



LWVAL Positions on 2020 Statewide Constitutional Amendments

The state board's executive committee, in consultation with our legislative analysts Mary Lynn Bates and Scarlett Gaddy, has determined the positions the LWVAL should take on the statewide constitutional amendments. Here they are:

Amendment 1 - We are encouraging members to vote "no". If this amendment passes, the Alabama Constitution will not affirmatively state that "every citizen" has the right to vote, potentially becoming less inclusive.

Amendments 2 & 3 - the LWVAL does not take a position on these amendments affecting the judiciary. We have not taken a position on judicial administration.

Amendment 4 - We encourage members to vote "yes" to recompile the Alabama Constitution as a step toward constitutional reform. The amendment is limited in scope to streamlining and reorganizing the Alabama Constitution and to removing the racist language that is a terrible holdover from the Jim Crow South. The League assumes that there are safeguards and transparency in the recompilation process. However, some uncertainty remains and we encourage everyone to remain vigilant as the process unfolds in the 2022 legislative session and beyond.

Amendments 5 & 6 - Although the LWVAL does not have a position on "Stand Your Ground" laws, we encourage members to vote "no" on these amendments. We prefer that amendments affecting only one county be decided by that county and not by a state-wide election. In addition, the Attorney General has said that Alabama's "Stand Your Ground" law already applies to church premises, making these amendments superfluous.