



Resolution on Advocacy Against Systemic Racism

Background

Recently at the National Convention, the League of Women Voters passed several resolutions. Resolutions are a way for the LWV to reaffirm a commitment to an existing position or to provide specificity to an existing position. Resolutions must be consistent with LWVUS programs and priorities, must address a single topical issue where the LWV is likely to be able to have an impact and has the resources to do so, and require time-sensitive federal governmental action. Resolutions are not a substitute to the program planning that the League undertakes to set priorities (every year at the local level and every two years at the state and national level) but rather function in addition to that process to augment the work of the League prioritizing its Program. Resolutions can provide the necessary umbrella position under which local leagues undertake their work as sometimes existing League positions are broad and do not specifically relate to emerging issues. They also provide a public signal of LWV intention and priority. The three resolutions passed at the LWVUS National Convention involved: (1) immigration reform; (2) environment; and (3) systemic racism.

Resolution Regarding Advocacy Against Systemic Racism

The LWV-Wilmette was one of a number of local leagues that signed on to support the resolution on systemic racism which states: *The League of Women Voters of Missouri, in conjunction with 20 state Leagues and 27 local Leagues, proposed an emergency resolution that the League of Women Voters advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes. We resolve second, that the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

The LWV-Wilmette will provide updates to LWVUS on our anti-racism work and will look forward to learning what local leagues around the country are undertaking in this area. We look forward to seeing the change that the power of our nationwide organization can help to drive.