

## Reporting Local League Review of LWVIN Positions, 2011

File: LWVIN pos rev LL form 101123b

This is a simple Word text. Depending on a computer's tab settings, columns may have to be adjusted. Where "Review/Revise" is requested, a rationale would help the LWVIN board; please add it at the end of the file. (The two items with strikethroughs require separate reviews.)

Please return the completed form by **March 1, 2011** to [holschuh@indiana.edu](mailto:holschuh@indiana.edu) or Albrecht Holschuh, 1960 South Cooper Road, Bloomington, IN 47401.

**Name of submitting League: LWV of Greater Lafayette**

**Name of the reporting member: Joanne Evers**

**Number of members participating in the review: 8**

**Date of review: February 10, 2011**

	Retain	Review/Revise	Drop
Nomination of Candidates	__X__	_____	_____
Voter Registration	__X__	_____	_____
Poll Workers	__X__	_____	_____
Dissemination of Voting Information	__X__	_____	_____
Election Procedures <i>see attachment</i>	__X__	_____	_____
Election Recounts <i>see below</i>	_____	__X__	_____
Redistricting <i>see below</i>	_____	__X__	_____
Local Government	__X__	_____	_____
Local Government Finance	__X__	_____	_____
Motor Vehicle Licensing System	_____	__X__	_____
Property Tax Exemption	__X__	_____	_____
Tax System	_____	__X__	_____
School Finance <i>see attachment</i>	_____	_____	_____
Juvenile Justice	__X__	_____	_____
Pre-Trial Release	__X__	_____	_____
Unified Courts and Merit System	__X__	_____	_____
Mandatory Kindergarten	__X__	_____	_____
Children at Risk	__X__	_____	_____
Domestic Violence	__X__	_____	_____
General Assistance	__X__	__X__	_____
Health Care	__X__	_____	_____
Illegal Substances	__X__	_____	_____
<del>Hazardous Waste <i>in committee</i></del>	_____	_____	_____

## LWVIN Positions with suggested language changes and/or a review/revise request with rationale

### Election Recounts

The state should maintain uniform and equitable recount procedures for state and local offices.

Local and state election officials should fully cooperate with federal officials in recounts involving U.S. senators, representatives, or the president.

*All voting devices approved by the state should have vote recount capabilities.*

Rationale: The Election Procedures position states that “evaluating and approving voting devices should remain with the state.” It also states that “In the approval and selection of voting devices, the most important factors must be secrecy of the vote, access for voters (including accessibility for voters who have special needs), protection against fraud, and accuracy of the vote count.” If devices local governments have to choose from will not allow for an accurate recount then local governments cannot protect the ‘accuracy of the vote count.’

### Redistricting

The county commissioner districts in each county should be as nearly equal to each other in population as possible.

Rationale:

Although, LWVGL does not disagree with the statement above as written, it feels there is more to be said. It seems that LWVUS (see below) is clear about population being the only criteria used with reference to not diluting minority populations. We realize that this directly effects what the local Leagues can say in their own positions. However, the recent discussion on redistricting from a variety of research groups provides information for discussion and consideration.

We would like to see LWVIN review this position even though it has been done recently. If in fact the board feels nothing can be done to this position as a result of the national position, we suggest that LWVIN encourage LWVUS to restudy their Apportionment Position to include other criteria than population. Legislators can be very creative in making districts with equal populations but disconcerting and problematic for voters in many other ways.

### **LWVUS Position**

The Election Process  
Apportionment

The League's Position

*Statement of Position on Apportionment, as Announced by National Board, January 1966 and Revised March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained and that the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment.

*See also the position on Voting Rights, which applies to apportionment issues. Leagues applying the Apportionment position should be aware that the Voting Rights position (and League action supporting the Voting Rights Act) recognizes that both the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act require that reapportionment not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens.*

## REVIEW AND REVISE

Motor Vehicle Licensing System (1985)

Tax System (1999)

General Assistance (1986)

Rationale: LWVGL praises the LWVIN board for spearheading the review of the state positions over the past several years and recognize that it has not been an easy task. We encourage you to continue this process with the final three positions listed above.

The Motor Vehicle Licensing System is out of date due to the many changes in state law and needs to be revised, restudied or dropped per a review committee.

A review of The Tax System position by members who are aware of and understand the changes in state law directly effecting tax collection and distribution would serve us well.

In light of the changes in the Local Government position and the activity in the state legislature related to changes in township government, it is a worthy goal to review the General Assistance position at this time.