

ELECTION LAW

ELECTION LAW POSITIONS IN BRIEF

Support of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise; open the political system by enacting a public campaign financing law for statewide offices; establish legal, ethical campaign guidelines; monitor campaign practices; restore integrity to the election process and simplify rules for ballot access and restore integrity to the election process – specifically support of uniformity in election laws and procedures and their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; and support adequate funding for these procedures and for training of all involved election personnel.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Statement of Position on Voting Rights, as Announced by National Board, March 1982, (LWVUS *Impact on Issues, 2006-2008, p. 12.*)

The right of every citizen to vote has been a basic League principle since its origin. Early on, many state Leagues adopted positions on election laws. But at the national level, despite a long history of protecting voting rights, the League found itself in the midst of the civil rights struggle of the 1960s without authority to take national legislative action on behalf of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. ...

The 1976 convention's adoption of Voting Rights as an integral part of the national program and the 1978 confirmation of that decision underlined the already existing authority under the Principles for the League to act on this basic right. In May 1982, the LWVUS board made explicit the League's position on Voting Rights, and the 1982 convention added Voting Rights to the national program. The 1986 convention affirmed that a key element of protecting the right to vote is encouraging participation in the political process. The 1990 convention affirmed that the LWVUS should continue emphasis on protecting the right to vote by working to increase voter participation. (LWVUS *Impact On Issues, 2006-2008, p. 2*)

The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed; therefore, its basic mandate is to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise. Underlying all League positions is a philosophy that emphasizes participation in the electoral process.

The first election law reform advocated by the League of Women Voters of New York State was the one which gave birth to its founding as an organization—the women's suffrage amendment. Since the 1920s the League has been in the forefront as a grassroots advocate on behalf of all voters. Its steadfast dedication to the issues and its history as a responsible presence in Albany have earned the League the respect of legislators, governors, boards of election and the public. Many areas of the election law have come under League scrutiny and have been subject to its campaigns for reform.