

2024-2025 PROGRAM PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Judy Froemke, Member Education Chair

During January 2024, 67 League members attended 138 Program Planning discussions, with many members participating in more than one discussion. The topics discussed were

- Lack of affordable housing (24 attended) led by Nancy Donovan and Anne Davidson with notetaker Judy Froemke
- Portland's New Government Structure (28 attended) led by Debbie Aiona, Wynne Furth, Janice Thompson with notetaker Laura Rogers
- Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment (24 attended) led by Jason Renaud and Kathy Casto with notetaker Judy Froemke. An interest group is forming to look into this topic, led by Janet Youel and Olivia Smith.
- Climate Change and the Environment (17 attended) led by Linda Mantel, Robin Tokmakian, Nora Terwilliger with notetaker Julie Chapman
- Public School Education (13) led by Fran Dyke and Tom Dyke with notetaker Mimi Alkire
- Election Issues (15) led by Melanie Billings-Yun and Norman Turrill with notetaker Chris Cobey
- Humanitarian Crises and International Relations (17) led by Barbara Byrd and Barbara Dudley with notetaker Judy Froemke.

Arising from these discussions, the following recommendations were approved by the LWVPDX board and are referred for a vote by members attending the Annual Membership Meeting on May 23, 2024:

- Vote to retain all LWVPDX positions (Discussion groups recommended retention of the 12 positions assessed during discussions.)
- Provide a footnote to the LWVPDX position, *Public School Districts in Portland (2011)*, to clarify by name the other two public school districts (David Douglas and Parkrose) for which this position provides advocacy.

RECOMMENDED FOOTNOTE: This position is relevant to Portland Public Schools, David Douglas Public Schools, and Parkrose Public Schools, all within the Portland city boundary. (2024 update)

RATIONALE for this recommendation:

Fran Dyke, Anne Davidson, Barbara Kutasz and Judy Froemke worked on this recommendation. The 2011 Study resulting in the position, *Public School Districts in Portland*, was reviewed, and Lynn Baker, Chair of the study committee, was consulted. In addition to Portland Public Schools (PPS), two other public school districts were studied during the 2011 study: David Douglas and Parkrose. The word "Districts" in this position is plural, recognizing that there is more than one public school district in Portland. Public school district boundaries are not the same as the city boundary.

This footnote will clarify that this position may be used to advocate for issues in the public school districts of David Douglas and Parkrose, as well as the Portland Public Schools district.

The recommended footnote applies to the LWVPDX position quoted below:

Public School Districts in Portland (2011, 2006 revised, 1980, 1979, 1976, 1975, 1973, 1972, 1971, 1969, 1968)

The League of Women Voters believes that public schools should provide a quality education for all children to develop the greatest potential in each individual, and that public education is critical to the success of our city.

Therefore, the League supports:

1. A quality basic education provided for all students, with services available in an equitable way so that all students have access to comparable services, regardless of circumstances such as income, race, ethnicity, geographical location, or family background.
2. Programs or services provided by districts which offer an alternate approach or focus for students with different learning needs, including a strong mix of off-site and on-site vocational education programs.
3. Teacher evaluation that improves teaching quality and student learning.

4. Grade organization that is determined by a number of factors, including evidence-based research, student needs, logistical impacts, and community input.
5. Adherence to set school boundaries with few exceptions, which may be based on educational, emotional, behavioral, or medical criteria, and offering all students access to a consistent and broad spectrum of classes.
6. Creative approaches to achieve diversity in school populations.
7. Changes in the school education structure (use of buildings) which positively affect the quality of education and which take into consideration the preservation of neighborhoods and the needs of the community.
8. Adequate physical facilities, with buildings and all facilities meeting state and local standards.
9. School districts' decisions on future use of land and buildings based on a plan that takes into account population projections, physical conditions, land use designations, and community needs, with coordination between the City of Portland's Comprehensive Plan and relevant infrastructure facility plans.
10. Effort made to generate income to offset the costs of maintaining desirable underused facilities. Public announcements of all district facility plans, including all underused or not-in-use facilities, with adequate information and opportunity for public discussion and participation in the decision-making.

NOTE: No study was suggested for the 2024-2025 year, so no membership vote is required. Discussion groups decided to retain all 14 LWVUS positions assessed during discussions (This recommendation was forwarded to LWVUS and no LWVPDX membership vote is needed.)

Recommendations for Community Education events and Action Committee meetings have been sent to those committees.