



The Blake Annex | 1 Steuben Place | Albany, NY 12207
ph. 518.465.4162 | fx. 518.465.0812 | www.lwvny.org | email: lwvny@lwvny.org

PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2025 LWVNYS CONVENTION

Preparing for State Convention 2025

Included in this email are directions to all leagues on developing a Program, i.e. any new issues selected for concentrated study, which positions need to be updated, and any existing positions that should be dropped. "Program" really means positions, so this is the time to determine which positions we want to delete, update/revise or even consider new studies for new positions or concurrence with existing positions of other Leagues. We hope you will review our present program and recommend any changes through the process noted in these guidelines.

Grassroots and League "Program"

In a grassroots organization, it is vital that all members participate in developing the state program. The League "Program" is determined by members and consists of federal, state and local issues. National issues are adopted at LWVUS Convention, state issues at LWVNYS Convention and local issues at local Leagues' annual meetings. Please share the information in this report with your members and encourage member participation in the making of the LWVNYS 2025-2027 Program. This process provides every member an opportunity to influence new areas of study and the issues that will direct League action during the 2025-2027 League years.

Local Leagues and members also may suggest changes to Program through direct suggestions to the state League Board. This can be done anytime, however the Program Planning process for the 2025 Convention is the only time that these suggestions can be voted on by the membership as non-recommended items. New studies recommended at other times will be considered and adopted by the state Board at its discretion.

CALENDAR FOR DEVELOPING LWVNYS 2025-2027 PROGRAM

January – February

Local Leagues should review the positions in *LWVNYS Impact on Issues* (positions are in black boxes of each section). The LWVNYS Summary of Policy Positions are NOT our positions, but rather summaries of the positions. Each local League should discuss possible revisions and additions to our positions at a general membership meeting. Revisions and additions would be done through dropping positions, updating positions, or new studies/concurrences. Local League boards, preferably through a general membership meeting, forward their recommendations on the attached form to the state League by March 15, 2025. **This is the only method for suggesting new studies to be adopted at**

Convention 2025 and the March 15 deadline for submission must be met. Changes in Program cannot be suggested for the first time at Convention for adoption at Convention.

Amendments to the wording of the Summary of Policy Positions for editorial purposes, clarification or emphasis may be made but may not change the scope or meaning of the underlying position as currently applied by the Board. It is recommended that such amendments be given as Direction to the Board.

March

State Board reviews recommendations from local Leagues and develops a Proposed Program for consideration by delegates to State Convention.

April-May

Proposed Program is sent to local Leagues in Pre-Convention Kit. It includes recommended and non-recommended program items, submitted by the March 15, 2025, deadline. Local Leagues review the Proposed Program. They may decide, early on, to establish a League network to rally support for certain items on the recommended or non-recommended lists.

June

Convention delegates adopt a 2025-2027 Program either as proposed by the state League board or as amended by the inclusion of non-recommended items.

GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL LEAGUE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LWVNYS 2023-2025 PROGRAM

1. Hold a general membership meeting to provide an opportunity for grassroots input. The meeting should be chaired by a local League board member with experience related to the state issues and use the LWVNYS Summary of Policy Positions 2024 (attached) and LWVNYS [*Impact on Issues*](#). Information on many areas of our positions can also be found on the specific issue pages on the legislative action page of our website. **If you have any questions, please call or email the state office.**
2. Use the following guidelines to successfully develop recommendations for the 2025-2027 program:
 - a. Review the complete positions in LWVNYS Impact on Issues 2024 (and the Summary of Policy Positions) to recommend which positions should be dropped or updated. The following definitions should be used to guide these decisions.
 - i. **Drop** - Position is no longer useful in its present form or is not supported by members. Action on this position will end. Any future action will require adoption of a new study.
 - ii. **Update** - A study of limited scope to reevaluate a position because of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position. The aim is to consider position changes.

- iii. The Summary of Policy Positions is merely a convenient way to access our full positions. Amendments to the wording for editorial purposes, clarification or emphasis may be made but may not change the scope of meaning of the underlying position as currently applied by the Board. It is recommended that such amendments be given as Direction to the Board.
- b. Please consider the following:
 - i. Have our goals been reached or is further action needed?
 - ii. Is there need for monitoring?
 - iii. Is member interest and understanding sufficient to continue the inclusion of this position?
- c. Before proposing a new study, review [*LWVUS Impact on Issues*](#) to be certain we have no national position on which to base action. Note that many of our positions in LWVNYS Summary of Policy Positions, are based on national positions.
- d. When considering an issue for study, answer the following questions:
 - i. Would a study of this issue result in a position that could be used to influence legislative action or state government policy?
 - ii. Is there sufficient member interest in this issue, locally and statewide?
 - iii. Can the League make a unique contribution by adopting this issue as a program item?
 - iv. Is there leadership at the local and state League level to conduct a statewide study that would result in a valid consensus?
 - v. If a valid consensus is achieved and a position on the issue developed, do we have the local and state human and financial resources to work toward achieving the goal(s) of the position?

The guidelines cited above are not meant to discourage the recommendation of new studies but rather to encourage careful consideration. The League is a grassroots organization with tremendous credibility, due in large part to its reputation for conducting valid studies resulting in positions that represent our grassroots. As times change, the League must change but change should not result in a loss of quality. It is also imperative that we remember that studies increase visibility and that when visibility is in the positive vein it should increase membership. So, if your local League, after answering the above-cited questions, decides to recommend a study, or a concurrence, your state board will review it thoroughly and consider its impact on all fronts.

Summary of Policy Positions 2024

Over the years LWVUS has reorganized its positions which are now organized into four broad categories: Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Three of these categories are also categories under which LWVNYS positions have been developed positions that have been reorganized to more closely follow LWVUS positions.

Under Representative Government there are sub-categories of Voting Rights, Election Process and Citizens Rights under which sub-categories LWVNYS derives many of our core election law and government positions. While we rely extensively on LWVUS Natural Resources positions, we have also over the years developed specific New York positions. Social Policy is a very broad category that covers a spectrum of sub-categories under which we have New York positions, some of which like State Finances are necessarily at the state level.

LWVNYS Impact on Issues has been updated for the end of the 2024 legislative session and all state positions can be located through the index.

As emphasized in the Program Planning Materials, **amendments to the wording of the Summary of Policy Positions for editorial purposes, clarification or emphasis may be made but may not change the scope or meaning of the underlying position as currently applied by the Board. It is recommended that such amendments be given as Direction to the Board.**

LWVNYS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2025-2027

RECOMMENDATION(S) SUBMITTED BY LWV OF:

NAME:

TITLE:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

1. Number of members participating in program-making meeting(s)?

2. Does your League wish to update any item(s) in the current program?

Please specify:

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3. Does your League wish to drop any item(s) in the current program? _____

Please specify: _____

4. Does your League wish to propose a new program item for study or concurrence?

PLEASE USE THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FORM IS NECESSARY

DUE March 15, 2025

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE**

The Blake, 1 Steuben Place, Albany, NY 12207

Phone: (518) 465-4162

E-mail: lwvny@lwvny.org Website: www.lwvny.org