

**POVERTY IN TULSA AND IN OKLAHOMA  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METROPOLITAN TULSA  
MARCH DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR UNIT MEETINGS.**

The membership of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa voted to study poverty in our area at the 2012 annual meeting. This month's discussion will give members an opportunity to discuss their thoughts on this issue.

*Poverty does not persist in Oklahoma because we're not prosperous. It persists because we're not leveraging those public and private resources to achieve prosperity that can be widely shared.* (Kate Richey, "Five reasons poverty persists in Oklahoma," Oklahoma Policy Institute Blog, July 25, 2012)

The blog post by Ms. Richie lists the five reasons that poverty persists in our state as:

1. Underemployment and low wage work
2. Low educational attainment
3. Mass incarceration
4. Hunger and poor health
5. Inequality

*For more information, please read the article by Ms. Richie.*

**With your unit, please discuss the following questions.**

1. Do you think that the problem of poverty is increasing in Tulsa and in Oklahoma?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you think are the most basic causes of poverty in our area?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What are your biggest concerns related to poverty in Tulsa and in Oklahoma?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Are there changes in public policy, public spending, taxation, city planning, transportation, health care, public education OR ANY OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO POVERTY that the League of Women Voters could support that would begin to have an impact on poverty?