

**League of Women Voters of the Montclair Area
Proposed Local Program for 2023-2024**

Planned Activities 2023-2024:

Take action on adopted local, state, and national positions as situations arise and conditions warrant. Present consensus meetings on LWVUS and LWNJ program items.

Program Area of Emphasis for 2023-2024:

Support **Campaign for Making Democracy Work:** Voter Engagement, Voter Access, Fair Redistricting, Campaign Finance Reform. In 2023 focus on Youth Voter education out reach.

Education: Support equality, equity, and excellence in education. Monitor education reforms and the implementation of changing requirements as they affect local schools.

Environment: Support recycling, waste reduction, pollution control, and the wise management of resources including land, water, and energy. Support efforts to reduce global climate change and our carbon footprint. Inform our communities about the issue and take action as appropriate by utilizing the LWVUS's "Tool Kit for Climate Change."

Social Policy/Women's and Family Issues: Support efforts to raise awareness on social policy, women's, and family issues. Advocate on reproductive freedom rights, human trafficking and other social policy concerns.

Voter Registration: Provide materials and opportunities to register voters.

Voter Service: Encourage citizens to vote. Facilitate opportunities for citizens to learn about issues and candidates running for office through printed materials, public forums, and other media. Support the elimination of the electoral college and passage of increasing voter rights legislation.

Adopted Local Program Positions:

Education:

The League of Women Voters of the Montclair Area had a consensus in 2021 in favor of an Appointed Board of Education (BOE) as the best avenue to continue the improvement in educational outcomes for all the children in Montclair. Since this time, the township has approved an elected BOE. Whether there is an elected or appointed BOE, the League has consensus for an advisory committee of 8 - 10 community members to identify and nominate BOE candidates for appointment by the mayor. The advisory committee would seek nominees who reflect the diversity and competencies needed for an effective school board, e.g. finance, parents/caregivers, educators, lawyers, construction and from all parts of Montclair. One of the many benefits of this committee, would be to provide greater transparency in the process of appointing BOE candidates. We recommend the formation of such a committee.

Support the implementation of the new Laura Wooten middle school civics education law that was recently enacted in NJ. Support the League participating in a broader study to advocate for critical thinking in our schools.

Housing:

Support measures in the Zoning Code to permit accessory apartments in Montclair.