

# 2023 - 2024 Local Program, League of Women Voters of Manatee County

## **DIVERSITY**

1. Promote a philosophy of inclusion that reflects the diverse composition of the community.
2. Support equal rights for all citizens in our community and actively seek the voices of residents and their needs.
3. Hold or participate in local programs that provide education on bias and promote a healing in the community.

## **EDUCATION**

1. Promote adequate funding, exemplary instructional practices, and wide range of support services for students in Manatee County's public schools, that result in grade-level literacy and other indicators of improved student outcomes.
2. Monitor and encourage membership engagement in matters of Manatee District School Board's governance.
3. Convene programs on educational issues and take part in collaborative efforts.
4. Monitor the impact of state legislation on teaching and learning locally.

## **GOVERNMENT**

1. Familiarize citizens with the workings of government and encourage participation.
2. Promote ethics in local government.
3. Promote transparency and adherence to the Sunshine Laws.
4. Encourage growth decisions that avoid negative impacts on existing neighborhoods, infrastructure and the environment.
5. Support and promote National Popular Vote.

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## **HEALTH**

1. Conduct educational programs on health care issues.
2. Support health care availability for low-income and other uninsured citizens.
3. Encourage citizen awareness of available local resources for health care.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. Promote protection for Manatee County's ecosystems and natural resources.
2. Conduct educational programs and advocate to address climate change and other environmental issues.
3. Encourage conservation land acquisition in Manatee County and monitor implementation of the successful county referendum.
4. Encourage the local use of clean energy, energy conservation, and carbon neutrality.
5. Participate in environmental collaborations and Florida LWV initiatives.

## **SOCIAL ISSUES**

1. Provide education and encourage legislative and local initiatives to help children and families and older adults.
2. Support solutions that ensure a strong and stable pathway to affordable housing and dynamic support services and structures that provide options instead of obstacles to community members who are experiencing poverty or homelessness.
3. Support rehabilitation programs for drug and alcohol abuse.
4. Encourage and support sound local policies for immigrants in the community.
5. Support local criminal justice reform and common sense gun safety measures.
6. Encourage local action to prevent and prosecute human trafficking.

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## **VOTER SERVICES**

1. Conduct voter registration drives and encourage citizens to register.
2. Sponsor programs to educate the public about government and elections.
3. Distribute Voter Guides and provide website information during elections.
4. Establish Vote411 as a digital alternative voters' guide.
5. Provide the Citizen's Guide to Elected Officials on our League's website.
6. Hold, or collaborate in holding, candidate forums during elections.
7. Promote high voter turnout, awareness and improvement of voting options.