

Sample HCR4US ASK to Local and State LWV Boards for NY (PWM) Concurrence (for June 2026)

I am requesting time at our League's January board meeting. Plus after the meeting, we should let LWV.Update4Convention@gmail.com know what the board recommends.

- 1. I'd like to ask for a motion to support the PWM Update on our LWVUS Program Planning Survey.**
- 2. I would like to speak to what this motion involves and why our board should support it.**

Once again, we are asking you to include a grassroots initiative when you complete the LWVUS [Program Planning Survey](#) that LWVUS will post for League Presidents on January 15.

LWV PWM (Port Washington-Manhasset on Long Island, NY), which has been joined by the state Leagues of New York and Vermont requests our League add the following PWM Update "program item" to the LWV Program Planning Survey we submit before March 10.

LWV PWM is proposing an Update to the National Privatization Position that will clarify four elements of the national position — elements the LWVUS has publicly supported — but are not stated explicitly in the US position: that is, adding healthcare to the position's list of "public goods"; opposing further privatization of healthcare, which is, by far, our most privatized public good; and, finally, adding two items to the position's "best practices requirements" specifically "fiduciary duty to the public" and accountability, up to and including de-privatization for violating fiduciary duty to the public. Note: PWM believes the US could simply insert these into the position¹

Of the 40+plus national positions, **only** the privatization position and another, also adopted before 2024, have **no League history**. **LWV PWM believes that this Update will make the position more useful, allowing state and local Leagues to advocate more effectively**, confident that they are aligned with national League policy in addressing an accelerating trend: i.e., the siphoning of public funding (taxes) into corporate profits and away from critical services aimed "to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society."²

I have a copy of the LWV PWM Update that will take me one minute to read. (See attached.)

PWM requests that we:

- 1. ADD it to our US Program Planning Survey³** because we believe it is worthy of debate and discussion on the floor of Convention 2026.
By doing this, our League will be requesting that the PWM Update be debated and voted at Convention by about 900 delegates. Our adding it to the survey does not commit our delegates to vote for it at Convention — indeed, the League recommends that delegates be instructed to learn/discuss at Convention and then to vote their conscience.

Also that we **Let LWVPWM know** we've done this— LWV.Update4Convention@gmail.com, and **PROMOTE the PWM Update** — forwarding this, asking our state League and sister local Leagues to consider supporting it, as well as those in our national/regional League interest groups.

To learn more about the proposed PWM Update: email LWV.Update4Convention@gmail.com

- **PWM's Concurrence Webpage** lwvofpwm.org/concurrence-privatization-update/
- **HCR4US's Concurrence Webpage** lwvhealthcarereform.org/ny-concurrence-page-2026/
- **Watch 4-minute video summary and/or next 8 minutes of detailed explainer:**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=keG-2uvaUDI&t=250s (use time stamp below 30-minute video)

¹ See attached sample for one way of doing this if the Update Concurrence is successful at Convention.

² US Privatization Position, p.76 of <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues> or position only ([pdf](#))

³ PWM's suggested wording for Program Planning Survey is on a separate page: "Sample Survey Instructions"



Proposed Text: PWM Update to US Privatization Position

The League believes that healthcare, like other programs that provide and protect basic human needs, should be considered a public good.

The League favors a system where fiduciary responsibility (for such programs) is to patients and the public. Because private for-profit corporations have a fiduciary responsibility to their shareholders rather than to patients or public health, the League believes the for-profit business model for healthcare is inappropriate for the common good or to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable members of society. In sum, the League opposes further privatization of needed healthcare.

Where private entities fail to deliver on programs that provide and protect basic human needs, the League supports de-privatizing them.

The PWM Privatization Update (adopted by PWM in 2024, by NYS 2025) is a shortened version of the Vermont Privatization position (adopted 2023); it uses language from the Vermont text to clarify and make explicit four elements of the national position that Vermont considers essential to its position — and which the LWVUS has publicly supported — but which are not in the language of the LWVUS position: namely, adding healthcare to the list of "public goods"; adding "fiduciary duty" in the "best practices" requirements; adding accountability, up to and including de-privatization for violating fiduciary duty to the public; and opposing further privatization of healthcare, which is, by far, our most privatized public good.

Clarifying these four elements will allow state and local Leagues to advocate more effectively, confident that they are aligned with national League policy in addressing an accelerating trend, that is, the increased siphoning of public funding (taxes) into corporate profits which reduces public access and quality of critical services "to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society."⁴

The LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset (NY), along with the New York State⁵ and Vermont State Leagues, asks other state and local Leagues to support consideration of a Concurrence at LWV Convention 2026 to update the current LWVUS Position on Privatization (2012)⁶ which, it should be noted, focuses on the privatization of public goods,⁷ with less emphasis on de-privatization.

⁴ Ibid. quoted from the position (pdf)

⁵ NYS adopted this position update at NYS Convention 2025, concurring with PWM (position adopted 2024).

⁶ US Privatization Position, p.76 of www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/ImpactOnIssues_2024-FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf

⁷ Ibid., "Public goods" as defined within the position.

LWVUS Privatization Position — with one illustration of how to add LWVPWM Update⁸

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the League believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government-provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, **health care**, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection, and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made only after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets, and functions to the private sector:

- Ongoing and timely communication with stakeholders and the public.
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained.
- Definition of the quality, level, and cost of service expected.
- Assessment of the private market — whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized (e.g., high-tech, airports).
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short- and long-term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight.
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, the environment, and public employees.
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor.
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform.
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being.
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract.
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner.
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project.
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private entity (beyond the lowest-cost bid).
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy.
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity.
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration.
- Provision for employment, benefits, and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.
- **The League opposes further privatization of needed healthcare.**
- **The League favors a system where fiduciary responsibility (for such programs) is to patients and the public.**

Where private entities fail to deliver programs that provide and protect basic human needs, the League supports de-privatizing them.

⁸ This is ONE possible way to incorporate the PWM Update into the US position. If the concurrence is adopted, LWVUS will determine the version published in Impact on Issues.

LWV US Program Planning Survey ¹

How to Support Concurrence for PWM Privatization Update²

If your League decides to support more than one "**study, concurrence, or other program item**" being discussed and voted on at Convention 2026, these instructions provide 2 options to allow that.

Option A — if PWM Update is your highest priority, answer survey questions as follows:

Would you like to recommend another issue, in addition to or instead of Women Defend Democracy:

☒ Yes

☐ No

Which are you proposing?

☐ Study

☒ Concurrence

☐ Other program item

Please check which of the four LWVUS issue headings your recommendation would fall under.

☒ Representative Government

☐ International Relations

☐ Natural Resources

☐ Social Policy

Describe the proposal in 10 words or less.

Update the LWVUS Privatization position by concurrence, to clarify four areas

You may want to describe the issue in more detail. If so, please provide a statement (500 words or less) describing the scope of your recommendation including a description of the issue area, its importance in advancing the League's mission as well as resources needed to carry out the recommendation. This information will be read, but will not be included in the official response written above.

We support the PWM Update to the LWVUS Privatization Position being a recommended program item for concurrence. Adopting the PWM Update would allow state and local Leagues to advocate more effectively, confident that they are aligned with national League policy in 1) advocating for healthcare as a "public good"; advocating as "best practices... requirements" both 2) "fiduciary duty" to the public and 3) accountability, up to and including de-privatization for violating fiduciary duty; and 4) opposing further privatization of healthcare which is, by far, our most privatized public good. The Update will make the current position more useful to state and local Leagues in advocating for legislation which protects vulnerable and marginalized residents who are disproportionately harmed by privatization of public goods — because it makes public goods less accessible, affordable or available, or of lower quality and less safe. These benefits will accrue without any League expending additional resources.

Option B — if the PWM Update is not your highest priority, complete the final question as follows (148 words allows 3 submissions plus your highest priority submission):

Please provide anything else you would like to share on Program Planning (in 500 words or less)

We support "Updating the LWVUS Privatization position by concurrence to clarify four areas" as a recommended program item (under REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT).

Adopting the PWM Update would allow state and local Leagues to advocate more effectively, confident that they are aligned with national League policy in 1) advocating for healthcare as a "public good"; advocating as "best practices...requirements" both 2) "fiduciary duty" to the public and 3) accountability, up to and including de-privatization for violating fiduciary duty; and 4) opposing further privatization of healthcare which is, by far, our most privatized public good. The Update will make the current position more useful to state and local Leagues in advocating for legislation which protects vulnerable and marginalized residents who are disproportionately harmed by privatization — because it makes public goods less accessible, affordable or available, or of lower quality and less safe. These benefits will accrue without any League expending additional resources.

¹ The online survey will be posted on January 15, 2026 — due March 10, 2026.

² The 2026 LWV US Program Planning Page can be found [here](#). The survey can only be submitted only once, so LWV-US has offered a [PDF version](#) and advised Leagues to draft all answers in a word file to allow rapid copy/pasting into the online form.

Questions about the PWM Update or these instructions? email LWV.Update4Convention@gmail.com