

## **Lobby Corps' Review of LWVUS Positions and Recommendations**

### **Possible Position Reviews and Updates**

**1. Apportionment.** State Government Specialist Ann Henkener believes that, while LWVUS has a position on apportionment, it does not address the important role of competitiveness and representational fairness in drawing districts. In addition, she feels good government groups have been looking at ways to draw districts other than the current single-member districts. Because the current LWVUS position does not address this, the League cannot fully join that dialogue.

For the full position, please see page 17 in LWVUS' *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*, with background beginning on page 16.

**2. Health Care.** LWVUS' current position was adopted in 1993 when the focus was on a national single-payer publicly-funded health care system, and the position reflects that goal. Health Care Lobbyist Eleanor Pearlman thinks the position would be more helpful if it addressed more fully some of the interim steps that might be taken. These include, for example: 1) support for state-based health-care systems, and 2) identifying ways to pay for state-based universal health care systems other than public funding, given that state resources are not sufficient to provide necessary funding. The federal government hasn't reconciled the house and senate versions of health care reform and the states may still have to fill some gaps.

For the full position, please see page 72 in LWVUS' *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*, with background beginning on page 70.

**3. Citizen's Right to Vote.** Election Law Lobbyist Peg Rosenfield says that, although LWVUS has a position on citizen's right to vote, greater clarity and emphasis should be placed on assuring that votes are counted accurately.

For the full position, please see page 15 in LWVUS' *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*, with background beginning on page 8.

**4. Campaign Finance.** Peg Rosenfield also feels that, because the LWVUS position has been used to support public financing, the position should include explicit support for public financing--and for the adequate public financing of campaigns at all levels and for all three branches of government.

For the full position, please see page 21 in LWVUS' *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*, with background beginning on page 18.

**5. Energy.** Energy Specialist Al Rosenfield is concerned that the LWVUS position is dated, and would like to see a review of the entire position.

For the full position, please see page 52 in LWVUS' *Impact on Issues 2008-2010*, with background beginning on page 44.

***Directions for Review of LWVUS Positions for Possible Updating from  
The LWVUS Program Planning Leader's Guide 2009-2010***

Following an earlier decision by Leagues, Program Planning includes a systematic review of all LWVUS positions. Leagues may select one LWVUS position for consideration for review each biennium. If adopted, a Review Committee will be appointed to examine the position and, if appropriate, suggest changes and updating.

### **Possible Study / Creation of a New Position**

***Predatory lending.*** Housing Lobbyist Karen Rainey notes that currently there is no LWVUS position on uniform (federal) consumer protections from unscrupulous business practices (such as predatory lending and payday lending). Creating a position would require a study of the issue.

The study would fall under Social Policy (Equality of Opportunity). Scope: Review the negative impact on individuals and communities created by the lack of responsible lending standards, and determine what measures the federal government should take to protect consumers.

### ***Directions for New Study/Program Item from The LWVUS Program Planning Leader's Guide 2009-2010***

To propose a new study, you need to fill out that section on the Report Form by including a brief statement (25 words or less) concerning the scope of the study. Insert this statement under the appropriate general heading – Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources or Social Policy (see Impact on Issues for detailed descriptions of these headings or Positions in Brief for a summary of these positions. A statement of scope lists the areas to be explored, the emphasis on a particular aspect of the issue and the parameters of the study. Using these headings and a brief statement of scope will enable staff and the Program Planning Committee to compile responses more effectively.