

Recommended Program for 2019-2021

On March 27, 2019, the League of Women Voters of Virginia's Board of Directors approved, and presents, the following as the recommended LWV-VA Program for FY2019-2021.

1. Affordable housing study – Lead by Alice Tousignant, LWV of the Richmond Metro Area.
 2. Update of LWV-VA Elections Position
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LWV-VA Proposed Affordable Housing Study

The LWV-RMA would like to initiate a statewide affordable housing study at the 2019 May Convention. It would be led by the RMA League and specifically Alice Tousignant, one of the RMA Board members and Chair of the RMA Housing Committee. Alice has the necessary experience to implement this study. This study would be open to other league members around the State.

The study would focus its efforts on affordable housing for people at very low income (VLI) or 50% of Area Median Income and below and would mainly focus on rental housing. (State maximum income for 50% AM is \$29,650 for a household of one and \$42,350 for a household of four.)

Specific housing issues that the study could examine and make advocacy recommendations about would include the following:

1. Increasing the supply and preserving existing VLI housing through increases in the State's Housing Trust Fund (DHCD), funding for additional Permanent Supportive Housing for persons with serious mental illness (DBHDS), and potential changes to proffers and affordable dwelling unit laws.
2. Researching the possibility of creating a State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program that would mirror the Federal LIHTC program and targeting households with VLI.
3. Removing barriers to siting affordable housing through law changes such as inclusionary zoning.
4. Reviewing landlord/tenant law changes that mainly protect landlords resulting in extremely high eviction rates.

5. Fair Housing law changes, such as source of income, that would enable tenants with vouchers to rent in any neighborhood.

2019 Proposed Program Update of LWV-VA Elections Position

The following Local Leagues have confirmed a willingness to merge their requests and to form to form a consolidated inter-League update on Elections to address the following items:

1. Richmond RMA – Karen Rosenblum
2. Arlington/Alexandria – Joan Porte
3. Falls Church – Wendy Frieman
4. Fairfax - Judith Helein

RECOMMENDATION: Review and update of the LWV-VA Elections position to:

- A. Include election processes, laws, and regulations (e.g. post-election audits) that ensure free and fair election results, transparency, security and accountability
- B. Prepare amendment to State position to strengthen support for security, including physical security of voting equipment and ballots
- C. Review the language supporting electronic voting
- D. Add a statement opposing requirement for photo ID at polls
- E. Consider and explore the effectiveness and impact of rank choice voting
- F. Address voter suppression.