



LWVUS Climate Change Position

At its January 2019 meeting, the LWVUS Board approved a position statement on climate change, to be included in an updated edition of *Impact on Issues*, due to be published in Spring 2019. Since the LWVUS Natural Resources positions pre-date the public's general awareness of climate change, we did not have a position explicitly mentioning climate change. Now, in recognition of Leagues' increasing engagement in climate action, the LWVUS board has added the following position language supporting climate action.

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an international approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

In addition, delegates to recent LWVUS Conventions have given overwhelming approval to several Resolutions that provide further guidance and emphasis for Leagues wishing to engage in climate action.

Putting a Price on Carbon — 2018 Convention (LWV California)
The League of Women Voters stands united with, and in support of, efforts to price carbon emissions, whether cap-and-trade, carbon tax/fee, or other viable pricing mechanisms. The League does not have a position on how the revenue generated is to be used.

We do not espouse any single method of pricing carbon over another. We will evaluate all proposed methods based on their effectiveness to abate emissions and whether the method can be successfully implemented.



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Putting a Price on Carbon — 2014 Convention (LWV Delaware)

The League of Women Voters should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.

Climate Assessment Criteria — 2018 Convention (LWV Oregon)

The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science. These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of the globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement.

Climate Action — 2016 Convention (LWV Oregon)

- *The LWVUS shall consider signing onto an Amicus Brief with the 21 youth plaintiffs from Our Children's Trust..*
- *The LWVUS supports United States ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement.*
- *The LWVUS should continue working for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan, especially at the state level, as a first step, and should call on the White House to implement an updated science-based Climate Action Plan that stabilizes global warming by bringing CO2 levels down to no more than 350 ppm by 2100.*

LWVUS GUIDANCE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Green New Deal — On March 14, 2019, the League Update provided [Talking Points](#) that state and local Leagues can use in their messaging on the GND.

- LWVUS joined a January 10th letter with more than 600 organizations urging Congress to hold hearings and openly debate legislation about climate change in response to the momentum across the country to address this important issue.
- This letter is a request to hold hearings that will help educate the public on the subject, a process that is critical to democracy and aligns with the League's longstanding support for a transparent process.



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- As with any omnibus legislation, we will work to elevate and protect the components that align with our positions. On the parts that do not align, we will work to negotiate separately and in a way that supports the League's work.
- It is important for LWVUS to be at the table as this process begins, to make sure the important work we have done for many decades is included in any comprehensive climate change package that is developed.
- Being part of this initial conversation around the subject positions us to influence the outcome of the potential legislation on this issue.
- Being at the table is the only way we can advance the work our organization has done on climate change. We can't stand by silently and wait for the legislation to be crafted.
- Currently, there is no bill, but LWVUS stands ready to negotiate when the time comes.
- As with all legislation, we will examine final language before supporting or opposing a bill publicly.
- LWVUS staff continues to consult the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force, a group of dedicated and trusted League leaders, regarding legislation around climate changes issues. We will continue to look to our long-standing positions to guide our engagement on this topic.

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