

LWVN VOTER 10-2015



LWVN

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Study & Consensus

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Wednesday • Oct 14, 2015 • 10 AM-12 PM

Memorial Presbyterian Church: 601 24th Ave. SW; Norman

1. **Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?**
 - a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.
 - b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective.
 - c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.
 - d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.
 - e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.
2. **What conditions should be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?**
 - a) Convention must be transparent and not in secret.
 - b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.
 - c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.
 - d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.
 - e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.
 - f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.
 - g) The validity of state "calls" for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress

Thursday • Nov 12, 2015 • 10 AM-12 PM

3. **Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?**
4. **Should the League consider supporting a constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:**
 - a) There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?
 - b) It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?

VOTER SERVICE

REASONS TO (RE)REGISTER

1. Are you new to Norman?
2. Have you moved recently?
3. Has your last name changed?
4. Do you wish to change your political party affiliation?
5. Did you recently turn 18?
6. Have you recently achieved US citizenship?



President's note -

Beginning on August 24, The Norman League, assisted by volunteers from the Friends of the Library and the Retired Educators of Cleveland and McClain County, offered voter registration to patrons of the Central library in Norman. Volunteers were available from 10-4 every weekday for four weeks until September 18, the last day to register for the October 13 election. Our efforts were greatly rewarded.

Over the four week period League members were able to hand deliver over 200 completed registration forms to the County Election Board and handed out an additional 250-plus forms to individuals to take home or to take to family members and friends.

We want to thank all of you who assisted in this effort. Not only did we register many new

voters and give others the opportunity to make needed changes in their registration, we got to renew old friendships, make new friends, and share the story of the League.

It is important for us to remind the community that the League is still present and active in Norman. Our time at the Library served as a reminder that many people know of the League and have a positive impression of the work that it has done. But it also reminded us that the League's work is never finished. After 95 years, the League and its efforts to encourage all citizens to go to the polls and cast informed votes on candidates and issues are more important than ever.

*Sandy Bahan
Chair, Steering Committee
Norman League of Women Voters*

Homeless in Norman

Sept. 14, 2015 LWV Norman held its annual Fall Meeting at the Norman Public Library. The program was a Forum on Homeless in Norman, led by a panel of local and area representatives from groups that work with the homeless in Norman and the OKC Metro. Panelists included April Heiple from Food and Shelter for Friends, Michelle Evans from Zero 2016, and Dan Straughan from the Homeless Alliance. Debra Krittenbrink for One Vision One Voice was scheduled to participate but had to cancel at the last minute.

The panelist led a lively 90 minute discussion on homelessness and the barriers faced by those who find themselves in that situation. Any discussion of this problem must begin with an understanding of how homelessness is defined since that definition drives the availability of programs and resources. For example Zero 2016 has the goal of eliminating homelessness by January of 2016 for homeless military veterans specifically, whereas the Homeless Alliance and Food and Shelter work not only with this group but also offer assistance to others who find themselves in temporary or transitional situation.

Barriers to assisting those in need vary and can be daunting. Dan Straughan pointed to one of the biggest problems as simply getting all of their various agencies on the same page and in the same geographic location to make access more manageable for those needing help.

The panel concluded with a discussion of some of the programs that have been helpful for the chronically homeless, such as the *Curbside Chronicle*, and a discussion of the proposed panhandling ban in Oklahoma City and the unintended consequences of such legislation.

Sandy Bahan, President



*April Heiple from
Food and Shelter
for Friends*



*Dan Straughan
from the Homeless
Alliance*



*Michelle Evans
from Zero 2016*

*Photos by Doris
Kupfer, League
member*

Constitutional Amendment Study Guide

Part I are to develop guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals.

Part II asks about aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a Convention.

Part III relates to how the League might put these guidelines into practice and asks two overall balancing questions between process and positions.

Constitutional Background

In 1787, delegates from twelve of the thirteen states then in existence met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead, they drafted a totally new document, what we know as the U.S. Constitution. It was unanimously ratified by the states. While this all seems very long ago, how the Constitution began and how the 1787 Convention was convened and conducted are cited in the current debate about calling a Convention under Article V.

Here's what Article V of the U.S. Constitution says about amending the Constitution:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; . . .

So Article V provides two ways of proposing amendments to the nation's fundamental charter. Congress, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. OR, the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution; this is commonly called an Article V Convention. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, 38 at present.

The first method has been used by Congress to submit 33 amendments to the states, beginning with the Bill of Rights. Of these, 27 were approved; 26 are currently in effect, while one – the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) — was ultimately repealed by a second amendment, the 21st. The 21st Amendment was also the only one ratified by conventions in the states, rather than by state legislatures. In June 1920, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the U.S. Constitution provided for state legislatures, not citizen referendum campaigns, to ratify amendments.

The second method, an Article V Convention, has never been successfully invoked.

Add to your Calendar! Please join us!

Oct. 13, Tues., 7 am - 7 pm, Vote FOR Norman Forward. (League Positions support it)

**Oct. 28, Wed., 11:30 am Hot Topic Lunch @ Inter Urban Restaurant, Ed Noble Pkwy
Debra Krittenbrink, Executive Director of Bridges; One Vision-One Voice**

Nov. 3, Tues., 6:30 pm, McKinley Elementary School, Flood & Cruce Streets, Local Legislators' Outlook, a forum co-sponsored by Norman Council of P-TAs

Nov. 14, Sat., 12-2 pm, Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 24th Ave. SW, Norman, OK; State LWVOK Board Meeting