



League of Women Voters of Port Washington Manhasset

2021-22 Policy Positions & Program Priorities

The LWV of PWM aligns with the policy positions of the LWVUS and LWVNYS.
Our local league places special emphasis on these programs.

POLICY POSITIONS

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

We are fully committed to DEI in principle and practice, with no barriers to full participation in our organization, as we seek to engage individuals, households, communities and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Healthcare

We support state legislation that ensures high-quality healthcare for all New Yorkers, and protects medical personnel: This includes

- Creating a universal, comprehensive, affordable, NYS healthcare system that is publicly funded and operates transparently in the public interest.
- Ensuring safe staffing in healthcare settings.
- Ensuring the rights of terminally ill persons to request medical aid in dying from licensed medical personnel who strictly follow specified safeguards.

Natural Resources

We support legislation and regulation to protect our natural resources from overuse and the impact of fossil fuels and chemicals.

Open Government

At the national, state, and local levels, we promote open government that is representative, accountable, and responsive, and we believe this requires informed and active participation of citizens at all levels of government.

Social Policy/Gender Equity

We support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with goals of the ERA. We support measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.

Voting & Election Integrity

On the national, state, and local levels, we seek to “Make Democracy Work” for all Americans by supporting:

- On the national and state levels, campaign finance reform and effective ethics legislation
- On the national, state and local levels, the creation of fair political maps for all elected offices based substantially on population. We oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering that strips rights from voters.
- On the state and county levels, improved measures to engage voters and ensure equitable representation; this includes effective voting systems, equitable access to voting, protecting voting integrity, security and paper trails — and programs that offer civic education, especially for youth.
- At the state and local levels, we believe democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens, including youth

LOCAL PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

We use a DEI lens on all programing, policy, and outreach:

- **DEI Book Group** discusses difficult topics.
- **DEI Queries** at monthly meetings raise awareness and encourage discourse on social justice issues.
- **DEI Committee** reaches out to community organizations

Healthcare

We advocate and educate on NYS healthcare legislation that will improve public health, increase health equity and reduce disparities of race, class, ZIP Code, e.g., the NY Health Act. We support the NYS Rural Caucus and the LWV Rural Affairs Caucus (30 states) — advocating for healthcare, broadband, and voting rights. Members seek to expand the value of the LWV to rural areas.

Natural Resources

We monitor public efforts to protect and sustain our natural resources, particularly the quantity and quality of our groundwater, and to reduce plastics, pollution and toxic contaminants. We educate and advocate on issues specific to Long Island and beyond to address the perils of climate change and to be better stewards of our Earth.

Open Government

We monitor local legislatures, Town of North Hempstead and Nassau County, for transparency and PWM priority issues. We host the TNH State of the Town Address and manage the TNH Housing Authority Elections.

Social Policy/Gender Equity

We support the ERA nationally and lobby for NY legislation to guarantee all women legal and economic rights, e.g., around pay, employment, domestic violence/coercion, child custody, healthcare, gun safety, etc.

Voting & Election Integrity & Youth Engagement

“Making Democracy Work” at our local level includes promoting efforts to increase citizen engagement through

- Voter registration activities, candidate forums, voter information, etc., to increase equitable representation.
- Advocating for no-excuse absentee voting, early voting access, measures to maximize all valid votes
- Educating about and advocating for (locally and in NYS) electoral systems that reflect voter preferences better than our current system of plurality voting.
- Advocating for fair political maps for all elected offices and opposing partisan and racial gerrymandering.
- We select and sponsor local students for the annual LWVNY Students Inside Albany conference which (pre-pandemic) offered insider view of the legislative process.
- We honor student volunteers for “Participation in Government,” civic activities that benefit the community.