

2019-2020 Program Recommendations

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In December, participants at the Winter Party discussed six topics that might be the subjects for 2019-20 studies, interest groups, civic education programs or action. The January 2019 Units meetings discussed the positions of LWV Portland and LWVOR and determined whether to *Retain*, *Drop*, *Update*, *Restudy*, or take *Action* on the positions. Recommendations for the consideration of members at the Local Convention are based on these discussions.

Members attending the Convention will have an opportunity to ask for consideration of Non-Recommended Items. If, by majority vote, the membership agrees to consider a non-recommended item, another vote will be taken on whether or not to adopt that item. The only items that require a vote for adoption are changes to current positions, restudies of current positions, or studies of a new topic. When voting to adopt an update, study or restudy, members should have confidence that there will be volunteers to carry out the necessary work. Suggestions for Civic Education programs, Interest Groups, or Action may be approved by the Board if they conform with League Principles and there is sufficient member interest in the topics.

Recommended Program:

1. Retain all current LWVPDX positions. The 44 members participating in Units reached consensus to *Retain* all the LWV Portland positions. There were comments and suggestions made about the positions that are noted in the points below. It was unclear in some cases whether the reference to needing a language update referred to scrivener's corrections, or to a re-study of the position. However, none of the comments proposed new studies, re-studies, nor did they suggest current positions be dropped in this program cycle.
2. Continue and conclude the *Restudy* of the *Portland City Government*. There was consensus among Unit members that the current study should continue. The Portland City Government report and recommendations will be presented in the fall of 2019.

Non-Recommended Items:

1. *Violence Against Women*: One Winter Party table proposed a study of Violence Against Women at the state League and local League levels. No Units recommended this as a study. It could be a topic for an Interest Group, Civic Education Program or Action.
2. *Neighborhood Associations*: Some unit members noted that the Neighborhood Associations are now included in the City of Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life, which has a broader remit than the previous Office of Neighborhood Involvement; they questioned whether this would affect our position on Neighborhood Associations. Some participants suggested that our position on Neighborhood Associations be *Updated* to reflect the changes that this office has undergone in the past year.
3. *Multnomah Education Service District*: Some members questioned whether the position on MESD reflected the current mission and practices of the MESD, although a full re-study was not recommended. It could be a topic for the Education Interest Group or Civic Education Program
4. *Housing and Affordable Housing*: There was some support for *Updating* the positions on Housing and Affordable Housing. One Unit suggested that our positions on Housing and Affordable Housing be combined into one interest group or one study. On the Affordable Housing position, another Unit thought that the current language was outdated.
5. *Solid Waste*: One Unit noted that the language in our Solid Waste position needs to be updated.

Recommendations for Action:

- *Housing and Affordable Housing*: Many members recommended using these positions to engage in more *Action*.
- *Metropolitan Transportation*: Two Units suggested that the Metropolitan Transportation position should be referred to the Action Committee for a recommendation on an Update or Restudy of the position.
- *Air Quality*: The issue of diesel particulates impact on air quality was most salient. The Transportation table at the Winter Party recommended *Action* to encourage acceleration of the conversion of diesel-powered buses to rechargeable zinc-air batteries.
- *Campaign Finance*: The Winter Party participants suggested *Action* on Campaign Finance Reform.

Recommendations for Interest Groups and/or Civic Education Programs

- Interest Groups on the *rights of vulnerable people*, including the homeless; *violence against women*; *housing and neighborhoods*; *Multnomah Education Services District*
- Civic Education Programs on *Women & Violence*, *Civic YouTube for Youth*; *effects of new development of affordable housing on neighborhoods*