

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS
2009-2011 PROGRAM SUMMARY**

<http://lwvil.org/WhereWeStand.asp>

POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Implementation and Amendments: Support for League positions to implement, amend and uphold the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

County Government Structure: Support for expanded citizen initiative powers to address county government structure and support for changes in the Illinois County Executive Act.

Criminal Justice: Support for improved criminal justice procedures and alternatives to incarceration.

Death Penalty Abolition: Support for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

Gun Violence Prevention: Support for handgun and automatic and semi-automatic assault type weapon control.

Schools: Support for a public school system that is equitable in both quality for the student and financing for the taxpayer.

State Election Laws: Support for improved election laws and procedures applied uniformly throughout the state and opposition to term limits for members of the Illinois General Assembly. Support for election reforms that increase voter participation and are fair and equitable for all eligible citizens.

State Fiscal Policies: Support for a diversified revenue system which principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

State Redistricting: Support for a redistricting process which is timely, orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use: Support for a state land use policy that addresses the problem of conflicting uses for the land resources of Illinois.

Large-Scale Livestock Facilities: Support for strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels.

Pesticides: Support for reduction in pesticide use and the promotion of non-toxic alternatives.

SOCIAL POLICY

Children's Services: Support for improved state and local services by Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

Immigration: Support for state and local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for all immigrants. Support provisions for educational programs and materials on rights in the workplace for all workers, driving certificates for undocumented workers and the availability of auto insurance for holders of certificates. Oppose deputizing state and local police to enforce immigration laws and ordinances that penalize landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants. Oppose extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

Income Assistance: Support for income assistance and support services for all low income individuals and their families.

Mental Health: Support for comprehensive and coordinated services for adults and children with mental illness in both state facilities and community-based programs.

ACTION FOCI and STUDIES

FISCAL POLICY AND TAX REFORM: Promote efforts to address the inequities of the state fiscal system in order to provide stable, reliable and adequate revenues for public education and other social services.

CAMPAIGN AND ETHICS REFORM: Promote efforts to impose contribution limits, require full, immediate disclosure of all contributions, and to provide enforcement and monitoring mechanism to assure transparency.

TRUE CENSUS COUNT 2010 AND REDISTRICTING REFORM: Promote full participation of all Illinois residents in the 2010 Census in order to achieve a full count and to promote a redistricting process that is timely, orderly, transparent, and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness, contiguity, and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

UPDATE POSITION ON RECALL AND TERM LIMITS: These topics were controversial during discussions relating to the convening of a constitutional convention in 2008 and continue to be discussed in light of efforts in 2009 to impose term limits on legislative leadership. The current LWWIL position supports Recall only for elected judges and is found under the Constitutional Implementation and Amendments Position. LWWIL opposes Term Limits for members of the General Assembly. This position can be found under State Election Laws. This update is conditional upon League members' willingness to serve on a committee that will review these positions and make recommendations.

CORE ADVOCACY ISSUES

****Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform**

Must include funding of public education and social services

***Climate Change**

***Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform**

LWVIL PROJECTS

- Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission
- True Count Census – Redistricting

ISSUES UNDER STUDY

Watchful Advocacy Issues: Grassroots Action

These are defined as issues where activity is anticipated at the state legislative level - issues where we have strong member interest and an opportunity for the League to make an impact. These issues will be followed by program issue specialists. Lobbying activity will be generally limited to grassroots advocates; issues may also have an educational component.

ADVOCACY ISSUES:

Government Issues

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Liberties/Women's Issues
- Criminal Justice: Reduce barriers to employment; enhance care of mentally ill offenders; monitor effect of drug laws on minorities; monitor release procedures for prisoners sentenced before 1978; revise criminal laws
- Death Penalty Abolition
- Election Law

Social Policy Issues

- Children's Services: Work to restore parole & other services to Ill. Dept. of Juvenile Justice; improve mental health services for juvenile justice youth; expand Redeploy Illinois; modify automatic transfers; consider age a factor in sentencing youth in criminal court.
- Equal Right Amendment (ERA)
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Health Care
- Immigration

- Mental Health: Coordination of Services
- Social Policy: Federal TANF program, family care, child care, housing, employment training and job support

Natural Resources Issues

- Resource Management
- Smart Growth – Land Use
- Water Resources – pharmaceuticals
- Environmental Protection & Pollution Control