



LWVMpls Board Recommended Program 2020-2021 Revised and approved by the Board on June 13, 2020

In keeping with our League's Framework on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Board had recommended in the 'Recommended Program 2020-2021' that was sent to you on May 27th, a focus on the health of our city as an overarching theme for this coming year. Given the recent events in our city and the calls for action that have come out of those events, we feel that a focus on 'The Health of the City of Minneapolis' is even more relevant now.

RACISM in every form is a major health problem in our city and it results in major health issues including violence. Medical health issues are most often a consequence of socioeconomic disparities. Socioeconomic disparities are a consequence of racism.

Questions which could be addressed through a program focus on 'Health of our City' include:

- Was George Floyd's death due to racism?
- Is this another black human being dying because of a 400 year old crime against all of humanity?
- Do we think there is an immediate problem of policing that must be dealt with now?

But, we believe we also need to ask:

- Is there a more insidious problem of structural racism?
- How can we as a community address implicit and unconscious racism?
- Do the ongoing disparities in the education system raise the question of structural racism for our community?

We have looked at homeownership disparity and have been able to uncover structural racism through the Mapping Prejudice Project. The history of redlining with the support of the Federal Government, local banks and realtors suggests structural racism.

Finding the answers to these questions will require that we LISTEN TO and support communities most affected to hear and find ways to act on their demands for change.

Once you have reviewed the recommendations below, **please share your thoughts with us [HERE](#).**

Program Format for 2020-2021

1. Hold a total of 8 **civic education** events during the 2020-2021 program year. Four of these events will be Civic Buzz events held in a virtual meeting format. Four events will be *We The People* interviews, now to be a part of LWVMpls program and hosted by Catherine Shreves.
2. Units would determine a meeting schedule to continue discussion, and create action plans, on the topics.

Program Topics for 2020-2021

The Board's original recommendation based on what was voted on at the February Program Planning Meeting included:

- Elections and Voting
- Community Involvement - 2020 Plan and monitoring government
- 2040 Plan addresses climate change, housing and public spaces (parks)
- Education

Within the topics above we can address the many detailed issues that were proposed by our members at the Program Planning meeting in February.

At this point, the Board is recommending that we add a fifth topic of "policing."

For each program topic covered in 2020-2021 we plan to address the disparities resulting from structural racism.

We look forward to your suggestions and your willingness to volunteer on committees in order to produce actionable programming for 2020-2021.

How will you participate in 2020-2021 program?

- Will you serve on a topic committee?
- Organize unit meetings and actions?
- Join LWVMN Observer Corps to follow up at the legislature?

Please share your thoughts with us [HERE](#).