



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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GOALS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Positions 1967-1969

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"The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote the informed and active participation of citizens in government . . ."

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INTRODUCTION

This summary of positions is intended as a resume for League members, as a means to acquaint new members with past studies and present positions, and as a way to inform the public of the governmental positions of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. It is a brief account of how League members reached these positions, action that has been taken to implement these positions, and possibilities for future action. Although the emphasis is on the state Program of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, we have included those portions of national Program which are of state governmental concern.

Program in the League consists of those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action. The selection of Program is determined by the members. Members at meetings discuss possibilities and make proposals to the Board. The Board considers these proposals and formulates a Proposed Program. After discussion the delegates to state or national convention may accept the Proposed Program or they may amend it, adding or subtracting an item.

The state Board is responsible for preparing basic information in each state Program area. In small units and in large meetings members get the full facts and weigh the pros and cons of each issue, and proceed through study to consensus. The state Board evaluates the consensus reports of all the local Leagues and from areas of agreement determines positions.

Positions in the League are expressed in broad terms. On the basis of these positions the state Board evaluates specific legislation and policy proposals and determines the action to be taken.

Action is of two kinds: 1) developing public support for League positions and 2) supporting specific measures and policies which promote a League position or opposing those which threaten it. The state Board takes official action in the name of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Local Leagues and League members throughout the state work to promote public support by talking with community leaders and legislators, by attending precinct caucuses, and by attempting to interest friends and acquaintances in the issues.

The six items that make up the 1967-1969 state League Program are in different stages of development. Financing State Government was adopted as a study item in 1965. While opinions seem to be taking form we have no positions. The state Board will be evaluating local League reports on various aspects of the Property Tax in 1968. Organization of State Government was adopted by the 1967 State Convention. Study is in an early stage. Election Laws, Equality of Opportunity, Lobby Regulation and Constitutional Revision are all action items with no new study anticipated during the next two years.

Election Laws: Support of party designation for legislators and improvements in election laws in the fields of campaign practices, election procedures and voting.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of party designation for legislators.
2. Support of centralized responsibility in the state government for achieving uniform election procedures and for training election officials.
3. Support of extension of voter registration to cover more voters either through inclusion of more municipalities, through countywide registration, or through statewide registration.
4. Support of the short ballot, including the joint election of governor and lieutenant governor.
5. Support of the following principles in campaign practices:
 - a. The public has the right to know where campaign money comes from.
 - b. The public should know how campaign money is spent.
 - c. Public reports are the best way to get this information.
 - d. Candidates responsibility should be increased; accountability of volunteer committees should be increased.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has a long standing identification with study and action in the field of Minnesota election laws. Party designation has been on the program since 1951. In 1958 the League made an intensive study of election laws. The study of campaign practices was completed in 1961. The League has achieved most recent lobbying successes in (1) allowing new residents of the state to vote for President and Vice-President (2) permitting those who move within 30 days of an election to vote if they are otherwise qualified and (3) extension of mandatory registration within the metropolitan areas.

Party Designation: The League has tried for years to "Put the label on the man" in campaigning for party designation for legislators. Once elected, legislators join either the DFL or the Conservative caucus. We believe the voter is entitled to know which caucus a candidate will join. We further believe that identifying the legislators with political parties will increase party responsibility and lead to better government.

In recent years increasing numbers of legislative candidates have been recruited by and supported by the parties. There is evidence that party designation would pass if brought to the floor of the legislature for a vote. However, members of the legislative committees to which party designation bills are sent, are appointed in such a way as to assure that a majority of the committee is against party designation. All party designation bills introduced have died in committee.

Centralized responsibility: Presently the Secretary of State, county auditors, and city, village and township clerks

are responsible for the administration and supervision of elections. Although the Secretary of State is responsible for many functions in state elections such as the collection of filing fees and printing the state and constitutional amendment ballots, he has only very limited supervisory powers over local election officials. For instance, state law requires that each county provide training for election judges. Most counties do provide such training, but where a county fails to provide training the Secretary of State has no power to compel them to do so. Because many League members are directly involved in the election process as election judges, we can see first hand the need for standardized procedures and adequate training for election judges.

Voter Registration: The League favors the extension of voter registration to ensure order and regularity in voting procedures throughout the state. Registration is now required in all municipalities of over 10,000 population and in municipalities within 15 miles of the Twin Cities and Duluth in which at least 800 people voted in the last election. A registration system is optional in other communities. Where no registration is required a voter states under oath that he is qualified to vote.

With today's mobile population election judges can no longer identify all neighbors by sight. Although the problem is most acute in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, other communities with colleges and new industries also have a transient population.

Several methods are available for extending registration (1) statewide mandatory registration, (2) countywide registration for heavily populated counties and (3) a lowering of the population figure at which mandatory registration is required from 10,000 to 5,000.

Short Ballot: The League believes there should be fewer elected state officials. We believe that officials whose duties are primarily administrative rather than policy-making should be appointed, thus fixing executive responsibility with the governor where it belongs. A shorter ballot would also eliminate voter confusion and focus attention on the major offices. At this time there are six constitutionally elected officials, the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, auditor and secretary of state. The 1967 Legislature passed legislation which will gradually change membership in the Railroad and Warehouse Commission from an elective to an appointive body.

Joint Election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor: There is no assurance in Minnesota that the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor will be of the same party. In 1960 Elmer L. Andersen, a Republican, was elected Governor and Karl Rolvaag, a Democrat, was elected Lieutenant Governor. The League believes that the election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor as a team will work towards ensuring harmonious relations between the two officials and will ensure orderly succession in the case of the Governor's death or resignation. Joint election is supported by both political parties. It requires a constitutional amendment to join the two offices on the ballot. In the 1967 Legislature the House of Representatives voted to submit such an amendment to the people, but no action was taken in the Senate.

Campaign practices: In the League's 1961 study of campaign practices, League members learned that obsolete limits on the amount a candidate might spend in a campaign had resulted in a multiplicity of "volunteer" committees that spent money on behalf of the candidates. In our early lobbying we worked to raise obsolete limits to a realistic level. However our lobbyists soon learned that it was difficult for anyone to agree on what was a "realistic" limit. We have come to believe that realistic reporting and full public knowledge is the most practical approach. The League believes that the people have a right to know the amount of money that is spent in a campaign, where it came from and how it was spent. We believe that the candidate should be made responsible for such reporting. In practice, realistic reporting is difficult to achieve and there is little evidence that legislators are willing to enact stronger legislation in this field. However, there is increasing public interest in both the amount of money spent in political campaigns and in the methods used in raising this money.



Equality of Opportunity: A. Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and other public services for all citizens. B. Support of commission administration of anti-discrimination laws. C. Support of state responsibility for Indian citizens.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of the principle that the state is responsible for all its citizens on an equal basis and should work to ensure equal treatment for all citizens by all levels of government.
2. Support of anti-discrimination legislation as a necessary means of eliminating discrimination.
3. Support of legislation to ensure employment on merit regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or age.
4. Support of the principle of fair housing and anti-discrimination laws governing transactions of all real property regardless of whether the financing is public or private; but not including the rental of rooms in a private home or the rental of half of a duplex in which the owner resides.
5. Support of adequately financed commission enforcement of anti-discrimination laws dealing with employment, real property and public accommodations.
6. Support of legislation to ensure services for Indian citizens which are equal to those provided for other citizens. Where Indians are singled out for special attention, that attention should be directed towards solving existing jurisdictional conflicts in order to guarantee equal treatment of Indian citizens by all levels of government.
7. Support of a state agency of Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in set-

ting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to use the services of other existing agencies, and provided with adequate funds.

8. Support of the basic idea that the ultimate goal of all programs for Minnesota Indians should be the self-sufficiency of the Indian population and acceptance into the whole of society, with the explicit recognition that basic decisions regarding their lives and property are to be made by the Indians themselves.
9. Support of equality of opportunity in education through the reorganization and consolidation of elementary and secondary schools to create districts which meet state standards.
10. Support of the correction of racial imbalance in the schools. The state should have the power to investigate, to set and enforce standards and to give extra financial help to achieve these standards.

In 1949 the League began a broad study of civil rights in Minnesota. During the fifties we focused on employment on merit and worked with other groups to secure passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act (1955) which was incorporated into the State Act Against Discrimination in 1961. League members have expressed continued concern with discrimination during the sixties. We have further investigated employment and looked at problems of discrimination in housing and public accommodations. In 1962 we studied the special problems of Minnesota Indians. In 1966 we looked at equality of opportunity in education. By continued study we have kept our members informed of changing conditions and attitudes in this field.

On the basis of positions reached by members at the conclusion of study we have worked with other interested groups (1) to extend the coverage of the employment provision of the State Act Against Discrimination to include all employers (1965) (2) to extend the coverage of the housing provisions to include privately financed owner-occupied housing (3) to extend the jurisdiction of SCAD to include discrimination in public accommodation (1965) and to obtain adequate financing and workable procedures for enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. At the request of Indian governments we have supported the Indian Affairs Commission created by the legislature in 1963, worked to provide it with funds to hire a staff (1965) and to retain the independent identity of the Indian Affairs Commission (1967). In the field of education we lobbied successfully for the consolidation of school districts.

Anti-discrimination Laws: The League believes that anti-discrimination legislation is a necessary means of eliminating discrimination. The body of Minnesota law against discrimination goes back as far as the adoption of the state constitution and its bill of rights in 1857 and an 1877 law forbidding segregation of pupils in public schools. In recent years the legislature has steadily broadened the coverage of anti-discrimination laws beginning with a Fair Employment Law in 1955 and the creation of a Fair Employment Practices Commission, the creation

of a State Commission Against Discrimination in 1961 and finally the creation of a Department of Human Rights in 1967. Minnesota is now one of the leading states in the nation in terms of the coverage of its anti-discrimination laws.

We support administrative enforcement of laws with policies and programs determined by a commission; we favor education and conciliation as part of the procedure aimed at changing behavior patterns; we wish to guarantee swift legal redress for the aggrieved citizen and we support adequate funding for the department.

Minnesota Indians: League members have agreed that the state of Minnesota should declare and assume its responsibility for Indian citizens as for all other citizens. We oppose in principle the idea that legislation should single out any race or that separate services should be provided. However, since Indian citizens have been singled out for separate consideration throughout our history, we recognize that special attention must be given to them. We believe that the Indians themselves should make the basic decisions regarding their lives. As part of that belief we feel that a state agency dealing with Indians must be acceptable to the Indians themselves. On this basis we supported Indian leaders in their successful effort to retain a separate Indian Commission rather than having the Commission merged into the Department of Human Rights. While one part of Indian concerns is human rights, Indians have special problems because of the unique status of tribal governments and the relationships of reservations to federal and state government.

The Commission now is composed of three representatives of tribal government, three members of the Senate and the three members of the House of Representatives. In 1967 Twin City Indian organizations asked that they be granted the opportunity to name a delegate to the Commission. Tribal members of the Commission supported their efforts, and the League of Women Voters also lobbied for their representation. We were unsuccessful.

Education: The League of Women Voters believes that the state has a responsibility to guarantee equality of opportunity in education for all its young people wherever they may live and regardless of their race. We have placed emphasis on two factors contributing to unequal education: the school so small as to be unable to provide an adequate range of subject matter and the school with racial imbalance.

We have supported the reorganization and consolidation of elementary and secondary schools to create districts large enough to meet state standards. The 1967 Legislature passed a bill eliminating the state's 850 common school districts (districts which did not maintain a high school). This action eliminates the district but does not necessarily eliminate the small school itself. Further action may be necessary to upgrade certain of Minnesota's rural schools.

We believe the state has a role to play in correcting racial imbalance where the local district proves itself unable or unwilling to take action. We believe state standards are necessary for all schools and that state financial help should be available to help school districts meet these standards. Where a school has students who are handi-

capped through environment and compensatory programs are necessary we believe the state should provide additional state aid as the state now provides additional aid for programs for the physically handicapped.



Lobby Regulation and Conflict of Interest: Support of legislation to regulate lobbying and conflict of interest.

POSITIONS:

We continue to support conflict of interest legislation which would:

1. Require financial disclosure of sources and amounts of income related to official duties, financial holdings, speaking fees, reimbursement for expenses, gifts exceeding \$50.
2. Require on-the-spot disclosure of interest in legislation.
3. Prohibit any public official from representing a private interest before a state agency.
4. Prohibit any public official from representing a private interest against the state in any action in which the state (or state agency) is the complainant.
5. Prohibit disclosure of confidential information.
6. Prohibit private employment of a public official where the activity would be incompatible with the proper discharge of his public duties.
7. Prohibit for two years a former official from representing a private interest against the state in any matter for which he was responsible during his state service.

We believe that lobbyists should be required to disclose all of the following:

1. Name, address, etc., of lobbyist.
2. Name of his employer.
3. Nature of legislation with which he is concerned.
4. Nature of activities in which he engages.
5. Amount of money contributed to his lobbying and by whom. (It should be pointed out that if a lobbyist is hired by a public relations firm, registering simply the name of his employer does not indicate who really is financing his activities.)
6. Terms of his employment (length of time of employment, whether payment is made on a contingency basis, etc.)

In 1959 Ethics in Government became a study item evolving from League interest in election laws. We reached consensus in 1961. Since then League lobbyists have worked to support legislation on the basis of these positions. In 1967 the League unsuccessfully supported a moderate lobby registration bill. The bill received favorable recommendation from a House committee and was then much amended on the floor of the House. The amendments strengthened the bill in theory but actually resulted in killing it, for the "strong" bill died in committee in the Senate.

Lobbying: The League has placed its emphasis in lobby regulation on full disclosure. We believe that the public

has the right to know the facts concerning those who influence legislation. The House and Senate both require registration of lobbyists as part of their permanent rules (the Senate in 1959 and the House in 1963). These rules make no provision for the lobbyist's reporting the amount of money he has spent, his salary, or where the money came from. The League will continue to work for financial reporting.

Conflict of Interest: As a result of the 1959 report of the Governor's Commission on Ethics in Government, the 1961 Legislature passed a conflict of interest law that described certain conflicts legislators should avoid. This legislation also called for the head of each state agency to prepare and publish a code of ethics for public servants. Since the 1961 bill that treated the problem of disclosure of private interests of legislators as a "should" rather than a "shall" matter there have been no further concerted attempts at legislation in this area. Admittedly, practical solutions in this area are difficult. The League believes, however, that the citizen has the right to know the private interests of his elected representative in legislation and we believe that certain kinds of private activities are incompatible with proper performance of public duties.

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Constitutional Revision: Support of Constitutional Revision based on previously reached positions as follows: A. An easy amending process. B. Regular and equitable reapportionment. C. Legislative sessions of adequate length. D. Provision for a post-auditor.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of an easy amending process which would a) retain a simple majority vote by the legislature in proposing an amendment and b) require a simple majority of those voting on the question for ratification.
2. Support of the principle of regular and equitable reapportionment. Support of a constitutional provision which would a) leave the primary responsibility for reapportionment with the legislature but establish definite procedures if the legislature fails to act b) specify the maximum deviation of any district from the ideal (total population divided by the number of legislators) and c) prohibit an increase in the size of the legislature.
3. Support of legislative sessions of adequate length with more frequent regular sessions, allowing the legislature to determine the length of sessions and allowing the legislature to call itself into session.
4. Support of a constitutional provision for a post-auditor appointed by and directly responsible to the legislature.

In the period following World War II the need for revision of state constitutions became obvious. State governments could not meet the challenges of the twentieth century operating under rules laid down in the nineteenth century. It was in this climate the League of Women Voters

of Minnesota adopted constitutional revision as a study. Over the last twenty years we have studied the constitution as a whole, given sustained attention to individual sections and looked at methods of changing the constitution. In the fifties the League worked for a constitutional convention. At that time we felt that a convention was the best way to secure needed revision of the whole document. In 1961 the state Convention of the League of Women Voters adopted an item to work for amendments to improve the constitution. In 1967 the League dropped revision by convention both because conventions in other states have produced less than perfect documents and because a convention in Minnesota seems exceedingly unlikely.

The League has successfully worked for the passage of a number of amendments including a new home rule article, four year terms for state officials, lengthening of legislative sessions and removal of obsolete provisions. Our record of securing voter approval of amendments in the last four elections has been excellent. All seven amendments supported by the League passed, one we opposed failed as did two on which we took no position.

We have been less successful in persuading the Legislature to propose amendments. In 1967 bills were introduced proposing amendments in all areas supported by the League but none of these amendments was placed on the 1968 ballot. We have no position on the ballot amendments in the 1968 election.

Easy amending process: The present requirement for ratification of an amendment is that it must receive a majority vote of all those voting in the election. That means that if a voter does not vote on the amendment, he is in effect casting a "no" vote. The League believes that the requirement for ratification should be changed to a majority of those voting on the question. In the 1966 election one amendment on the ballot received 575,000 "yes" votes and 471,000 "no" votes. The amendment lost however, because 265,000 voters failed to vote on the amendment at all. This count then was added to the actual "no" vote total. Recent studies indicate that voters using voting machines frequently skip voting on the amendments. As more and more municipalities adopt voting machines it may become increasingly difficult to pass amendments. In an attempt to remedy this problem, the 1967 legislature passed a bill requiring a prominent notice on machines to remind voters that amendments are on the ballot.

Adequate legislative sessions: We believe in providing adequate time for consideration of legislation by the legislature. Minnesota now has a biennial session of 120 days, a limit established by the constitution. The League believes that 120 days every other year is not long enough to permit legislators to solve complex problems facing state government. It is also difficult for legislators to predict revenue and expenditures for a two year period.

There are a number of ways of lengthening the legislative session: (1) allowing the legislature to determine by statute the length of its session, (2) extending the present biennial session, (3) instituting annual sessions, and (4) allowing the legislature to recess long enough to permit committees to continue their work even though the legis-

lature is not in formal session. In recent years annual sessions have received increasing support among legislators. The League has supported such proposals.

In Minnesota special sessions may be called only by the Governor. The Governor did call a special session at the end of the 1967 session when the legislature and the governor were unable to agree on funding state programs and tax proposals. In 1966 Governor Rolvaag called a special session to allow the legislature to reapportion itself after the courts had upheld his right to veto a reapportionment bill passed by the 1965 legislature. The League believes that the legislature should have the right to call itself into special session.

Reapportionment: When the League adopted reapportionment as a study in 1955, the legislature had not redistricted since 1913. In the 40 years following 1913 Minnesota had seen a tremendous shift in population from the rural areas to metropolitan areas. Although the Minnesota constitution required that all legislators represent the same numbers of people, the constitution had been ignored. The League concentrated its first efforts on persuading the legislature to redistrict. In 1959 the legislature did pass a reapportionment act.

In 1964 the United States Supreme Court ruled that both houses of state legislatures must be apportioned on the basis of population. Following the Supreme Court decision the Minnesota League reexamined its position on apportionment. We concluded that changes are needed in the Minnesota constitution to ensure equitable apportionment. We believe that definite procedures should be established to provide for the situation where the legislature is unable or unwilling to apportion itself. The present remedy when the legislature does not act is for a citizen to institute a court case. This leads to delay and uncertainty and is expensive for the citizen involved.

We also believe that the constitution should establish guidelines for the legislature in reapportionment, stating the amount of permissible variation in population that any district might have from the ideal. We also believe that the constitution should prevent further growth in the size of our legislature. It is always tempting for a legislature struggling with the problems of reapportionment to add a few seats, thus preserving districts for some of its rural incumbents. Minnesota has the largest Senate in the nation and one of the larger Houses.

POST AUDITOR:

The League has long been concerned that there is no financial officer to advise the legislative branch. All audit functions are now performed in the executive branch. The elected state auditor is responsible for pre-audit, that is for paying the state's bills and disbursing the money appropriated by the legislature to the various departments. The post-audit is done by the department of the public examiner. The Examiner goes over the books of the departments and other agencies to see that they have spent money as appropriated.

We believe that a post auditor should be appointed by and responsible to the legislature. The legislature needs its own financial expert to aid it in its constitutional responsibility to raise and to spend the state funds. In gen-

eral legislators have been receptive to the idea of a post auditor. However, no bill has been passed, primarily because no legislator has worked out the details on exactly how a legislative audit should be conducted. This League position could be implemented by statute or amendment.

NATIONAL PROGRAM

No listing of state governmental positions would be complete without some reference to national positions. All members of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota are also members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. As a state League and as individual members we take action on positions reached through study of national Program. Action on national positions is authorized by the national Board. A complete listing of national positions is beyond the scope of this publication. The following is a brief account of action at the state level in Minnesota.

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Water Resources: Support of national policies and procedures which promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and development of water resources and improvement of water quality.

When water resources was adopted as a national item in 1956 Leagues in Minnesota began to investigate problems in their own communities and river basins. As a state league we have been concerned with the role of our state government in managing and financing water resource development.

In the 1967 Legislature we supported increased funds for state pollution control agencies and for the Water Resources Research Center. We testified in favor of limited state tax incentives to industry for pollution abatement equipment. The legislation for across the board incentives which passed did not meet our requirements.

We have supported Minnesota's participation in interstate commissions to provide comprehensive planning and development of our boundary waters. We supported the creation of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Commission in 1965, and have worked for the creation of a four-state compact for the development of the Upper Mississippi. This legislation was not introduced in the 1967 legislature.

We have supported flood plain zoning. Legislation was introduced in 1967 but did not get out of committee. The most significant action by the 1967 Legislature in the area of water resources was the establishment of a new Pollution Control Agency.

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Development of Human Resources: Support of policies and programs in the United States to provide for all persons equality of opportunity for education and employment.

The League of Women Voters of the United States began a study of the development of human resources in 1964, reaching consensus in 1966. The national study was for Minnesota League members an extension of previous state studies of problems of equality of opportunity.

nity. Positions under the two items are complementary. In addition to action discussed under the state item, the Minnesota League worked with other groups in support of a bill to help students from families on AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) stay in school. Federal law permits states to provide for the continuation of AFDC grants to young people who have passed their eighteenth birthday but are not yet twenty-one and are still in school. The 1967 Legislature extended the grant to those students between 18 and 19. This will enable the majority of students to finish high school but does not provide for much, if any, post high school training or education. The League supports provision for post high school training for needy students.



Apportionment of State Legislatures: Support of apportionment of both Houses of State Legislatures substantially on population.

In 1965 League members reached a position supporting apportionment of both houses of state legislatures substantially on population (one man—one vote). This means we would oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution which would permit factors other than population to be used in apportioning state legislatures (an area factor).

State legislatures have the power to require Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of amending the federal constitution. Such a convention may be called on the petition of 2/3rds of the states. This has never happened but various groups work within state legislatures to secure petitions. The strategy is to put pres-

ures on Congress to submit amendments to the states rather than to risk the uncertainty of a national constitutional convention.

The 1965 Minnesota Legislature passed a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to permit an area factor in one house. Thirty-two states have passed such resolutions, just two short of the needed two thirds. However, many of the state legislatures which passed such resolutions were themselves malapportioned and there is some question of the legality of their action. Legislation was introduced in the 1967 Legislature to rescind the 1965 resolution. The attempt was unsuccessful.



Treaty-making: Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the executive and the congress over foreign relations .

Tax Rates: Opposition to constitutional limitations on tax rates.

The so-called Liberty Amendment provides for limiting the power of the President in making treaties and would abolish the federal income tax. The League opposes these provisions. The Liberty Amendment is aimed at drastically curtailing the powers of the federal government. Its supporters believe that all services provided by the federal government—highways and parks among others—could and should be provided by private industry.

The Liberty Amendment is regularly introduced into the Minnesota Legislature. The League is one of the few groups which watches for its introduction and testifies against it.

October, 1967

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 Wabasha Street

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

POSITIONS FOR ACTION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA
1969-1971

1969-1971 STATE PROGRAM

1. Organization of State Government: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota legislature. Evaluation of the executive branch.
2. Education: The role of the state in creating and financing equal educational opportunities for all Minnesota children.
3. Financing Government in Minnesota: Support of property tax reform.
4. Equality of Opportunity: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and other public services for all citizens. Support of commission administration of anti-discrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for Indian citizens.
5. Election Laws: Support of party designation for legislators, the short ballot, an easy amending process, and improvements in election laws in the fields of campaign practices, election procedures, and voting.
6. Lobby Regulations and Conflict of Interest: Support of legislation to regulate lobbying and conflict of interest.

INTRODUCTION

This summary of positions is intended as a resume for League members, as a means to acquaint new members with past studies and present positions, and as a way to inform the public of the governmental positions of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. It is a brief account of how League members reached these positions, action that has been taken to implement these positions, and some possibilities for future action. Although the emphasis is on the state Program of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, we have included those portions of national Program which are of state governmental concern.

Program in the League consists of those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action. The selection of Program is determined by the members. Members at meetings discuss possibilities and make proposals to the Board. The Board considers these proposals and formulates a Proposed Program. After discussion the delegates to state or national convention may accept the Proposed Program or they may amend it, adding or subtracting items.

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The six items that make up the 1969-71 state League Program are in different stages of development. Organization of State Government was adopted in 1967. Positions have been reached concerning the legislative branch and the state Board will be evaluating local League reports on the executive branch in 1970. Education was adopted in 1969 as an outgrowth of both the Financing Government and the Equality of Opportunity items. Study is in an early stage. A position under Equality of Opportunity was expanded by the 1969 State Convention to read, "Support of legislation to ensure employment on merit regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, age or sex." (Italics indicate added wording.) A publication on equality of employment opportunity for women is under way. As a result of interest expressed at the 1969 convention, the Election Laws item was expanded to include a study of the minimum voting age. A new position on this has been added under Election Laws. Financing Government and Lobby Regulation and Conflict of Interest are both action items with no new study anticipated during these two years.

Organization of State Government: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota Legislature. Evaluation of the executive branch.

POSITIONS *

1. Support of legislative reform through:
 - a. flexible sessions of adequate length
 - b. no increase in size
 - c. realistic compensation for legislators
 - d. improved procedures for providing information
 - e. increased research assistance
 - f. fewer committees.
2. Support of a post-auditor responsible to the legislature.
3. Support of regular and equitable reapportionment.

Organization of State Government was adopted for study in 1967. During the first year members took an overall look at the organization of the executive and legislative branches. The second year study concentrated on the legislative branch, culminating in consensus in the fall of 1968. Focus in 1970 will be on the executive branch.

Positions on legislative session length, reapportionment and post-auditor have been developed over the past twenty years under other study items. These positions are now embodied in this item.

Flexible Sessions: *The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports legislative sessions of adequate length. The legislature should meet annually and should have the power to determine the time of meeting, the length of session, and power to recess if desirable.* The Minnesota Constitution now provides that the legislature shall meet for a term not exceeding 120 legislative days. Opinions of attorneys general have consistently interpreted this to mean 120 consecutive days exclusive of Sundays, regardless of whether either house is actually in session. The League believes that the business of the legislature is too complex and voluminous to be conducted in 120 days every other year. The prediction of revenues and expenditures for a two-year period is a particularly difficult problem.

An attempt was made in the 1969 session to achieve greater flexibility of session length by statute rather than by constitutional amendment. A bill was passed defining "legislative day" as a day in which the legislature meets in formal session. A court test of the legislature's power to define legislative day has

* Italics in this section indicate specifics of the official League position.

arisen from the Senate's having passed bills on the day of adjournment which was the last day of the legislative term as it has been interpreted, but was the 103rd day of actual sessions. The Minnesota League of Women Voters is filing an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in the court case.

In Minnesota special sessions may be called only by the Governor. The League believes *the legislature should have the right to call itself into special session.*

Size of Legislature: Minnesota now has the largest Senate (67) in the nation and its 135-member House is thirteenth largest. The League believes *a smaller legislature is desirable. Any increase in the size of the present legislature is strongly opposed.*

Legislators' Salaries: The League believes *compensation for legislators should be realistic and should reflect the demands upon them, including adequate compensation for time spent between sessions.* In addition to an annual salary of \$4,800, legislators receive an expense allowance of \$14 or \$21 per day during the session, depending on whether or not they are living at home. During the interim legislators are reimbursed for their expenses in coming to St. Paul at 9¢ a mile and given an allowance for meals and actual hotel expense. Minnesota ranks 18th from the top in salaries paid for a biennium.

Procedures for Providing Information: *The legislature should improve its procedures for providing information to the legislators and to the general public. Such improvements might include:*

- providing advance notice of hearings on bills
- making copies of bills or summaries of bills easily available
- attaching summaries and fiscal notes to bills
- keeping permanent committee records
- providing for a legislative press secretary.

The League believes the present lack of advance notice of committee agendas and the inaccessibility of copies of bills inhibit the participation of citizens in the legislative process. Records now are kept mainly at the discretion of the chairman of a committee. The House requires records including the time and place of hearing, attendance, names of people appearing before the committee, and a record of any roll call votes. Testimony of witnesses is recorded only if the chairman desires it.

Some procedural improvements favored by the League were adopted in House rules in the 1969 ses-

sion. These included the following: 1) a bill summary (concise description of terms of the bill) and fiscal note (estimate of its fiscal impact) could be requested from the Revisor of Statutes office if a committee chairman so desired (a service little used); 2) bills amended by the House sitting as a committee of the whole could be reprinted before the final vote if the House so ordered, except during the last five days of the session; and 3) conference committee reports were to be printed.

Research: *The legislature needs additional clerical staff and full-time, qualified research assistance. An intern program might be used to supplement staff and would be beneficial to students of government.* Some new provisions for research were instituted during the 1967-68 interim. To direct research, the Senate created the position of Senate Counsel, and the House, that of Director of Research. These two staffs now total 13 full-time people and 2 part-time students. A new Legislative Services Commission was established replacing the Legislative Research Committee; its role is to manage the newly created Legislative Reference Library.

Committees: While the League sees much remaining to be done to improve the committee system, in the 1969 session we did see some House committees combined and renamed, reducing the total from 32 to 28 committees. The Senate's committees still number 18. The League believes *there should be fewer committees and the committee structure in both houses should be parallel. The minority caucus should have proportional representation on committees and should appoint the minority members to the committees.* Presently the minority caucuses enjoy proportional representation on committees only by the grace of the majority and not by rule. *There should be a limit to the number of committees on which any one legislator serves.*

Post-Auditor: The League has long been concerned that there is no financial officer to advise the legislative branch. All audit functions are now performed in the executive branch. The elected State Auditor is responsible for pre-audit, i.e., for paying the state's bills and disbursing the money appropriated by the legislature to the various departments. The post-audit is done by the Department of the Public Examiner. The Examiner goes over the books

of the departments and other agencies to see that they have spent money as appropriated.

The League believes that *a post-auditor should be appointed by and responsible to the legislature.* The legislature needs its own financial expert to aid it in carrying out its constitutional responsibility to raise and to spend the state funds.

Reapportionment: When the League adopted reapportionment as a study in 1955, the legislature had not redistricted since 1913. In the 40 years following 1913, Minnesota had seen a tremendous shift in population from the rural areas to metropolitan areas. Although the Minnesota Constitution required that all legislators represent the same numbers of people, the constitution had been ignored. The League concentrated its first efforts on persuading the legislature to redistrict. In 1959 the legislature did pass a reapportionment act.

In 1964 the United States Supreme Court ruled that both houses of state legislatures must be apportioned on the basis of population. Following that decision the Minnesota League re-examined its position on apportionment. We concluded that *changes are needed in the Minnesota Constitution to ensure equitable reapportionment. Though primary responsibility for reapportionment rests with the legislature, definite procedures should be established in case the legislature fails to act.* The present remedy when the legislature does not act is for a citizen to institute a court case. This leads to delay and uncertainty and is expensive for the citizen involved.

We also believe that *the constitution should establish guidelines for the legislature in reapportionment, stating the amount of permissible deviation in population that any district might have from the ideal. Further, the constitution should prohibit increasing the size of the legislature.* It is always tempting for a legislature struggling with the problems of reapportionment to add a few seats, thus preserving districts for some of its incumbents.

After the U. S. Supreme Court ruling and with the prodding of a Minnesota court case, reapportionment was accomplished again in 1966 by a special legislative session. Following the 1970 census the legislature should reapportion legislative and congressional districts simultaneously—the first time both will have been done together since 1913.

Financing Government in Minnesota: Support of property tax reform.

POSITIONS *

1. Support of property tax reform through:
 - a. equitable assessments
 - b. fewer classifications
 - c. more restrictive criteria for determining exemptions.
2. Support of less dependence on the property tax as a source of revenue.

In 1965 the League began a broad study of financing state and local governments of all kinds in Minnesota. We compared the advantages and disadvantages of the three major taxes—property, income, and sales. Since 1967 focus has been on the property tax, with emphasis on exemptions, classifications, and assessments.

Assessments: There are now approximately 2,700 assessors in the state, most of whom are part-time officials. Many rural areas are assessed by low-paid, part-time assessors with little training, while the metropolitan area has better trained, full-time assessors but not enough of them to reappraise as often as necessary. *The League supports equitable assessments by professionally trained, adequately paid assessors with districts large enough to warrant their full-time employment. Periodic reappraisals should be mandatory.*

If the property tax is to be equitably applied to all property owners, it is imperative that assessment standards be uniform throughout the state. For this reason, we believe *the state should be responsible for achieving uniform standards for assessment.* Industrial property is particularly difficult to assess since it may be suitable for only a limited number of uses and is seldom sold. To provide both expertise and uniformity, *the state should assess industrial property.* Also, by eliminating the most difficult property for local assessors to evaluate, less training would be required for competent assessment at the local level.

In 1969 the League lobbied successfully for legislation permitting counties to establish a true county assessor system. Counties choosing to utilize this new law and establish such a system will no longer have any township, city, or village assessors (except in certain cities over 30,000 population). Instead, the county assessor will hire enough full-time assessors, working directly under him, to assess the whole county.

Classifications: Minnesota has approximately 20 different classes and subclasses of property which are

assessed at various percentages ranging from 5% to 50% of adjusted market value. The League believes *there should be fewer classes of property for taxing purposes. Perhaps some types of property deserve special treatment but other methods of providing it may be preferable and should be considered.*

Exemptions: By 1968 the value of tax exempt property in Minnesota had increased to over three times what it was in 1962. In some communities as little as one-fifth of the property is taxable. The unequal impact of exemptions on individual local governments coupled with the increases in the costs of providing local services makes the League question the equity of these subsidies. League members believe the present system of exemptions is inequitable and places an undue burden on all other property owners. We believe *the criteria for determining property tax exemption should be more restrictive. Property that is profitmaking or in competition with private taxpaying enterprises should be taxed regardless of ownership. There should be periodic reconsideration of each exemption and owners of exempt property should pay enough taxes, or a charge in lieu of taxes, to cover the costs of local services. Tax exemptions as socio-economic incentives such as those for pollution control equipment or for renovation of older homes and slums should be used sparingly and for a limited time in each case.*

The League was also successful in the 1969 legislative session in getting a constitutional amendment on the ballot which would allow the legislature to define or limit property exempted from taxation. If this amendment is passed by the voters in the 1970 general election, the legislature will be able, by statute, to restrict the amount of tax exempt property and to eliminate many inequitable situations.

Less Dependence on Property Taxes: The League believes that *dependence on the property tax should be diminished because this tax does not necessarily reflect ability to pay and equitable administration is difficult. Those services which are essentially local in character such as local police and fire protection, local streets, local parks, and local sewers are the services most appropriately financed by the property tax. Services of broader than local significance such as welfare are less appropriately financed by the property tax.* In order to maintain local control, *education should be partly financed by the property tax but because of its widespread significance, part of its financing should come from a broader base and hence probably from other revenue sources.*

* Italics in this section indicate specifics of the official League position.

Equality of Opportunity: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and other public services for all citizens. Support of commission administration of anti-discrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for Indian citizens.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of the principle that the state is responsible for all its citizens on an equal basis and should work to ensure equal treatment for all citizens by all levels of government.
2. Support of anti-discrimination legislation as a necessary means of eliminating discrimination.
3. Support of legislation to ensure employment on merit regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, age, or sex.
4. Support of the principle of fair housing and anti-discrimination laws governing transactions of all real property regardless of whether the financing is public or private.
5. Support of adequately financed commission enforcement of anti-discrimination laws dealing with employment, real property, and public accommodations.
6. Support of legislation to ensure services for Indian citizens which are equal to those provided for other citizens. Where Indians are singled out for special attention, that attention should be directed towards solving existing jurisdictional conflicts in order to guarantee equal treatment of Indian citizens by all levels of government.
7. Support of a state agency of Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to use the services of other existing agencies, and provided with adequate funds.
8. Support of the basic idea that the ultimate goal of all programs for Minnesota Indians should be self-sufficiency of the Indian population and acceptance into the whole of society, with the explicit recognition that basic decisions regarding their lives and property are to be made by the Indians themselves.
9. Support of equality of opportunity in education through the reorganization and consolidation of elementary and secondary schools to create districts which meet state standards.

10. Support of the correction of racial imbalance in the schools. The state should have the power to investigate, to set and enforce standards and to give extra financial help to achieve these standards.

In 1949 the League began a broad study of civil rights in Minnesota. During the fifties we focused on employment on merit and worked with other groups to secure passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act (1955) which was incorporated into the State Act Against Discrimination in 1961. During the sixties we further investigated employment, looked at problems of discrimination in housing and public accommodations, studied the special problems of Minnesota Indians, and looked into two factors contributing to inequalities of opportunity in education. By continued study we have kept our members informed of changing conditions and attitudes in this field.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has been studying the problems of poverty and discrimination since 1964. After the national consensus on human resources was reached, the state position was reworded to parallel the national position. The national League has now considered problems of education, employment and housing. During the past two years we have been concerned with adequacy of supply and quality as well as access to housing.

Anti-discrimination Laws: The body of Minnesota law against discrimination goes back as far as the adoption of the state constitution and its bill of rights in 1857, and an 1877 law forbidding segregation of pupils in public schools. In recent years the legislature has steadily broadened the coverage of anti-discrimination laws beginning with a Fair Employment Law in 1955 and the creation of a Fair Employment Practices Commission, the formation of a State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD) in 1961, and finally the establishment of a Department of Human Rights in 1967. The 1969 Legislature substantially strengthened enforcement powers of the latter in areas of employment of women and discrimination in housing and public accommodations. Over the years the League has lobbied to obtain adequate financing and workable procedures for enforcement of anti-discrimination laws as well as

extended coverage in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

We support administrative enforcement of laws with policies and programs determined by a commission; we favor education and conciliation as part of the procedure aimed at changing behavior patterns; we wish to guarantee swift redress for the aggrieved citizen and we support adequate funding for the department.

Minnesota Indians: The League supported the creation of the Indian Affairs Commission in 1963, worked to provide it with funds to hire a staff in 1965, supported retaining its independent identity in 1967, and lobbied for urban representation on the Commission in 1969. League action was based on the belief that the state of Minnesota should declare and assume its responsibility for Indian citizens as for all other citizens. We oppose in principle the idea that legislation should single out any race or that separate services should be provided. However, since Indian citizens have been singled out for separate consideration throughout history, we recognize that special attention must be given to them. We believe that the Indians themselves should make the basic decisions regarding their lives. As part of that belief, we think that a state agency dealing with Indians must be acceptable to the Indians themselves. On this basis we supported Indian leaders in their successful effort to retain a separate Indian Commission rather than having it merged into the Department of Human Rights. While one part of Indian concerns is human rights, Indians have special problems because of the unique status of tribal governments and the relationships of reservations to federal and state government.

A reorganization of the Indian Affairs Commission in the 1969 session was not entirely satisfactory to the Indians but it did enlarge Indian representation. While the six legislative appointments remain unchanged (three senators, three representatives), the Indian appointments were increased from three to eight: four reservation Indians (one from Red Lake, one from the Sioux, and two from the Minnesota Chippewa tribes districted into White Earth-Leech Lake-Mille Lacs, and Grand Portage-Nett Lake-Fond du Lac) and four urban Indians (one from Duluth, one from St. Paul, and two from Minneapolis).

Education: The League of Women Voters believes that the state has a responsibility to guarantee equality of opportunity in education for all its young people wherever they may live and regardless of their race. In 1966 in conjunction with the national study of human resources, we examined equality of opportunity in education focusing on two factors contributing to unequal education: the school so small as to be unable to provide an adequate range of subject matter, and the school with racial imbalance. The 1967 legislation eliminating the state's 850 common school districts (those which did not maintain a high school) was supported by the League. Although this eliminates the district, it does not necessarily eliminate the small school itself.

We believe the state has a role to play in correcting racial imbalance where the local district proves itself unable or unwilling to take action. Early in 1970 the State Board of Education set up a task force to recommend guidelines to help local school districts overcome racial imbalance.

Election Laws: Support of party designation for legislators, the short ballot, an easy amending process, and improvements in election laws in the fields of campaign practices, election procedures, and voting.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of party designation for legislators.
2. Support of the short state ballot, including the joint election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
3. Support of any easy process for amending the state constitution which would:
 - a. retain a simple majority vote by the legislature in proposing an amendment
 - b. require a simple majority of those voting on the question for ratification.
4. Support of the following principles in campaign practices:
 - a. The public has the right to know where campaign money comes from.
 - b. The public should know how campaign money is spent.
 - c. Public reports are the best way to get this information.
 - d. Candidates responsibility should be increased; accountability of volunteer committees should be increased.
5. Support of centralized responsibility in the state government for achieving uniform election procedures and for training election officials.
6. Support of extension of mandatory voter registration to cover more voters through inclusion of more municipalities, through countywide registration, or through statewide registration.
7. Support of a lower minimum voting age in Minnesota.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has a long-standing identification with study and action in the field of election laws. Party designation has been on the program since 1951. In 1958 the League made an intensive study of election laws. The study of campaign practices was completed in 1961. In the fall of 1969 we investigated the pros and cons of lowering the voting age. The League has achieved most recent lobbying successes in (1) allowing new residents of the state to vote for President and Vice-President, (2) establishing a uniform precinct caucus day, and (3) extending mandatory registration within the metropolitan areas.

Party Designation: The League has tried for years to "put the label on the man" in campaigning for party designation for legislators. Once elected,

legislators join either the DFL or the Conservative caucus. We believe the voter is entitled to know which caucus a candidate will join. We further believe that identifying the legislator with political parties will increase party responsibility and lead to better government.

In recent years increasing numbers of legislative candidates have been recruited by and supported by the parties. There is evidence that party designation would pass if brought to the floor of the legislature for a vote. However, members of the legislative committees to which party designation bills are sent are appointed in such a way as to assure that a majority of the committee is against party designation. All party designation bills introduced have died in committee.

Short Ballot: The League believes there should be fewer elected state officials. We believe that officials whose duties are primarily administrative rather than policy-making should be appointed, thus fixing executive responsibility with the Governor where it belongs. A shorter ballot would also eliminate voter confusion and focus attention on the major offices. At this time there are six constitutionally elected officials; the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, and Secretary of State. The 1967 Legislature passed legislation which will gradually change the Public Service Commission from an elective to an appointive body by 1978.

There is no assurance in Minnesota that the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor will be of the same party. In 1960 Elmer L. Andersen, a Republican, was elected Governor and Karl Rolvaag, a Democrat, was elected Lieutenant Governor. The League believes that the election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor as a team will work towards ensuring harmonious relations between the two officials and will ensure orderly succession in the case of the Governor's death or resignation. Joint election is supported by both political parties.

Easy Amending Process: The present requirement for ratification of a constitutional amendment is that it must receive a majority vote of all those voting in the election. That means that if a voter does not vote on the amendment, he is in effect casting a "no" vote. The League believes that the requirement for ratification should be changed to a majority of those voting on the question.

The voter's only avenue to change the constitution is by way of what the legislature chooses to offer him. Although many bills are introduced proposing amendments in each legislative session (45 in the House, 34 in the Senate in 1969), only a very limited number are offered for consideration in any election (1960-4; 1962-3; 1964, 1968, 1970-2; and 1966-1). When an amendment is placed before the voters, it has already gone through several tests. Then substantial public support and usually an organized campaign is necessary for passage. We question the validity of a process which requires sustained attention from outside organizations for an amendment to pass.

Campaign Practices: In the League's 1961 study of campaign practices, League members learned that obsolete limits on the amount a candidate might spend in a campaign had resulted in a multiplicity of "volunteer" committees that spent money in behalf of the candidates. In our early lobbying we worked to raise obsolete limits to a realistic level. However our lobbyists soon learned that it was difficult for anyone to agree on what was a "realistic" limit. We have come to believe that realistic reporting and full public knowledge is the most practical approach. The League believes that the people have a right to know the amount of money that is spent in a campaign, where it came from, and how it was spent. We believe that the candidate should be made responsible for such reporting. In practice, realistic reporting is difficult to achieve and there is little evidence that legislators are willing to enact stronger legislation in this field. However, there is increasing public interest in both the amount of money spent in political campaigns and in the methods used in raising this money.

Centralized Responsibility: Presently the Secretary of State, county auditors, and city, village, and township clerks are responsible for the administration and supervision of elections. Although the Secretary of State is responsible for many functions in state elections such as collecting the filing fees and printing the ballots, he has only very limited supervisory powers over local election officials. For

instance, state law requires that each county provide training for election judges. Most counties do provide such training, but where counties fail to provide training the Secretary of State has no power to compel them to do so. Because many League members are directly involved in the election process as election judges, we can see first hand the need for standardized procedures and adequate training for election judges.

Voter Registration: The League favors the extension of voter registration to ensure order and regularity in voting procedures throughout the state. Registration is now required in all municipalities of over 10,000 population and in certain municipalities within 15 miles of the Twin Cities or Duluth in which at least 300 people voted in the last election. A registration system is optional in other communities. Where no registration is required a voter states under oath that he is qualified to vote.

With today's mobile population, election judges can no longer identify all neighbors by sight. Although the problem is most acute in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, other communities with colleges and new industries also have a transient population.

Several methods are available for extending registration such as (1) statewide mandatory registration, (2) countywide mandatory registration, and (3) a lowering of the population figure at which mandatory registration is required.

Lowering the Voting Age: Delegates to the 1969 State Convention requested a study of the minimum voting age as part of the League's continuing interest in strengthening election laws. Upon completion of the study, agreement was reached in support of lowering the voting age in Minnesota. Thus the League will actively work for the passage of the constitutional amendment proposed by the 1969 Legislature to lower the minimum voting age to 19. Members believe that young adults presently barred from direct participation in democracy should be allowed a greater role. Concerned about the nation's ability to meet today's challenges through the orderly process of government, we welcome the idealism and enthusiasm of youth in the democratic process.

Lobby Regulation and Conflict of Interest: Support of legislation to regulate lobbying and conflict of interest.

POSITIONS:

We continue to support conflict of interest legislation which would:

1. require financial disclosure of sources and amounts of income related to official duties, financial holdings, speaking fees, reimbursement for expenses, gifts exceeding \$50
2. require on-the-spot disclosure of interest in legislation
3. prohibit any public official from representing a private interest before a state agency
4. prohibit any public official from representing a private interest against the state in any action in which the state (or state agency) is the complainant
5. prohibit disclosure of confidential information
6. prohibit private employment of a public official where the activity would be incompatible with the proper discharge of his public duties
7. prohibit for two years a former official from representing a private interest against the state in any matter for which he was responsible during his state service.

We believe that lobbyists should be required to disclose all of the following:

1. name, address, etc., of lobbyist
2. name of employer
3. nature of legislation with which he is concerned
4. nature of activities in which he engages
5. amount of money contributed to his lobbying and by whom (It should be pointed out that if a lobbyist is hired by a public relations firm, registering simply the name of his employer does not indicate who really is financing his activities.)

6. terms of his employment (length of time of employment, whether payment is made on a contingency basis, etc.).

In 1959 Ethics in Government became a study item evolving from League interest in election laws. We reached consensus in 1961. Since then League lobbyists have worked to support legislation on the basis of these positions.

Lobbying: The League has placed its emphasis in lobby regulation on full disclosure. We believe that the public has the right to know the facts concerning those who influence legislation. The House and Senate both require registration of lobbyists as part of their permanent rules (the Senate in 1959 and the House in 1963). These rules make no provision for the lobbyist's reporting the amount of money he has spent, his salary, or where the money came from. The League will continue to work for financial reporting.

Conflict of Interest: As a result of the 1959 report of the Governor's Commission on Ethics in Government, the 1961 Legislature passed a conflict of interest law that described certain conflicts legislators should avoid. This legislation also called for the head of each state agency to prepare and publish a code of ethics for public servants. Since the 1961 bill that treated the problem of disclosure of private interests of legislators as a "should" rather than a "shall" matter there have been no further concerted attempts at legislation in this area. Admittedly, practical solutions in this area are difficult. The League believes, however, that the citizen has the right to know the private interests of his elected representatives in legislation and we believe that certain kinds of private activities are incompatible with proper performance of public duties.

NATIONAL PROGRAM

No listing of state governmental positions would be complete without some reference to national positions. All members of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota are also members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. As a state League and as individual members we take action

on positions reached through study of national Program. Action on national positions is authorized by the national Board. The following is a brief account of those national items in which action at the state level of government is involved.

Water Resources: Support of national policies and procedures which promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and development of water resources and improvement of water quality.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of overall, long-range planning of water resources development.
2. Support of managing water resources on a river-basin or regional basis.
3. Support of federal financing of water development with cost-sharing by state and local governments and private users.
4. Support of improved coordination between agencies and departments.
5. Support of procedures that supply information and encourage intelligent weighing of alternative plans.
6. Support of citizen participation in water resource decisions.

With the initiation of a national study of water resources in 1956, Leagues in Minnesota began to investigate problems in their own communities and river basins. We have been concerned with the role of the state in managing and financing water resource development and have supported Minnesota's participation in interstate commissions to provide comprehensive planning and development of our boundary waters. In 1965 the League supported the creation of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Commission, and has worked for the creation of a four-state compact for the development of the Upper Mississippi.

In 1967 the League supported authorizing local jurisdictions and the Commissioner of Conservation to acquire flood plan data and to adopt regulations and ordinances regulating the use and occupancy of

flood plains. That same year the League testified in support of increased funds for pollution control and for the Water Resources Research Center. Since the creation of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 1967, the League has watched vigilantly the progress of pollution control in Minnesota, attending not only the regular meetings of the MPCA, but also special meetings called to discuss water pollution problems such as the dumping of taconite tailings into Lake Superior and the effect of discharge of heated water and nuclear waste from power plants on Minnesota rivers.

In the spring of 1968 the League attempted to get all the different conservation groups together to plan for the coming legislative session. It was thought that if we could agree on some common goals and speak with one voice, we could be more effective in the legislature. The resulting organization, the Minnesota Environmental Defense Council (MEDC), represented the first coordinated effort in this field. During the 1969 session MEDC lobbied for training and certification of sewage treatment plant operators, state funds for municipal sewage treatment plants, public hearings and construction permits before the building of large water-using facilities, ecologically oriented education programs in the schools, flood plain zoning, and a statewide ban on DDT. (This last was not supported by the League since it does not come under our position.) None of the goals was completely attained but advances were made and the climate of opinion seems to be changing.

Apportionment of State Legislatures: Support of apportionment of both houses of state legislatures substantially on population.

POSITION:

1. Support of apportionment of both houses of state legislatures substantially on population.

In 1965 League members reached this position (one man—one vote). We oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution which would permit factors other than population to be used in apportioning state legislatures.

If two-thirds of the states request it, Congress is required to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of amending the federal constitution. The

1965 Minnesota Legislature passed a resolution calling for such a convention to amend the constitution to permit an area factor in the apportionment of one house of state legislatures. Thirty-three states have passed such resolutions, just one short of the needed two-thirds. However, many of the legislatures which passed such resolutions were themselves malapportioned and there is some question of the legality of their action. The League supported unsuccessful attempts in both the 1967 and 1969 Legislatures to rescind Minnesota's resolution.

Human Resources: Support of equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing. Evaluation of means to achieve equality of opportunity for housing and of further measures to combat poverty and discrimination.

POSITIONS:

1. Support of the principle that the federal government shares with other levels of government responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States.
2. Support of federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people.
3. Support of federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education and employment and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

The League of Women Voters of the United States began a study of development of human resources in 1964, reaching consensus in 1966. For Minnesota League members, it was an extension of previous state studies of problems of equality of opportunity and positions under the state and national items are complementary. Unqualified support of equality of opportunity in housing was added to the national position in 1968. Since Minnesota Leagues had concurred in that consensus, the state Board revised the

state position to correspond. (The previous position had put the rental of rooms in a private home or the rental of half a duplex in which the owner resides outside the jurisdiction of anti-discrimination laws.)

Because the national item so closely follows Minnesota Program, much of state action in the field of human rights has been undertaken under the state item. Independently of state Program, however, the League worked in 1967 to extend opportunities for education of children from families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). At that time the legislature extended grants from age 18 to 19, making it possible for these young people to finish high school. Work to extend this age to 21 to allow for post high school training is anticipated.

In 1969 the League worked for tenants' rights and for special state aids to schools to help provide compensatory programs and specially trained teachers for disadvantaged children. Although a beginning was made with the unique aids law for schools, additional League action in the future is expected in both of these areas as well as in support of more and better day care centers and an increased housing supply.

Electoral College: A study of the electoral college.

POSITION:

1. Support of the national direct popular vote method to elect the President and Vice President of the United States.

Since this is a new item, adopted in May 1968 and the position announced in January 1970, no ac-

tion at the state level has been taken at this time. Action may be necessary in the future either concerning an amendment to the United States Constitution or a change in the method of determining electoral votes in Minnesota.

April, 1970

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 Wabasha

St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

STATEMENT OF POSITION: ORGANIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

(To be inserted in your copy of Positions for Action)

Support of changes in executive structure characterized by:

- a. clear lines of authority and responsibility. The League believes that diffusion of responsibility leads to a lack of accountability by the governor.
- b. elimination of duplication and overlapping of agencies. The League believes that duplication and overlapping of services by state agencies results in confusion to citizens, difficulty in coordination of efforts, competition between some units of government, and fragmentation of functions.
- c. a structure and organization designed to focus on current and emerging problems. The League believes that the structure and organization of the executive branch should be adequately geared to handle problems in such areas as: environmental quality, housing, education, intergovernmental relations, and urban affairs.
- d. a system of standard nomenclature. The League believes standard nomenclature would help citizens know where to go for service. The system should indicate a unit's relationship to the governor, to other units, and whether a unit is administrative, advisory, full or part-time.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEWING LEGISLATORS

1. LEGISLATIVE REFORM - What do you feel are the two most important areas of emphasis for this legislature to tackle?

Do you anticipate changes in legislative organization?
Party designation - Annual sessions - Length of session -
Procedures for reapportionment - Should there be constitutional
guidelines for reapportionment or must citizens go to court?

2. TAX REFORM - Do you anticipate changes in the basic state tax structure?
Failing this, would you vote for eliminating or simplifying classification?
Metropolitan tax reform - 1) property tax shared on all new industry
by metro area? 2) do you favor a metro piggy back tax? - which, -
sales or income?

3. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY - Do you feel the State Department of Human Rights needs
more money to do an effective job?
Would you favor additional funds for contract compliance?
Would you vote for transportation aids for Minneapolis
and St. Paul?
Will you support tenants' rights legislation?
Will you support a state uniform building code?

4. ELECTION LAWS - What suggestions would you have to make it easier to amend the
state constitution?

5. LOBBYING - Do you believe the citizen has the right to know the private interests
of his elected representatives in legislation?
Do you support full disclosure of lobbyists expenditures, salary and
source of money?
Should Metro Council become an elected body? Taxing powers?
What is the primary concern for your district?

Please call Mrs. Jack Witta (Nancy), Legislative Issues chairman, on questions you
may have: 827-4282.

State
Program
Index
1977-79

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July 1978



memorandum

This is going on DPM.

July 1978

TO: State and Local League and ILO Presidents

FROM: Ann Viner, Organization Chair

RE: Program Information Center
State Program Index

Background

During 1977 the Organization Division established a program information center from which Leagues could begin to receive program management assistance on state, local and regional issues. In the summer of 1977 Leagues received a new program form designed as a checklist of League Program for 1977-78 (1977-79 for state Leagues). One copy was to be returned to the Organization Division and the other retained in League files. As returns began to come in, the first stage of the new service, an index of state and local issues, was set up to keep track of 'which League is doing what'.

What is the State Program INDEX?

The INDEX is an alphabetical compilation under broad program categories (i.e. Natural Resources, Human Resources, etc.) of those issues which state Leagues currently have on their program. Under the broad category is each program issue, followed by a list of those state Leagues that have adopted it. (The key to zip code abbreviations used throughout is on page 13 of the INDEX.)

How can Leagues use the Program Information Center?

STATE ISSUES

This comprehensive INDEX of state League issues should serve as a handy reference tool when your League needs information for a specific state League issue. You can now communicate directly with another state League to seek more detailed information on how it handled its study, position and action processes. For instance, if your League is studying strip mining and would like to know which state League programs include this issue, you can locate those states under Natural Resources: Land Use, MINING -- STRIP/COAL on page 5. You can then write or telephone any of those state Leagues for further information.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES

Similar information on local League and ILO program issues is easily retrievable and available from the Organization Division's program information center. Because local League issues number in the hundreds, a printed index would be both costly and impractical. An index of regional issues worked on by ILOs will, however, be forthcoming.

ALL LOCAL AND STATE LEAGUE AND ILO PROGRAM INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE ORGANIZATION DIVISION AND WE ENCOURAGE LEAGUES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SYSTEM IN SEEKING THE INFORMATION THEY NEED.

How will program information be kept current?

We know from talking to you and reading the annual reports that you do not need or want a barrage of forms to fill out. Even though local Leagues and ILOs have annual meetings/conventions where program is adopted, we've found that only a few changes take place in any given year. Therefore, requesting information on a two year cycle will save time, paper and money and will allow us to keep our program information center current. Plans call for the original program form to be returned to each responding League next year for updates and changes. A copy of the blank form will be sent to new Leagues and those Leagues that did not respond, giving them an opportunity for input.

IN ADDITION, WE WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE OUR PROGRAM INFORMATION CENTER FILES WITH PROGRAM INFORMATION FROM YOUR BULLETINS, VOTERS, PROGRAM PUBLICATIONS AND CATALOGS.

What's next?

The state INDEX and the program information center represent the first phase of the Organization Division's continuing efforts to communicate information to Leagues on local, state and ILO program issues. Later in the fiscal year a publication is planned that will deal with various program management "how-to" techniques, including a discussion of ways Leagues are using to reach member agreement.

We hope you will use this new service and look forward to being of assistance in communicating the scope and variety of program approaches used by Leagues nationwide.

Natural Resources

land use

AGRICULTURAL FARMLAND: CO, CT, DE, ID, IL, IA, KY, MD, MN, MT, NB, NJ, ND, OR, PA, SD, VT, VA, WI

AIRPORTS/JETPORTS/AIR TRANSPORTATION: AZ, PA

BIKEWAYS: AZ, CO, CT, VT

CAPABILITIES/CARRYING CAPACITY OF LAND: AZ, MD, MN, MT, NH, OR, PA, TX, VT, WV, WI

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- LAND USE DECISIONS: CO, HI, ID, IL, IA, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MT, NB, NH, NJ, NC, ND, OH, OR, PA, PR, TX, UT, VT, VA, WI, WY

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT/SHORELINE EROSION: CT, DE, FL, HI, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, NC, ND, OR, PA, PR, RI, TX, VA, WI

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT: IL, MT, PR, WV

COMMUNITY PLANNING -- BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: ID, KY, MI, MT, VT

COMMUNITY PLANNING POLICY: ID, KY, MI, MT, VT

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANNING: FL, HI, ID, IL, IA, KS, ME, MD, MI, MN, MT, NB, NH, NJ, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY

COUNTY PLANNING: ID, KY, ME, MN, MT, NB, NH, VT

DEVELOPMENTAL DISTRICTS: KY, MN

EASEMENTS/GREENBELTS: CO, MT, PR

EMINENT DOMAIN/PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS: AZ, FL, MD, MA, MS, MT, OH, PR, VT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: KY, MA, VT

FINANCING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: UT

FLOOD PLAIN/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: CO, FL, IL, MD, MN, MS, MT, NB, NJ, NC, PA, PR, SD, TX, UT, VT, WI, WY

FORESTS -- CLEARCUTTING: MN, SD

FORESTS -- MULTIPLE USE: MN, MT, SD, UT, VT, WV

FORESTRY -- URBAN: MN, SD

FRAGILE LANDS: CO, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, PA, PR, SD, TX, VT, WI

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS: CO, NB

GROWTH MANAGEMENT: CO, FL, IL, MA, MI, NB, ND, PA, PR, UT, VT, WV

HOW TO ENFORCE/CONTROL LAND USE DECISIONS: AZ, CO, DE, IL, KY, ME, MD, MI, MN, NB, NC, OR, PA, PR, VT

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/PARKS: CO, IL, PR, WV

MASTER PLANS (NEW COMMUNITIES): CO, UT

MINING -- RECLAIMING LANDS: CO, IL, IA, MD, MN, MS, ND, SD, TN, WV, WI

MINING -- STRIP/COAL: CO, IL, IA, KY, MD, MN, MS, ND, PA, SD, TN, WV

MUNICIPAL PLANNING: CO, KY, NB, NH

OIL/GAS/OFFSHORE DRILLING: DE, PA, PR, TX

OPEN SPACE/OPEN LAND USE: AZ, CO, CT, FL, IL, IA, MD, MN, MS, NJ, NC, PA, PR, SD, TN, TX, VT, WI

PARK ACQUISITION/DEVELOPMENT: CO, LA, MN, PR, WI

PARKS -- EVALUATION OF SERVICES: MN

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS: PR

PORTS: PA, PR

PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL/CRITICAL AREAS: CO, IL, KS, KY, MD, MI, MN, MT, NJ, ND, PA, PR, TX, VT, WV, WI

PUBLIC LANDS/WILDERNESS AREAS: AZ, CO, KY, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, PR, UT, VT, WI

RECREATION -- EQUALITY: CO, PR, WI

RECREATION -- FACILITIES: CO, DC, KY, NC, PR

RECREATION -- RURAL/URBAN: MS, PA

RECREATION -- TRAILS/WALKS: CO, PR

RECYCLING: FL, HI, IA, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, NC, OR, PA, PR, TN, WV, WI

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: CO, MN, PR, VT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT: CO, MN

STATE LAND USE BOARD: AL

TRANSPORTATION -- FINANCING: CT, DE, DC, FL, IL, MN, NJ, PA, UT, WI

TRANSPORTATION -- GENERAL: CO, DE, MN, PA, TN, WA, WI

TRANSPORTATION -- MASS/RAPID: DC, FL, MN, PA

TRANSPORTATION -- MINI-BUS: CO, MN

TRANSPORTATION -- PARKING: CO, MN

TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-DRIVERS: CO, FL, MN

URBAN DEVELOPMENT: CO, DC

URBAN DEVELOPMENT -- REVITALIZATION/BUSINESS: CO, DC

URBAN DEVELOPMENT -- SUBDIVISIONS: CO

WETLANDS: CO, CT, FL, LA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NC, PA, PR, RI, VT, VA, WI

ZONING: CO, ID, IL, NB, NJ, ND, PA, PR, VT

ZONING -- BOARD OF APPEALS: ID, PR

ZONING CONSERVATION AREAS: PR, VT

energy

ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY: AL, AZ, CO, CN, FL, HI, IA, ME, MA, MN, NB, NH, NM, NC, ND, OR, PA, PR, SC, UT, VT, WV, WI, WY

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- ENERGY: AZ, CO, FL, HI, ME, MN, NB, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TX, UT, WY

ENERGY CONSERVATION: AL, AZ, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, ID, IA, KS, MD, MN, MT, NB, NH, NM, NC, ND, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WY

ENERGY FACILITY SITING: CO, MN, MT, NJ, OR, PR, SD, TN, UT, VT, WI, WY

ENERGY FACTS AND ISSUES: AZ, HI, KS, LA, MO, MT, NB, PR, TN, UT, VT, WA, WY

ENERGY POLICY: WV

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT: AZ, CO, MA, MN, MT, NB, NC, ND, OR, PA, PR, TN, UT, WV, WI

FOSSIL FUELS: AZ, IA, MA, MT, NH, ND, PA, PR, VT

REGIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE IN ENERGY: MN

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ENERGY: AZ, CO, MT, NB, NM, ND, PR, UT, WV

SOLAR/GEOTHERMAL/WIND/ETC.: AZ, UT

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: AZ, CO, CT, MD, MN, MT, NB, NM, ND, OH, OR, PA, WY

WOOD: AZ, NH, PR, VT

water

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- WATER: AZ, CO, CT, FL, HI, ID, IA, ME, MD, MN, MS, NB, NC, PA, PR, RI, TX, UT, VT, VA, WV, WY

DRINKING WATER: AZ, CO, DC, FL, MD, MN, MO, NH, OR, PA, RI, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI, WY

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT: TX

GROWTH AND WATER RELATIONSHIP: MA, OH

WATER -- GENERAL STUDIES: AZ, CO, CT, ID, IA, KS, MD, MO, NB, NC, RI, SD, UT, VA, WA, WV

WATER -- POLLUTION: CO, DC, FL, HI, IA, KY, ME, MD, MN, NB, NH, OR, PA, RI, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI

WATER -- QUALITY (208): CO, DC, FL, ID, IL, IA, KY, ME, MD, MA, NB, NC, PA, PR, RI, UT, VT, WA, WI, WY

WATER -- QUALITY (303a): MD

WATER -- RESOURCE/SUPPLY/TRANSPORT: AZ, CO, DC, ID, KY, MA, MN, NB, OK, OR, TX, WA, WY

WATER RIGHTS: AZ, CO, ID, MS, NB, OR, VA, WA, WV, WY

air

AIR POLLUTION/QUALITY: AZ, CT, FL, IA, KS, KY, ME, MD, MN, NB, NC, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WI, WY

AIR/WATER LAWS: AZ, CT, FL, KS, ME, MD, MN, MS, NC, PA, UT, VT, VA, WI, WY

solid waste

BOTTLE BILLS: AZ, AR, CT, DE, FL, HI, ID, IA, KS, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, NC, PA, PR, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WI

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- SOLID WASTE: CO, CT, FL, IA, MI, NB, PA, PR, UT, VA.

HAZARDOUS WASTE: IA, MD, MI, MN, MO, TN, UT, WI

RECYCLING/RESOURCE RECOVERY: CT, IA, KS, ME, MD, MI, MN, NB, NC, OH, PA, PR, TN, UT, VT, WV, WI

SOLID WASTE: CT, DC, FL, HI, IA, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, NB, NC, OH, PA, PR, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI

Human Resources

ABORTION: MA, NV

ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE: IL, MA, SC

AGING: DC

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: AZ, FL, ID, IA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, NB, NC, PA, TN, UT, VT, VA

BUILDING CODES: ID, MD, PA, UT, VA

CHILD WELFARE: AZ, HI, IL, MD, MI, PA, SC, TN, UT, VA

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: IL, IA, MD, MI, NB, NC, OH, PA, TN, VT

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- HUMAN RESOURCES: AZ, HI, ID, IL, IA, MD, MA, MN, UT

CIVIL RIGHTS: IA, MD, MN, MS, MO, PA, WI

CONSUMER PROTECTION: AL, DC, ID, ND, PA, PR

CREDIT: NJ, WI

DAY CARE: AK

DISPLACED HOMEMAKER: MD

DIVORCE: MD, MA, ND, PR

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT: AZ, DC, FL, ID, KS, MD, MA, PA, TN

ERA: AZ, FL, GA, HI, ID, IA, ME, MD, MA, MN, NB, NM, NC, ND, OK, PA, PR, RI, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI

FAMILY PLANNING: MA, PR, WI

FOOD STAMPS/PROGRAMS: AZ, ID, ME, MI,
MN, NC, PA, TN, VA

HANDICAPPED -- AIDS FOR: MT

HEALTH CARE: DC, MD, PR, VT

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES: WY

HEALTH CARE FOR MINORS: VT

HOUSING: CA, DC, FL, ID, IA, MD, MA,
PA, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI

HOUSING -- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANTS: ID, IL, IA, MD, PA, TX

HOUSING -- EQUAL ACCESS: AZ, CA, FL,
ID, IA, KS, MD, NJ, PA, WI

HOUSING -- LOW INCOME: IL

HOUSING -- MOBILE HOMES: AZ, ID, MD,
VT

HOUSING -- SUBSIDIES & ASSISTANCE: AZ,
CA, IL, IA, MD, MI, PA, WI

HOUSING CODES: CA, ID, IA, MD, PA

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY: AZ, ID, IA

HUMAN SERVICES: MN

INCOME ASSISTANCE: AZ, DC, IA, MD,
MA, MI, MN, NY, NC, PA, SD, TN, UT

INDIANS: ME, MN, NB, SD, WA

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN: GA

LIBRARIES: MN, PA, PR

MEDICAID: AZ

MENTAL HEALTH: DC, MT, OR, RI

MENTAL HEALTH -- CHILDREN: IL

MIGRANT WORKERS: AZ, FL, IA, NC,
PA, UT

REDLINING/GREENLINING: DC, IA, MA,
PA, UT

REVENUE SHARING: IA, ME, MA, MT, PA,
TN, VT.

RURAL HOUSING: AZ, PA, UT

TEENAGE MARRIAGES: PR

TELEVISION: MS

TENANT/LANDLORD: AK, ID, IL, MN,
NC, PA, UT, VT

TITLE XX: HI, NC, PA

URBAN CRISIS: ID, IL, IA, MD, MA,
MN, PA, TN

WELFARE: IN

WOMEN'S ISSUES: AZ, GA, ID, IA, ME,
MD, MN, NB, NC, ND, PA, PR, SD, UT,
WA, WI, WY

YOUTH/SOCIAL SERVICES: AK, AZ, IL,
IA, MI, VA

Education

ACCOUNTABILITY: CO, DC, GA, MN, OK,
SC, TN, UT, VT

AID FOR EDUCATION: FL, ID, IL, LA,
MD, MA, MI, MS, NC, PA, TN, UT, WY

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO EDUCATION:
FL, SC, UT

BUDGETING FOR EDUCATION: AZ, CO, FL,
GA, HI, ID, LA, MD, MA, MI, NC, PA,
TN, UT, WI

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- EDUCATION:
AZ, DC, FL, GA, HI, ID, MA, MI, OK,
PA, UT

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN EDUCATION:
HI, MA, MN, PA, RI

COMPENSATORY EDUCATION: CO, TN

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS: MS, UT

COUNSELING & GUIDANCE: FL, NC, OK,
PR, UT

CURRICULUM: DC, MD, UT

DECENTRALIZATION: DC

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: MD, MN

DESEGREGATION/INTEGRATION/BUSING:
DE, DC, MN, MS, OK, PA, SC

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: GA,
NC, TN

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: GA, HI, MS,
NC, PA, TN

FINANCING PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION:
AL, AK, AZ, CO, CT, FL, GA, ID, IL,
IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN,
MS, MD, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR,
PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV,
WI

FISCAL AUTONOMY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES:
MA

HIGH SCHOOLS: GA, HI, MS, NC

HIGHER EDUCATION: AL, DC, GA, MA,
MI, MS, OK

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO EDUCATION:
CO, HI, UT

KINDERGARTENS: AL, AR, GA, ID, KY,
MS, NC, OK, SC, TN

MIDDLE SCHOOLS: GA

MULTICULTURAL/BILINGUAL EDUCATION:
CO, MN

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION: HI,
ID, PA

PRESCHOOL: GA, UT

REORGANIZATION OF DISTRICTS: CO,
GA, ID, UT, VT

SCHOOL BOARDS AND ELECTIONS: DC, GA,
HI, PA, SC, TN, WY

SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING: WY

SCHOOL FACILITIES: FL, IL, NC

SCHOOL SYSTEM STUDY: GA, NC, TN, WA

SEX BIAS IN EDUCATION: ID, ME, MA,
MN, MS, NC, PA, UT, WI

SEX EDUCATION: PR

SPECIAL EDUCATION: CO, ID, IL, MD,
MI, MN, MS, OK, PA, TN, UT, VT

SPECIAL SCHOOL SERVICES: IL, MI

TEACHER -- PERSONNEL POLICY: DC, UT

TEACHER TENURE: CO, MA, MN

TEENAGE MOTHERS/PREGNANT GIRLS: PR

TITLE IX: ME, MD, PA, UT, WI

UNIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION: CO, GA,
OK, UT, WI

VOCATIONAL AND/OR CAREER EDUCATION:
CO, GA, ID, MS, NC, OK, UT, WV

Fiscal/Tax

ASSESSMENTS: CO, CT, GA, ID, IL,
KS, LA, MA, MN, MS, MO, NY, OK, PA,
TX, VT, WI, WY

ASSESSORS: CO, FL, ID, IL, MA, MI,
MN, PA, VT, WI, WY

BUDGET MAKING: DC, ID, IL, IA, LA,
MD, MA, MI, MS, PA, TN, TX, WI

BUDGET STUDY: CO, ID, IL, MD, MA, MS

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- BUDGET: AZ,
CO, FL, GA, ID, IA, MD, MA, MS, TN, TX

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- TAX REFORM:
CO, CT, GA, ID, IA, NC, PA, TN, TX,
VT, WA

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES: MT

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT: AZ, AR,
CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, KS, LA, MD, MA,
MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OR, TN, TX,
UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY

INCOME TAX: IA, MD, MA, MN, MS, NC,
OR, PA

INCOME TAX -- STATE: CO, CT, GA, ID,
IL, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN,
MS, NJ, NM, NC, OR, PA, TN, UT, VT,
VA, WA, WV, WI, WY

LOTTERIES AND GAMBLING: CO, MA

PROPERTY TAX: AL, CO, CT, DC, ID,
LA, MA, MI, MN, MS, NC, OK, OR, PA,
VA, WI, WY

PROPERTY TAX -- STATE: FL, ID, IA, KY, LA, ME, MA, MS, MT, NM, NC, OK, SC, UT, WI, WY

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS: CO, CT, FL, ID, IN, IA, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, NM, NY, OK, PA, VA, WI, WY

PROPERTY TAX REFORM: CO, CT, FL, ID, IL, IA, KY, LA, ME, MA, MN, MS, NC, PA, SC, TN, TX, VT, WY

SALES TAX REFORM: IL, WV

SOURCES OF REVENUE/BOND ISSUES: AL, FL, GA, MA, MI, MS, VA, WI

SPECIAL TAXES/AREAS TAXED: GA, ID, IL, KY, MD, MA, MI, NC, ND, VA, WI

TAX COLLECTION METHODS: DC

TAX BASE SHARING: FL, IL, MA, MI, MS, PA, VA, WI, WY

TAX EXEMPTIONS -- BUSINESSES: GA

TAX REFORM: AL, CT, FL, ID, KS, LA, MD, MA, MN, NH, NJ, NC, OR, PA, TN, VT, VA, WA

TAX RELIEF: FL, LA, MD, MA, MO, NM, PA, SC, WI

TAX RELIEF -- ELDERLY: CO, FL, ID, IA, MD, PA, VT, WY

TAX RELIEF -- FARMERS: PA, VT, WI

TAX STUDY -- LOCAL LEVEL: IA, MA, OR, VA

TAX STUDY -- STATE LEVEL: FL, ID, IA, KS, LA, MA, MS, NC, OR, PA, UT, WV, WI, WY

Justice

ABUSE -- CHILD/WIFE: CO, HI, MD, WY

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: AL, CO, FL, IL, KY, MA, MI, MN, MT, NJ, NC, OH, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION -- ADULT: CO, FL, IL, LA, MD, MN, MT, NB, NC, OH, OK, RI, UT, WI, WY

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION -- JUVENILE: AZ, CO, FL, IL, IA, KS, LA, MD, MA, MN, MT, NB, NM, NC, OH, OK, RI, TX, UT, WA, WV, WI, WY

BAIL, BONDS, PRETRIAL RELEASE: CO, IL, MN, MT, NY, TX, WI

CHILDREN'S AND/OR JUVENILE CODES: AZ, FL, IL, IA, MD, MI, MN, NM, OH, OK, TN, VA, WV, WI

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- JUSTICE: MD, MN, PA, UT, VA, WI

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: CO, FL, IL, LA, MD, MA, MT, NB, NM, NC, OH, OK, RI, SC, UT, VA, WV, WI, WY

CORRECTIONAL REFORM: CO, FL, IL, MD, MA, MN, NB, NC, OK, RI, UT, VA, WV, WI, WY

CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM STUDY: CO, FL, MA, MN, NB, NC, RI, SC, TX, VT, VA, WV, WI

COURT -- COUNTY: CO, MA, MN, OR, TN, UT

COURT -- DISTRICT: CO, MA, MN, OR, TN, UT

COURT -- FAMILY: AK, FL, MD, MA, NJ, RI, UT

COURT -- JUVENILE: AZ, CO, FL, IL, IA, KS, MA, MI, NM, OR, TN, UT, VA, WV

COURT -- LIMITED JURISDICTION: CO, TN

COURT -- MINOR: CO, TN, UT

COURT -- PROBATE: AR, MA, UT

COURT -- SMALL CLAIMS: MT, TN

COURT ADMINISTRATION: CO, IL, KY, MA, MN, MT, NY, OH, TN, UT, VA

COURT FACILITIES: MA, MT, RI, WI

COURT OBSERVER: MA, OH

COURT REFORM: FL, KS, KY, MA, MN, NM, NY, NC, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI

COURT STUDY: CO, MA, MN, OR, RI, UT, WY

COURT UNIFICATION: FL, GA, IN, IA, KS, KY, MD, MA, MN, MT, NM, NY, RI, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI

CRIME -- RAPE: CA, PR, VT

CRIME -- VICTIMLESS: FL, MT, NC, WI

CRIME -- VICTIMS OF: FL, MN, MT

CRIMINAL CODES: IL, MN

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: CO, DE, MA, MN, NC, VA

GRAND JURY: FL, MN, NY, NC

GUN CONTROL: IL, MA, RI

JUDGES: AZ, CO, GA, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, RI, TN, VA

JUDICIAL REFORM: AZ, CO, FL, GA, ID, IA, KY, MD, MA, MN, MO, NC, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WY

JUDICIAL STUDY: CT, MA, MN, NM, OR, RI

JURIES: FL, MA, MN, NJ, VA, WI

JUVENILE DETENTION: CO, FL, IL, IA, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NB, NM, NC, OK, SC, TN, UT, VA, WV, WI

JUVENILE JUSTICE: AL, AZ, CO, FL, IL, IN, IA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, MT, NJ, NM, NC, OH, OK, RI, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI

JUVENILE NEEDS/SERVICES: CO, IL, IA, MD, MA, MT, OK, TN

LEGAL SERVICES: CO, IL, MN, NY, WI

LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS: MT

OMBUDSMEN: MN

PARDON/PAROLE/PROBATION: FL, IL, LA, MD, MA, MN, MT, NC, OH, OK, SC, WV, WY

PLEA BARGAINING: FL, MA, NJ, NY, SC

PRISONER REHABILITATION: CO, DC, IL, KS, LA, MD, MA, MN, MT, UT, WI, WY

PRISONER RIGHTS: IL, LA, MA, MN, MT, NB, OH, RI, WI

RIGHTS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS: AZ, CO, FL, IL, IA, LA, MA, MN, OH, OK, RI, TN, WV, WI

SENTENCING: FL, IL, MA, MN, MT, NC, RI, SC, TX, VA, WI

STATUS OFFENDERS: AZ

WOMEN IN PRISON: CO, FL, MN, MT, OK, SC, WY

Elections

BALLOT ISSUES: AZ, GA, HI, IA, KY, MD, MA, MS, ND, OK, PA, TN, UT, VT, VA

CAMPAIGNS: AK, CT, HI, ID, MD, MN, MS, NH, NM, PA, WA, WV

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- ELECTIONS: CT, FL, HI, MD, MS, NC, PA, UT, VT, VA

CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTIONS: IL

ELECTION LAWS AND PROBLEMS: AL, AZ, AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WY

NEW CITIZEN EDUCATION: CO, KY, MA, MS, UT

POLITICAL CAUCUS: MD, OR

POLITICAL PARTIES: GA, LA, MI, ND, OR

POLITICAL PRIMARIES: GA, HI, IL, IN, LA, MD, MI, NM, PA, SC, WV

VOTER REGISTRATION: AL, AK, AZ, CT, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, NH, NY, NC, ND, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI

VOTER RESPONSE: FL, HI, PA, RI, VT

VOTING FOR SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS: IA, KY, MI, PA, PR, RI

VOTING PROCEDURE: AL, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IL, IA, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NH, NM, NY, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI

VOTING RIGHTS: AZ, CT, GA, HI, ID,
IL, IA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NH, NJ, NY,
PA, RI, TX, VT, VA, WI

Government

ACCOUNTABILITY: AZ, CO, GA, DC, ID,
IN, IA, KY, MS, NB, PA, WI

ADMINISTRATIVE STUDY: DC, IA, MN, UT

APPORTIONMENT: AZ, CO, FL, ID, IN,
IA, MN, MS, MT, NB, NY, OK, UT, VT,
WV, WI

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: AZ, MD, MS,
OK, PA, UT, WY

CENSUS: KS

CHARTERS: DC, IA, MD, MI, PA

CHARTERS -- COUNTY: AZ, MO, MT, PA

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- GOVERNMENT:
AZ, CO, DC, FL, GA, ID, MD, MS, NB,
NC, OH, PA, UT, VT

CIVIL SERVICE: WV

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN THE PUBLIC
SECTOR: HI

CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTIES: KY

CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTS: AZ, IA,
KY, MT, OK, TX, UT

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: AL, AK, AR,
FL, GA, HI, ID, IA, KY, LA, MD, MI,
MN, MO, NM, OH, OK, OR, SC, TN, TX,
UT, VT, WA, WV, WI

COUNTY GOVERNMENT: AZ, AR, CO, ID,
IA, KS, KY, ME, MT, NB, OH, TN, WI

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT: DE, FL, ID,
MN, MS, MO, NY, PA, SC, TN, WI, WY

EXECUTIVE STUDY: AL, AZ, FL, GA,
MN, TX, UT, WI, WY

FEDERALISM: OK

FORMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: CO, DC,
IN, IA, MT, PA, SC

FULL REPRESENTATION FOR D.C.: DC

HOME RULE: AL, AZ, CO, DC, GA, ID,
IA, LA, ME, MD, MT, NM, OR, PA, SC

HOME RULE -- COUNTY: AZ, CO, GA, IA,
MI, MO, MT, NB, OH, OR, PA, SC, WI

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES/PRIVACY: MN

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM/RECALL: AZ, CO,
DC, FL, HI, ID, MD, NY, NC, ND, PA,
RI, SC, UT, WI

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS: CO, IL,
LA, MT, TX, WI

LEGISLATIVE REFORM: NJ

LEGISLATIVE STUDY: AL, AK, AZ, CT,
GA, IL, LA, MD, MN, MS, MO, NY, OR,
SC, TX, VT, WA, WV, WI

LOBBYING: ID, IL, IA, MD, MS, NH,
NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, UT, VT, WI, WY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES: CO, ID, IL,
KY

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY COUNCILS: DC

PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT:
DC, SC

REDISTRICTING: CO, IA, MD, MS, MT,
NY, VT, WA

REGIONALISM/DECENTRALIZATION: CO, IA,
OH

STATE GOVERNMENT: OH

SUNSET LAWS: MD, MS, PA

SUNSHINE LAWS/OPEN MEETINGS: AZ, CO,
CT, DE, DC, FL, HI, ID, IA, ME, MD, MI,
MN, MS, NB, NC, OK, PA, SC, TN, VT, WI

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT: WI

UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURES: FL, HI, MT,
WA, WI

ZIP CODE ABBREVIATIONS FOR STATES

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Alabama | AL | Nebraska | NB |
| Alaska | AK | Nevada | NV |
| Arizona | AZ | New Hampshire | NH |
| Arkansas | AR | New Jersey | NJ |
| California | CA | New Mexico | NM |
| Colorado | CO | New York | NY |
| Connecticut | CT | North Carolina | NC |
| Delaware | DE | North Dakota | ND |
| District of Columbia | DC | Ohio | OH |
| Florida | FL | Oklahoma | OK |
| Georgia | GA | Oregon | OR |
| Hawaii | HI | Pennsylvania | PA |
| Idaho | ID | Puerto Rico | PR |
| Illinois | IL | Rhode Island | RI |
| Indiana | IN | South Carolina | SC |
| Iowa | IA | South Dakota | SD |
| Kansas | KS | Tennessee | TN |
| Kentucky | KY | Texas | TX |
| Louisiana | LA | Utah | UT |
| Maine | ME | Vermont | VT |
| Maryland | MD | Virginia | VA |
| Massachusetts | MA | Virgin Islands | VI |
| Michigan | MI | Washington | WA |
| Minnesota | MN | West Virginia | WV |
| Mississippi | MS | Wisconsin | WI |
| Missouri | MO | Wyoming | WY |
| Montana | MT | | |

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