

# LWV NASHVILLE PROGRAM OF SERVICE

2011-2012

## I. Local Program

The League of Women Voter of Nashville provides consistent voter services, including voter education, voter registration and candidate forums. The League also engages in strategic and effective issue advocacy based on positions reached by the membership after careful study and discussion.

## II. Study and Action

The goal of the 2008-2009 study and action program is to promote broader, more diverse citizen participation in decisions affecting public policies in Nashville. The program focus will be:

### A. Education

- Study and advocate for challenging, high quality education.
- Advocate for equal access to educational opportunities, with special attention to children from diverse backgrounds and with special needs.
- Support expansion of high quality pre-kindergarten programs, with priority given to children at risk.
- Support resources adequate to meet the standards in the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and the recommendations made by the 2007 Citizen's Panel for a Community Report Card.

### B. Environment

- Support a comprehensive coordinated approach to land use, growth and development, and transportation, with focus on encouraging efforts to expand efficient and accessible mass transit—including the Metropolitan Transit Authority and commuter rail project—and on facilitating walking and improving bikeways.
- Support efforts to manage and reduce waste in environmentally friendly ways. Support implementation of Metro's Waste Management Plan, including refuse pick-up and disposal, recycling, and hazardous waste disposal.
- Educate the community about local, state and federal issues that impact the local environment, including air and water quality, use of pesticides, public lands protection, and protection of state parks and state forests.
- Educate the community about issues related to energy use and support energy conservation.
- Support action on state and federal environmental issues, consistent with LWV positions.

### C. Electoral Process

- Work with the Davidson County Election Commission to ensure that voting systems are consistent with LWVUS best practices so that they are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible and include voter-verified paper ballots.
- Support adequate resources for the election process including acquisition, testing, and security of voting machines and equipment; training for election officials; and improvements to the failsafe process.
- Promote the implementation and equitable distribution of federal allocations for the Help America Vote Act of 2002 in Nashville.

#### **D. Health Care**

- Promote a health care financing and delivery system that assures an appropriate level of high-quality health care for all residents of Nashville, including the following services:
  - Health and wellness education and promotion;
  - Primary care: prevention and treatment of illness, reproductive health care, maternal and child health care;
  - Behavioral health care: mental health care and substance use treatment;
  - Acute, urgent and emergency care; and
  - Long-term care: home- and community-based care.
- Provide information about the impact of TennCare on Metropolitan Government and on access to appropriate health care affecting residents of the county.
- Support efforts to contain costs by using evidence-based medicine whenever possible, using best practices in care management, and promoting continuity and coordination of care.

#### **E. Human Needs**

- Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families in Nashville, including those newly immigrated and individuals with disabilities.
- Provide voter education activities with newly naturalized citizens.
- Support policy changes related to immigration consistent with LWVUS positions at the local, state and federal level.
- Support programs and policies that allow victims of domestic abuse to maintain every right of citizenship, including the assurance of safety and the ability to vote.

#### **F. Metropolitan Government**

- Educate citizens about their elected and appointed officials and about how Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Government works.
- Educate citizens about the budget process and finances for Metropolitan Government and support policies that provide adequate resources for public services in Nashville, consistent with state and national League positions.
- Provide information to the Metropolitan Council and its committees regarding issues supported by the League.
- Support ethical standards in Metro Government.