



League of Women Voters of Virginia

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Good Afternoon, I'm Olga Hernandez, President of The League of Women Voters of Virginia. I'm here representing almost 2000 members of our non-partisan statewide organization. The League supports a responsible state fiscal policy that provides for adequate funds for state responsibilities. We support:

Transportation Funding

Regionally balanced transportation systems that efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth and the environment. The Commonwealth needs dedicated funding for multimodal transportation systems that allow growth and prevent the backlog of needs we see today because of past inaction.

Redistricting and Elections

Proper support for election systems and equipment that provides for an auditable paper trail. We seek a fairer non-partisan method of Redistricting so that the citizens of Virginia are well represented and have elections that are true contests and where issues are discussed.

Environmental Solutions

Incentives for the development and use of less polluting alternative fuels to set the standard for private and government users. Global warming is a concern and we must all do our part to solve the problem. The state should take the lead. This is a public health issue.

Education Initiatives

Pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk children, as well as funding to meet state and federal education mandates, including SOQs. Studies repeatedly show the earlier you start teaching children the more successful they can be. We must meet the basic needs of at-risk children, including preventive services such as rehabilitative programs and family support services such as child care subsidies for working families.

Justice and Correction Systems

- Funding to provide court representation to indigent defendants which protect their constitutional right to a competent attorney.
- Corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders including providing effective vocational and educational programs, pre-trial and work release programs; and adequate well trained staff.
- Juvenile justice system that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, including but not limited to mental health and substance abuse programs (in and out patient), vocational training and accredited academic programs. Again education is the key.

Health Care

A public mental health care system to include clear lines of authority and accountability while continuing to ensure patients' rights and properly trained and staffed mental health clinics throughout Virginia. Also appropriate housing and or facilities for the mentally ill and proper access and monitoring of medication.

We support an open government where legislation is dealt with full disclosure. We urge the House of Delegates to provide for the recorded votes of subcommittees and to seek to video stream their sessions over the internet just like the Senate does. Not everyone can travel to Richmond to see how their government works. You already do it close circuit; now make it available to the public.