

Non-Recommended Program and Action Proposed by Local Leagues

Program planning recommendation forms were received from 22 local Leagues but no Members-at-Large.

The following suggestions, with a number indicating how many Leagues suggested each item, were not recommended by the board. According to LWVMA by-laws, "Any recommendations for the state program sent to the state board at least three months before the convention, but not recommended by the state board, may be adopted by the convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and at a subsequent session the proposal for adoption receives a two-thirds vote."

Any League may propose consideration of a non-recommended item at the convention's Saturday morning session. If it receives a majority vote, it will be voted on at the Saturday afternoon session, where it will need a two-thirds vote [unless the bylaw change to a majority vote has been passed.]

New Study Recommendations:

The use of Ranked Choice Voting in local elections where there are multi-winners, e.g. voting for 2 out of 3 candidates. 1 local League

16- and 17-year-olds being able to vote in state-wide, e.g. constitutional and legislative, elections. 1 local League; a second local League mentioned the issue, but did not suggest a study on it.

The impact on voter participation by moving to a ward-based city council and school committee system
1 local League

An individual's right to a "death with dignity," focusing on the rights of those involved, the medical choices that can be made and the physician's role in those choices. 1 local League

Restudy recommendations:

None

Concurrence:

None

Action Priorities:

The names of several Priorities have been changed at the suggestion of one local League, but the focus of the Priorities has not been changed.

Action Goals: All proposed by one local League unless otherwise stated.

Improving Elections

- Advocate for local option Ranked Choice Voting Act (SD 241/HD 652).
- Support legislative measures that promote interstate collaboration for election improvement by encouraging MA to join ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center.

- Advocate for the lowering of the voting age to 16 or 17 in municipal /town elections, e.g. the Empower Act. 2 local Leagues.
- Reach out to encourage the marginalized, elderly, young and women to become regular voters.
- Advocate for media outlets and public officials to take a firm approach to reduce/eliminate disinformation.
- Focus public attention on the legislative history of League-supported bills; use the progress of bills to promote understanding of the need to improve the legislative process in Massachusetts.

Climate Emergency

- Advocate accelerating the timetables for implementation of climate legislation.
- Encourage local Leagues to work with local governments to develop climate action plans and other local initiatives.
- Advocate for recognition of a healthy and sustainable environment as a basic human right.
- Environmental education should be stressed at all levels.
- Advocate for laws that shift the costs of recycling and disposal from taxpayers and municipal governments to the producers that sell them. 3 local Leagues; a 4th includes similar ideas in a more general statement

Government for All the People: Healthcare:

- Advocate for health equity which is defined as the absence of unfair and avoidable or remediable differences in health among population groups defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically
- Advocate for legislation to reduce discrimination in the disparity of access and in the provision of healthcare for all people.
- Expansion of public health infrastructure to build state and local resilience.

Government for All the People: Education

- Advocate for universal pre-K. 2 local Leagues

Government for All the People: Basic Human Needs

- Advocate for passage of a law to create a Rural Task Force to secure funding and resources for improved access to jobs, food, medical services, environmental protection, and universal internet connectivity.
- Take active steps by working with non-profits, for-profit companies, and government to end/mitigate food insecurities.
- Advocate for the reaffirmation of water as a basic human right.
- Gun Violence Prevention: Advocate for a holistic approach to prevent gun violence that addresses root causes and anti-racist system change.

Pandemic Recovery

- Advocate for the establishment of safe in-person education that addresses academic, social and emotional needs of students of all ages.

Justice: Gender Equity

- Advocate for legislation for equal pay, parity on boards, and to address sexual harassment in the workplace. 1 local League, but a second focuses on a part of this: Advocate for passage of SD521, "An Act to Ensure Gender Parity on Public Boards.
- Work to provide family-friendly social-economic policies for working mothers of all income levels.

Criminal Justice

- Advocate for the decriminalizing of asylum-seeking and immigration.

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