



*The League of Women Voters Kansas City
- Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties*

Website: www.lwvkc.org – email- lwvkcjcp@yahoo.com

VOTER - September 2015

**PLEASE ATTEND – Meeting
THIS SATURDAY; September 19, 2015**

TOPIC: MONEY IN POLITICS

Part of LWVUS National Study

Speakers: Bill Raney and ACLU

SOCIAL TIME: 9:30 am PROGRAM BEGINS 10:00 am

Community Christian Church – South Building

4601 Main St. Kansas City, MO 64112

SAVE THE DATE

October 17, 2015

Constitution Study Meeting

North Kansas City Hospital Barry room

9:30 Social/10am Meeting Begins

Co-President's Message - Reflections on being Non-Partisan ***Linda Smith & Donna Hoch***

As the election season accelerates in the United States, the public is immersed in a sea of partisanship. In both the Democrat and Republican parties, would-be candidates for the Presidency articulate positions that more-or-less align with the respective values and philosophies articulated by their political party. In the process, candidates usually seek to align their statements with views of the core voters of their party. They also try to articulate new ideas that are also consistent with the values of their political party.

The positions which politicians and political parties take are on issues and policies that are of concern to all inhabitants of the United States – education, access to health care, the environment, climate change, gun ownership and use, immigration, transportation, science, taxation, how elections should be financed, and much more. The often stark differences between the two major political parties' positions have given rise in civil society to the view that these are "partisan" issues. This perception is often reinforced by the political pundits who hash and rehash which politician and which party has taken this or that stand. The current polarization within the U.S. Congress has made matters worse.

Does this have implications for the League of Women Voters and the positions it develops on issues? The answer is an emphatic "no." No political party owns an issue. They may have differing views but they do not "own" it.

The Bylaws and Certification of Incorporation of the of the League of Women Voters states in Article II, Purposes and Policy:

“Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVUS are to promote political responsibility through informed active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.”

The League pursues the development of its program of work at the national, state and local guided by Article XII, Principles and Program. These principles for program development and related processes are carried out without reference to any political party.

Why is it important for us to visit this question? First and foremost, members of the League and the public need to understand that, while the League is non-partisan, it is not constrained regarding study of an issue because it is the subject of debate between political parties that have taken divergent views on the matters involved. Secondly, from time-to-time, prospective members question whether we are, in fact, non-partisan. On some issues we may take a position that aligns with so-called liberal views. On other issues the League may take a position that is more consistent with a so-called conservative view. Where we stand is always intended to be non-partisan and based on a study and decision-making process outlined in the By-laws of LWVUS. www.lwv.org.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dixie Brown/Pauli Kendrick

Those who have not yet paid dues for this year will owe \$60. We will be collecting dues at the meeting September 19 at the Christian Church at Main and Cleaver Blvd. Bring a friend and join us for a program on Money in Politics.

EDUCATION

Delores Blaser

The following two MO Legislature bills that passed and Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed, can be changed with an override Sept. 15, 2015 by the MO Legislature.

SB224 - Requires a student to be United States citizen or permanent or lawfully present resident in order to be eligible to receive reimbursement from the A+ Schools program. The MO A+ Schools program pays for two years at designated community colleges or technical schools.

HB 42 - School student transfer. Modifies the student transfer law, which allows students in provisional and unaccredited schools an opportunity to attend accredited public schools in adjoining school districts except those districts with less than 3000 students (Center and Ft. Osage). Also would expand charter and virtual (online) schools into Jackson and St. Louis Counties beyond Kansas City Public School (KCPS) and St. Louis Public School districts.

Existing related laws for the above:

A+ Schools - Students sign an A+ Agreement, attend an A+ Designated high school for 3 consecutive years, high school graduate with GPA 2.5, proficient or advanced on Algebra I End-Of-Course exam, attendance of 95% or more in 4 years of high school, perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring, and good citizenship.

MO DESE 520 Public Traditional School Districts - Charter schools are not accredited by MO Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education. Charters choose independent accrediting agencies with different criteria.
Accredited - 501
Provisionally accredited - 11 Kansas City Public Schools and Hickman Mills districts +
Unaccredited - 2 Riverview Gardens and Normandy

MO Statewide Required Assessments (MAP): English language arts & math grades 3-8, science grades 5 & 8. End-Of-Course Assessments: Algebra I, English II, Biology I, and American Government. The 2015 grade-level End-Of-Course assessments in English and math set a new baseline with higher expectations for student performance and should not be compared with MAP (MO Assessment Program) results from previous years. School district results at MO DESE website.

Women's Equality Week wrap-up

Jane McClain

League's 95th Birthday Celebration was a Rousing Opening of Women's Equality Week 2015.

Monday, August 24th seventy-six people joined the League of Women Voters Kansas City, Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties and the league of Women Voters Johnson County, Kansas to celebrate 95 years of women voting and the League. The celebratory atmosphere was sparked by Heartsong, of the Kansas City Women's Chorus with four songs honoring women leaders from Sojourner Truth to Maya Angelou. Donna Lauter, Shur Fellow for the LWVUS and member of the Johnson County League MC'd the program introducing the two Kansas City city council members, Alissia Canady and Katharyn Shields and the Leagues co-presidents. Sandy Praeger, former Kansas Insurance Commissioner and Kay Barnes, former Kansas City, Missouri Mayer gave moving talks on their experiences as elected women leaders. What does it take to be a woman leader? It takes encouragement, integrity, a willingness to find all the facts on an issue, confidence, fortitude, and a positive, hopeful attitude. The Q&A session climaxed the program with a lively discussion of how younger women become leaders lead by Council Woman Alissia Canady and Heartsong member Jennifer Gormely. The attendees lingered to discuss insights, network, and enjoy the birthday cake.

FORUMS

Charles Steele

The Forums committee is working on a Candidate Forum for Missouri House District 29 [Noel Torpey's empty seat]. We hope to work again with Jeff Fox of the Independence Examiner and hold it at a local library. There are currently three candidates.

The Parkville Political Panel Forum in Platte County was held on September 10 at the Airport Marriott Hotel. Linda Smith, Co-Moderator of the League moderated. The panel of speakers consisted of 14 elected officials from all levels of government -- KCMO City Council, three mayors (Parkville, Riverside, Platte City), two from the Platte County Council, including the Presiding Chairman, one State Representative, one State Senator, as well as representatives of Representative Sam Graves and Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt on the panel. There were 76 participants from around the county. The questions were challenging and focused on development issues, sources of funding sources, taxation, and the KCI airport.

Member Interviews

Carolyn Weeks

This interview of Susan and Sandy Eeds represents one of nine 2015 household memberships. The Eeds are active, interested, and interesting new members. Their expertise is highly important to our studies.

Susan Eeds discovered the League of Women Voters through her husband's inquisitive phone call to a county office about voter registration activity, and their response by attending their first League meeting. She is multi-talented. After receiving a degree in interior design from Southwest Missouri State, she worked for 18 years on various projects such as hotels and banks, and later for a sports architecture firm and on restaurants, suites, office spaces, locker rooms. Later she went back to college for her Master's in counseling psychology and an Ed.S. in the same field. For eight years she worked as a therapist for individuals and couples.

Edward "Sandy" found us by calling the Democratic Party executive in Jackson County about getting involved in voter registration. They suggested the League. The LWV KC/JCP web site information was convincing, and he signed on. He graduated from Farmington High School and the University of New Mexico with a B.F.A. degree in Architecture. He moved to Kansas City in 1990 to work for HOK Sports (now Populous) as a project manager becoming a principal in 1992. The first half of his time at Populous was spent on sports projects in Hong Kong, San Francisco, Cincinnati and various places in the US and overseas. During the last half he developed convention center projects in Phoenix, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Antonio and Qatar. He retired from Populous at the end of 2013. His initial and continuing volunteer activity is tutoring students for Literacy KC, an endeavor he really enjoys. He says, "reading has given me much, and I want to help others become fluent." His concern is civic engagement, especially voting and voter apathy, a sense of disempowerment in all segments of the population, and the corrupting influence of money on the governing process.

Susan and Sandy share concerns about politics and how money is spent. They both enjoy traveling the US and various parts of the world. Their travels take them to visit grown sons and two fantastic granddaughters. Each relish the time spent on their house and garden in Brookside. Both are movie fans. A big WELCOME to the Eeds!

IN MEMORY

Former League Member:

Joyce Stark died August 26 at home in Santa Fe, N.M. Her death was caused by Frontotemporal Dementia. She was an active member of the League when she lived in KC. By profession, Joyce was a public school educator and later, an economist for a Kansas City research firm. As a volunteer, she was President of Tri-County LWV in the 1970's, President of the Kansas City, MO School Board, Chair of the Global Mission Unit for the Presbyterian Church (USA); and served her community in many other ways.

Joyce had a burning desire for justice and peace, not only in her local communities, but across the world. Much of her life was spent in championing the cause of quality public education for ALL children. Their daughters were primary plaintiffs in a desegregation lawsuit to remove the last vestiges of segregation in the KCMO School District. She served as an education lobbyist at the state and national levels.

She is survived by her husband, Bill, of 57 years, her daughters, Marg of San Diego, CA, Cate of Kansas City, MO, 4 grandsons as well as two brothers. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Rev. Bill Stark 2700 Herradua #D Santa Fe, NM 87505-6821

Some members have made a contribution to the LWVMO Education Fund to honor her memory and the many services she did for the League of Women Voters. If you would like to do this just make your check to LWVMO Education Fund and send it to our Treasurer, Caroline Arnold, at 416 W 88th Street, Kansas City, MO 64114. (This is a tax deductible contribution.)

Virginia Lawless, age 80, died July 24, 2015 after a short illness. We will miss her input on many League committees and her special interest in Voter Service activities. She grew up in Southeast Missouri and graduated, magna cum laude, in Education from Southeast Missouri University. She earned an MA degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Missouri-Columbia and worked as a counselor in St. Charles and North Kansas City schools. Virginia married Ed Lawless, a professor and research physicist. They had six children and 56 years together. In later years Virginia was a leader in many church and civic activities such as Great Books, Cub Scouts and the Church Community Organization. She substituted in the Kansas City MO school district and served as an election judge for 15 years.

Public Transit

Sarah Madrid and Margie Richcreek

Local transit proponents are applauding a move in Jefferson City that renews the half-cent sales tax they say is critical for funding public transportation in Kansas City.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon signed the bill that will provide about \$35 million in annual funding to the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority. The legislation also permanently locks the tax in place, meaning the legislature will not need to renew it.

Here's more from a KCATA press release:

Public transit counts heavily on the sales tax, which makes up more than a third of the KCATA's annual budget.

"This is such an important piece of legislation for Kansas City," said KCATA President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Reardon. "This money is the lifeblood needed for connecting people to economic opportunity. It sets in place the foundation for building a seamless transit network tying the metro area together."

Robbie Makinen, chairman of the KCATA Board of Commissioners, thanked lawmakers for recognizing the importance of the funding to Kansas City.

"We are grateful for the support we received from the Missouri General Assembly for service so vital to so many Kansas City residents," Makinen said.

"This funding ensures that not only will we have a service that helps our residents get work, to the doctor and to the store, but sets the stage for an interconnected regional transit system that helps people throughout our metro area."

The sales tax has been in place since 1971 when Missouri lawmakers authorized Kansas City and St. Louis to impose up to a 1-cent sales tax for transit.

Midtown KC Post, July 14, 2015

LWV KC Fund Raiser

Sue Scholl

Women in Song - Monday, March 14, 2016 Quality Hill Play House – 303 W 10th St

Quality Hill Play House (QHP) has donated 50 tickets to the League of Women Voters to use as a fund raiser. We will sell each ticket for \$20. If you want to purchase tickets, reserve your seat by sending an email to Peg Prendergast at shapeshome@yahoo.com Buy one, buy several!! What a great way to see a GREAT show and support both LWV and Quality Hill Play House.

CONSTITUTION STUDY

Pauline Testerman

In beginning our study of the U. S. Constitution, I'd like to share the thoughtful preface from one of the articles, "Great and Extraordinary Occasions" by the Citizens for the Constitution, a Project of the Century Foundation. I have paraphrased some of this information:

"The nation's Founders purposely wrote a Constitution that would be difficult to amend. They believed that our nation had to be based on a stable constitutional structure that would create respect for the rule of law, and thus foresaw a limited need for amendments. James Madison, in the The Federalist No. 49, argued that the U. S. Constitution should be amended only on "great and extraordinary occasions." And indeed, this nation has followed his advice.

In recent years, however, there has been an explosion in the number of proposed constitutional amendments on almost every conceivable topic. Amendment proposals now often seem to be the favored first-step panacea for all societal ills. These proposals frequently deal with matters of social policy that are more appropriately the subject of legislation than of constitutional amendment. In the 105th Congress alone, nine amendments - on flag desecration, a balanced budget, term limits, tax increases, facilitation of state-proposed constitutional amendments, victim's rights, religious equality, the electoral college, and campaign finance - received subcommittee, committee, or floor consideration. The 106th Congress promises more of the same.

The current spate of constitutional amendments seems to stem from the unfounded notion that the Constitution is an obstacle to the current public interest and that our most vexing problems can be solved easily by changing the principles that have guided the nation for more than two hundred years. Our Constitution is durable precisely because it sets up a delicately balanced system, based upon enduring principles, for governing a complex and diverse country.

It permits us a wide range of policy choices, leaving it to us, as members of a democratic republic, to debate and judge the wisdom of opposing ideas and to offer solutions that meet our present needs without locking us into a policy choice for all time. And yet, the Constitution has also been an effective constraint on the exercise of government power, enabling a wise people to pursue the wishes of the majority while still holding essential individual liberties sacred. Experience demonstrates that a constitution cannot solve all societal ills, and that "we the people" must tackle these issues head-on. Those who fail to make hard but necessary legislative choices and instead falsely imply to the American people that constitutional amendments will solve our country's problems only increase the public cynicism that is often the real obstacle to solving these problems."

Heartland Coalition AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Gun Violence – A Public Health Issue

October 12

*Location: Kauffman Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Road*

*Registration: Only room for 200 – sign up fast!
<https://gunviolenceapublichealthissue.eventbrite.com>*

Program Schedule

The Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence presents *Gun Violence – A Public Health Issue*. This second annual event is being held at the Kauffman Conference Center and will bring together like-minded individuals who are concerned with the spread of gun violence in our culture. The purpose is to begin changing the culture of violence by deepening the understanding of the issues involved. Participants will come away with the language and talking points to use in conversation, and strategies for next steps in moving our culture to a more responsible and sensible gun policy and practice.

Schedule

8:00 - 8:45 am Registration - Coffee

9:00 - 9:15 am Welcome and any elected introductions

9:15 - 10:00 am Keynote Address: Gun Violence – A Public Health Issue Dr. Rex Archer, Director of Health, KCMO Health Department

10:05 - 10:30 am Special Presentation - Sandy & Lonnie Phillips (Introduced by Rep. Stacey Newman)

10:35 - 11:15 am 1st Breakout

11:25 - 12:10 pm 2nd Breakout

12:15 - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:10 - 1:55 pm 3rd Breakout

2:00 - 2:45 pm Plenary Session - Panel Presentation Local Initiatives to include Ad Hoc; NoVa; Aim4Peace, AdHoc – Damon Daniel, KC NoVa Sgt. Chris Young, Aim4 Peace – Tracie McClendon

2:45 - 3:00 pm Motivational Wrap Up and Call to Action

3:15 pm Adjourn

Breakout Sessions (choose three of five sessions)

1. Effect of exposure to violence on children: The sound of gun shots and exposure various forms of violence – including Domestic Violence – at a young age changes the structure of the brain in children. We will learn about successful programs in other cities. **Presenter:** Dr. Denise Dowd, pediatric emergency medicine physician at Children’s Mercy Hospital.

2. Policy recommendations: Outlines the policy and legislative recommendations for risk-based firearm policy, gun safety, background checks; what are other states doing; what is happening on the Federal, State level? **Presenters:** State Representatives Barbara Bollier (KS) Judy Morgan (MO).

3. Children and Gun Safety: Presents the alarming statistics about the number of accidental deaths and injuries to children when guns are present; includes the Asking Saves Kids (A.S.K.) program. **Presenter:** Dr. Kimberly Randell, pediatric emergency medicine physician at Children’s Mercy.

4. Risk factors that lead to gun violence: How to recognize risk factors within people in your circle; explores options for getting help when the risk factors are present; includes mental health issues, domestic violence and the possibility of suicide or doing harm to others. **Presenters:** Morning sessions – Dr. Jean McCabe, Licensed Psychologist; afternoon session – Dr. David Lang.

5. Using the creative process in order to heal: Attendees will use simple, fun activities that invite healing. Poster board, markers, journals and more are provided for hands-on activity using art forms like guided meditation, dance, poetry, and fiber art. No one needs to be an artist, poet or musician to participate. **Presenters:** Nedra Bonds “The Quilt Lady” and Friends

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT STUDY

The members of this year's study committee hope that you will participate in the first of this year's studies, on Amending the Constitution. Nationally some LWV members have called for consideration of a Constitutional Convention to deal with the issue of campaign finance. But would this be a good idea? If so, how should the convention process be handled? Those are our questions.

In this issue of *The Voter* you will find a Discussion and Reading Guide on this topic, as well as the Consensus Questions we will consider in October. Our task until then is to inform ourselves through the Constitution Day program and readings. If you have never participated in a LWV study, this is the process through which LWVUS determines its positions – from the grassroots level.

Your participation matters!

Constitutional Amendment Study: Discussion and Reading Guide

Background Information on Amending the Constitution

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides **two ways of proposing amendments**. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, 38 at present.

- 1. Congress**, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification.
- 2. Legislatures of two-thirds of the states** (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a **convention** to propose amendments; this is commonly called an Article V Convention.

The first method has been used to submit 33 amendments to the states, beginning with the Bill of Rights. Of these, 27 were approved, 26 are currently in effect, and one – the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) — was repealed. The second method, an Article V Convention, has **never** been successfully invoked, although states have submitted numerous petitions to Congress to call a convention.

In the 1970s the American Bar Association studied the convention process and made the following recommendations:

- Congress should establish **clear guidelines and timelines** for a convention through legislation consistent with Article V, rather than waiting until a “crisis.” This should include provision for independent judiciary review of the process and outcomes.
- Any convention should be **limited to the single topic** stated in the petition. This would avoid a general or what some fear would be a “runaway” convention.
- **Delegates to the convention should be elected by the people** and should be **proportional** to each state's population (similar to the House of Representatives). (John D. Feerick, *Amending the Constitution Through a Convention*. *American Bar Association Journal* March, 1974, Volume 60, pp. 285-288)

However, Congress has not adopted such recommendations, and the process remains very vague. Experts hold very different views on the possibility of a convention.

The study will explore the process for proposing an Article V Convention in order to determine whether LWVUS would support such a convention and if so, under what circumstances.

Questions to Consider

As you listen and read, consider the following to prepare for the consensus meeting. How would the convention process work? How *should* it work?

- What is or should be the role of Congress in the process? (Continued on next page)

Constitutional Amendment Study Discussion and Reading Guide (Continued from previous page)

- How can/should delegates be selected by the states? By the legislature? Appointed, and if so by whom? Election? Can states have different selection systems? Different numbers of delegates?
- How should delegates be apportioned? By state population? By state, with each state having the same number of representatives?
- Convention action
 - Should the convention be limited to considering a single topic?
 - Does each state have one vote or is voting based on population?
 - Who sets the rules of procedure, including voting by state or by individual delegates –majority or super majority vote?
 - Can the convention hold secret sessions?
 - When does the convention end?
- Ratification
 - Is Congress required to send any amendments proposed by an Article V Convention to the states for ratification?
 - If the Convention proposes multiple amendments, can the states ratify selectively?
 - Who pays? Can the President block an Article V Convention by vetoing any appropriation for the Convention's work?
- Court review: What, if anything, should be reviewed by federal or state courts?

Before the October consensus meeting, you can inform yourself by:

- Looking at the following video and readings. Each one has a link for easy access.

James Madison Montpelier Center. Amending the Constitution. Brief (7 min.) video on the history of the amendment provisions. <https://vimeo.com/125476244>

Synopsis of “Constitutional Amendments and the Constitutional Common Law.” A summary of a longer article (link is provided in the synopsis) *favoring* the possibility of a Constitutional convention. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/synopsis-%E2%80%9Cconstitutional-amendments-and-constitutional-common-law%E2%80%9D>

Synopsis of “Constitutional Amendmentitis.” A summary of a longer article (link provided in the synopsis) *opposing* the movement toward a Constitutional convention. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/synopsis-%E2%80%9Cconstitutional-amendmentitis>

For more extensive information:

Constitutional Amendment Study Guide. LWVUS has posted an extensive (24 pages plus links to documents) to accompany the consensus questions. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendmentstudy-guide>

The Article V Convention to Propose Constitutional Amendments: Contemporary Issues for Congress. Thomas H. Neale, Specialist in American National Government Congressional Research Service April 11, 2014 (43 pages). This article, prepared by the Congressional Research Service, focuses on the procedural issues that Congress might face invoking an Article V convention. It covers recent developments, including the balanced budget amendment. <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42589.pdf>

The Article V Convention for Proposing Constitutional Amendments: Historical Perspectives for Congress. Thomas H. Neale, Specialist in American National Government Congressional Research Service, October 12, 2012 (22 pages) This article, prepared by the Congressional Research Service, places the Article V convention in historical perspective. It addresses historical and current efforts to invoke a convention, as well as the role of the states in the process. <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42592.pdf>

Constitutional Amendment Consensus Questions

The questions are grouped into three Parts. For each question we will decide
1) Should/Agree, 2) Should Not/Disagree, or 3) No Consensus.

Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

1. Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?

a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.

PRO: Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.

CON: When public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of change, restraint based on veneration of the document is misplaced.

b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective.

PRO: Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective or have unintended consequences will not work to achieve the policy objective.

CON: It's all right to deliberately put something in the Constitution that will need to be interpreted by courts and legislatures over time.

c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.

PRO: Most amendments have sought to make our system more democratic by extending voting rights, for example, or to protect the rights of minorities from powerful interests.

CON: What has been typical in the past is not a good measure of what's appropriate or necessary today or in the future, especially since there have been relatively few amendments.

d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.

PRO: Due to the difficulty of amending the Constitution, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment, in order to achieve the objective and to expend resources wisely.

CON: Important policy objectives should sometimes be pursued through a constitutional amendment even though it may be difficult for it to be enacted and even when other options are available.

e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

PRO: It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.

CON: Getting action on an issue is more important than how a policy objective can best be achieved.

Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention

2. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?

a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

PRO: *The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on.*

CON: *The lack of public scrutiny and the ability to negotiate in private may enable delegates to more easily reach agreement.*

b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

PRO: *The delegates represent citizens and should be distributed by U.S. population.*

CON: *The U.S. is really a federation of states that must agree by state to any change in the Constitution.*

c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

PRO: *Delegates represent citizens and therefore need to be elected by them.*

CON: *Appointment allows for experts who wouldn't run in an election.*

d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.

PRO: *As at the Articles of Confederation Convention, delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes.*

CON: *Because any amendment proposal will go to the states for ratification, voting by state blocs—however the delegates are originally chosen—reflects the probability of eventual ratification.*

e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

PRO: *It is important to guard against a "runaway convention".*

CON: *The convention alternative was provided for a time when Congress was not listening, so the delegates should not be constrained.*

f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.

PRO: *Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a convention, and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process.*

CON: *There is no requirement for Congress to count state requests by topic and when enough states are unhappy enough to ask for a convention, it should happen.*

g) The validity of state "calls" for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

PRO: *A state legislature should be free to determine its position in regard to an Article V Constitutional Convention. A rescission should be equally acceptable to Congress as a state's call for a convention.*

CON: *A state legislature's call for a Convention cannot be overturned because the process may never end.*

3. Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

PRO: *The Constitution is too important to trust an unknown or uncontrollable process. It is unclear whether conditions or safeguards regarding powers and processes for a convention can be successfully put in place.*

CON: *A convention is intended to be an unrestrained process to propose amendments to the Constitution.*

Part III – Balancing Questions

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:

a) There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?

PRO: *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the evaluation guidelines we support under Part I.*

CON: *If the League has a consensus on the evaluation guidelines outlined in Part I, then the League should not campaign on an amendment when it is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

b. It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?

PRO: *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the process criteria we support under Part II.*

CON: *If the League has a consensus on the process criteria outlined in Part II, then the League should not campaign for an amendment when the process being proposed is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

Comment Section (max. 500 words)