

2021-2022 Program Recommendations

Civic Education Chair Nancy Donovan and Units Chair Judy Froemke

During January 2021, 65 League members participated in seven Discussion Unit meetings to help plan programming for the next League year. Total attendance at these seven discussions was 115. (Most people attended multiple Discussion Unit meetings.)

Each discussion group made recommendations to retain, drop, update, restudy, or refer for action the League positions on a wide range of topics, including governance, climate change, environmental issues, children's issues, homelessness and affordable housing, police accountability, and the overriding importance of learning about and accepting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The only items that require a membership vote at the Annual Business Meeting are retaining or changing current positions and adopting updates or restudies of current positions and studies of new topics.

BOARD-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

1. Retain all current LWVPDX positions.
2. There is no board-recommended study for the coming year.

(We will continue with developing a new advocacy position on Portland Police Bureau: Oversight and Accountability, from the membership discussion and consensus on the completed study.)

NON-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM ITEMS

Members attending this Annual Business Meeting 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. When voting to adopt an update, study or restudy, members should have confidence that there will be volunteers to carry out the necessary work.

During the program planning discussions, three LWVPDX positions were recommended for UPDATES:

1. **Metropolitan Transportation:** from the summary of discussion group 6: “**Linda Mantel** noted that the Metropolitan Transportation position does not include any language about the topic of safety or ride security, which has become a significant concern. Other people said that the rise in use of scooters, electric bicycles, etc. is also causing problems downtown and might merit some attention. We suggested setting up an Interest Group: **Linda Mantel, Marsha Gulick** and **Joe Hoffman.**” An UPDATE on this issue was noted on the Report Form. Group 2 also suggested looking at access to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.
2. **Teenage Girls at Risk:** from the Report Form of discussion group 7: “We discussed the “Teenage Girls at Rick” position at some length, and a few group members suggested that this 1995 position be revisited. At the time, the study focused on girls since it was felt that programs and policies at the state and local levels didn't take girls' specific experiences and

problems into account. Although the position supports services “that include consideration of gender,” its focus doesn’t seem to include trans youth or the experiences of other teens who identify as LGBTQ+. **Kathy Casto** brought up this issue. No names were given of other interested members.

3. **School Funding:** from the Report Form of discussion group 7: “The group also focused quite a bit on equitable school funding, both within large districts like Portland and among districts. The LWVPDX “School Funding” position identifies a need for adequate and sufficient funding” but doesn’t examine or address funding inequities.” No interested members’ names were given.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DISCUSSION UNITS

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. The following recommendations do not need approval at the annual membership business meeting.

The following topics were recommended for future Civic Education programs:

- Gun safety/police accountability
- Climate change
- Water resources on the Columbia River
- Election methods/laws
- Forestry: urban/rural, timber resources vs. recreational vs. environmental issues
- A program involving all of these related issues: Rose quarter freeway expansion-transit options-pedestrian safety-preservation of urban trees with environmental, racial and DEI considerations

Participants expressed an interest in forming interest groups on these topics:

- Homelessness and alternative housing (to plan for a possible study or update)
- Air quality
- Looking at opportunities to listen and learn about diversity, equity, and inclusion
- How to attract neighborhoods’ more diverse members to become represented
- Metropolitan transportation: how to address rider and driver safety with the rising number of alternative vehicles (electric bikes and scooters, etc.)
- Forestry issues: hot spots, tree code, environmental justice
- And, joining the Education Interest Group

The following topics were recommended for Action or Action Committee research:

- Portland Police Bureau, Juvenile Justice, Gun Safety
- Air Quality, Climate Change, Solid Waste
- Urban Growth-Land Use; Metropolitan Transportation
- City Government