

**Want more? Try BASIC LEAGUE HISTORY**  
**Check ALL issues for which LWV advocated.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Women's Suffrage:** In 1920, just as all women across the rest of the country were granted the right to vote by passage of the 19th Amendment, suffragette Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters to help newly eligible women get registered, get informed, and vote!

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fair Debates:** From 1976 to 1987, LWV ran unbiased and well-controlled Presidential election debates. Today, the Commission on Presidential Debates does so.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Equal Opportunity:** Originally only for women, in 1974 LWV allowed men to join too but retained the name and history of protecting the rights of women and children.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Environment:** Beginning with the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1920's, LWV has consistently defended the environment and conservation of our natural resources.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Safety & Security:** In the 1930's, LWV endorsed the first office of Food and Drug safety to protect consumers and the first Social Security Administration to protect the elderly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **International Efforts:** Since the 1940's, LWV has supported women worldwide and the founding of the United Nations. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); it still maintains official observer status today and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Stable Economics:** In the 1940's, LWV supported the creation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the founding of NATO with economic aid to less developed countries, and the Marshall Plan.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Women Worldwide:** Since 1947, LWV informs women worldwide. In the 1960's, the League hosted an exchange with women from the USSR and Institutes for Latin American women. In 1969, the League was one of the first organizations calling for the United States to normalize relations with China. Since the 1990's, League has developed international programs for women in Poland and Hungary; Russia and Belarus; Bosnia and Brazil; and a Grassroots Democracy program in Africa.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual Rights:** In the 1950's LWV focused on individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and a League position that strongly emphasized the protection of individual rights. League President Percy Maxim Lee testified before Congress in 1955 against Senator Joseph McCarthy's abuse of congressional investigative powers, saying, "I believe tolerance and respect for the opinions of others is being jeopardized by men and women whose instincts are worthily patriotic, but whose minds are apparently unwilling to accept the necessity for dissent within a democracy."

\_\_\_\_\_ **Civil Rights:** Leaguers walked door to door to pass the 1960's Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts for equal protection and access for all.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Equal Rights for Women:** In the early 1970s, the League addressed the issue of income assistance and also began its efforts to achieve a national Equal Rights for Women Amendment, an effort which ultimately failed.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fair Representation:** In the 1070's, the League added apportionment (fair representation) to its national program and supported presidential suffrage for the residents of Washington, DC.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Voter Rights:** The League was in the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982. In 1993, LWV helped win passage of the National Voter Registration Act, better known as Motor Voter, that let people register to vote when they get their drivers' licenses and lets them vote by mail.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sustainable, Safe Agriculture Policy:** In 1983, the League completed its first study of U.S. agricultural policy and updated another study in 2014 that supports protection of multiple levels of farm production, effective environmental practices, consumer health, and safety of our nation's food supply.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fair Taxation:** LWV contributed significantly to enactment of the historic Tax Reform Act of 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_ **National & World Security:** In the arms control field, LWV pressure helped achieve Senate ratification of the groundbreaking Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) in 1988 and underwrote some 150 debates focused on national security issues among congressional candidates and sponsored Presidential Debates.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Women’s Reproductive Rights:** In 1983 the League adopted a position on public policy regarding reproductive choice.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Gun Control:** In 1990, LWV members adopted a position on gun control in 1990 with a waiting period, background check, and assault rifle ban.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Clean Air:** In 1990, Congress passed reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, capping a ten-year LWV legislative campaign.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Healthcare for All:** In 1993, LWV studied and adopted a position on national healthcare that included containing rising health care costs without interfering with the quality of health care. LWV called for a national health insurance plan financed through a general tax increase, commonly known as the “single-payer” approach, and employer-based systems with universal access to health care as an important step toward a national health insurance plan. The League opposes a strictly private market-based model of providing or financing health care.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Making Democracy Work for All & Controlling Money in Politics:** Since 2000, Making Democracy Work, included increasing voter turnout, campaign finance reform, civic education, diversity of representation, and civic participation. LWV has worked toward campaign finance reform and to end unreported and unlimited campaign contributions by people who want to buy influence in our government. The League was instrumental in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002. The League worked to renew the Voting Rights Act, and filed a number of amicus briefs relating to campaign finance reform issues, racial bias in jury selection and Title IX. LWV advocates for related issues, including redistricting, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, voting rights for District of Columbia residents, election administration reform and ethics and lobbying reform.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Voter Education:** LWV strives for all citizens to get registered, get informed, and vote. The League launched a nationwide voter education campaign on “5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day” in 2004 that was repeated in 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fair & Independent Courts:** The League has engaged in education projects on Judicial Independence.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Civil Liberties & Security:** For two decades, the Local Voices Project has fostered a dialogue on the critical issue of balancing homeland security and civil liberties.

### LWV in Arizona

\_\_\_\_\_ **AZ Merit Selection of Judges & Judicial Performance Review Standards:** Since 1941 in Arizona, LWV has also worked for Arizona State improvements. With officials and other organizations, LWV helped to frame and pass Merit Selection of Judges that allows judges in big counties to avoid taking campaign contributions and gives the voting public a report on judges’ performance.

\_\_\_\_\_ **AZ Clean Elections Act:** LWV is one group that worked on and still supports the Arizona Clean Elections Act that lets candidates run without taking special interest money and pays attention to those who do and is a major source of voter education statewide.

\_\_\_\_\_ **AZ Independent Redistricting Commission:** Many nonprofits, including LWV helped win Arizona’s Independent Redistricting Commission to redraw fairer voting boundaries in Arizona districts, based on population changes rather than political parties.

\_\_\_\_\_ **AZ Voter Education:** For each election since 1941, Arizona’s local League of Women Voters have published balanced Pro and Con Voter Guides, registered thousands of voters, and provided non partisan, factual information to all voters to help them find out about voting and make better, informed, voting decisions!

\_\_\_\_\_ **Local Issues.** Leagues in Arizona like LWVMP have studied our communities via LWV traditions of “Know Your Town,” “Meet the Candidates,” and “Information on the Issues” reports.

**HINT: LWV has advocated for ALL these issues!**