

# RECOMMENDED LWVF PROGRAM 2011 - 2013

## RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

The following are the action items recommended by the LWVF Board, grouped by subject area, with the LWVF and/or LWVUS position statement listed in bold next to each heading:

### **GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA**

**Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state**

#### **Florida Constitution**

**Support basic law that assures a government responsive and accountable to the people of the state.**

#### **Issues for action:**

- Actively promote and support the reapportionment process
- Promote the strengthening of the Florida Commission on Ethics including the areas of independence, subpoena power and ability to levy fines and initiate an investigation.
- Support the extension of ethics reform to county and city government

#### **Finance and Taxation**

**Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs**

#### **Election Law**

**Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns.**

#### **Issues for action:**

- Support greater flexibility in the selection of early voting sites

## **EDUCATION IN FLORIDA**

**Support for a free public school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula.**

### **Issues for Action:**

- **Promote adequate funding of public education with no use of public funding for the expansion of funding of private education through a voucher program**
- **Promote the extension of public school testing of student achievement to private schools, charter schools and any institutions that receive state funding.**

## **JUSTICE IN FLORIDA**

**Support a judicial system that provides a unified court structure, improved provisions for judicial selection and merit retention and equal access to legal services. Support a criminal justice system that emphasizes rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration.**

## **SOCIAL POLICY IN FLORIDA**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans.**

### **Children and Families**

**Support measures to meet special concerns of children and families, including countering intrafamily abuse and providing for safe foster care and shelter care.**

### **Farmworkers**

**Support measures to provide adequate living and working conditions for farmworkers.**

## **Financing & Delivery of Health Care**

**Support measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on health care reform.**

### **Issue for Action:**

- Support implementation of the Federal Health Care Reform Law in Florida, emphasizing access for all and control of costs

## **Immigration**

**Support the rights of legal immigrants to prevention or reduction of poverty, a minimum basic level of health care at affordable cost, the well-being of children and families and access to free public schools with federal and state financial assistance to communities disproportionately impacted by immigration.**

## **Libraries**

**Support full funding of eligible public library Systems as provided in Section 257.27 Florida Statutes**

### **Issue for Action:**

- Support the continued funding of public libraries in the state.

## **Handgun Control**

**Support regulations concerning the purchase, ownership and use of handguns that balance as nearly as possible individual constitutional rights with the general interest and welfare of the community.**

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

**Support governmental action that results in sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

**Environment, society and the economy must be integrated and balanced to achieve a sustainable Florida.**

### **Issues for Action:**

- Support public transportation projects which yield multi-modal investments in local and state enhanced infrastructure.
- Support governmental actions that result in sustainability by meeting the needs of the present without endangering the future.
- Support the adoption of a renewable portfolio standard

## **NATURAL RESOURCES IN FLORIDA**

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

### **Resource Management**

#### **Land Use**

**Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.**

#### **Energy**

**Support state legislation for energy conservation and greater use of renewable sources such as solar energy.**

### **Issues for Action:**

- Promote the passage of comprehensive energy policy that includes targets for expansion of renewable energy and conservation efforts.

**Freshwater Resources**

**Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis.**

**Coastal Management**

**Support intergovernmental stewardship of and fiscal responsibility for the Florida coast, under the management of the state, while recognizing the dominance of nature and the role of the sand transport system.**

**Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

**Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment. (LWVUS)**

**Public Participation**

**Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources. (LWVUS)**

**Agriculture**

**Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. (LWVUS)**