

League of Women Voters of Washington 2005 Legislative Session Issues

We advocate and support:

Children & Welfare

- Funding programs that promote safe and healthy development of all children including developmentally appropriate childcare, with flexible hours, infant/toddler care, and transportation
- Legislation that keeps children safe in the environment and in the home, especially reduction of toxic exposures
- Provide community resources for children experiencing child abuse, neglect and domestic violence

Education

- Equitable and sufficient public financing of all levels of public education
- Simple majority vote for passage of school levies
- Education and training essential for family-wage employment

Energy

- Incentives for utilities to diversify their energy resources with clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Energy bill-payment assistance for low income households
- Adopt green building principles in the construction of state funded buildings

Global Climate Change

- Incentives for businesses and individuals to utilize renewable energy sources
- Increased vehicular fuel efficiency, and funding for mass transit
- Incentives to increase rail transport of goods and produce

Government

- Protecting the right of all citizens to vote and encouraging all citizens to vote
- Public financing of political campaigns for legislative and statewide offices
- Legislation providing voters with information on: effect of initiative and referendum on revenue and budget, sponsors and financial supporters, and advisory opinion on constitutionality

Growth Management and Land Use

- Provisions and implementation of Growth Management Act (GMA)
- Emphasis on sustainability in community and economic development legislation

Gun Control

- Closing the gun show loophole and reducing illegal access to firearms

Health Care

- Implementation of the prescription drug purchasing pool
- Maintaining a single insurance pool for the small business market
- Enact mental health parity

Natural Resources

- Protection of water resources, including groundwater, surface water and marine water, aquatic wildlife and habitat
- Provisions and implementation of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
- Preservation of forests

Reproductive Rights

- Action to protect the constitutional right to privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices

Taxes

- Including income as part of the state tax base

Transportation

- A balanced transportation system including appropriate infrastructure

For a detailed explanation of the League's position on these and other priorities, please refer to LWVWA publication, *Program In Action*, which can be obtained from the state League office or online at www.lwvwa.org. Or contact the State Action Chair, Lobbyist or applicable Portfolio Chair. To follow legislative events, subscribe to the League's weekly *Legislative Newsletter*.