



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
100 Years
1920 - 2020

▪

.....**HANDBOOK**
2020 - 2021
CHESTER COUNTY PA CHAPTER



Carrie Chapman Catt
League of Women Voters Founder
February 14, 1920

Then.....



CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Mission Statement.....	2
Board of Directors.....	2
Committees/Projects	3
Helpful League Things to Know....	3
Contacts.....	4
LWVCC Board Policy.....	5
Fiscal Policy.....	5
Nonpartisan Election Services Policy	8
Bylaws.....	13
LWV County Positions.....	22
LWV State Positions.....	24
LWVUS National Positions.....	27

League of Women Voters of Chester County

PO Box 62, Exton PA 19341

www.facebook.com/LWVofChesterCounty

www.lwvccpa.org

610-644-5960

(Printed December 2019)

Sir Speedy West Chester

Compliments of Exelon Generation

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHESTER COUNTY (LWVCC)

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Chester County is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to serve the local community by promoting informed active citizen participation in government and by acting on selected governmental issues.

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President.....	Dr. Pamela Gray
Vice President.....	Barbara Lathroum
Secretary.....	Valerie Thomas
Treasurer.....	Carole Mackrell

DIRECTORS

Kim Byrd
Gretchen Cole
Loraine Deisinger
Mary Lou Dondero
Lisa Forsyth
Sandra Schaal

Membership is open to **ALL** who subscribe to the purpose and policies of the League. Meetings are open to members and guests.

Your membership at any level includes membership at all League levels - national, state, regional, and your local League. If you live in Chester County, PA, we welcome you as a Chester County member.

Dues are \$75.00 annually. From the dues, we make Per Member Payments (PMP's) to the National League and the State League. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to the following June 30.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Agriculture
Budget
Criminal/Juvenile Justice
Education
Energy/Environment
Immigration
Membership
Nominating
Voters Service

PROJECTS

The *Voter* Newsletter
Legislative Directory
Voters Guide
Website
Facebook
Email Blasts
Membership Directory/Handbook
Fundraising

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE LEAGUE

(ANNOUNCEMENTS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AND ON FACEBOOK)

League Monthly Board Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m., usually at the East Goshen Township Building, 1580 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380.

Program Planning Meetings are usually held in January at Crosslands, 1660 East Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Legislative Interviews (meetings with individual legislators) are initiated in February each year.

Naturalization Ceremonies generally occur in March, August and November each year at the CC Justice Center, 201 Market Street, West Chester, PA 19380. The League registers voters at all Naturalization ceremonies.

League Candidate Forums (Debates) are generally held in April before the Primaries and October before the General Election.

State Conventions are held in odd years and National Conventions are held in even years.

In 2020, the LWV National Convention will take place in June in Washington DC. The next State Convention will take place in June of 2021.

CONTACTS

LWV of Chester County (LWVCC)

610-644-5960
www.lwvccpa.org

LWV Pennsylvania (LWVPA)

717-234-1576
Hotline 1-800-692-7281
www.palwv.org

LWV United States (LWVUS)

202-429-1965/202-263-1311
www.lwv.org
1730 M St., NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036-4587

Chester County Voter Services

610-344-6410
www.chesco.org/election
601 Westtown Rd.
West Chester, PA 19382

Voter Registration Form

www.votespa.com/register

PA Voter Information

Vote411.org
www.votespa.com

Chester County Commissioners Office
610-344-6100

Chester County Democratic Committee
610-692-5811

Republican Committee of Chester County
610-696-1842

LWVCC BOARD POLICY

The Board of Directors of LWVCC consists of the officers (President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary) and up to six elected Directors. Three directors are elected each year at the Annual Meeting. They serve for two years. The Board may appoint up to six additional directors as the need occurs. Appointed directors serve for one year and may be reappointed. Officers and directors are expected to attend board meetings. If an officer or director is unable to attend a board meeting, the president or vice president should be notified. Three or more unexcused absences in one year shall be considered a resignation.

FISCAL POLICY

The Fiscal Policy serves as a guideline for decisions regarding financial transactions of the LWVCC. The Fiscal Policy shall be reviewed and/or revised each fiscal year. The Policy shall remain in effect from the date of the adoption to the date of revision/adoption in the following fiscal year. Except for the amount of annual dues, the Board of Directors may amend any part of the Fiscal Policy during the year it is in effect if two-thirds of the Board members vote in favor of the proposed amendment.

Any part of this Fiscal Policy not in compliance with the bylaws of the LWVCC, LWVPA or LWVUS shall be declared null and void; however, the remainder of the policy shall remain in effect.

The fiscal year of the LWVCC shall be from July 1 to June 30.

REVENUE

The Budget Committee is tasked with preparing a balanced budget that proposes the amount of the annual dues based on national, state and local needs. It also contains proposals for income generation to compensate for any inequity between proposed income from dues and the total income necessary to cover expenses.

DUES

Annual membership expires on June 30. Members whose dues are not paid in full by December 31 of that fiscal year (after at least one reminder) shall be dropped from the membership roster. The following exceptions to the requirement for the full-rate payment of dues shall apply:

1. Household membership - the first member pays full dues and each additional member in that household shall pay one-half of the annual dues amount.
2. Honorary (Life) memberships (no payment required) may be awarded by a majority vote of the Board. (Member for 50+ years.)
3. Scholarship/Financial Hardship - Dues may be waived or modified because of financial hardship. The decision shall be made confidentially by the President, Membership Chair and Treasurer. The Membership Chair shall notify the member or prospective member of the decision to waive or reduce dues for one year or longer. Members whose dues have been waived or modified may participate in all League activities.

Student Membership is FREE. No PMP charged.

Checks may be mailed directly to the LWVCC PO Box 62, Exton, PA 19341. Payments may also be made via PayPal online at www.lwvccpa.org.

OTHER INCOME/FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities shall be monitored by the Treasurer and the Board, but may be chaired by non-Board members, who shall be responsible to the Treasurer and the Board.

Fundraisers may be held to raise money for a specific project or program approved by the Board, and such funds may remain in reserve for the designated use unless returned to general League use by a majority vote of the Board.

Honoraria or stipends paid to members for League work on Election Day, including pollworkers and receipt of ballot bags on election night, may be donated to the LWVCC.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

1. Cash reserve: Where possible, funds equal to three months operating expenses shall be maintained in highly liquid accounts.
2. Checking: The Treasurer shall keep balances in non-interest- bearing accounts as low as possible.
3. Savings: A certain amount shall be kept in savings to cover emergencies and unexpected expenditures when dues fall short.
4. Education Fund:
 - a. Contributions to the LVWUS Education Fund are tax deductible.
 - b. PMP's shall be paid from the LVWUS Education Fund whenever possible.
 - c. The Board decides any additional uses of Education Funds.
 - d. The status of Education Fund, including monies received and dispersed, is listed separately on the Treasurer's monthly report, and is not part of the budget.

EXPENSES

Any expenditure not included in the budget must have prior Board approval. Board members representing the League at non-League sponsored functions may request reimbursement for expenses.

Reimbursable expenses include: registration fees, travel expenses, postage, telephone calls, supplies, duplicating fees and expenses for League-sponsored meetings. Requests for reimbursement of expenses shall be made on voucher forms, using the proper budget category, and submitted within thirty (30) days of the expenditure.

NONPARTISAN ELECTION SERVICES POLICY

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE VOTERS GUIDE

1. LWVCC will include in the VOTERS GUIDE all candidates whose names appear on the official certified ballot for voters in Chester County.
2. LWVCC will send letters and questionnaires to certified candidates and will follow up with those candidates who respond.
3. LWVCC will contact the political parties of any candidates who have not responded. It will then be the political party's responsibility to contact all its candidates who have not responded to the questionnaire to determine whether they wish to be included in the VOTERS GUIDE.
4. In the event of a legal challenge to a candidate, the League will use its production deadline to determine whether that candidate will be included in the VOTERS GUIDE.

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED CANDIDATE FORUMS (DEBATES)

1. Candidate's name must appear on the official Pennsylvania ballot.
2. In determining eligibility using these criteria, the burden of proof is on the candidate, not on the LWVCC. A candidate must provide the League information to show that he/she meets the criteria at least three weeks before a scheduled taped or live forum.

CANDIDATE FORUM GUIDELINES

To the extent possible, League members serving as moderators or question screeners shall not be from the same voting district as the candidates.

League members who are actively supporting a candidate or a political party shall not take an active role in the candidate forum.

The 3 x 5 cards containing the questions submitted during the forum are the private property of the League and will not be shared with anyone after the event. The cards will be kept for one month after the forum.

Questions will be screened out if they are of a personal nature, are addressed to only one candidate, or are duplicates of a previously answered question.

These guidelines are presented to the audience by the moderator at the beginning of the forum.

The moderator may ask the candidates to remain for a few minutes at the end of the forum if anyone from the audience has a question that was not asked due to time constraints.

NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The League recognizes the role of political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. **While League members are urged to be politically active**, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the non-partisan nature of the organization.

League non-partisanship is based on Article II of the Bylaws. The purpose of the Non-partisan Policy is to assure the credibility of the LWVCC as a non-partisan organization. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine non-partisanship will the League be able to render effective Voter Services and gain a wide base of support for its public policy positions.

LEAGUE PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

The League speaks with one voice. Once LWVCC, LWVPA, or LWVUS takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members when publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

REPRESENTING THE LEAGUE

Members who act in public as League representatives must be fully aware of League public policy positions, and must not act in a partisan manner.

LEAGUE MEETINGS

Members in leadership roles at public meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by the League have the responsibility of ensuring the non-partisan nature of the meeting and its environment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Officers, Voter Service Director, and Membership Director may not take an active, visible role in a campaign of a political candidate, nor for a non-League issue, nor run for public office, EXCEPT THAT League members and officers may hold the elected office of Judge of Elections and Inspector of Elections.

Other than as stated above, if any other board member wishes to engage in political activity, including, but not limited to, running for office, publicizing or working visibly for any candidate or party, poll watching, participating in any function where the intent is to support a candidate, or circulating nomination petitions, that member must seek a Board decision as to whether the activity would affect the community's perception of the League's non-partisanship.

A board member may not return to the Board until three months after the election on which he/she was working or upon leaving elective office.

Board members may not make contributions in excess of \$200 for a federal or national candidate or party, nor more than \$50 to a state or local candidate or party, whatever the amount that is reportable in an election cycle.

Board members may sign, but not circulate, nominating papers and petitions unless the nominating papers and petitions are for themselves as Election Officials as noted above.

Board members may attend partisan social and fund raising events in their personal capacity and not as representatives of the League.

Board members may serve on public commissions, committees and Election Boards. Unless clearly designated, members so serving are not official representatives of the League.

League members with well-known political affiliations shall not represent the League before the public in any way, including:

1. Participating in League-sponsored voter registration events.
 2. Administering League-sponsored candidate forums or debates.
 3. Being official League observers at government meetings.
 4. Testifying for the League before government panels.
 5. Lobbying in the name of the League.
-

**BYLAWS
OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CHESTER COUNTY
(Includes June 2014 Amendments and 2016
National Updates)**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this organization (this “Local League”) shall be the League of Women Voters of Chester County, referred to as LWVCC. This Local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, referred to as LWVPA and the League of Women Voters of the United States, referred to as LWVUS.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSES AND POLICY**

Section 1. Purposes. The League of Women Voters of Chester County is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to serve the local community by promoting informed active citizen Participation in government and by acting on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Party. The LWVCC shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

a. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVCC shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and the LWVUS; (1) Those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be Honorary Members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members and may not vote.

ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS**

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVCC shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Officers shall be elected for terms of two years by the members at an Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President, 1st Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years; and the 2nd Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. At the discretion of the Board and the Nominating Committee, a third Vice President may be added in any year.

Section 2. Term Limits. Officers shall be limited to serving a maximum of three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms, and be required to step down from their office for at least one term before being eligible for re-election or re-appointment to that office for another term. Term limits shall be effective as of July 1, 2014.

Section 3. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of

supervision and management as may pertain to the office and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 4. The Vice President. The Vice Presidents shall, in order of precedence, in the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that no Vice President is able to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

Section 5. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, shall notify all officers and directors of their election; shall sign with the President all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board; and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due, shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in an authorized financial institution designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the Board at its regular meetings and to the membership at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall deliver the books for audit no later than one month after the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVCC; six elected directors; and not more than three appointed directors. Three directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in odd-numbered years and three in even-numbered years, and they shall serve until the conclusion of their two-year terms or until their

successors have been qualified and elected. The officers and elected directors shall appoint directors, not exceeding three, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVCC. The term of office of the appointed directors shall be one year or until the next Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications. All elected or appointed officers and directors of the Board must be voting members of the LWVCC.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy other than President occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from Board meetings by any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall manage and supervise the business, affairs and activities of the LWVCC subject to the instructions of the Annual Meeting. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the LWVCC program as adopted by the Annual Meeting. It shall select delegates to LWVPA Convention and Council and to LWVUS Convention under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVPA and LWVUS respectively. It shall have the power to create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Section 5. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least six meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President shall notify each member of the Board of Directors no less than one week before the date of the meeting.

Section 6. Special Meetings. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of three members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time, place and purpose of special meetings.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum, and adoption of all motions shall be by a majority of those present and voting.

Section 8. Executive Committee. There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer. At the discretion of the Board, one non-officer Board member may be appointed to the Executive Committee by the President. The Executive Committee shall transact all necessary business that arises between meetings of the Board of Directors. All action taken by the Executive Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the next regular meeting. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. Term Limits. Directors shall be limited to serving a maximum of two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms, and then be required to step down from the Board for at least one term before being eligible for re-election or re-appointment to the Board for another term. Term limits shall be effective as of July 1, 2014.

ARTICLE VI **COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Definitions:

- (a) Standing Committee. A group of members (or one member only, depending on the circumstances) appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors, to promote a particular purpose of the League of Women Voters on a continuing basis at the local level and to take action on local governmental issues.
- (b) Ad Hoc Committee. A group of members (or one member only, depending on the circumstances) appointed by the President on an “as needed basis”, for a limited period of time, to promote a specific purpose of the League of Women Voters at the local level.

Section 2. Committee Chairpersons. Committee members shall select a committee chairperson by whatever process they choose, and shall determine how the Committee is organized to carry out its business and activities. The committee chairperson shall be responsible for ensuring that regular committee meetings are held and shall also be responsible for overseeing other committee activities. A committee chairperson shall be limited to serving a maximum of three (3) consecutive one (1) year terms, and then be required to step down for at least one term before being eligible to serve as chairperson for another term. Term limits shall be effective as of July 1, 2014.

ARTICLE VII **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVCC shall commence on the first of July of each year.

Section 2. Budget. The LWVCC Board shall submit to the Annual Meeting for Adoption a budget for the ensuing year. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to the membership at least one month in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Budget Committee. The Budget shall be prepared by a committee consisting of at least three members who shall be appointed for that purpose by the LWVCC Board at least three months in advance of the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the Budget Committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chairman.

Section 4. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of dissolution of LWVCC for any cause, all monies and securities owned by said League shall be paid to LWVPA.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held before the end of each fiscal year. The Annual Meeting shall adopt the Program for the ensuing year; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget and transact such other business as may properly come before it. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Section 2. Membership Meetings. Membership meetings shall be held at least once each quarter, one of which may be the Annual Meeting. The time and place of each membership meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make every effort to select meeting locations in various parts of Chester County so that members from different areas of Chester County will have the opportunity to attend at least one meeting per year in their local area.

Section 3. Quorum. Ten percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum at all membership meetings of the LWVCC.

ARTICLE IX NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. **The Chair and two members who are not members of the Board shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The two members from the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the Board immediately following the Annual Meeting.** Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to the Nominating Committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and the members of the Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting and shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the prior consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections. The election shall be by ballot, except when there is but one nominee for office, it shall be in order to move that the Secretary cast a ballot for every candidate. A simply majority shall be required for election to any office. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE X **PROGRAM**

Section 1. Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the LWVUS at Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the principles for adoption of program.

Section 2. Program. The program of the LWVCC shall consist of those county issues chosen at the Annual Meeting for concerted study, and action to implement the principles and program of the LWVUS and the LWV PA.

Section 3. Selection. The Annual Meeting shall select the Program using the following procedures:

- A. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations for County Program sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program.
- B. The Proposed County Program shall be sent to all members at least one month before the Annual Meeting.

- C. A majority vote shall be required for adoption of items in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- D. Recommendations for program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered and adopted by the Annual Meeting, provided that: a) the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by majority vote, and b) the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote, and c) there is time for discussion between the vote for consideration and the vote for adoption.

Section 4. Program Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVCC only after receiving clearance from the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Members may act in the name of the League only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVCC, the LWVPA, and the LWVUS.

ARTICLE XI **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII **AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of that meeting. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted by any LWVCC member to the Board of Directors at least two months before the Annual Meeting.

(Last revision June 2014 - LWVCC Bylaws Committee)

LWVCC COUNTY POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT

County Government: Promote responsive, efficient and accountable county government.

County Health Department: Support a full time professional health department, with continuing review of performance.

County Library System: Support high quality library services.

Magisterial District Justices: Support programs to decrease the number of incarcerations of summary offenders, including, but not limited to, a program of alternatives to incarceration for summary offenders.

Constables: Promote the use of qualified, trained, accountable constables.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use: Support and study comprehensive planning that incorporates the preservation of agriculture, open space, animal habitat, natural and historic resources while promoting orderly management of growth and development.

Solid Waste: Support adequate and safe solid waste management and disposal, including recycling and hazardous waste

Energy: Examine the stated positions of LWVUS on energy in order to relate them to current issues including local conditions.

SOCIAL POLICY

Housing: Support measures to achieve an adequate diversified supply of and equal access to low and moderate income housing.

Juvenile Justice: Monitor shelter care established in Chester County for alleged delinquent, dependent and adjudicated youth.

Vocational Education: Support quality vocational education programs that meet the needs of students and employers.

Health Care: (Defer to National Position)

Public Access TV: Active local project under SEPR.

Criminal Justice: (Defer to State Position)

Our justice system should be fair to all and that everyone who becomes a part of the system should be treated with dignity. The system should be effective, cost efficient, and data driven. Persons should not be deprived of constitutional rights to reasonable bail or effective counsel because they are poor, because they live in a poor community or because it is politically or economically expedient. Barriers to successful reintegration into society, including damaging conditions in jails and prison, restrictions and requirements of reentrants, and legal financial obligations that realistically cannot be paid, should be minimized.

LWVPA STATE POSITIONS 2016-2017

(Check www.palwv.org for updates)

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Apportionment and Redistricting: Support apportionment and redistricting based substantially on population of all voting districts, with additional consideration given to compact and contiguous territory with the respect given to municipal boundaries.

Election Laws: Support effective election laws and uniform procedures.

Governmental Authorities: Support measures to ensure that governmental authorities act in the public interest, that the powers of authorities are clearly defined, and that authorities are established only when the authority structure enhances the ability to provide a public service.

Initiative and Referendum: Support adoption of popular initiative and referendum in Pennsylvania, with initiative permitted for both statutes and constitutional amendments.

Judiciary: Support an efficient unified court system and a responsible ethical judiciary that is free from political influence.

Legislature: Support improvements to the structure and practices of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Municipal Government: Support measures that enable local governments to operate more effectively.

Criminal Justice: LWVPA believes that our justice system should be fair to all and that everyone who becomes a part of the system should be treated with dignity. The system should be effective, cost efficient, and data driven. Persons should not be deprived of constitutional rights to reasonable bail or effective counsel because they are poor, because they live in a

poor community or because it is politically or economically expedient. Barriers to successful reintegration into society, including damaging conditions in jails and prison, restrictions and requirements of reentrants, and legal financial obligations that realistically cannot be paid, should be minimized.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use: Support more comprehensive statewide land use planning and adoption of a comprehensive land use policy; support a comprehensive program for the preservation of agricultural and open space lands for Pennsylvania; promote environmentally-sound agricultural practices in Pennsylvania.

Natural Gas Extraction from Marcellus Shale: Support the maximum protection of public health and the environment in all aspects of Marcellus Shale natural gas production. Support the prevention of burdening the taxpayer with costs of industrialization and unanticipated consequences. Support the 2006 Pennsylvania Property Rights Protection Act without amendment, the adoption of minimum spacing requirements for wells, and the pooling of properties between corporate entities to maximize efficiencies and reduce risk in the extraction process. Support the maximum protection of public health and the environment in all aspects of Marcellus Shale natural gas transmission operations through improved siting, regulation, inspection, and enforcement that is transparent and responsive to stakeholder input.

Pipelines: Support the maximum protection of public health and the environment in all aspects of Marcellus Shale natural gas transmission operations through improved siting, regulation, inspection, and enforcement that is transparent and responsive to stakeholder input.

SOCIAL POLICY

Child Health and Welfare and Juvenile Justice: Promote the health and welfare of children and youth. Support legal procedures, programs and facilities that enable Pennsylvania agencies and communities to meet the needs of children in the juvenile justice and child welfare system.

Collective Bargaining in the Public Sector: Support collective bargaining in the public sector that maintains the balance between the rights and obligations of employees and employers, with the goal of providing citizens with essential public services.

Education: Support equal access to quality public education, to be achieved by participation of government and citizens at all levels and by adequate financing based on an equitable and flexible tax system.

Family Issues and Laws: Support gender neutral and equitable laws in marriage, civil union, divorce, property, child custody, and child support in Pennsylvania.

Fiscal Policy: Support an equitable and flexible tax system for state and local government in Pennsylvania.

Gambling: Oppose the legalization of additional forms of gambling in Pennsylvania.

Transportation: Promote energy efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems that afford access to housing and jobs; relieve congestion and enhance the quality of life in communities of all sizes. Support predictable public funding that enables fiscally stable transportation systems to provide consistent levels of service.

2016-2018 NATIONAL PROGRAM LWVUS POSITIONS IN BRIEF (Check <http://lww.org/> for updates)

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizens Right to Vote: Protect the right of all citizens to vote and encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation: Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment: Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Money in Politics: Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President: Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals: In addition to League Positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution: Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates elected by population and voting by delegates not by state.

Individual Liberties: Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress: Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency: Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations: Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade: Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries: Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control: Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending: Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources: Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management: Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control: Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality: Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy: Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use: Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources: Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management: Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues: Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation: Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agricultural Policy: Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Federal Agriculture Policies. Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity:

Equal Rights: Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment, Housing: Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade12.

Fiscal Policy:

Tax Policy: Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit: Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements: Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration: Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Needs: Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance: Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services: Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply: Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care: Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children At Risk: Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention: Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy: Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty: The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty

Sentencing Policy: The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Human Trafficking: Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

.....and now.





Chester County Pennsylvania

ANNUAL CALENDAR 2020-2021

January

Program Planning
Board Meeting
Membership Count to National
Legislative Directories & Bookmarks

February

Register Voters
High Schools, Mall
Voters Service Outreach
Board Meeting

March (Women's History Month)

Register Voters
VOTERS GUIDE
Naturalization Ceremony
Nominating Committee
Budget Committee
Board Meeting
Plan June Convention
Plan June Annual Meeting

April

PRIMARY ELECTION
Candidate Forums
Board Meeting
Plan June Convention
Plan June Annual Meeting

May

NC and BC Reports
Board Meeting
Plan June Convention
Plan June Annual Meeting

June

State/National Convention
Board Meeting
Annual Meeting
Mailer for Dues Renewal

July

Start of Fiscal Year
Plan September Kick-Off
Board Meeting

August

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 8/26

Naturalization Ceremony
Board Meeting
Summer Membership Drive

September

NAT'L VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Candidate Forums
VOTERS GUIDE
Board Meeting
September Kick-Off
Register Voters
Board Meeting

October

Plan Holiday Brunch
Register Voters
Candidate Forums
Board Meeting

November

GENERAL ELECTION

Naturalization Ceremony
Plan Holiday Brunch
Board Meeting

December

Holiday Brunch
Board Meeting

Committee meetings and Voter Registration events held throughout the year. **VOTER** newsletter published 3X per year. Members and guests welcome at all events and activities. We hope that members have the time and interest to participate.

LWVCC

www.lwvccpa.org
www.facebook.com/LWVofChesterCounty
Membership – 610-644-5960
mgrothman@verizon.net