



State Program Planning Action Priorities and Goals

2021 – 2023

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 LWWUS 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, supporting successful school implementation of S2631, "An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement," with continued advocacy for its annual funding and resource support for schools

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 LGBTQ 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