

## **Local Program 2021-2022 (Approved 5/27/2021)**

### **1) Voters Service:**

The right to vote and equal access to the ballot represent pillars of U.S. democracy and guiding principles for the League of Women Voters (LWV).

#### **2021-2022 Priorities:**

- a. Support non-partisan redistricting efforts.
- b. Oppose restrictions on voter registration.
- c. Oppose voter ID requirements that present barriers to voting.
- d. Advocate for ways to increase voter turnout, based on lessons learned from the 2020 elections:
  - Oppose any legislation that would restrict voting.
  - Advocate for legislation to make voting easier while protecting election security, including no-excuse absentee voting and expanded options for ballot return and early in-person voting.
- e. Engage city/county officials, party committees, and other stakeholders on barriers to voting (educational/informational barriers, access to polling places, etc.). Focus outreach on proposed legislation to modernize election methods, reduce taxpayer costs, and reduce administrative burden.
- f. Oppose any effort to make campaign funding less transparent and more open to wealthy voters to the detriment of other voters.

### **2) Social Justice:**

The LWV is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. We are all responsible for making Morgantown, Monongalia County, and the state of West Virginia welcoming and inclusive communities.

#### **2021-2022 Priorities:**

- a. Identify and collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations to make social justice principles a reality in Morgantown and Monongalia County.
- b. Oppose legislative efforts to suppress civil and Constitutional rights.
- c. Advocate for state and Federal legislation to protect LGBTQ rights, including protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

### **3) Broadband Access:**

The pandemic proved that education, community engagement, and achievement of the LWV's other priorities depend on access to 21<sup>st</sup> century digital infrastructure, a need that will not expire when the pandemic is over.

#### **2021-2022 Priority:**

Advocate for and support access to high-speed, affordable broadband for all residents, schools, libraries, and businesses in the county and state.

#### **4) Other Areas:**

The coronavirus pandemic has limited and, in some cases, put on pause other priorities of the LWV. These and others will be pursued as circumstances demand and resources are available:

##### **Local Government:**

Governmental transparency and citizen engagement are matters vital to the well-being of the community. Monitoring issues considered by City Council and County Commission enable us to be prepared to advocate for/against actions that may impact the community.

##### **Natural Resources:**

Wise management of natural resources and protection of the planet for future generations are essential for the public's interest and safety. Recognizing, supporting, and advocating with other organizations offer alternatives to promote our position.

##### **Education:**

An educated citizenry is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society. The pursuit of high-quality public education – for all children, from pre-K and K-12 through higher education – requires advocating for legislation and policies to support well-funded, equity-based public education while opposing legislation that diverts funding and fails to prioritize disadvantaged students.