

**League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa
Program Planning Committee
FY'17 Annual Report**

Recommendations for 2017-2018 Program of Study*

1. **Initiate a local study to revise the LWVMT position on Public Trusts:** For several years, as various units have conducted their annual review of LWVMT positions, the position on public trusts has raised questions. The Program Committee will solicit volunteers to form a task force to review this position and to bring recommendations to the membership at a consensus meeting.
2. **Review all LWVMT positions to make editorial changes and to make the language more inclusive:** At several points in the LWVMT Program Positions document, the city of Tulsa is specifically referenced. Since we are a League that encompasses all communities within the Metropolitan Tulsa area, our Positions should reflect that fact. All Units will be asked to approve the changes made.
3. **Join the LWVUS in their Making Democracy Work initiative.** Each unit will identify barriers to voting (from the document prepared by the Oklahoma Academy) and will make recommendations regarding how these barriers can be overcome.
4. **Conduct issue-related meetings on state questions or other important issues.** These may take the form of "Hot Topic Lunches" or evening events.

*This study program needs approval from the membership at the Annual Meeting.

2016-2017 Annual Report

The Tulsa League held monthly unit meetings from July 2016 through May 2017 to study and discuss topics of interest. Three monthly meetings are held in different parts of the city and at different hours of the day to accommodate members' schedules. The League would like to start an Evening Meeting if anyone is interested in doing so.

July-September: Unit meetings were devoted to a close study of the state questions that were to appear on the November 8 ballot. On September 20, 2016, the Program Committee held its first Hot Topic Lunch on SQ 779 (the extra penny sales tax for education). Phyllis Hudecki, former Secretary of Education spoke in favor of the question and Mayor Dewey Bartlett who is on the Board of the Oklahoma Municipal League, spoke against.

On Saturday, August 20, 2016, the LWVMT met with a task force that had been studying school bonds. This study was prompted by a request that the LWVMT support a specific school bond vote. The task force prepared a list of criteria that would be required for the LWVMT to endorse a school bond. Their recommendation was approved.

October-December: Unit meetings were devoted to the state study topic: a restudy of the LWVOK position on Oklahoma's fiscal policy. The study materials were divided into three sections with the Breakfast and Midtown Units discussing one section each month. In addition, on October 11, 2016, the Program Committee sponsored another Hot Topic Lunch on SQ 790, commonly referred to as the Ten Commandments Question. Michael Bates spoke in favor of removing the language from the state constitution that mandates the separation of church and state. James A. Huff from Americans United for Separation of Church and State spoke in opposition.

On November 9, the day following the election, Oklahoma Treasurer Ken Miller spoke on Oklahoma's Economic Report at a luncheon event co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa and the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce. Treasurer Miller's presentation was designed to coincide with the League's study of Oklahoma's fiscal policy.

On January 21, the Tulsa League held a consensus meeting on Oklahoma's fiscal policy. The responses from the LWVMT were entered into the state website section on the fiscal policy study and were later combined with the responses of the other state Leagues in order to arrive at a revised position statement.

In February, units conducted their annual review of local positions. There were some cosmetic changes suggested as well as a recommendation for a future local study. In March, the units discussed bills pending in the Oklahoma legislature and, in April the units looked at two positions that will be brought to the state convention in June for concurrence. These included the Stillwater League's position on drugs and the Tulsa League's position on support for school bond issues.

May 2, 2017, was the date for the League's last Hot Topic Lunch of the fiscal year. Teresa Burkett (a health care attorney), Carly Putnam (the Oklahoma Policy Institute's Health Care Specialist) and Susan Savage (Director of the Morton Comprehensive Health Program) spoke on Oklahoma's health care crisis. Unit meetings were devoted to discussing the barriers to voting that were identified by the Oklahoma Academy. The Breakfast and Midtown units will continue to meet through the summer of 2017.

Program Committee Members:, Emily Harris, Kathryn Hinkle, Mary Jane Lindaman, Charity Marcus, Deborah Whittaker, Debbie Zanovich, and Karen Cárdenas, Chair.