

SUSTAINABILITY MEETING GUIDE

LWVCO Study Committee 2009

1. Review Background material. Understand what sustainability means: Definition, League concept of sustainability, dynamic between and integration of position areas, how to measure. Brief history, Sustainable Elements, Graphs, Glossary, LWV California action policy and Task Force Report, Jeffco study. (Background, Appendices I, II, V, and VI)

2. Sustainability examples in communities, business, government, social and environmental policies. (Appendices IV and VII)

3. Review the examples of how League positions (LWVCO and LWVUS) implicitly or explicitly use sustainability. (Appendix III)

4. Discussion Questions:

1) Where does League fit Sustainability into its action program? League approaches issues through action on governmental agencies. How does Sustainability work into League action? Does the Sustainability of legislation need to be applied to Government, Social Policy, and Natural Resource aspects in order to assess a position?

2) Is Sustainability an overarching principle, taking into account all issue areas, that must be applied to all legislation before reaching a position?

3) Should Sustainability be the most important overarching principle to be considered in reaching a position in governmental policy and legislation?

4) Is Sustainability the most important issue in today's world?

5) How does Sustainability fit into climate change policy, energy efficiency, sufficient water and food, the economy, and other major concerns in the global picture?

5. Does Principle statement adequately convey the concept of sustainability for use with and among our position areas?

Principles Statement

Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environment, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal.

The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with the fundamental principle of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations.