



2021-2022 Adopted Program

League of Women Voters -The Villages/Tri County Area

League Advocacy- Encourage local League members to respond to calls for action that come from the State and National Leagues.

Local Government - Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the tri-county area.

- Monitor and support transparency in local government actions in the tri-county area.
- Publicize citizen academies in the tri-county area for an educated membership on the workings of local government. For example, encourage Villagers to attend the Resident Academy to gain an understanding of how government works within The Villages.
- Monitor and support the repeal initiative for “One Sumter” and return to county commissioners elected by those residing in their districts.
- Encourage members to inform themselves and monitor local political issues.

Voter Service - Provide information about elections, election process, redistricting, and changes in the election law regarding voter access.

- Support and promote the state-wide initiative on National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
- Support and promote the LWVFL position on the integrity of the election process.
- Promote the LWVTRI Speakers Bureau.
- Publish and promote the online voter’s guide.
- Promote voter registration.

- Publish information about local elections.
- Sponsor Meet and Greet and/or Candidate Forums for local elections in each of the three counties, Lake, Marion, and Sumter.

Issues for Action

- Support and promote the implementation of the voting rights restoration amendment. Conduct outreach to former felons in the three-county area and support them by referring them to appropriate assistance.
- Spread the message of our Be A Voter campaign through the many platforms of social media.
- Inform the local population on election policy issues through the Speakers Bureau.
- Register voters and encourage voting among underrepresented populations in the tri-county area.
- Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for open primaries.
- Pursue partnerships with community organizations for voter registration drives and outreach to returning citizens.

Education --Promote adequate funding for public schools. Promote equality in academic and reporting requirements for all schools that receive public funds.

- Keep informed about the local impact of Federal and State initiatives such as equity initiatives including Title IX.
- Review and monitor charter schools and school vouchers issues.
- Monitor the impact of state funding on local school districts.
- Ensure that all 4-year-old children in Florida have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten programming, as mandated in the Florida Constitution by advocating for a substantial increase in per-child base allocation, and allocation of new monies for state-provided, intensive, on-site in-service training for VPK teachers in instructional design, lesson planning, and other teaching skills.
- Study civics education at all education levels locally.

Justice in Florida - Support justice actions that emphasize civil citations, rehabilitation, and other alternatives to incarceration.

- Support community policing and the addition of mental health resources.
- Support equity and equality in policing and training for law enforcement when working with diverse populations.

Natural Resources - Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest, recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

CLIMATE

- Identify and promote personal and local governmental initiatives that could reduce the predicted negative impact of climate change within the Tri-County area and Florida.
- Promote the reduction of carbon emissions by joining with the LWWFL's "Clean Energy Action Team" to speed up the transition to cleaner and cheaper-to-operate cars.
- Support public education to promote electric vehicles and statewide charging stations.

WATER

- Identify LWWFL's partners working for the betterment of Florida's water sources and support their actions. Monitor actions and legislation by tri-county government entities as well as legislators representing the tri-county area in state government.
- Monitor requests for water withdrawal by commercial bottlers in the local area.
- Identify and educate the public about negative outcomes which may result from such withdrawals.

Social Policy - Advocate for equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all citizens.

- Support implementation of the Federal Health Care Reform Law in Florida, emphasizing access for all and control of costs including Medicaid expansion and mental health coverage.
- Collaborate with local groups to educate the public and lawmakers on the benefits of the North Lake County District Hospital District.
- Support action to enforce and strengthen consumer protection laws.
- Support and promote a ban on all semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity feeding devices