



# LWV Jacksonville First Coast

## LWVJFC 2020 - 2021 Program

### **Government and Election Law:**

#### **LWVFL POSITIONS:**

- Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.
- Support basic laws that assure a government responsive and accountable to the people of the state. Support retention of the 1968 Florida Constitutional Amendment for home rule by municipalities and counties in the administration of local issues.
- Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.
- Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns including public financing.

#### **LWVJFC ACTIONS:**

1. Conduct voter registration and educate the local community about voting rights and requirements
2. Help develop local Voter Guides for the 2020 elections.
3. Help develop and present educational programs regarding legislation, policy issues and election topics.

4. Continue development of coursework for Girl Scouts Civics Badge.
5. Work with local Supervisor of Elections offices to increase awareness of election and voting issues.
6. Form an LWVJFC Action Alert Committee of members who would be willing to call and/or write various legislators and other entities in response to requests from LWVUS, LWVFL, and/or LWVJFC.

## **Education Policy in Florida:**

### **LWVFL POSITIONS:**

Support Florida's constitutional requirement to make adequate provision for the education of all children that is "uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality". We support a free public-school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with quality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula.

### **LWVJFC ACTIONS:**

1. Educate the public about the Duval County Public School's Half-Penny Sales Tax Referendum. Information about the Sales Tax Referendum is available at <https://www.ourduvalschools.org>.
2. Endorse the Duval Citizens for Better Schools "Vote Yes" campaign, supporting the passage of the half-penny sales tax. Encourage league members to support the campaign and volunteer to make phone calls, talk to neighbors, and display signs. Information about Duval Citizens for Better Schools is available at <https://duvalcbs.com/>.
3. Create public awareness of educational issues via letters to the editor, social media, Facebook groups, newsletter, educational forums, and informational flyers.
4. Contact elected officials to share educational concerns and legislative priorities.

5. Monitor schools seeking charters in Clay, Duval, St. John's, and Nassau Counties.

## **Healthcare**

### **LWVFL POSITION:**

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

### **LWVJFC ACTIONS:**

1. Continue to work on the extensive efforts the LWVFL Health Care Committee has put forth to support the passage of Medicaid Expansion in Florida.
2. Support [medicaidmattersflorida.org](http://medicaidmattersflorida.org) by joining as a member of the coalition.
3. Join coalitions with similar health care goals.
4. Using the links on [healthyfla.org](http://healthyfla.org), work to expand Medicaid in Florida by writing to legislators and support a petition to expand Medicaid.

## **Environment and Energy Policy:**

### **LWVFL POSITIONS:**

- Support the preparation and implementation of a new state growth management plan that addresses current needs.
- Support the implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment consistent with the intent of the adopted language.
- Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the

inter relationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

- Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.
- Support state legislation for energy conservation and greater use of renewable sources such as solar energy.
- Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis.
- 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.

#### **LWVJFC ACTIONS:**

1. Defend “net metering”. Net metering is essential to increasing rooftop solar energy generation in Florida—an important part of reducing our state’s dependence on fossil fuel energy generation.
2. Support municipal and county resiliency efforts in Northeast Florida (Duval, St. Johns, Nassau, and Clay Counties). Support environmental planning efforts, infrastructure and continuity of operations for essential services planning, and ultimately supporting public awareness through education and community outreach.

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The LWV of Florida has Positions and Action Steps on a number of additional issues. If you would like to help lead or work on one or more of these issues for our chapter, we can do some work locally.

## **Gun Safety**

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

## **Justice**

- 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 diversion and deflection, rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration.

## **Immigration**

- Support granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants.
- Support the June 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the abolishment of quotas, and support sanctuary cities.

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