

LWVPWM Proposed Update to LWVUS 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 LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset (NY), along with the New York¹ 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)² which, it should be noted, focuses solely on the privatization of public goods.³

The PWM Privatization Update (2024) is a shortened version of the Vermont Privatization position (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.⁴ Note: of the 40+plus national positions adopted before 2024, only the U.S. privatization position offers no League history, meaning no record of having been used.

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 and a consequent reduction of public access and quality of services — violating the League requirement "to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society."⁵

Learn more at lwvofpwm.org/concurrence-privatization-update/

¹ NYS adopted this position update at NYS Convention 2025, concurring with PWM (position adopted 2024 in concurrence with 2023 Vermont position).

² US Privatization Position, p.76 of www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/ImpactOnIssues_2024-FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf

³ Ibid., "Public goods," as defined within the position.

⁴ See LWV of PWM Concurrence Materials: <http://lwvofpwm.org/concurrence-privatization-update/>

⁵ Ibid., US Position.