



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

November 2017

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Dear League Leader:

In the coming months, state and local Leagues and ILOs (Inter-League Organizations) across the nation will have the opportunity to offer program planning input for the 2018-2020 biennium. The program planning process is one of the important ways we focus our grassroots work to align the organization on our issue priorities and our mission. See LWVUS Bylaws, Article XII, Principles and Program, for requirements for the program planning and adoption process. Program planning will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at Convention 2018 in Chicago, IL.

When the LWVUS Board met in October of 2017 we agreed that our mission focused work must continue, which is why we are recommending the Leagues continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. Our work to champion voting rights is more important now than ever. At the local, state and federal level, League leadership on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting is at the heart of the League's mission and our future.

At the same time, the League of Women Voters is undertaking a transformational journey to strengthen our brand and establish a continuum to engage new and future activists around the League's core issues. As we head into our 100th anniversary, we need to grow our mission impact to support our work and make a lasting impact on our democracy.

We are asking Leagues across the country to consider seizing the opportunity to meet this critical challenge by continuing to focus our programmatic efforts around the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. To that end, we suggest that, during your program planning efforts, you not add new national studies or reviews to the agenda for the 2018-2020 biennium.

Program Planning is being coordinated by Karen Nicholson and the Education and Advocacy Committee of the LWVUS Board. Should you have questions about program planning and the process, you may email Karen at knicholson@lww.org. Program planning is an essential League tool for focusing and prioritizing our work and insuring that League resources, human and financial, from our grassroots volunteers to our professional staff, are engaged where they have the most impact. The deadline for submitting Program Planning Report forms is March 1, 2018. All forms must be submitted electronically.

I invite you to review the LWVUS Program Planning Guide 2018-2020. This guide provides information about the program planning process, reports on our activity in voting rights, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting in the current biennium, and presents our recommendation for education and action in the next two years. Thank you for participating in this very important process.

In League,

Chris Carson
President