

## **Local Program 2026 - 2027**

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) PROGRAM (April 2021)**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Implement the DEI policies of LWVUS and LWVFL by seeking to diversify our membership, carry out educational and awareness activities, and ensure that DEI principles are infused into the work of LWV Polk's standing committees.

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS (January 2014)**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Advocate for school grade assessments to take into consideration the type of student population of each public and charter school. This does not include advocacy for schools with entry-exit policies that dismiss or counsel out students with low grades or low test scores.
2. Support that charter school management companies and/or boards be made up of a majority of people residing in Polk County and shall have the same transparency required of other public boards.
3. Support that each district and the charters within that district shall be required to meet at least once annually to share innovative ideas and programs.
4. Support that regulations for all public schools shall be as flexible as those for charter schools, providing the same opportunities for creativity and innovation that are currently allowed only in charter schools.

### **COUNTY GOVERNMENT (May 2005)**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Support a county government with all powers not expressly prohibited by the Constitution or by general law.
2. Support efficient and economical county government with competent personnel with clear assignment of responsibilities.
3. Support coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
4. Support a county government which is responsive to the will of the people.
5. Support a County Charter that provides for initiative, recall, and Charter amendments by petition of the people.
6. Advocate that the Office of Supervisor of Elections be returned to a nonpartisan office.
7. Support a county tax structure that provides for a county budget which is based on adequate, predictable, and equitable funding.

## **FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION (May 2002)**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Support public education to prevent firearm injuries and deaths.
2. Work with professionals to identify persons at risk and develop effective intervention methods.
3. Support efforts to reduce injuries and deaths from domestic violence using firearms.
4. Support legislation to ensure that in Polk County handguns are sold only to legally qualified buyers and can be traced if used in crime.
5. Support law enforcement efforts to prevent and reduce the incidence of firearm violence.
6. Support research on gun violence issues in Polk County.

## **SCHOOLS (December 1999)**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Support a school system that focuses on excellent educational opportunities for all students.
2. Support optimum class size and competitive teacher pay at the state average as a minimum.
3. Support that every public school has sufficient and qualified teachers and guidance counselors and sufficient educational equipment and supplies including computers and books. Principals should be qualified and kept accountable through performance reviews.
4. Support a district-wide curriculum that assures teachers have the freedom to teach creatively and students the opportunity for continuity in their learning. Curriculum review should be ongoing.
5. Support building and transportation safety as priorities.
6. Support a school environment conducive to learning and development of a plan to eliminate portable classrooms.
7. Support parental involvement as essential to productive learning, and support the district in continually, actively, and creatively striving to involve parents in their students' learning, and seeking community partnerships.
8. Support using outstanding district public schools as models to improve lower performing schools.
9. Support measures to assure accountability with minimal disruption to school programs.
10. Support funding primarily from a fair and equitable state formula.
11. Support a flexible and focused mission statement for establishment of Schools of Choice.

## **HEALTH CARE SERVICES (March 1998)**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Support the availability of adequate emergency services for the citizens of Polk County
2. Support healthcare for the indigent throughout the county and support a county initiative toward monitoring and improving their healthcare.
3. Support countywide transportation for accessibility to healthcare with the locations and available services to be widely publicized where the indigent are found most frequently throughout the county.
4. Support preventive care and education as part of the healthcare program. Support all area full service hospitals, including adequate emergency care for the indigent.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Raise public awareness of climate crisis, renewable energy, and conservation.
2. Advocate for environmental justice and equity.
3. Facilitate a Carbon-Free Florida by promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, regenerative agriculture, and increased urban green spaces and tree canopies.
4. Advocate expansion of rooftop and utility solar.
5. Advocate transition to electric vehicles, EV charging stations, and clean mass transit.
6. Support policies promoting protections and acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, waters, and wetlands.
7. Support ban of natural gas fracking along Florida's coast.
8. Encourage governmental entities to hire sustainability coordinators and develop bold sustainability, resiliency, and net-zero carbon goals.

## **LIBRARY**

The LWV Polk County will:

1. Support countywide public library service in Polk County, including borrowing privileges, available to all residents within the county.
2. Support the Polk County Library Cooperative based on
  1. adequate, predictable, and equitable funding
  2. strong, independent governance
  3. citizen input with a Citizens Advisory Council
  4. a full-time cooperative administrator
3. Support the full funding of eligible public library systems provided in Section 257.17 of the Florida Statutes.