

# League of Women Voters California 2011-2013 Program

## Update Study

### **Initiative and Referendum Process Position Update**

Current position - "Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process."

During program planning, members expressed interest in an update study of our current position to address gaps in its coverage and aspects on which there may no longer be member understanding and agreement. The state board recommends that an update study of the Initiative and Referendum Process be adopted. The last update of this position was done in 1997-1999.

A study committee would be appointed by the state board and immediately asked to develop a scope and budget. The state board would then work with the committee to find funding for that budget through a combination of donations and grants.

## Issues for Education and Advocacy

### **I. Redistricting Implementation**

The redistricting process in California will be reaching its peak activity during the summer and fall of 2011. The League of Women Voters of California has been involved in the redistricting reform effort from the beginning and is committed to staying with this process until it is fully completed.

We will continue to monitor and provide input to the new Citizens Redistricting Commission and will encourage similar local League efforts to shine a light on local redistricting. We will work to raise awareness and public participation in the redistricting process by supporting local League community education events around the state and providing resources and training for Leagues to share with their members and their communities. In addition, the League will use the knowledge gained from our observers and others to comment on the need for potential changes in the redistricting process that follows the 2020 census.

## **II. State and Local finances - including education about California's financing of education**

There is strong LWVC membership interest in state and local finances, as shown in the program planning results, as well as a strongly perceived need for public education about the state's finances, including a special interest in the financing of public education. We will make a variety of materials and training available to local Leagues and focus on keeping our Web sites current with user-friendly information about state finances. We will continue to advocate at the legislature and through ballot measures for reforms in the state budget process and revenue system and will support local League action in their communities.

## **III. Initiative and Referendum Community Education**

This is proposed as a separate but parallel emphasis to an initiative and referendum update study. There is strong public interest in initiative and referendum reform and a desire for good, nonpartisan information that Leagues can use in publications, on their web sites, and in community programs. The material that is developed for a League study can, with some careful editing, be made into this public information material. It is hoped that there will be at least one person willing to work alongside a study committee to create good community education from the study material.

### **League of Women Voters California 2011 - 2013 Officers**

President, Jennifer Waggoner LWV San Francisco  
First Vice-President, Sharon Holdt LWV Capistrano Bay  
Second Vice President, Helen Hutchinson LWV Oakland  
Secretary, Caroline DeLlamas LWV East San Gabriel Valley

More information about the 2011 State Convention can be found at  
[www.lwvc.wordpress.com](http://www.lwvc.wordpress.com)