



Program Planning 2024-25

May 16, 2024

Local Program Planning

Program planning happens within the context of the overall League mission:
“encouraging informed & active participation in government;
influencing public policy through education & advocacy.”



Voter Services

- Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.
- Disseminate accurate and timely information on community issues to our membership and the public

Advocacy

- In addition to our core work on voting and elections, the League of Women Voters advocates for issues that its membership chooses.
- In order to advocate for an issue, the League must have a position that has been adopted at the state or federal level or studied and come to consensus on as a local League.

Planning Process

- Survey input gathered from 34 member respondents
- Input reviewed at Program Planning meeting 4/18
- Board approval of Program recommendations
- Advocacy Leaders identified in nomination process
- Results for member review sent 4/22
- Members to adopt final Program at Annual Meeting on 5/18

Member Survey Results 2024-25

FAIR ELECTIONS / Mis/disinformation	31 votes	91.2%
ENVIRONMENT	27 votes	79.4%
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS	27 votes	79.4%
CREATING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY	26 votes	76.5%
GOOD GOVERNANCE	26 votes	76.5%
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION	26 votes	76.5%

Member Survey Results 2024-25

Top Votes *

- Fair Elections (31)
- Environment (27)
- Reproductive Rights (27)
- Good Governance (26)
- Inclusive Community (26)
- Gun Violence Prevention (26)
- Voting Rights (16)

* Each received support from 50+% of respondents; based on 34 total respondents

Fewer Votes *

- Electoral College Abolition (12)
- Money in Politics (11)
- Housing (separate from Inclusive Community) (11)
- Redistricting (9)
- Immigration (8)

* Each received support from <50% of respondents; based on 34 total respondents

Member Suggested

- Programming/housing for special needs adults

Recommendation Overview

Include in Program

- **Fair Elections (Including Mis/Disinformation) **Needs Leader**
- Environment
- Inclusive Community
- Reproductive Rights
- **Gun Violence Prevention **Needs Leader**

Roll Into Other Action Foci

- Good Governance: Observer Corps/Critical Action Team
- Mis/Disinformation: Make this the continuing focus of our Fair Elections work for 2024-25
- Continue to advocate for Affordable Housing under the umbrella of “Inclusive Community”

Member Led Initiatives Supporting State and US Program

- ERA
- Abolish the Electoral College

Recommended Program

Good Governance: Facilitate community understanding of local government and how it works; Advocate for open, transparent governing bodies. In 2024-25, this action focus will continue to be incorporated into the work of the Observer Corps/Critical Action Team (CAT). The CAT consists of the two Co-Presidents, Observer Corps Chairs, and Action Foci leaders as needed. CAT meets monthly to review and recommend action on governance and community engagement issues identified by Observer Corps Reports.

Environment: Through research, collaboration and advocacy, contribute to robust Village initiatives stemming from the Sustainability Plan; Continue local work underway to protect our local environment: promote cleaner, quieter lawn care practices; reduce plastics; protect the Great Lakes.

Inclusive Community: Proactively educate the community and facilitate a deeper understanding of inclusivity; Proactively advocate for local government policies to ensure greater inclusivity and monitor progress towards achieving stated inclusivity goals; Continue to actively monitor Village efforts to develop more affordable housing. Advocate for publishing the Equal Rights Amendment.

Recommended Program

Fair Elections: Fair Elections will focus primarily on misinformation and disinformation on the local, state and national level. We will also track opportunities through LWV Illinois and LWVUS to advocate for electoral reform and voting rights.

Reproductive Rights: Emphasis is on educating members and the community on the state of reproductive choice in Illinois and at the federal level.

Gun Violence Prevention: Focus on participating in and building local coalitions to address gun violence prevention on a local level in Wilmette and on the North Shore. Participate in gun violence prevention interest area on the state level to identify opportunities for members to advocate for safer gun laws on the state and federal level.

Next Steps

This Program Recommendation will be presented for approval by a vote of the membership at Annual Meeting.

Please plan to attend the meeting on May 16th.

Questions? Email: preslww2324@gmail.com