

## **2022-23 LWV CVA Program Planning Report**

On December 3, 2022, an in-person LWV CVA Program Planning Meeting was held at Central Library, Charlottesville, with 19 LWV CVA members participating. Under review at this meeting were LWV **Local and State Program** in preparation for member approval at the May 2023 LWV CVA Annual Business Meeting and the LWV-VA Convention on June 3-4 in Williamsburg.

A draft report of the Program Planning meeting will be submitted to the LWV CVA Board at its January 18 Board meeting. Carol Cutler has prepared the following documents for review by the Board:

- **LWV CVA Program Planning for 2022-23 – Checksheet for Local Program**
- **LWV CVA Proposed Updates to Local Government Position: (1) Election Integrity and (2) Electoral Systems**
- **LWV CVA Proposed Addition to Local Program: Health Care Equity**
- **LWV-VA Programs Reviewed by LWV CVA – Response Form**
- **LWV-VA Studies for 2023 Consensus Response Forms: (1) Child Care; (2) Environmental Justice; (3) Education Equity; (4) Money in Politics**

**LWV CVA Members Present at December 3, 2022, Program Planning Meeting:** Meg Heubeck, Carol Cutler, Michele Kellermann, Gerry Kruger, Muriel Grim, Mimi Bender, Susan Roberts, Kerin Yates, Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Beth Alley, Maggie Hoover, Susan Mark, Kim Harris, Karen Christiansen, Lois Sandy, Harriet Schley, Shirley Payne, Deborah Carol, Beth Kariel.

The following pages document the Program Planning Report. This report may also be found on our website home page: [lww-cva.org](http://lww-cva.org).

Respectfully submitted, Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-president, Program Planning chair.

## LWV-CVA Program Planning for 2022-23 - Checksheet for Local Program

| LWV-CVA Local Program   | Retain | Update | Take Action | Delete | COMMENTS*  |
|---|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--|
| <b>Government:</b>  | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Intergovernmental Cooperation   |        |        |             |        |  |
| Tax System  | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Magisterial Districts   | x      |        |             |        | Commitment to find study that is the basis of position for an odd number of magisterial districts      |
| Redistricting   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Election Integrity  |        | x      |             |        | Election laws update based on LWV-VA 2021 position   |
| Transportation  | x      |        |             |        |  |
|   |        |        |             |        |  |
| <b>Natural Resources:</b>   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Climate Change  |        |        |             |        |  |
| Energy  | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Land Use  | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Water   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Waste Management  | x      |        |             |        |  |
|   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| <b>Social Policy:</b>   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Child Care  |        |        |             |        |  |
| Education   |        |        | x           |        | Restudy position to include Increase civic education and engagement and censorship of books in schools |
| Gun Violence Prevention   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools |        |        | x           |        | Restudy on progress related to behavioral health in schools  |
| Housing   | x      |        |             |        |  |
| Regional Library System   | x      |        |             |        |  |

*\*(Use back of form/additional page as needed)*

- 1. Is there a new study (one only) on a local issue you would suggest? Describe issue and give scope for the study. List volunteers willing to work on the study.**

No new study suggested.

- 2. Is there an update (restudy) of a current position (one only) you would suggest? List reason for restudy and define scope. Also give volunteers willing to work on the update.**

Yes, Education position. There is a need to (1) increase civic education and engagement for students and (2) review book censorship in schools. Meg Heubeck, Beth Kariel, Susan Mark, Kim Harris.

- 3. Is there a position you want to delete? Explain why you think the position is no longer needed or valid.**

No.

- 4. Is there a LWV-CVA position you think needs to be emphasized for action? If so, what type of action would you like to see? (e.g. holding a forum, lobbying elected officials, etc.) If more than one position is selected for advocacy/action, prioritize the items in chart above.**

Yes. Gun Violence Prevention (participate in Coalition); Education (increase civic education and engagement with students, and review censored books and historical subject matter in schools); Health Care Equity (Coalition for Health); Election Integrity; and Natural Resources (land use).

## **LWV CVA Local Program: Government Proposed Updates for 2023 in Bold**

With the passing of the LWVVA 2021 update on Election Laws, additions to our 2022-23 LWV CVA positioned for action statement is suggested to reflect our adherence with the state position This was reviewed and updated by Carol Cutler, Shirley Payne, and Karen Christiansen in the summer of 2021 and in November 2022.)

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

Action: Support of long-range planning; sharing and/or consolidating resources, services, and structures; and increased cooperation between Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the University of Virginia.

### **Tax System**

Action: Support of a fair and flexible tax system necessary for responsive government, using the following criteria in evaluating taxation proposals and/or reform measures: equity, including the ability to pay and benefits received; consistent with social and economic goals of the community and the LWV; efficiency of administration, including computation, payment and collection methods, and public understanding; adequacy of revenue, including ability to adjust to changes in economic conditions.

### **Magisterial Districts**

Action: Support for increasing the number of magisterial districts in the County to an odd number (7 or 9). Support for a mix of urban and rural residents in each district, taking into account natural geographic boundaries and communities.

### **Reapportionment and Redistricting**

Action: Adhering to the LWV-VA Positions, under the heading "Government" on "Reapportionment and Redistricting," support local efforts to promote fair state redistricting laws. [2020]

### **Election Integrity**

Action: Adhering to the LWV-VA Positions under the heading "Government" relating to Election Laws, support public education on integrity in our local election system and the potential for disruptive disinformation campaigns or voter suppression. Work with others, such as local registrars, in assuring accuracy in our voting systems. (2022)

**Support voting measures that enhance voter access and voter participation such as no requirement for a witness with absentee ballots or to show a photo ID at a voting location; and advocate for secure drop off locations with drop box locks or seals, and staffing location with manned and/or video camera surveillance**

**Support voting precincts of the Charlottesville area having sufficient resources to implement cyber security practices and state certification of all election equipment such as electronic pollbooks, ballot scanners and secure transfer of tabulation data.**

Support transparency, security, and accountability in local post-election audits and risk-limiting audits **which follow best practices and are done using state standards.**

Support dissemination of local voting information by public announcements and offering nonpartisan candidate forums. [2020]

**Support use of auditable, recountable voter verified paper ballots marked by hand or, for voters with disabilities, the use of a ballot marking device that produces a paper or card ballot**

### **Electoral Systems**

**Action: Adhering to the LWV-VA position under the heading of “Government” relating to Election Laws, support the method (or system) of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) , which allows all candidates to be ranked, for local elections including citizen education on RCV.**

### **Transportation**

Action: Support of a balanced transportation system with fixed-route bus service offered day and evening for the entire urban population and, where the need can be demonstrated, fixed-route rural service. Support of coordinated transportation services. Work to implement development of bike paths. Monitor traffic patterns and problems in the greater Charlottesville/Albemarle County areas.

## **LWV CVA Local Program: Health Care Equity Proposed Update for 2023 in Bold**

**NOTE:** The LWV-CVA Health Care Equity committee has been meeting for a year under the leadership of Stephanie Lowenhaupt. Committee members include: Bobbie Williams, Kobby Hoffman, Rosalie Simari, Pat Cochran, Mimi Bender, Carol Cutler, Kerin Yates. The committee agreed to present the following statement to the League membership as a new “Local Program Action” position for 2023 under our Social Policy section of Positioned for Action

### **Health Care Equity**

**Action: Monitor and take action to support efforts to improve access to affordable, quality health care and health equity in the Charlottesville area under the LWVUS position on health care reform, with a particular focus on disparities affecting vulnerable populations; partner with other local organizations and coalitions to identify needs and develop strategies to address them.**

## LWV-VA Programs Reviewed at LWV CVA Program Planning

December 3, 2022

### 2023 Program Response Form from LWV-CVA

Review LWV-VA *Positioned for Action* & any local positions. Prepare any state or local Study proposal(s). Due Feb. 28, 2023.

Note: A local League study should address an issue unique to the area the local League covers. If the issue applies across Virginia, it should be a proposal for a state Study. And if you plan to propose a state Study, partner with at least one other local League from a different region of the state. Identify Study leader(s) and at least six committed members. Verify that neither *Impact on Issues* nor *Positioned for Action* sufficiently addresses the issue.

Thoughts for organizing the local League's Program General Meeting or equivalent method for involving members in reviewing positions. If possible, have other members present portions of the review. Encourage discussion about how each position has, or has not, aided advocacy in the last two years. What has changed since the position was approved and is the position broad enough to cover the new circumstances? Two goals to keep in mind: this is how we keep our positions up-to-date and member-driven, and afterward members should be more familiar with the positions. If you have questions, contact [Program@lww-va.org](mailto:Program@lww-va.org)

### Questions

- 1. Which LWV-VA Positions has your League used for advocacy in the past two years?**

**Share any particularly enlightening experiences. (list on back)**

Election Laws, Reapportionment and Redistricting, Extractive Industries: Hydraulic Fracturing, Land Use, Water Supply and Distribution, Child Care, Education, Behavioral Health, Civil Rights of Felons in Virginia

- 2. Does your League recommend a new study for LWV-VA? If so, please describe the issue. What other Leagues join in this recommendation? (Each League should include it on their form.) Who will lead it? Who has committed to work on it?**

No

- 3. Does your League recommend re-study of an existing LWV-VA position? If so, please explain what has changed to make this necessary. What other Leagues join in this recommendation? Who will lead it? Who has committed to work on it?**

No

4. Does your League recommend retiring an existing LWV-VA position? If so, please explain what has changed to make this advisable.

No

5. Will your League consider a new or updated *local* study in 2023?

Yes: Health Care Equity.

The LWV-CVA Health Care Equity committee has been meeting for a year under the leadership of Stephanie Haupt. Committee members include: Bobbie Williams, Kobby Hoffman, Rosalie Simari, Pat Cochran, Mimi Bender, Carol Cutler, Kerin Yates. The committee agreed to present the following statement to the League membership as a new position for 2023 under our **Social Policy section of Positioned for Action**.

**Action: Monitor and take action to support efforts to improve access to affordable, quality health care and health equity in the Charlottesville area under the LWVUS position on health care reform, with a particular focus on disparities affecting vulnerable populations; partner with other local organizations and coalitions to identify needs and develop strategies to address them.**

We do not propose a state study at this point.

6. Are there any other thoughts about Program that you want to share with the LWV-VA Board?

No.

**Addendum to 2023 LWV CVA Program Planning Report:** The four attachments below are the LWV CVA **Response Forms** submitted by the consensus groups to the four LWV-VA 2022-23 studies proposed to “Positioned for Action” as follows:

**LWV-VA Child Care Study:**

**LWV CVA Consensus Group Members:** Beth Kariel, Kerin Yates, Carol Cutler

## **CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **CHILD CARE STUDY 2022**

**1. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that would cap the amount of pay that any Virginia family would have to pay to access care for children, aged 0-6 years?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**Privileged parents should pay their own way. We do support sufficient funding for child care subsidies for underprivileged parents.**

**This question itself lacks equity.**

**2. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that ensure sufficient supply of providers in all areas of the state?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**3. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that seek to understand and allocate sufficient resources to address different parents' care needs?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**4. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that provide direct financial support to providers?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**We prefer tax credits for families. We are concerned that if you give money directly to providers, there would be no accountability regarding how they would spend the money.**

**5. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that foster greater collaboration between the state's workforce development and ECCE systems.**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**Please write out "Early Childhood Care and Education" in the actual position, rather than "ECCE".**

**6. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for the creation of a free, universal mixed-delivery preschool program for 3 and 4 year olds, in Virginia, that is state-funded and locally administered.**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**We would put “Yes” if you cross out the phrase “mixed-delivery”.**

**7. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that require and provide sufficient support to help all child care providers become and remain licensed?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**We strongly think that LWV-VA should also support policies that would require licensing regulations to be adequate. They should be in line with federal guidelines for licensing regulations. Additionally, enforcement of the regulations should be adequate.**

**8. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion in early education assessments, curriculum design, educator training and professional development.**

Yes  No  No consensus

**9. Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that make after-school programs more accessible and affordable?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments:**

**10. The LWV-VA should support and advocate for policies that incentivize after-school programs to adopt quality and equity standards.**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Please Note:**

**This group suggests that because the report represents a lot of work, is well written, well researched and current, it should be shared beyond the LWV-VA. For example, it could be useful to state legislators.**

**LWV-VA Environmental Justice Study:**

**LWV CVA Consensus Meeting Members: Lisa Hilgartner, Muriel Grim, Carol Cutler**

**Environmental Justice questions:**

1. Should LWV-VA advocate for government to study environmental justice data and change procedures that perpetuate unequal burdens on communities - **yes**

2. Should LWV-VA advocate for government bodies to be held accountable for considering the impacts of projects and permits - **yes**

**Comments: Consider how present problems can lead to a cumulative effect in regard to jobs, poverty, and health.**

3. Should LWV-VA advocate for government bodies to be held accountable for considering all effects that a project might have on people living around it - **yes**

**Comments: Instead of "all effects" can this be reworded to say" based on current knowledge"**

4. Should " advocate for government bodies to be held accountable for communicating early in a project's inception with all stakeholders in the affected community - **yes**

**Comments: Keep all effected people in the loop stressing complete transparency to the community that may or is effected by a project or law. Find ways to alert everyone in the effected community for**

**all to be aware of what is happening and the possible effects it could have ( both positive and negative) on their community. Community would be defined as all those possibly effected**

including contiguous areas if  
that is so.

5. Should LWV-VA advocate for implementing the recommendations of DEQ's Environmental Justice Study report? - **yes**

6. Should LWV-VA advocate for improved information-sharing and coordination among state, regional, and local agencies and boards? - **yes**

7. Should LWV-VA advocate for legislation to provide expertise to help localities with a small tax base assess and find solutions in response to environmental justice issues? - **yes**

8. Should LWV-VA advocate for legislation to fund independent environmental justice analyses before major permitting decisions? - **yes**

Our League is active in Environmental Justice issues and the effect of Climate Change in our area.

Thanks to Priscilla Godfrey , Loudon County League and you, Carolyn, for passing this template on. Saved me some time. We appreciate the opportunity to have our voices heard.

Yours,

Lisa Hilgartner EJ Team representative for the LWV of the Charlottesville Area

**LWV-VA Education Equity Study:**

**Consensus Questions – Responses by LWV CVA (League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area)**

1. Standards for a high-quality education are established by the State Board of Education in the Standards of Quality, a document which is subject to periodic approval and funding by the General Assembly. **Should the General Assembly fully fund the recommendations of the State Board of Education as stated in the Standards of Quality?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments: Please say where funding might come from.**

2. While Virginia’s wealth ranks in the top ten, it ranks in the bottom quartile—as low as 41st in 2019—for what it actually spends on PreK-12 education. Virginia localities invested \$4.4 billion in 2021 above what they spent to meet the Standards of Quality (SOQ) for schools in their communities. This lack of state funding exacerbates the disparity between the quality of educational programs and services offered by wealthy and poor school divisions.

**Should Virginia’s funding of PreK-12 education be comparable to other similarly wealthy states?**  Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments: We should educate the public about funding.**

3. Virginia’s education funding formulas do not adequately address the significant differences in the level and/or quality of programs and services available across the state’s school divisions: Per pupil expenditure across the state varies as much as \$10,000 per student and over \$200,000 per classroom. To provide students with equal opportunities for a quality education, local tax rates would need to be four to five times higher in poor school divisions than in wealthier ones. Changing the formula for state funding for education in a way that examines the local capacity to raise taxes can address the inequities in educational programming between wealthy and poorer divisions. **Should the General Assembly identify and adopt a school funding model or formula that—after adjusting for local cost factors—guarantees a funding stream that will allow all school divisions to offer programs and services at comparable levels, regardless of the local tax base?**

Yes  No  No consensus

**Comments: [none]**

4. Average teacher salaries in Virginia trail the national average by nearly \$10,000, and average Virginia teacher salaries rank last in the nation when compared to other adults with bachelor's and master's degrees. **Should Virginia increase teacher salaries and benefits, making them comparable to average teacher salaries across the nation and reducing the disparities between teacher salaries and salaries of other professionals with similar training and experience?**

Yes  No  No consensus

Comments: [none]

5. Historically, Virginia has provided little or no state funding for school facilities. Many of Virginia's public school facilities do not provide an environment that will support a high-quality educational program; an estimated \$25 billion is currently needed to rectify these problems. The cost of retiring construction debt in two schools of similar size, one in a wealthy and one a poor division, could take four times the tax effort in the poor division to fund a school over the same period of time. **Should Virginia change its long-time position and accept that fiscal responsibility for the construction and maintenance of safe and up-to-date public school facilities for Virginia's PreK-12 student population is a state obligation, not just a local obligation?**

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments: [none]

6. The Standards of Quality do not include standards for facilities. All Virginia students do not attend school in buildings that are safe, healthy, handicapped accessible, and conducive to a 21st century learning environment. **Should Virginia expand its Standards of Quality to set minimum standards for school construction, renovation, and maintenance?**

Yes  No  No consensus

Comments: [none]

7. The Constitution of Virginia states that the General Assembly "shall seek [emphasis added] to ensure that educational programs of high quality are established and continually maintained." It does not require the establishment or maintenance of a high-quality public education for all students. **Should Virginia amend its Constitution to replace aspirational language with language that will legally require the General Assembly to provide a high-quality public education for all students?**

Yes  No  No consensus

Comments: [none]

8. Should the LWV-VA continue its efforts to educate the public about the benefits of high-quality public education, to develop partnerships with other interested state organizations, to advocate actively for improved and more equitable school funding, and to improve the narratives that are told about our schools?

Yes  No  No consensus Comments: [none]

**Summary Comments:** LWV CVA Study group suggests emphasizing: (1) An amendment to change “seek” in the State Constitution; (2) fully fund SOQ’s; and (3) include standards for facilities in the SOQs.

Many thanks to LWV CVA Leaguers, Beth Kariel, Gerry Kruger, Kerin Yates, Pat Cochran, Michele Kellermann, and Carol Cutler, for attending and voicing their support for the eight consensus questions. August 27, 2022.

## LWV-VA “Money in Politics” Study

**LWV CVA Consensus Meeting Attendees:** Meg Heubeck, Karen Christiansen, Susan Roberts, Beth Kariel, Harriet Schley, Susan Mark, Carol Cutler

### Recommendations and Consensus Questions

Reviewed by LWV CVA Break Out Group from the LWV-VA Study Presentation “Money in Politics” on Dec 3, 2022.

(Recorded by C. Cutler, VP and reviewed by Meg Heubeck, President)

#### Campaign Contribution Limits:

*Recommendations:* Virginia should limit campaign contributions, determined by the type of donor. Utilities should be banned from contributing to campaigns.

#### Questions:

1. Should VA pass legislation to ban utilities from contributing to campaigns?  Yes  No  No Consensus

Comments:

2. Should Virginia pass legislation to limit HOW MUCH can be contributed?  Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

3. Should Virginia pass legislation to limit contribution by the type of donor?  Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments: Yes. They may be variability in the limit depending on the type of donor

#### Campaign Expenditure Limits:

*Recommendations:* The General Assembly should pass legislation on the following: ban personal use of campaign funds; restrict use of funds for campaign-related expenses, while ensuring that payments for dependent care that arise as a direct result of campaigning are allowed; allow use of campaign funds to reimburse candidates for wages lost as a direct results of campaigning; and merge the current “base” salaries of legislators with the current office expense allowance, while adding a separate, vouchered expense allowance for payments of legislative office expenses.

#### Questions:

4. Virginia currently has no laws prohibiting candidates (or officeholders who intend to run again for re-election) from using campaign funds to pay personal expenses. Should the General

Assembly pass legislation that would ban personal use of campaign funds?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

5. Virginia currently has no specific laws that address how candidates (or officeholders who intend to run again for re-election) are allowed to use money that has been contributed to their campaigns. If the General Assembly were to pass legislation that provides a list of acceptable uses of campaign funds, would you favor restricting these to campaign-related expenses, as the states of Washington and Connecticut have done?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

6. Should a list of acceptable uses of campaign funds include provisions that ensure that payments for childcare/dependent care that arise as a direct result of campaigning are allowed?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

We like this as it would allow more people to participate, but there should be a cap on allowable expenses

7. Should Virginia follow Washington state and federal law and allow candidates to use campaign funds to reimburse themselves for wages lost as a direct result of campaigning?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

8. Should the General Assembly follow the recommendations of the McAuliffe Ethics Committee, and merge the current "base" salaries of legislators with the current office expense allowance, while adding a separate, vouchered expense allowance for payments of legislative office expenses?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

**Oversight and Enforcement:**

*Recommendations:* The Virginia General Assembly should adopt legislation regarding campaign finance activity in Virginia: Â increased oversight and enforcement; and establishment of an independent state agency for the purpose of increased oversight and enforcement.

*Questions:*

9. Should Virginia pass legislation to increase oversight and enforcement of campaign finance activity in Virginia?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

10. Should Virginia pass legislation to create an independent state agency for the purpose of increased oversight and enforcement of campaign finance activity in Virginia?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

**Dark Money:**

*Recommendations:* Virginia should enact laws to address the following issues: Â regulate and limit all dark money donations and expenditures by imposing a transparency requirement; and protecting the public by preventing a foreign government from interfering with our state elections, including requiring all ad sponsors to disclose their donors.

Questions:

11. Should Virginia enact laws to require transparency and full disclosure of donations by individuals, organizations, PACs and Super PACs, therefore eliminating dark money?

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

12. Should Virginia pass legislation to curb further the coordination of activities between candidates for election and nonprofit organizations? \_\_

Yes  No  No Consensus.

Comments:

13. Should Virginia pass legislation to protect the public by preventing a foreign government from interfering with our state elections, including requiring all ads to disclose their donors? This legislation would allow the public to better analyze the ad content with the knowledge of its sponsors.

Yes  No  No