

November 30, 2016

TO: Co-presidents, LWV of Greater Cleveland and LWVGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Janice Patterson, Chair, Ad Hoc Program Assessment Committee

SUBJECT: Final Report, LWVGC Program Review

This 5-person committee has reviewed a compilation of LWVGC, LWVOhio, and LWVUS program positions as the framework for determining whether to recommend changes in LWVGC positions. Such a review was requested by the LWVGC Board as an aid to its advocacy and education decisions. Recent merger actions had blended already-held positions from local Leagues with those of the former County interleague organization, making their scope and interpretations confounding.

The committee approached its task with the typical League method – *keep, drop or update* – with an eye as to whether the position from another level of League could be just as effective (or perhaps more effective) as an advocacy framework for LWVGC.

Attached are: a summary of the recommendations and the proposed rewrites that are recommended for consideration and adoption by LWVGC members.

This committee worked entirely – and very effectively – using Word documents transmitted by e-mail. We suggest this as a simple and useful way to involve members in future deliberations. We were able to combine efforts with one member in Florida, one member rarely able to attend meetings in person, one member with a full-time job, and two members seemingly retired but often traveling or otherwise occupied.

I want to commend committee members Mary Mundzak, Sandi O’Dell, Barbara Sones, and Rosemary Woodruff for their careful work that drew heavily (and wisely) on their years of League involvement.

COMMITTEE IDEAS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:

1. Adopt a study of “public boards” (those not included in the ABCD position) that would adapt the Port Authority position to broader application. It is full of good statements about the operations and membership of such boards that would lead to greater transparency and greater confidence in their decision-making.
2. Plan for another off-board review of this type in 4-5 years.
3. Consider that our long-held positions may need to expand to include new issues and concerns. Suggested positions that may need such attention:
 - TAXATION – tax foreclosures
 - HOUSING – housing for baby boomers, millennials; effects of flipping & gentrification
 - LAKE ERIE – diversion, dredging, dumping, algae bloom
 - CAFO – enforcement
 - PLANNING – suburban decline, population loss, farmland loss
 - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE – treatment of immigrants and aliens, police-community relations
 - HEALTH CARE – lead levels in children