

League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley (LWVTV) Board
Recommendations to LWVAK Board Proposed Program for 2021

The LWVTV held a Program Planning meeting on February 13, 2021 via Zoom. About 17 members attended and participated actively in reviewing League Positions and priorities at the US-level, the state-level and our local as well as discussing ideas for new studies. Based on the Program Planning outcome and a meeting of the LWVTV Board on February 17, 2021, the LWVTV Board is pleased to present the following recommendations to the League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) Board for consideration:

The League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley Board recommends reaffirming the following LWVAK Positions:

- Capital Budget Process
- Constitution – Amending the Constitution by Initiative
- Constitutional Convention
- Alaska’s Statutory Initiative Process
- Voter Registration
- Energy
- Land Disposal
- Land Use
- Career Education in the Schools
- Child Care and Early Childhood Education
- Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Bullying
- Youth and Adolescent Needs
- Landlord-Tenant Relationships
- School Finance
- Judicial Appointment and Retention

The League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley Board recommends reviewing the following LWVAK Positions for likely revision:

- Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure
- Legislative Process and Procedures
- Election Processes and Procedures

Considering the passage of Ballot Measure 2 (Alaska’s Better Elections Initiative) and LWVAK’s support of this ballot measure, each of these positions should be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect current views. Where pertinent, the LWVTV urges the inclusion of language that specifically addresses the safety and security of the Alaska voting process at all levels.

The League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley Board recommends the LWVAK continue study on a potential position addressing general support for PreK – Higher Education.

Curriculum should be robust and varied; we would like to see voters and leaders support a robust and varied curriculum across all grade levels, not just emphasis on STEM, technology and career education. The Liberal Arts and emphasis on civics and government are equally important in the education of our state residents. In addition, we would like to see the position advocate for the funding of the University of Alaska- the state's only higher education institution. Considering devastating budget cuts, we believe the LWVAK should form a position that supports adequate funding for public education at all levels.

The LWVTV discussed several recommendations sent to the LWVAK Board by the LWV of Juneau. Although there was interest in the proposed ideas on both Civil Discourse and Taxation, the group did not feel we had enough information to vote on offering our formal support. The LWVTV is eager to receive follow-on documentation or wait for further discussion at the LWVAK Board meeting or Annual Convention.

The members also noted specific concern with current legislation before the Alaska Legislature that attacks voter registration, voter assistance, and election practices and proposed changes to Alaska's merit-based judicial selection and retention procedures. There is also general concern with the baseless public distrust in the security of the election process and what steps we, as LWV, may be part of to refute this serious threat to a peaceful, democratic society. It is also clear that educating the public on changes to voting due to Ballot Measure 2 should be a key task before all of the local Leagues and state League.

Respectfully submitted,

League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley Officers & Board members:
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Shoshana Kun, Helenmarie Matesi, Janna Miller, Siri Tuttle