



State Program Planning Action Priorities and Goals

2021 – 2023

Dear League Member,

Every two years, usually in January or February, local Leagues, Units and Members-at-Large have an opportunity to propose areas of focus for LWVMA Program—important state governmental issues on which we have positions-- for the next biennium. You will hear before long from the leaders of your League or Unit when and how they plan to discuss State Program Planning.

This year, the LWVMA Board has decided on six Action Priorities, with over 30 goals. We are asking you as individuals to select ten of these goals as the most important for LWVMA to focus on in 2021-2023. You may include added goals you think important to your list of ten. Then when you participate in your League's Program Planning event, you will be in a position to contribute to the group's decision.

At that Program Planning event, in addition to deciding on your League's choice of ten goals, your League or Unit will indicate whether it approves of the Action Priorities, or would like to make changes. Your League or Unit will also be able to propose a New Study, a Restudy, or a Concurrence. For more information, consult the *Guide to State Program Planning*: <https://lwvma.org/member-resources/program-planning/>

If you would like to learn more about the Program Planning process, please join us in a webinar at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12. Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eAm4tMXIQciYbNHWEb6nPQ

If you have any questions, contact one of us, the co-chairs of State Program Planning: Marie Gauthier (mgauthier@lwvma.org) or Susan Millinger (smillinger@lwvma.org)

Here are the Action Priorities and Goals proposed for 2021-2023

Action Priorities

Consider what broad, general subject areas the State League should focus its energy on. We would concentrate on legislation, programs, and actions in these areas. The Action Priorities adopted at the 2019 Convention were Improving Elections, Informed Voters and Civic Education, Climate Change and the Environment, and Equality and Justice.

Some suggested action priorities for 2021-2023 are listed below, with action goals in those areas. Feel free to suggest others. *Please identify the ten goals you consider most important for the LWVMA to focus on.*

Program Planning Categories

First and foremost, we will develop an Action Plan to encourage understanding of racial justice issues by Massachusetts Leagues. We will

- *Encourage the continued education of our local League members on fundamental aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion*
- *Utilize and implement tools provided by the LWVUS DEI training modules and other applicable resources to ensure members understand and are committed to achieving racial equity*
- *Assess our individual local League programming, with Black people, Indigenous people, and all people of color (BIPOC), and other marginalized representatives in mind, to ensure diversity that represents the inclusion of all of our community and further advances racial equity*
- *Work to create opportunities to meaningfully partner with BIPOC and underrepresented members of our communities through inclusive engagement and community capacity-building*

As we advocate for the action priorities and goals accepted at Convention or added as circumstances demand, we will always use the lens of DEI.

Action Priorities and Goals:

Action Priority: Improving Elections

Action Goals

- Advocate for election reforms including same-day voter registration and making permanent vote-by-mail and other early voting measures with the improvements which have been identified
- Encourage corrections officials to facilitate voting for eligible incarcerated people
- Follow up on results from LWVMA ballot question process study

Action Priority: Informed, Engaged, and Authentic Voters and Civic Education

Action Goals

- Continue to encourage informed and active participation in government and understanding major public policy issues. On-going actions include: Online voters' guide; Lotte E. Scharfman citizen education grants to local Leagues; candidate forums; student video contest; civic trivia events
- Support civic education in schools, promoting the LWVMA Civic Education Curriculum: funding for civic education still needs to be secured; some features of implementation don't begin until 2022

Action Priority: Climate Emergency and Sustainable Environment

Action Goals

- Advocate for passage of comprehensive climate legislation that addresses the scope, scale, and urgency of the climate crisis
- Track implementation of major, comprehensive climate legislation
- Support regional collaborations, such as the Transportation and Climate Initiative
- Work for improved public transportation as a way to decrease greenhouse gas emissions

Action Priority: Government for the People

Action Goals: Healthcare

- Educate public about healthcare coverage
- Advocate for single-payer universal healthcare coverage legislation for all residents of Massachusetts
- Advocate for legislation to strengthen and extend reproductive rights as needed

Action Goal: Gender Rights

- Advocate for strengthened and extended rights for all LBGTQ residents of Massachusetts
- Ensure that the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion are applied to all marginalized groups

Action Goals: Education

- Develop and advocate for strategies to improve educational access and learning experiences for marginalized communities
- Reaffirm our commitment to affordable and accessible post-secondary education
- Maintain "Education funding reform" because pandemic has disrupted the funding

Action Goals: Meeting Basic Human Needs

- Establish partnerships with local organizations to improve access to healthy food and sustainable nutrition by focusing on resources that counteract food deserts

- Advocate for affordable housing
- Work to prevent cuts in spending on public transportation, needed to enable all residents to reach jobs, grocery stores and medical appointments

Action Goals: Pandemic Recovery

- Advocate for coordination of resources to mitigate the societal and economic impact of the pandemic
- View the amplified and exacerbated inequities as an opportunity to examine and change laws, institutions, and conventions involved in the creation and perpetuation of these inequities
- Prioritize aid and support to those in disadvantaged positions

Action Priority: Justice

Action Goals: Racial Justice

- Take action to identify, educate, and advocate to eradicate systemic racism in the state of Massachusetts as it exists in education, housing, employment, healthcare, and every aspect of American life, since such racism and socio-economic inequalities have marginalized, discriminated against, and harmed Black people, Indigenous people, and all people of color (BIPOC)
- Make applying a racial justice lens to examine both explicit and implicit racial justice implications a required step before League approval of any proposed legislation, project, or report
- Review and study the Massachusetts state seal and motto in order to ensure Indigenous Americans are treated with respect; support legislation and actions to ban public schools from using Native American mascots

Action Goals: Criminal Justice

- Support legislation to reform sentencing, probation and parole policies
- Invest in rehabilitative and re-entry services
- Promote alternatives to incarceration
- Consider in all criminal justice legislative efforts how laws will address racism within the criminal justice and police systems

Thank you very much for prioritizing goals. Your input is important.