

Did you know THIS about the League?

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We know that the League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, and we know that the League has positions on many issues including voting rights for all citizens, the election process, Congress, and the Presidency.

Less well known are our positions on international relations, the United Nations, trade, developing countries, arms control, and defense spending. The League worked hard and was instrumental in helping pass laws on environmental protection and pollution control, water resources, and solid waste.

Least known are our positions on social policy. It is these positions that allow us to take action on many policies that seem to be under recent threat. The founders of the League wanted strong affirmation that, although the League was a women's organization, its interests and lobbying activities were not confined to women's issues. The early League even opposed an Equal Rights Amendment when it was first introduced in 1923. This was largely because it was a matter of priorities for the two-year-old organization, which had set its sights on labor protection for tens of thousands of women working in non-unionized and unskilled jobs.

In the 1920s and '30s the League, with typical forward thinking, set the stage for future program development by focusing on a broad range of social issues. Much of the earlier work did, indeed, focus on issues that affected women disproportionately. The League tackled matters such as abolishing the inequality in laws that specifically discriminated against women in jury selection, job opportunities, maternity and infant care, equal pay for equal work, and property rights. Until women were treated justly under the law, social reform work by the League would be difficult to implement.

The League has taken stands on sharing responsibilities among the federal and other levels of government to provide equality of opportunity in education, employment, and housing for all in the United States. Employment opportunities, especially in our modern, technological society, are closely related to education and the League has long supported quality public education for all our children.

Being a large part of the history of discrimination, the League has taken action to address unfair treatment, particularly when it appears to be parceled out only to specific groups. The League supports equal rights for all under state and federal laws including women's reproductive rights, immigrant rights, health care, housing, education, and the equalization of the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to all couples regardless of gender.

While not all of these positions are universally liked, they are part of the cornerstone of equality and inclusion that is integral to the League. The League has been in front of addressing social injustice in the same spirit and with the same intensity as they addressed voting rights for women. The League will continue to work to make sure that inclusion and fairness is continuously woven into the fabric of our society.