**Constitutional Amendment Study – 2015**

**League of Women Voters United States**

**III Suggestions for Unit Meetings – Consensus Questions**

A. Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals (I - Basic information)

1. LWV Principles one and two will help w/ these questions:
	1. LWV believes in representative gov’t and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the US.
	2. LWV believes that democratic gov’t depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
2. History of our Constitution and the amendments that have been added:
	1. We have had one constitutional convention – in 1787, w/ George Washington as the president of the convention and including such familiar names as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin.
	2. The first ten amendments = the Bill of Rights, written by James Madison and adopted as a package in 1791 and including the following:
		1. Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition; searches and seizures, criminal proceedings, due process, etc.
		2. Seventeen additional amendments have been added in the last 224 years, including the Civil War amendments and women and 18-year-olds right to vote.

B. Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention

1. I – Basic information and II - Article V Convention to Propose Constitutional Amendments will be required to complete the Consensus Questions.
2. The Preamble might help: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

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