



LWV Jacksonville First Coast

2023 - 2024 Program

Proposed

LWVFL Program Government in Florida

Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.

Florida Constitution

Support basic law that assures a government responsive and accountable to the people of the state. Support retention of the 1968 Florida Constitutional Amendment for home rule by municipalities and counties in the administration of local issues.

- Ensure that Fair District Standards are adhered to for the Redistricting of Congressional and Florida Legislative Districts.

Finance and Taxation

Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.

Election Law

Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate for fair methods of financing political campaigns including public financing.

Issues for Action

Voter Education

- Make voters, especially students registered elsewhere, aware of changes to vote by mail, and SB 7050 changes to voting

- Identify barriers for out of area students to vote. Ensure they are registered to vote and follow through to make sure they vote
- Work on “Why I Vote” messaging and develop talking points with examples and ideas
- Educate members and voters on the impact of the removal from the ERIC system
- Educate voters on the impact of redistricting and the recent Supreme Court case regarding packing of minority voters into single districts

Expand Early Voting Sites - Educate our members on the rules surrounding early voting site selection and advocate for new sites such as Edward Waters University, University of North Florida and the County Jail.

Returning Citizens - Work to ensure eligible returning citizens can vote

Voter Registration

- Continue diverse voter registration opportunities
- Identify precincts with high numbers of unregistered people and develop an outreach strategy to encourage voter registration
- Partner with other organizations who are in under-represented communities

Poll Workers - develop messaging to encourage people to become poll workers, especially students

LWVFL Program Education

Support a free public secular school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula.

Issues for Action

- Support the continuation of nonpartisan school board races and oppose:
 - legislation to make school board races partisan, or
 - measures that disallow elected school boards to hire and fire the superintendent of the school district.
- Promote adequate and equitable funding of public education and oppose use of public funding for the expansion of private education, and voucher programs.

- Advocate for legislation requiring all schools receiving public monies to adhere to the same standards demanded of Florida's public schools and oppose the lowering of teacher credential and certification requirements.
- Support the teaching of scientific and historical facts based on a curricular framework that includes broad common standards developed by educational experts.
- Advocate for policies that support the mental health and physical safety of all students regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, citizenship, socio-economic status and ability status.
- Support school district processes in response to parental book challenges that include:
 - a comprehensive review by a certificated Media Specialist to determine developmental and grade level appropriateness prior to the removal of diverse books from classroom and school libraries, and
 - a procedure for "reconsideration of use" of books that have been removed following a parental challenge.
- Support diversity and nondiscrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, citizenship, socio-economic status and ability status in all publicly funded schools, including publicly funded colleges and universities.

LWVFL Program

Financing & Delivery of Health Care

Support measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on healthcare reform.

Issues for Action

Support the Constitutional right of people to make reproductive choices, have privacy and have availability of services

- Gather petitions in support of the Ballot Initiative Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion
- Engage the public and membership to create awareness of current abortion care limitations and government intrusion
- Create awareness of abortion care forums and educational events locally or statewide.

LWVFL Program Sustainability

Support governmental action that results in environmental sustainability. Meet present needs without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Ensure environmental, societal and economic considerations are integrated and balanced to achieve a sustainable Florida.

Natural Resources

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the inter relationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

Issues for Action

- Clean Energy: Advocate for utilities to set renewable energy goals and for the removal of barriers that discourage the use of renewable energy.
- Saltwater Intrusion: Advocate for the removal of the Rodman Dam and monitor the dredging and widening of JaxPort.
- Continue to work with local coalition groups to advocate and monitor progress of riverfront public spaces.
- Continue to develop and support local coalitions working to resolve flooding, groundwater, and land use issues.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment. (LWVUS)

Issues for Action

- Take positions to preserve wetland ecosystems.
- Discourage use of single-use, non-essential, disposable plastics from fossil fuels

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

This policy will be observed in all aspects of work we do:

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.