

## **Recommended Program for 2021-2023**

At its April 28, 2021, meeting, the Board of Directors of LWVMA approved a program plan to recommend to the membership at Convention 2021. Per by-laws, this plan must be distributed to local League presidents at least six weeks prior to Convention. The plan that is approved at Convention will guide LWVMA for the next two years. In developing its recommended plan, the Board considered the Program Planning reports from 22 local Leagues, likelihood of success and relevance of different proposals, and available leadership to carry out the program.

## **LWVMA Board Recommendations for Studies**

**Recommendation 1: The Board recommends no new study.**

**Recommendation 2: The Board recommends no reviews or updates of current LWVMA positions.**

**Recommendation 3: The Board recommends no concurrence.**

## **LWVMA Board Recommendations for Action Priorities and Goals**

### **LWVMA Board Preamble to Action Priorities and Goals:**

**The recommendations for Action Priorities and Goals were introduced by the following passage, approved by the Board at its December 14, 2020 meeting.**

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.

## **LWVMA Board Recommendations for Action Priorities and Goals**

By selecting these five areas for action priority, and these eleven action goals, LWVMA and its local Leagues will seek opportunities to participate in action that addresses issues under these headings. Opportunities may include, but are not limited to, support of or opposition to legislation at all levels of government, participating in approved coalitions, conducting issue forums, encouraging attendance at events and rallies, and lobbying officials. LWVMA will provide members and local Leagues with communication tools and materials to focus on the Action Priorities and Goals. The Action Priorities and Goals will appear on the LWVMA website home page. Legislative specialists will continue to follow legislation in all their areas of expertise; those areas fall under one of the broad Priority categories. Action Priorities and Goals will only change by a vote of the membership.

### **Recommendation 4: Board recommendations for LWVMA Action Priorities 2021-2023**

*Improving Elections*

*Empowering Voters and Fostering Civic Engagement*

*Advocating for Justice and Equality*

*Addressing the Climate Emergency*

*Advocating for Equitable Access to Basic Human Services*

### **Recommendation 5: Board recommendations for Action Goals Chosen by local League Members for LWVMA Focus 2021-2023**

With the approval of the Board, in the program planning materials LWVMA provided a list of thirty action goals, sent as a separate list to the whole membership, and included in the *Guide to Program Planning* sent to local League leaders. The Leagues and members at large were asked chose ten goals that each thought LWVMA should focus on in 2021-2023.

The local Leagues made a number of suggestions about the goals. Some suggestions offered improved wording; these tended to be proposed for adoption by the program co-chairs because of their usefulness. Other proposed additional components for individual goals, either expanding what a goal would involve, or making more specific goals considered too general. Others merged two or three goals together. A number of Leagues proposed additional goals.

What follows are the ten goals most chosen by the Leagues, and one goal added from the additional goals proposed by local Leagues.

## **Improving Voting**

Advocate for election reforms including same-day voter registration and making permanent vote-by-mail and other early voting measures which have been identified.

## **Empowering Voters and Fostering Civic Engagement**

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. 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.

Examine the operation of Senate and House rules, selection of president and speaker, and assignment of chairmanships and stipends in order to promote more transparency and to ensure public accountability.

## **Advocating for Justice and Equality**

**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).

**Gender Equity:** Advocate for strengthened and extended rights for all LGBTQ residents of Massachusetts to ensure that the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion are applied to all historically disadvantaged groups.

**Criminal Justice:** Support legislation to reform sentencing, probation and parole policies; support rehabilitative and re-entry services; promote alternatives to incarceration, including enhanced mental health care.

## **Addressing the Climate Emergency**

Advocate for passage and tracking of comprehensive climate legislation that addresses the scope, scale, and urgency of the climate crisis; advocate for increased use of renewable energy, especially related to transportation; advocate for improved public transportation funding that includes transitioning towards electrification and expanding availability of options, especially in our Environmental Justice Communities.

## **Advocating for Equitable Access to Basic Human Services**

Advocate for single-payer universal healthcare coverage legislation for all residents of Massachusetts.

Develop and advocate for strategies to improve educational access and learning experiences for historically disadvantaged communities.

Advocate for affordable housing for all as a matter of equity by seeking to expand the rights of tenants, promoting the establishment of affordable housing, preserving existing affordable housing, and promoting tenancy preservation.