

LWVNYS Positions in Brief
2005-2007

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.
And restore integrity to the election process – specifically support uniformity in election laws and procedures and in 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.**

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 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 uses 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 the taxpayers.

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

Support of a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system.

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.