THE PROGRAM ADOPTION PROCESS

The vote on the Proposed Program at Convention 2014 will be the culmination of months of Program Planning by state and local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs). From December 2013 through March 1, 2014, local and state Leagues and ILOs met and discussed League Program and submitted their recommendations to LWVUS. A total of 240 Leagues participated in Program Planning. In April 2014, the LWVUS Board adopted a Proposed Program based on recommendations from Leagues. Delegates to Convention will vote on the Proposed Program and on any not-recommended items submitted in accordance with the LWVUS bylaws and voted consideration by the Convention delegates.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRIEF

The LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy for the 2014-2016 biennium. Based on thirty-six (36) program planning responses from state and local Leagues and ILOs, the LWVUS Board recommends a concurrence with the Human Trafficking position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. And based on ninety-one (91) program planning responses from state and local Leagues and ILOs, the LWVUS board recommends a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy.

The LWVUS Board’s entire recommended Program is outlined in detail on p. 13.

NOT-RECOMMENDED ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

A list of not-recommended items proposed by Leagues is listed on p. 13. To be moved for consideration at Convention, a not-recommended item must be listed on p. 13, indicating that it met the bylaws deadline for submission of March 1, 2014. Not-recommended items must be moved for and granted consideration before delegates can debate adopting them as amendments or substitutes to the Proposed Program. Those moving for consideration for concurrence at Convention must have met the requirements of LWVUS Bylaws Article XII, Sec2 (b). Delegates advocating a not-recommended item should refer to Convention Rule 10.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM ADOPTION

❖ Join the LWVUS Convention Forum to promote your issue and learn of other Program recommendations. You can sign up for the Forums on the LWV website (www.lwv.org) by going to the Forums on lwv.org (http://forum.lwv.org/group/convention-council)

❖ Read this Workbook Program section of the Convention booklet and talk to your members before you head to Convention. Delegates go to Convention “informed, but not instructed.”

❖ Register to participate in the Parliamentarian’s May 14 Webinar “How to Get the Most Out of Convention” www.lwv.adobeconnect.com/mostoutofconvention/event/registration.html

❖ Attend pre-Saturday morning Convention briefings. If you are a first-time delegate, seek advice from more experienced delegates.

❖ Check the Convention Program for the Order of Business.

❖ Familiarize yourself with Convention Rule 10 on Program Adoption in the Workbook, and read all of the Convention Rules and the Tips on Parliamentary Procedure.

❖ Know all the Rules and use the Tips on Parliamentary Procedure.

❖ Attend the Program Q&As.

❖ Go to caucuses sponsored by delegates promoting Program items. The state or local League calling the caucus decides whether anyone other than state and local delegates may attend – including national Board members and staff, Convention visitors, and special guests.

❖ Watch the microphones during the Plenary. In the early stages of discussion, the chair recognizes the floor microphones in continuous sequence. When the Convention seems ready for debate, microphones are designated pro and con, so delegates can hear each point of view presented alternately.
Familiarize yourself with League Program by reading Impact on Issues 2012-2014. This publication is available on the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues).

Leave Convention ready to support the Program adopted by delegates. Vigorous debate that ends in organizational commitment is the League way.

CAMPAIGNING FOR A PROGRAM ITEM

Some Leagues organize campaigns around the Proposed Program or not-recommended items.

If you want to promote your issue before Convention, you may want to contact all Leagues to seek support. Once annually a League may order from LWVUS (database@lwv.org) a list of the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of state and local League and ILO presidents/co-presidents. The list will be transmitted electronically, and there is no charge for this service. (If mailing labels are requested, a fee will be charged.)

Join the LWVUS Convention Forum to promote your issue and learn of other Program recommendations. To sign up, follow directions under the first bullet in TIPS on p. 11.

Consult the Parliamentarian, Martha Rollins, at mrollinslwvshr@aol.com. She is a neutral source of information.

To move an item for consideration, it must be on the list on page 13. The motion would read “I move consideration of the not-recommended item (give exact wording of the item you are proposing) as an amendment to the Proposed Program.” Check Convention Rule 10 for the sequence of presentation and voting. Make sure your motion is clearly stated and grammatically correct.

Hold a caucus to promote your issue. Advertise the caucus to interested delegates. Address the issues as passionately as you want, but avoid personal attacks. League policy calls for anyone inviting a non-League speaker to address a caucus or other delegate-sponsored event to request permission from the LWVUS president in advance. Observance of this long-standing League protocol is appreciated.

Ask for help in understanding the process, both before and during Convention by contacting LWVUS Program Chair Pat Donath, progplan@lwv.org, or LWVUS Program Planning staff; Betsy Lawson and Jessica Jones at the League office 202-263-1329/8 or by email, blawson@lwv.org and jjones@lwv.org.

PROGRAM ADOPTION AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, MORNING PLENARY

Board member presents the Proposed Program and moves for its adoption (See p. 13). Questions for clarification one minute; no debate or amendments.

Delegates may move consideration of not-recommended items as amendments or substitutes for the Proposed Program. (See p. 13 for suggested wording.) Questions for clarification one minute; no debate or amendments. Vote for consideration; majority required

MONDAY, JUNE 9, MORNING PLENARY

Debate, possible amendments. Vote on the Proposed Program and any concurrences on the floor that were granted consideration. Two-thirds vote to adopt concurrence on the floor of Convention.

Those granted consideration are debated, possibly amended and voted on in the order granted consideration. Majority vote to adopt.

Check the Convention schedule for Program Planning Q&As, Delegate Caucuses and Parliamentary Briefings for additional information.
Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

The LWVUS Board recommends a concurrence with the Human Trafficking position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey as follows: The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

The LWVUS Board recommends a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, consisting of:

1.) A study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions;

2.) A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment of rapid change; and

3.) A review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the existing redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps.
SUMMARY OF LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

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

VOTING RIGHTS
Citizen’s Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; 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.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. 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.

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.
**POWER: our VOICES our VOTES**

**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.

**AGRICULTURE 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.

**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 and 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 grade 12.

**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 HUMAN 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 the 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.

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.
PROPOSED LWVUS AND LWVEF BUDGETS FOR THE 2014-2016 BIENNium

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW
LWVUS is presenting its second two-year budget in accordance with the bylaws amendment adopted by Convention 2010. The budget not only continues all the functions of the national office, but also includes strategies and investments to strengthen the capacity of the League at all levels. The planned revenues and expenditures for the two years are consistent with each other and with the current budget.

REVENUE OVERVIEW
Direct marketing continues to be the largest source of revenue for LWVUS. Contributions through the direct marketing program make up almost two-thirds of the LWVUS budget. In the last two years, the performance of our direct marketing efforts has significantly exceeded industry standards. However, direct marketing income is projected to level off from the unusually high actual income in the current biennium, primarily because the new biennium does not include a presidential election and because there will likely be some donor fatigue over time with our messaging about the war on voters.

This proposed budget leaves the per member payment (PMP) at the current rate of $31 for the first year of the biennium, with an increase to $32 in the second year. That increase is based on the most recent Social Security cost of living adjustment. Although PMP represents only a quarter of the LWVUS/EF revenue projections, it is the critically important “seed money” that enables LWVUS/EF staff to raise the other 75 percent of the budget.

Foundation grants pay for much of the Education Fund’s work. The proposed LWVEF budget funds 2.2 full-time equivalent staff positions, as well as other expenses, through foundation grants.

Maintaining a stable level of operations requires the judicious use of unrestricted reserves for ongoing operations and new initiatives. The proposed two-year budget recommends that the LWVUS use $39,701 of unrestricted reserves and the LWVEF use $187,794 of unrestricted reserves in each of the two years to underwrite general operating expenses. The amount of unrestricted reserves to be used for general operations is calculated in accordance with established Board policy.

OPERATING EXPENSES
The budget continues support for all the functions of the national office in both years. The staff performs not only “national” duties, but works directly with state and local Leagues in a variety of ways.

The budget continues support for the professional lobbying staff and corps of volunteer League members who advocate for the League’s priorities on Capitol Hill. Lobbying staff also assist state and local Leagues with both legislative and litigation efforts at those levels.

Communicating with outside audiences – and within the organization – is essential to the League’s effectiveness. We recommend funding the development of an “affiliate website system”, which would enable LWVUS to create and offer a League-branded website -- as well as content -- for every interested League to use. This would be funded by unrestricted reserves, and would dramatically decrease the workload of Leagues, while increasing their visibility in the ever growing online world.

The budget continues support for the Membership/Field Support team, and their direct assistance to Leagues. This includes support for the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) initiative, as well for the development of MLD performance metrics.

INVESTING IN LEAGUE VISIBILITY AND CAPACITY
The LWVUS/EF Board strongly supports the judicious use of unrestricted reserves as investments in the League’s future, particularly in areas that directly benefit state and local Leagues. Prudent management and the substantial growth in our investments mean that a healthy level of invested unrestricted reserves will remain even with the planned withdrawals.

We are continuing to invest in the Database/Constituent Relationship Management System (CRM). This new system will come online shortly after the 2014 Convention, replacing the membership and fundraising functions of our current antiquated
database. The second phase, to occur in the upcoming budget year, will include upgrading our advocacy systems, and provide improved administrative and other functionality to state and local Leagues. We recommend the use of $100,000 of unrestricted reserves in both budget years.

Although staff will continue to seek external grant funding, we believe it is important that VOTE411.org, a signature League product, continue to be an attractive and effective tool for voters. Consequently, we recommend budgeting $70,000 and $20,000 from EF unrestricted reserves in years 1 and 2 respectively.

To enhance League visibility, advocacy and membership recruitment work, it is critically important to capture as many email addresses as possible. $40,000 is budgeted each year for email list building and acquisition. This budget also recommends investing $44,000 over the next two years in the update of the national office technology hardware infrastructure. All of these expenditures will be covered by funds from the unrestricted reserves.

And to begin the planning and preparation for our 100th Anniversary in 2020, we are recommending $25,000 in each budget year.

**STAFFING**

In conjunction with our investments in new technology and infrastructure, particularly to support local Leagues’ abilities to use these advancements, the following adjustments are proposed to staffing.

The part-time Membership Assistant Coordinator has been increased to full-time to support local Leagues in transition to the new constituent management system.

An Online Organizing Coordinator staff member to help Leagues in their advocacy and outreach work in the elections area will be funded by a combination of both internal monies and external grants in both budget years.