordinances that penalize

 landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of

 business permits to the undocumented

 immigrants.

• extending the right to vote to the undocumented

 immigrants.

**INCOME ASSISTANCE:** The League supports income assistance and supportive services for all low-income

individuals and families.

**LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING:** The State should plan for adequate supplies of low and moderate income housing with every community providing a percentage under some kind of fair share plan.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The League supports a comprehensive and coordinated system of treatment and rehabilitation services for adults and children with mental illness. There should be adequate funding, planning, program standards, and personnel training requirements for both state facilities and community programs. The League supports a broad array of adequate and accessible community services. Although primary responsibility should rest with the state, funding from local, federal, and non-governmental sources should be encouraged. A system of local boards to levy taxes, administer all funds, and to plan and coordinate services should be required throughout the state. The State should require local governments to provide in their zoning ordinances for residential programs for persons with mental illness.

**SCHOOLS:** LWVIL supports a system of high quality

elementary and secondary schools for all children in

Illinois, which provides for local control of school

program and budget within minimum program

requirements set by the State. The State should provide

leadership to local communities for program

development and should set standards for recognition

and accreditation of schools. Educational programs’

effectiveness should be evaluated regularly. The

League favors minimum standards for graduation and

promotion of students. LWVIL supports increased

professionalism for teachers including stringent teacher

preparation standards, comprehensive teacher and

principal evaluations, changes in tenure, and increased

teacher compensation. The State should assume the

major responsibility for funding public schools and

guarantee an adequate level of financial support.

Schools should be provided stable, reliable, and

adequate revenue through a combination of federal,

state and local sources.

LWVIL supports sustained allocation of state funds for

public higher education that will provide quality

postsecondary programs throughout the state. In

addition, the League supports sustained funding to

attract, support, and retain qualified Illinois students.

LWVIL supports accountability, transparency, and

equity in the use of public funds for education,

including charter schools. Charter school authorizers

should evaluate the performance of existing charters

before granting new charters or approving additional

campuses. The authority to approve & renew charters

should reside exclusively in the local school board.

**STATE FISCAL POLICIES:** The League supports a

diversified revenue system, relying principally on a

combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, that is

equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

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