



The League of Women Voters of Vermont (LWVVT) would like your League to support our request to have a discussion of our privatization position on the recommended agenda for the LWV National Convention in Washington, DC, this June.

The League of Women Voters of Vermont believes that the national position on privatization is not sufficient to support the advocacy needed to protect our health care resources.

The LWVUS position does not include health care as a public good, even though:

- health care for the elderly and disabled, children, and the poor has been generally recognized as a public good for decades
- an unfunded federal mandate requires hospitals to provide emergency care, regardless of ability to pay, which places the burden of payment on the rest of the public, and
- the LWVUS *Meeting Basic Human Needs* position includes health care as a basic human need for which government should bear the financial responsibility for those unable to afford it themselves.

In addition, though Vermont found the criteria for choosing whether to privatize a public good to be well-crafted, the LWVUS position did not address what should be done if a private entity providing a public good failed to meet those criteria.

Further, the national position was created in 2012. Much has changed and much has been learned since then. So we felt the need for a fresh study of privatization and, perhaps, a new state position to supplement the national position.

After months of study and a consensus meeting, the League of Women Voters of Vermont Board of Directors approved a new position. Then, at a special convention, members voted unanimously to adopt the position.

Our state position allows us to not just educate but also advocate at the local and state levels. However, we still cannot adequately address the privatization of Medicare because it is a federal program, and advocacy at the national level requires a national position.

For this reason, and also to allow League members across the country to benefit from the work of our study, we would like to propose an [update](#) to the national privatization position by adding the language of our state position via concurrence. We would like your help getting this proposal on the agenda for the June convention as a recommended item. On a separate sheet, or at this [webpage](#), you will find instructions on how you can support updating the LWVUS privatization position. Please contact us at [lww.vt.update@gmail.com](mailto:lww.vt.update@gmail.com) with questions and comments.

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