

LWV-Wilmette Local Program 2021-2022
(Approved - 5/26/21)

The LWV-Wilmette local Program planning meeting was held on March 23, 2021 via a virtual meeting. The purpose of this Program planning meeting was to brainstorm and prioritize proposed local action-foci for 2020-2021. The Action Foci consists of issues that the membership of the LWV-Wilmette chooses for concerted action and advocacy.

As background there was also a phase 1 input gathering, conducted during March via survey link open to full membership over the course of several weeks. The survey was used to gather input on continuing with work and focus areas underway in 2020-21 and sought input on new areas to consider moving into 2021-22.

At the March meeting, the team prioritized the local issues suggested based on local impact, local league interest shared widely versus one strong opinion, state and/or national league support, and appropriate level of resources to support the action-foci including staffing and leadership. The proposed program plan was presented to our membership in advance of the annual meeting on May 26th. The plan was reviewed at the meeting, then approved and adopted by our membership.

The top local action foci selected by the Program planning group are:

- 1) Community Education & Engagement: Good Governance
- 2) Environment
- 3) Creating an Inclusive Community
- 4) Fair Elections

These action foci are listed below, along with some proposed strategies to provide clarity in scope and intent. However, these actions are not intended to be restrictive or comprehensive, and may change over the course of the year.

1. *Community Education & Engagement: Good Governance*
Action Focus Chair: Mary Lawlor

- Facilitate community understanding of local government and how it works
- Organize at least one living room conversation with local government leaders on a topic of interest

- Help to raise awareness of hot/important topics identified by Observer Corps so community can engage
- Collaborate with other LWVW action foci teams to help other foci teams to effectively act
- Advocate for open, transparent governing bodies

2) *Environment*

Action Focus Chair: Karen Glennemeier

- Through research, collaboration and advocacy, contribute to robust Village initiatives stemming from the Sustainability Plan (pending adoption, likely May 2021), including: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, preserving our urban forest, supporting native pollinator habitat within our Village
- Continue local work underway to protect our local environment: promote cleaner, quieter lawn care practices; reduce plastics; protect the Great Lakes
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with other local citizen groups and continue with necessary advocacy to advance the Clean Energy Jobs Act

3) *Creating an Inclusive Community*

Action Focus Chair: Anne Sullivan

- Proactively educate the community and facilitate a deeper understanding of inclusivity (including race, gender, gender identity, religion, economic status, immigration status, etc) and facilitate understanding of history and its impact.
- Speak out to address racism, xenophobia and bias; collaborate with local government bodies and other organizations to enhance the community's ability to identify and address
- Proactively advocate for local government bodies' policies to ensure greater inclusivity and monitor progress towards achieving stated inclusivity goals
- Continue to actively monitor Village efforts to develop more inclusive & affordable housing
- Apply an equal rights and human rights lens to local issues and advocacy
- Accelerate internal LWVW membership efforts to better reflect the diversity currently within Wilmette community

4) ***Fair Elections***

Action Focus Chair: Joan Oh

- Support LWVIL work to ensure an open, transparent redistricting process.
- Support LWVCC efforts to continue to review and evaluate the new election equipment and process
- Advocate with our elected officials at national level to address Voting Rights and fight efforts of voter suppression
- Educate community on electoral reforms (such as abolishing the Electoral College, ranked-choice voting), advocate for passage of HR1/SB1 and the "For the People Act"