



## 2015 LWVTN Priority Issues

### **ELECTIONS: SUPPORT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS**

- Increase access to voting.
- Lessen the discriminatory effects of the Photo ID law and support its appeal.

### **EDUCATION: PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION**

- Support expansion of current funding levels as needed to provide quality public education, including an expansion of state-funded voluntary pre-kindergarten programs.
- Support policies that raise standards, improve student achievement, meet needs of diverse learners, and preserve health and safety.
- Monitor efforts to adopt and implement publicly funded charter schools, especially the potential impact on quality public education for all.
- Oppose public funding of private school vouchers. If adopted, vouchers should be limited to address the needs of low income and at-risk students whose educational needs are not currently being met.
- Support the current election of school boards and appointment of superintendents.

### **OPEN GOVERNMENT: ENSURE CITIZEN ACCESS**

- Support open government through access to public records, open meetings, public notice by printed and electronic means, and general government transparency.

### **RESPONSIBLE BUDGET: SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Support safety net services, such as community based services for children, education, health services, human services, mental health, and disability services systems.

### **HEALTH CARE REFORM: IMPLEMENT FULLY THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

- Support expansion of Medicaid (TennCare) to include adults with incomes up to 138% of poverty. Facilitate timely enrollment of eligible populations.
- Support the right to privacy in reproductive health care.

### **ENVIRONMENT: PROMOTE AND MONITOR GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TENNESSEE'S AIR, LAND, WATER, HUMAN HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Support restriction of mountain top removal and coal mining practices that damage the environment.
- Support restrictions to prevent discharge of wastes and other toxic substances into the air, land, and waters, including regulation of hydraulic fracturing of gas wells.
- Support the responsibility of both local and state government to conduct, promote, and implement effective environmentally sound land use planning.
- Support Tennessee state parks with adequate funding and oppose efforts to privatize ranger, research, wilderness protections, and similar services.

### **JUDICIAL SELECTION: SUPPORT MERIT-BASED SELECTION AND RETENTION OF APPELLATE JUDGES**

- Support a judicial selection process by statute or executive order that includes a nonpartisan body of citizens and members of the bar in the selection and evaluation of appellate judges to ensure an independent, qualified appellate bench in Tennessee, free of undue partisanship and political influence.

### **REVENUES: PROVIDE REVENUES FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ALL TENNESSEANS**

- Oppose reduction of revenue sources without replacing them with other sources of revenue.
- Support the collection of out-of-state sales tax, improving equity for consumers and businesses.

### **IMMIGRATION: ENSURE THAT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ARE TREATED FAIRLY**

- Support policy changes that allow Tennessee immigrant youth fair access to higher education.