



LWVMN Board-Approved 12.12.22

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The LWVMN board of directors has set these priorities for the 2023 MN Legislative Session based on input from community partners, the current needs of Minnesota, their relevance to LWV's mission, their political feasibility and urgency. For all issues related to elections, LWVMN hopes that the legislature will work on these issues on a bipartisan basis. While LWVMN works on many issues, these priorities receive additional dedicated resources. Our overall strategy is to be a strong ally in support of partners who are leading on legislation in these primary areas, by more effectively engaging our members to create meaningful partnerships with legislators.

1. **Restore The Vote** – support the restoration of voting rights to individuals with past felony convictions when they are living in their communities.
2. **Automatic Voter Registration** - change our current system of voter registration to ensure that anyone who interacts with a consenting Government agency, such as the Department of Public Safety, is automatically registered to vote when they interact with that agency - such as getting or updating information on your driver's license - rather than going out of their way to register (moving from an “opt in” to an “opt out” system.)
3. **Banning voter and election official intimidation and harassment** - increase penalties for people who intimidate and/or harass voters and elections officials.
4. **Remove barriers to receiving HAVA Funds** - ensure access to the federal appropriated Help America Vote Act funds for state and local elections security and infrastructure so that the Secretary of State has funding to administer our elections
5. **Making Voting more Accessible for All Minnesotans (as presented in We Choose Us MN Policy Document)** - Minnesota has led the nation in voter turnout for the past three major elections before 2022 thanks to our strong system of elections administration and voter access. That said, we have even more we can do to make sure our democracy is more accessible to more people more often.
6. **ERA Amendment** - promote the adoption of a ballot issue in 2024 to add the Equal Rights Amendment into the Minnesota State Constitution.
7. **Climate Change** - continue to support the Minnesota Environmental Partnership in working toward solutions to climate change.
8. **Racial Justice** - continue to use a lens of racial justice in all our legislative work, and to especially acknowledge the intersectionality of racial justice with voting rights, women's rights and climate change.

OTHER 2023 STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

LWVMN will also engage in education and support of the following issues, as time and resources allow.

- **Legislative Transparency** – support improving legislative rules and practices to improve transparency and public participation, including ending the use of large omnibus bills or late-session rush.
- **National Popular Vote Compact** - replace the electoral college with the National Popular Vote - a top priority of LWVUS.
- **People Powered Fair Maps** – continue to educate legislators and members of the public on redistricting.
- **Moore v. Harper** - educate our members and remain vigilant in defense against the “Independent State Legislature Theory” becoming a governing law for federal elections. (LWVMN has joined the Amicus Brief in the case before the US Supreme Court, with all other 50 LWVs and LWVUS.)
- **Ranked Choice Voting** - continue to support Ranked Choice Voting as an option for local governments, and become further educated about its feasibility for statewide elections.
- **County Elections** - continue to develop our County Observer Corps and advocate for support of fair and accessible elections at the county level.

2023 PARTNERS & COALITIONS

We collaborate with several organizations on a variety of issues. Not all of our partners are listed here. Currently, we are formally part of the following coalitions and partnerships:

- Minnesota Voice
- We Choose Us MN
- Restore the Vote MN
- ERA Minnesota
- Minnesota Census and Democracy Partnership
- Minnesota Alliance for Democracy
- Minnesota Environmental Partnership