

## **LWVMI Observer Corps Advocacy Positions - Local, State, National Quick Reference Table**

This quick reference table provides brief descriptions of current LWV advocacy positions. It is not complete. Full details of each position are posted on National, State, and Local League websites, including priorities, definitions, and particular characteristics. When studying a specific position, please refer to the published, full position statement. Topic areas are:

- Government
- Environment/Natural Resources
- Social Policy
- Climate Change (national only)
- International Relations (national only)

At annual program planning meetings, members evaluate and recommend a public issue of LWV. Study groups research, clarify, and develop a focus for League consideration. Their responsibility is to present facts to the members who decide whether there is a *consensus* (substantial agreement of members) to establish a position upon which the League can take action. Members are encouraged to suggest advocacy topics on local, state and national levels. You can find procedures for submitting suggestions on each website.

Local advocacy committee studies issues of local interest. Members are encouraged to suggest topics at any time. Local positions are evaluated periodically at which time members determine whether to amend, retain or drop them.

We view all our actions through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). LWV reviews and revises each position on a DEI basis.

***The League speaks with one voice. If you oppose a published League advocacy position, you can do so only as a private citizen and not as a representative of the League of Women Voters.***

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>LOCAL POSITION</b>	<b>LWVMI</b>	<b>LWVUS</b>
<b>Government</b>		---	Voting rights
		---	Direct popular vote
		---	Citizen's right to know
		---	Transparency & accountability for privatization of government services
		---	Money in politics (formerly campaign finance)
		---	Reproductive choice
		---	Digital equity (affordable access to high-speed internet services)
		---	D.C. self-government
		Redistricting	Redistricting
		Elections laws	Verifiable, auditable voting systems at all levels
		Lame duck legislative sessions	---
		State government finance & tax structure	Responsible deficit policies; equitable tax system; broad-based income tax
		---	Federal role in providing mandatory & universal old-age, survivors, disability, health insurances
		---	---
		---	---
		Intergovernmental relations	---

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>LOCAL POSITION</b>	<b>LWVMI</b>	<b>LWVUS</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>		---	Science-based policies
<b>Environment/ Natural Resources</b>		Great Lakes ecosystem protection; mitigate threats; public participation in protective measures; establish research priorities	Protect surface, in-ground, & drinking water; evaluate inter-basin water transfers; public participation
		---	Air quality
		Pesticides: use & regulation of; public notice for use	---
		Land as finite resource; responsibilities of stewardship	Conservation, stewardship, long-range planning; public participation in decisions
		Solid waste management	Waste management, recycling, hazardous waste reduction
		Animal feed lot regulation & environmental risks	Environmentally sound federal agricultural policies
		---	Environmentally sound energy use & conservation; use of renewable resources
		---	Nuclear energy: maximum protection of public health & environment
<b>Social Policy</b>		---	Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
		---	Affordable child care
		Public libraries	---
		Public education pre-K through 12	Public education pre-K through 12
		Children & youth services	Early intervention for at-risk children
		---	Economic health of urban areas

CATEGORY	LOCAL POSITION	LWVMI	LWVUS
<b>Social Policy</b>		Social services: income assistance; job training; support services. Federal standards, funding, & supervision. Administered at local level.	Equality of opportunity: education, employment, housing. Income assistance for food, shelter, clothing; support services
		Health care: access, facilities, personnel, consumers	Affordable access to basic health care for all residents
		---	Provide universal health, old age, disability, survivors insurances
		Agricultural, migrant, seasonal workers	---
		---	Immigration: fair treatment; family reunification; visas for students & political refugees; path to citizenship
		Criminal justice & prisons	Alternatives to incarceration; oppose mandatory minimum sentencing for drug offenses; abolish death penalty
		---	Poverty reduction; income assistance programs; adequate standards for food, clothing, shelter
		---	Violence prevention programs
		---	Regulate & limit accessibility to & ownership of firearms
		---	Economic health of urban areas

CATEGORY	LOCAL POSITION	LWVMI	LWVUS
<b>International Relations</b>		---	Oppose all forms of domestic & international human trafficking
		---	Trade
		---	Developing countries
		---	Arms control
		---	United Nations
		---	Defense spending

**Notes**

Some individual positions have been grouped under one heading, e.g. criminal justice, human trafficking, environmental protections.

In 2022, LWVUS reviewed and updated these positions through our DEI lens: Congress and the Presidency, Climate Change; Equality of Opportunity; Health Care; Immigration; Violence Prevention; Gun Policy; Death Penalty; Sentencing Policy.

As of January, 2024, LWVMI reviewed and updated all advocacy positions to reflect DEI principles.

LWVGP is reviewing all positions to reflect DEI principles.

**Sources**

LWVMI - Available online at two locations on [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org)

Click on Advocacy tab, then select "Advocacy 2024" to reveal four tabs: government, natural resources, social policy, LWVUS positions. To read the full text of each policy position, click on each tab for a downloadable PDF.

LWVMI also has briefing papers on: rights available (or not) to Michigan women since 1931; history of the ERA; gun violence; public education. Click on the Advocacy tab, then select "Briefing Papers."

LWVUS - *Impact on Issues: A guide to public policy positions*. League of Women Voters of the United States, 2020, Washington, DC.

Synopses of LWVUS positions are on pp. 11-1x. Available online at: [www.lwv.org/impact-issues](http://www.lwv.org/impact-issues)