**League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa
Program Planning Committee
2016 Annual Report

Recommendations for 2016-2017 Program of Study\***

1**. Continue the Tulsa “Education Bond Policy”** **Study** which will conclude with a consensus meeting

2. Join the LWVOK in their **Restudy of the “State’s Fiscal Policy”** concluding with a consensus meeting;

3. **Review Tulsa’s postions/policies with the question, “Do we want to revise, retain, remove, restudy?”**

4. **Discussion** of the pros and cons **of state issues and propositions on the November 2016 ballot**.

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

History on why the Program Committee Chose these Studies

**1. School Bond Policy Study**: A year ago at the annual meeting, the membership approved the Education Bond Policy Study for the 2015-2016 year. The LWVMT chose this study because we want to be able to take action on school bond issues and having a policy allows us to do so. The committee needs more time to complete its work.
Committee members are Ros Elder, Julie Gustafson, Kara Gae Neal, and Chair Patti Mullen.

**2. Restudy of the LWVOK’s Fiscal Policy:** LWVMT, along with other local Oklahoma leagues, participated in the 2014-2015 review and a consensus meeting on the positions included in Oklahoma’s Program for Action. The LWVOK reviewed all the submitted recommendations and made the decision that the priority policy for the state to revise is the fiscal policy. Realistically, to accomplish the goals of state there first must be a strong state fiscal policy.

3. **Study** **Tulsa’s Program Positions.** These policies need to be reviewed annually to keep them up to date and viable. The last known report of a local study was 2011 (five years ago)**.**

4. **Study the issues/ propositions on the November ballot** to be informed voters**.**

**2015-2016 Annual Report**

The Tulsa League held three unit meetings each month in different parts of the city to accommodate members’ schedules. The League would like to start an Evening Unit Meeting if anyone is interested in doing so. Two public meetings and a presentation at a Langston University symposium were also given.

**Study Topics**

**North Tulsa Unit**

Members of the North Tulsa Unit participate in a year-long study “Re-Entry into Society after Prison”. Each month a different aspect of this topic was explored and experts on the subject were invited to join the conversation on occasion.

**Mid-town and Breakfast Units**

**September** – Knight Foundation’s article, “Why Millennials Don’t Vote for Mayor”. Members focused on factors hampering voter turnout to identify possible approaches for encouraging voter turnout.

**October** - **December** - A three month study of the LWVUS’s Money in Politics. This study mobilized the Tulsa League board to plan a **2016 public forum titled, “Money Power Ver$us the Power of the People”.**

January – State Senator Kyle Loveless’ Senate Bill 838 “**Asset Forfeiture, Creating the Personal Asset Protection Act, modifying procedures for forfeiture of certain property”.**

February – Ok**lahoma’s Budget Process – and suggested improvements.**

**March – “Proponents Say” and “Opponents Say” of Tulsa’s Vision 2025**, a $884.134 million renewal tax package, on the April 5, 2016 ballot.

**April** – R**eview of LWVMT’s positions/ policies**.

**May - Mid-town Unit** – Continued Review of LWVMT’s positions/policies. **Breakfast Unit –** discussed the provocative New York Times Article “Should Everybody Vote”.

Public Meetings

**October 2, 2015 -** a presentation at Langston University’s ***“Symposium on Social Justice”*** was sponsored by the North Tulsa Unit.  League member, Dr. Emily Patterson Harris spoke on “Collateral Consequences: Re-Entry into Society After Prison”.League volunteers manned a voter registration table.

**April 16, 2016 – “Life After Prison”,** a **public meeting,** waspresented at the Rudisill Library on March 28, 2016 by the North Tulsa Unit. Speakers includedRepresentative Regina Goodwin, District 73, who has authored HB2277: Elections; Voter Registration, Clarifying conditions for voter eligibility; Kelly Doyle, State Director Center for Employment Opportunities, Sabrina Ware, Director Goodwill Tulsa Works, Mary Dunlap, Coordinator Cherokee Nation Jobs and Development. All presenters were outstanding and extremely knowledgeable.  Forty people attended and many expressed interest in joining the league and asked to continue this dialogue.

**March 29 – The LWVMT sponsored a Meet and Greet along with the public forum, “Money Power Ver$us the Power of the People”.** The eventwas held at Founders Hall on the OU Tulsa Campus. Our co-sponsors were Voting Is Power, TYPros, and the Center for Democracy and Culture. Panel members were Trent England, Oklahoma Council of Public affairs; Tamara Piety, University of Tulsa College of Law; and Rodger Randle, the University of Oklahoma Professor, Department of Human Relations, Director, Center for Studies in Democracy and culture. Forty people attended. (See Committee Report at the League office). The committee suggests that the League sponsor an annual public meeting on a relevant topic.

Program Committee Members: Karen Cardenas, Mary Jane Lindaman, Charity Marcus, Deborah Whittaker, Debby Zanovich, and Julie Gustafson, Chair.