



2012 LWVTN Priority Issues

ELECTIONS: ENSURE THAT ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS ARE ABLE TO VOTE

- Work to repeal the new Photo ID law, work to amend the law to mitigate its discriminatory effects, and educate the public about the law.
- Expand early voting.
- Provide funding for timely implementation of Tennessee Voter Confidence Act.

EDUCATION: PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION

- Maintain funding and support for the public school system, including state funded voluntary pre-kindergarten programs.
- Monitor efforts to adopt public school vouchers.
- Maintain appointed school superintendents.
- Monitor ongoing state education policies intended to promote higher levels of student achievement.

OPEN GOVERNMENT: ENSURE CITIZEN ACCESS

- Support open government through access to public records, open meetings, public notice by printed and electronic means, and general government transparency.
- Support transparency in redistricting, ensuring that districts meet criteria regarding compactness, community preservation, population and competitiveness.

RESPONSIBLE BUDGET: PROTECT THE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE BY MAINTAINING FUNDING OF SAFETY NET SERVICES

- Maintain integrity of safety net services: community based services for child welfare, education, TennCare and other health services, human services, juvenile justice, mental health and disability services systems. These services are interrelated. Reducing resources for one system threatens the viability of all.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: IMPLEMENT THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- Support timely legislative and administrative implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, consistent with the Tennessee Health Insurance Exchange Guiding Principles.

ENVIRONMENT: PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN STANDARDS TO ENSURE CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND LAND AND ENERGY QUALITY

- Regulate hydraulic fracturing of gas wells to protect Tennessee water, health and infrastructure from contamination.
- Restrict mountain top removal, coal mining and construction or use of any new outlet for discharge of wastes into waters of the state.
- Maintain dedicated funds from real estate transfers for land acquisition and protection.

JUDICIAL SELECTION: RETAIN MERIT-BASED SELECTION AND RETENTION

- Maintain a system that will ensure Tennessee keeps its high standard of quality for appellate judges, free of partisanship.

REVENUES: SUPPORT REVENUES FOR ESSENTIAL HUMAN SERVICES THROUGH AN EQUITABLE AND FAIR SYSTEM OF TAXATION

- Oppose amending the Tennessee Constitution to prohibit adoption of an income tax.
- Close tax loopholes and improve equity by adopting: Out of State Sales Tax Act, Single Article Cap Removal, and Tennessee Small Business Protection Act (requires "combined reporting" of income by multi-state corporations and reduces sales tax on food).

IMMIGRATION: SUPPORT POLICY CHANGES THAT ENSURE IMMIGRANTS ARE TREATED FAIRLY