

# LOCAL PROGRAM 2017-2018

**MAINTAIN ALL CURRENT LOCAL POSITIONS with no changes.**

**NO NEW STUDIES.**

**NEW INITIATIVES**

## **1. Civics/Citizenship Education Initiative**

*The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.*

Statement of Position on Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation, as announced by National Board, June 1984.

The new **Civics Initiative** will look at ways to educate the public on how our government works at all three levels: local, state and national. After researching multiple civics education actions that LWVCC could take this year, the committee will recommend one or two actions to the Board. If these actions are approved by the Board, the committee will carry them out and evaluate their success.

Areas to explore:

- Identify available resources including civics curriculums/programs, civics bee events, and informative books or articles.
- Identify programs and actions that other leagues have developed to promote civics programs and citizen education.
- Develop a list of other organizations at the local, state and national level that are working on civics education.
- Work with our three school committees (Concord Public SC, Carlisle SC, and CCRSC) to encourage/promote civics education in the schools.
- Work with the Concord and Carlisle Libraries to develop programs that focus on citizenship education such as a program on the Constitution, children's books on citizen's rights, etc.

## **2. Individual Liberties Initiative**

*The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.*

Statement of Position on Individual Liberties, as announced by National Board, March 1982

The new **Individual Liberties Initiative** will research how our individual liberties are being threatened and identify ways that League members can individually or collectively take action to ensure that these liberties will not be eroded in the future. Ongoing actions, which could include establishing Action Teams that would focus on one or more specific areas, will be proposed to the Board for approval. These actions could include:

- Sponsoring or co-sponsoring programs that educate citizens about the individual liberties that are in the US Constitution.
- Developing a list of action strategies that individual members can use to lobby Congress regarding these liberties.
- Working with other organizations to address the increase in Hate speech in our communities.
- Working with the Concord and Carlisle Libraries to create programs and activities that would highlight these liberties.
- Identifying LWVMA and LWVUS advocacy programs with which we can become involved.
- Working with the LWVMA to strengthen these liberties in our state laws.