

LWVGL Program Planning 2017-2018

Approved at LWVGL 2017 Annual Meeting May 20, 2017

The Program Committee (Donna Giroux, Nancy Clement, Sarah Kelly, Lois Haueisen, Teena Flook) surveyed all members regarding their issues of concern. The results of the survey are as follows (in order of importance):

New Areas

1. Voter Rights and Voter Protection
2. Electoral College Education
3. How to Run for Public Office

Current Areas

1. Redistricting
2. Public Education
3. Women's Health
4. Environment
5. Diversity

Following the survey, on Monday, January 16, members met at the YWCA for soup and bread and formed groups to develop action plans for the new areas. Three groups formed and completed plans for two of the new areas: Voter Rights and Voter Protection and the Electoral College Education. There were two groups for Voter Rights and Voter Protection due to high interest.

Electoral College Education

Definition of the topic What is the Electoral College? How does it operate? Qualification of electors? Alternatives?

Implementation Research Indiana and US law, Research other states, Research US League's position, Conduct workshop for League members but open to public, Partner with other groups for workshops, Disseminate knowledge to high schools.

Voter Rights and Protection

Group I:

Voter Registration: Every U.S. citizen 18 years of older has the right to vote and have it counted.

Voter Protection: Ensuring the right to vote without intimidation.

Brainstorming Solutions:

- opt-out/not opt-in registration (automatic)
- better training of poll workers
- increase number of photo places for easier access to voter ID
- education about voter fraud and provisional ballots
- nonpartisan poll watching

- gather evidence of voter suppression
- paper receipt/allow photo of ballot
- increase cyber security
- make voting administered by nonpartisan body/official
- integrity of voting machines and nonpartisan audit

Action:

- Automatic registration (opt-out, not opt-in)
- Connect to Selective Service
- Research how other states and countries do it
- BMV/driver's license
- Identify allies, e.g. legislators and other groups
- Public education campaign
- Propose legislation

Group II

Registration and voting requirements:

- Education
- Getting the word out (credible spokesperson)
- Lack of information (available, but how to effectively disseminate?)
- Legislative roadblocks, e.g. redistricting, transparency

Brainstorming Solutions:

- Op-eds (newspaper)
- TV appearances
- Community events and organizations
- Legislative advocacy
- Member engagement
- Mobilize at the grassroots level --initiate or collaborate (nonpartisan)
- Redistricting
- Premier resource for voting topics. Spokesperson: what can make this attractive to a member (shared role)?
- Respond to unique political environment

Action: *LWVGL will become the premier resource for Voting Topics*

How?

- Regular media presence to include a spokesperson
- Effectively engage the membership with skill sets
- Collaborative programming
- Legislative advocacy i.e. redistricting

Committees are being formed on each topic. Gretchen Bertolet has agreed to work on voter rights and protection, and Linda Kampe is the team leader for Electoral College education. The topics listed under current topics above continue to be important.