

## LWVNYS Positions in Brief

### **ELECTION LAW**

**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; simplify rules for ballot access. Restore integrity to the election process – specifically support for uniformity in election laws and procedures in their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; support adequate funding for these procedures, including training of all involved election personnel.\*

**Opposition** to term limits for members of the NYS Legislature.

**Opposition** to term limits for NYS statewide elected officials.

### **GOVERNMENT**

**Support** of standards to ensure equitable representation in the State legislature and the congress.

**Support** of improved measures to provide representation for legislative districts in case of a vacancy.

**Support** of responsive and responsible legislative processes which increase the role of the individual member and the committee system.

**Support** of effective lobbying and ethics regulation.

**Support** of procedural reforms in the constitutional convention process to promote openness and nonpartisanship.

### **HEALTH CARE**

**Support** a single payor concept as an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment.

**Support** of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care for all state residents including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding

for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.

**Support** of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions including termination of extraordinary life-extending procedures.

**Support** for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing.

### **JUDICIAL**

**Support** of a unified state court system with improved provisions for judicial selection.

**Support** of statewide guidelines for law enforcement at all levels to prevent racial and economic profiling.

**Support** of measures to improve pretrial procedures in the criminal courts.

**Support** of measures to promote a fair and efficient jury system.

**Support** of alternatives to incarceration.

**Opposition** to the death penalty, with life without parole as the primary alternative

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Support** for measures to achieve watershed protection including limiting pesticide use and applying Best Management Practices.

**Support** for a state-established, intergovernmental system for land resource management.

**Support** for a proactive role for New York State in regional land use planning, containing urban sprawl and protecting sensitive areas.

**Support** of reconditioning of the New York State Erie/Barge Canal System and its development for recreational uses.

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

**Support** measures to meet the needs for low-income housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities

### **STATE FINANCES**

**Support** reforms for greater equity in education financing for both pupils and taxpayers.

**Support** raising funds to provide New York's children with a sound basic education through increases in the New York State personal income tax, implemented in a progressive fashion.

**Oppose** in principle the use of public funds to support non-public schools, kindergarten-twelfth grade.

**Support** a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system.

**Support** for the replacement of the existing local residential property tax relief programs in which relief goes to all with programs based on need, with annual cost of living adjustment.

**Support** of measures to provide for openness and accountability in the operation of the New York State public authority system.

**Support** of a timely and responsive state budget.

**Support** the funding of public higher education and the existing formula for financing the community system, 1/3 tuition, 1/3 state aid, and 1/3 county support.

#### **WOMENS ISSUES/SOCIAL POLICY**

**Support** of measures which hold marriage to be an economic partnership with a presumption of equality between the spouses.

**Opposition** to measures that contain a presumption of joint custody of the children.

**Support** for equity in employment laws and practices and equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.

**Support** of measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.

**Support** for measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities.

\* These state positions are based on LWVUS principles and public policy positions. State actions on other items not covered under a state position can also be taken under LWVUS positions. Reproductive choices (Government position) and welfare reform (Meeting Basic Human Needs position) are two examples.