

**League of Women Voters of Minneapolis**  
**Recommended Positions Based on Reimagining Public Safety Study**  
**2020-2021**

The LWVMpls study, Reimagining Public Safety (RPS), examines many facets of public safety including the multiple levels of government that impact laws on public safety and that fund programs to promote public safety. The study includes review of research and data-based best practices programs on violence prevention and intervention and police reforms. We have done this work in the context of historic institutional racism in cities nationwide and a series of excessive/deadly use of force encounters by Minneapolis Police officers against members of the public and a resulting local, national and international outcry.

After completing its study, the League committee has the following questions for LWVMpls to consider and vote on, with the intention of developing consensus on positions to update our existing positions on policing and violence prevention to provide a clear basis for League action. Most of these positions have not been addressed by a study for update in decades. For reference, a summary of the existing positions can be found at the end of this document.

Please review each question and use the supporting resources for more background. These resources are a combination of content that was developed by the LWVMpls RPS study plus material in the public domain.

**Questions for consideration with supporting resources:**

General Resource:

- [Civic Buzz: The Minneapolis 2021 Budget – Policing, Violence Prevention, and the Community](#) with
  - [Disaggregating the Police Function](#), Public Law and Legal Theory Research Paper Series Working Paper No. 20-03, NYU School of Law, April 2020.
1. Do you support the Minnesota legislature bypassing federal qualified immunity, which shields officers from lawsuits involving misconduct?
    - See RPS report on [State and Federal Legislation](#), sections “2021 Activity: Use of Force and Liability” and “Federal Legislation” on the police reform bill
    - [What is Qualified Immunity?](#) American Bar Association, December 17, 2020
  2. Do you support the Minnesota legislature ending state-mandated arbitration for police discipline, which can reverse the police chief’s disciplinary action against a police officer for professional misconduct?
    - See “Arbitration Provisions” section of RPS report on the [Police and City Labor Contract Issues](#) for a discussion of mandatory arbitration
    - [Police Arbitration](#), Stephen Rushin, 74 Vanderbilt Law Review, (forthcoming 2021)

3. Do you support action by the City of Minneapolis to negotiate changes in the police contract that addresses concerns discussed in the study, including file retention (Section 12.01), investigatory interviews (Section 12.04), and including supervisors in the bargaining unit (Section 1.01)?
  - See RPS report on the [Police and City Labor Contract Issues](#) for a discussion of recommended changes and also a link to the contract itself
  - [Transforming the Minneapolis Police Department: Reviewing the Minneapolis Police Contract - and Comparing It With Those of Other Cities](#), Jones Day, July 28, 2020 webinar
  
4. Do you support current and future efforts to address cultural reform in the Minneapolis Police Department that include:
  - Requiring training programs that address bias and racism, and emphasize de-escalation methods;
  - Ending the use of “warrior-style” training whether offered by the police department, police union or any other body;
  - Broadening recruiting efforts to include more women and people of color and people of different cultural and economic backgrounds;
  - Offering incentives to encourage current officers to reside in Minneapolis;
  - Giving applicants for police officer positions who live in Minneapolis or have a social service background additional weight in their applications;
  - Expanding programs that support the physical and mental health of police officers;
  - Requiring the police chief’s authorization for the use of non-lethal weapons in crowd control situations.
    - See RPS report on [Recruitment & Training](#) that includes reference material on on the first three bullet points
    - See RPS report on [State and Federal Legislation](#) that outlines legislative work to end “warrior-style” training
    - See City’s efforts on [residency and social services experience](#)
    - See Department of Justice reports on [police officer mental health](#)
    - Non-lethal weapons: [Minneapolis chief: Each agency has own standards for use of tear gas and projectiles to control crowds](#), StarTribune, April 15, 2021
  
5. Do you support a variety of mental health crisis response models, which would provide greater flexibility for our City and County to use non-police personnel as well as law enforcement, all trained in crisis intervention, as collaborative responders?
  - See RPS report on [Mental Health and Co-Responder Models](#)
  - [Social Workers and Police Officers: An Essential Community Partnership](#), Minnesota, April 2020,

6. Do you support a charter amendment to create a charter Department of Public Safety, with a leader nominated by the Mayor and reporting to the Mayor, that would include sworn police officers, as well as social work and/or mental health professionals skilled in mediation, de-escalation, and conflict resolution? This Department would be responsible for integrating its public safety functions into a comprehensive, public-wellness approach to safety.
  - See RPS report on the [Charter Amendments](#) to understand the proposed amendments
  - See RPS report [Office of Violence Prevention](#) to read about the City's public health approach to public safety and violence prevention

**Existing Minneapolis League of Women Voters Positions in Brief\***:

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police:

- Support of fair and adequate law enforcement for all people
- Support of measures to ensure equal justice for all persons regardless of race and socio-economic status

SOCIAL POLICY

Family Violence/Prevention of Violence:

- Support of improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence
- Support of improved services for the victims
- Support of violence prevention programs in our community

\*[Positions in Brief](#) from League website. For the detailed positions, see [Mpls Positions \(Program for Action\)](#).

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