

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2015-2016

In the League of Women Voters, program planning is the process of generating study ideas at the grass roots level and results in one or more studies or actions to be adopted at a League convention. The Board of Directors recommends that members of the LWV of Collin County: (a) adopt a position statement on homelessness and related issues in Collin County, (b) continue an action on voter education and voters service and (c) adopt an action on observing local government.

HOMELESSNESS & RELATED ISSUES IN COLLIN COUNTY (Study adopted May 2013)

Recommendation: Conclude the study and adopt the following position statement:

The League of Women Voters of Collin County believes that a basic level of services should be available to Collin County residents who are homeless. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development identifies persons as homeless if they do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence – e.g., may be sleeping in a car, sofa surfing, or doubled up with another family.

The basic level of services should include:

- Emergency shelter for night visits or short-term stays
- Transitional housing for longer stays, with access to services including medical care, emergency dental care, job placement and transportation, treatment of drug abuse and severe mental health issues, and school-related services for children
- Affordable housing to prevent homelessness.

Services should be funded and provided by all levels of government in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. Services should be coordinated among the various agencies and organizations to best serve the needs of the homeless.

GET OUT THE VOTE (Action adopted May 2014)

Recommendation: Continue action on voter education and voters service

Focus: Increase voter turnout in elections in Collin County

Scope: Conduct nonpartisan voter education and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign in selected Collin County areas using strategies that (a) GOTV research has found to be most effective and (b) can be implemented with available human and financial resources

- Collaborate with Junior League of Collin County (JLCC) on mutually agreeable voter education and voters service activities
- Collaborate with interested organizations/individuals on GOTV campaign

KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

Recommendation: Adopt action on observing local government.

Focus: Encourage all members to learn about how local government works.

Scope: Encourage individual members or teams to observe at least one such meeting each. The Observer Corps will provide a list of local governmental bodies showing when and where they meet.

Issues Not Recommended for Study in 2015-16

No other issues were suggested by members during the program planning process.