

Do I Hear School Bells Ringing?

As we look forward to the LWVNH convention in June, a new excitement is building as League members learn that a new study may be proposed by the board of directors. Following the updated education position of the national League, NH should update its position on education. Both the national position and the LWVNH position can be found on the Positions page of our website – LWVNH.org.

What better way to engage in an in-depth policy discussion that can involve the community than to plan programs around education? This study will increase the League's impact locally and may increase our membership as we intensively review the important role of education for our children. An updated study will look at the state and local role in education. Of course the topic is far too broad for a two-year study and the most difficult part for the next few weeks will be determining the scope of a study. The scope of the study would outline the broad parameters to ensure that appropriate research and study can be conducted to form a position that would adhere to solid principles and become a standard for advocacy.

The recommendation for the new study will be presented to the convention for discussion and the members present would determine any amendments to the proposal and then the adoption or rejection of a study. Here's where we need your input. So your homework is to answer the following question: What are the areas you would like the League to consider for a study?

- Financing – ex. State role, local share, vouchers, etc
- Kindergarten and pre-K programs – benefits and challenges
- Post-secondary opportunities in NH
- State vs. local control
- Charter schools
- Role of standardized testing
- Content material – e.g. common core, standards
- Roles and responsibility of the state
- Special education
- Other areas

If you have preferences for any aspect of this topic or just want to comment, don't pick up your chalk and blackboard, but please contact Peg Fargo at pfargo@hotmail.com before May 12, 2017.