

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO

Agenda for Action

Social Policy

Primary and Secondary Education – Support the use of public funds only for public schools. Support an elected State Board of Education whose responsibility is policy making/planning. Support state education standards as a method of attaining a high quality education. Support state funding for education that guarantees a realistic and equitable level of per-pupil expenditures, and support local school districts assuming a reasonable share of the financial burden.

Higher Education – Support funding by the state to ensure that all Ohio citizens have access to post-secondary education that provides general education and job preparation. Support Department of Education, appointed by the Governor with confirmation by the Senate, to be a planning, coordinating board with broad policy-making powers.

Juvenile Justice – Support community-based, least restrictive placement; rights and humane treatment of children who are juvenile offenders; alternative educational services; gender-specific treatment programs; unbiased treatment regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or socio-economic status; statewide uniform standards for dealing with juvenile records. Oppose holding children in adult jails.

Capital Punishment - Support abolition of the death penalty and a moratorium on use of the death penalty.

Human Trafficking – Support legislation to stop human forced labor and sex trafficking. Adult and child victims should be provided with services as needed. Aggressive enforcement of laws should include cooperation among agencies, strategies to reduce demand, training, and necessary funding.

Health Equity – Health inequities are differences in health status between different population groups that arise from social conditions where people are born, grow, live, work and age. In increasing health equity, the League supports: legislation requiring an assessment of all proposed legislation as to its impact on health inequities, prior to adoption; expansion of Medicaid; policies and legislation that encourage investment in areas of concentrated poverty; policies and legislation that promote income stability; cooperation between state, county and local governments with non-profits; and investing in policies, legislation and programs that help break the cycle of poverty.

Armed School Personnel - League of Women Voters Ohio (LWVO) opposes the arming of school personnel under any circumstance. LWVO supports alternatives to arming school personnel to create a healthier and safer school environment; supports the consideration of research into the effects of arming school personnel in the total decision process used to arm school personnel; and supports the consideration of the effects on targeted students including

students of color in this decision to arm school personnel. However, as Ohio legislation currently makes arming school personnel legal, LWVO supports the following regulations and considerations when arming school personnel: determining parameters; transparency; stakeholder views; funding & liability; storage; school personnel selection; and training.

Criminal Justice – A criminal justice system that is, at all stages of the process including lawmaking, just, effective, equitable, humane, transparent, non-discriminatory and that fosters public trust and the life and dignity of each person. A criminal justice system whose primary focus is on rehabilitation with the goal of facilitating the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated. The elimination of systemic biases, including the disproportionate policing, prosecution, sentencing, and incarceration of marginalized communities and vulnerable individuals and groups. Criminal justice policies and practices that promote safety for all—including the law enforcement officers, the communities they serve, the victims of crime, and also the people accused of crime and their families. Community oversight will be a transparent, measurable, productive and proactive collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system. Reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about all aspects of the criminal justice system, including systematic collection and sharing of data and reports, regularly scheduled audits of program and policy effectiveness and outreach to collect public input regarding the process and the outcomes, movement toward central collection of data across all areas of criminal justice. Wide-spread availability of, and sufficient funding for supportive care services across all phases of the criminal justice system. Fairness in the application of justice across the state such that one's access to justice is not dependent on one's county or municipality, or on the court or the judge assigned to the case.