

# 2018 LWVUS CONVENTION REPORT

Marj Johnson, President, LWVNCC

In addition to the regular business of the convention, we had great speakers and panels and brief caucus meetings on just about every topic!

The legal representative from the League recommended looking at [EAC.gov](http://EAC.gov) to get updated info on voting. He suggested poll watching (seeing what is wrong and also what is good) might be an activity the League could engage in. He also suggested we reach out to work on the census. The League has a position to reject the 2020 question about citizenship.

The new IT person at national is looking at a network system to reduce administrative burden, give better access to data and data sharing and generally improve the infrastructure. He is able to give guidance on tech issues. They are using Sales Force to develop a new payment process instead of PayPal and an advocacy system instead of Mail Chimp.

Re Data collection: Both State and National need data from their Leagues regarding voter drives, programs, forums etc. to include in their data. We all need to be collecting data to be able to show what we do and how effective it is.

Look at [LETSALLVOTE.org](http://LETSALLVOTE.org) for getting out the vote, particularly for independent voters.

Voter Registration: They recommended following up with voters by phone, text or postcards. Having people sign a Pledge to Vote card increased higher voting response by 14:1.

There was a huge emphasis on the Transformation Process, which includes our:

**Mission Statement: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**Vision Statement:** We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

**Value Statement:** “We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.” Every attempt at convention to discuss this statement was dismissed. National is emphatic about leaving it in but acknowledges that local leagues don't have to use it.



As part of the Transformation, there is a big emphasis on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (EID). They defined these as: Equity is to make just, fix barriers, and have equity mindfulness; Inclusion as being a part of and acknowledged; and Diversity as the presence of differences. They recommended we all get out of our comfort zones--go to community events of people different from you; go into minority communities and deal with your own fear; listen, acknowledge and respect all people. Boards should reflect the diversity of the population and diversity, equity and inclusion training was recommended for all boards. At the very least, it was recommended that Board members look at the Harvard Implicit Bias Test online, take it and notice your own triggers.

Looking forward to 2020 and our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a former Treasurer of the US talked about what she noticed as the only woman at Treasury. We value what we see but do we see what we value? We are influenced by what we are exposed to and also by what we are not exposed to. What we are not exposed to includes: women on US currency (only other country without women on currency is Saudi Arabia), women on national monuments, women on trading cards (like baseball cards). She is on a campaign to get women on quarters by 2020 and has already started this with Treasury. She is going into schools to right history to include women, (look at [www.teachersrightinghistory.org](http://www.teachersrightinghistory.org)), has already gotten commitment for 1-2 monuments and is working on trading cards for kids. She encouraged all of us to come up with a project leading up to 8/26/2020. She did an interesting project with elementary school girls to have them draw their own currency with their own picture on it. It was powerful for them, to actually see it.

**The regular business of note included:**

Passing of the budget: PMP (Per member Payment) to National stays at \$32

The proposed program from LWVUS passed and included Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign

Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting. Additional motions that passed regarding program are as follows:

The League of Women Voters supports working toward a national popular vote compact (individual states have to sign on) for the 2018-2020 LWVUS Program, under Making Democracy Work/Improving Elections.

The other proposal for electing the president by national popular vote AND doing away with the electoral college by amendment to the Constitution was rejected. The League has had a position supporting the popular vote and doing away with the Electoral College since 1970, affirmed several times after, but never effectively acted on. However, the 2018 Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States urgently reaffirms its long-held position that the Electoral College should be abolished, although this was not added to current program.

The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science. These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of the globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C, informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris agreement.

The League of Women Voters stands united with, and in support of, efforts to price carbon emissions, whether cap-and-trade, carbon tax/fee, or another viable pricing mechanism.

The League does not have a position on how the revenue generated is to be used. We do not espouse any single method of pricing carbon over another. We will evaluate all proposed methods based on their effectiveness to abate emissions and whether the method can be successfully implemented.

The League of Women Voters reaffirms our commitment to the constitutional right of privacy as an individual to make reproductive choices.

The League of Women Voters supports an emphasis on the ERA this year and every year until the ERA is ratified and becomes a U.S. Constitutional Amendment. Be it resolved that the LWVUS supports efforts to remove the time limits for ratification of the ERA. When the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is duly ratified by the 38th state, the League of Women Voters of the United States takes the required steps to see the Amendment through whatever judicial or other challenges may occur until we see the ERA added to the U. S. Constitution in clear, bold, black and white.

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. will make gun control, gun safety, and gun ownership limitations a priority in its lobbying efforts.

The League of Women Voters will retain all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.