



Did You Ask a Good Question Today?

Nobel physicist [Rabi credits his success](#) to this question his mother asked him every day when he came home from school. Likewise, we ask for your questions about the Vermont Update and have added a [FAQ section to the VT Concurrence Page](#) on the HCR Toolkit. So far, questions from League members have been split between Process and Content.

Q1. Can a League put in more than one topic to consider for the program agenda in addition to Making Democracy Work?

A. By all means. There are two items shown on the [pdf](#) worksheet for the survey providing up to 600 words for added topics. The 94-word description we are advising you to include in your program survey leaves room for 4 or 5 more.

Q2. Is this a health care update or a more general position concerning privatization?

A. The [privatization position](#) in *Impact on Issues* covers civic functions, like elections, police, and education, where "provision of services by the government" is considered crucial for equity. The position also singles out "public health" as *necessary to preserve the common good, ... [and] meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society.*" [Vermont studied whether "health care" also meets the criteria for a public good](#), and on that basis, should be publicly

funded, equitably delivered and have public oversight. Concurring with the VT position **will not change the Health Care position**. However, it will have a **large impact on our advocacy in Health Care**.

[Corporate Practice of Medicine laws in 33 states](#) testify to widespread concerns over the potential for harm from obvious conflicts of interest and perverse incentives from the commercial relationship. The laws restricting problematic corporate control of medicine have not been enforced since before the 1980s, although we are now watching a [recent case in California courts](#).

Q3. Is Vermont suggesting there be NO privatization in medicine?

A. No, in fact, many current M4A proposals call for public funding and **private delivery** of medical services. We would expect many private clinicians (doctors, nurse-practitioners, physical-therapists, etc.) to be in clinician-owned private practices but not owned by for-profit corporations. In their study, Vermont determined that [health care does not follow free market principles](#) and should not have the profit motive competing with access to health care. So Leagues should be empowered to advocate against policies that allow people without a medical mission to profit from our illness.

Intersectionality: LWV HCR4US and Poor People's Campaign Share Goals

The themes of the [Poor People's Campaign](#) (PPC) clearly align with League programs to Make Democracy Work and expand diversity and equity in all spheres of our lives. The PPC's fight against "the 5 interlocking evils"—poverty, racism, war, pollution, and hate—plus a long list of demands for programs to build a just and lasting [Moral Reconstruction](#) is uniting the [140 million poor and low-income people](#) (1/3 of the U.S. population; 1/2 of our children) to realize their political power. They are taking back the mic and VOTING—aiming to "change what is politically possible in this country."



The research arm of the PPC has analyzed elections especially with small margins of victory where just a fraction of the eligible but infrequent voters can swing the election—as we saw in the uptick of low-income voters in Georgia from 2016 to 2020. They are mobilizing strategically.

The campaign to register low-income voters picks up steam [March 2 at noon](#) with simultaneous kick-off rallies in [32 states](#). Is your state one of them? If you're within striking distance of a capital, it will be worth your while to help amplify their voices and pick up some PPC-GOTV allies. *Submitted by Barbara Pearson*

NEXT HCR4US MEETING
Sunday, Feb. 25
8:00 p.m. ET

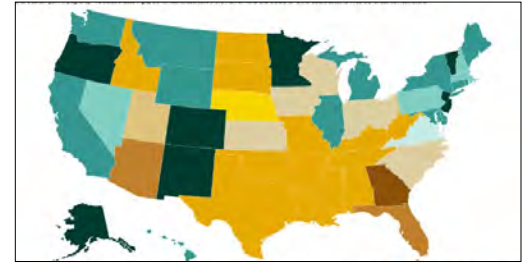
Register at
<http://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Feb25>

TENTATIVE AGENDA:
Intros for New Attendees — Announcements
Program Planning — Education/Advocacy
Newsletter — Break-out Sessions

Ballotpedia: State abortion restrictions based on stage of pregnancy					
None	Fetal Viability	3 rd Trimester	20 weeks	15 weeks	Conception
Alaska	California	Virginia	Iowa	**Arizona**	Alabama
Colorado	Connecticut		Kansas	**Florida**	**Arkansas**
Minnesota	Delaware		Ohio		Idaho
New Jersey	Hawaii	24 weeks	South Carolina		Kentucky
New Mexico	Illinois	Massachusetts	Wisconsin	12 weeks	Louisiana
Oregon	Maine	**Nevada**		**Nebraska**	Mississippi
Vermont	**Maryland**	New Hampshire		North Carolina	**Missouri**
Washington DC	Michigan	Pennsylvania	18 weeks		North Dakota
	Montana		Utah		Oklahoma
	New York			6 weeks	**South Dakota**
	Rhode Island	22 weeks		Georgia	Tennessee
	Washington	Indiana			Texas
	Wyoming				West Virginia

** indicates states with abortion issues potentially on the 2024 ballot.
 Colorado will have competing abortion issues on the ballot.
 Most states that allow citizen initiative require a simple majority (50% +1). Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, South Dakota require more.

Post Dobbs, Abortion Is On the Ballot in 2024



Like health care in general, reproductive rights laws vary greatly across the country as indicated in the table above.

Since the 2021 SCOTUS decision, voters have been generally supportive of maintaining abortion rights until viability in states like Kansas, Ohio, California, Michigan, Montana, and Vermont. (However, Kentucky restricts abortion from conception.)

In 2024 ten states could potentially have ballot measures related to abortion on their ballots, depending on the success of verified petition collections. (FYI, only 23 states give voters the power to put Constitutional amendments on a statewide ballot.)

Whether or not state Leagues officially support the ballot initiatives, the late LWV president Dr. Deborah

Ann Turner confirmed LWVUS support for a woman’s right to make her own decisions about her healthcare when it signed on as amicus partners in Dobbs in September 2021. “Our ability to participate in our democracy is dependent on our autonomy over our own bodies.”

Further, even if abortion withstands the assaults on the ballot, that does not mean the fight is over. Attempts by election officials and state legislatures to subvert the citizen ballot initiative have included raising the percentage needed to adopt the amendment, legally challenging the initiative in the courts, and reinterpreting/changing the initiative intent after passage, all three of which have happened in Florida.

Submitted by Candy Birch

Websites

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform>

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

HCR4US Google Drive:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Minutes-etc>

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>



HCR4US : Dedicated to educating and mobilizing League members to work toward legislation that enacts the goals of our LWVUS health care position

Newsletter Committee: Barbara Pearson, Jon Li, Candy Birch, MaryLynne Courtney

In Case You Missed It

URGENT Feb 16 One Payer States hosts Robby Stern “**Retirement Action: Stop the Privatization of Medicare**”

Feb 8 Betty Keller explains the **Vermont Concurrence** to LWV of Colorado

Feb 7 The LWV Davis Area Healthcare Committee and LWV Woodland Mental Health Study Group present: “**Vote with the League: NO on Proposition 1: The Behavioral Health Services and Bond Act.**”

Jan 30 LWVMA hosts LWVUS Jessica Jones Capparell “**Advocacy 101 for Local Leagues**”

Jan 24 Boston University School of Public Health “**The Economy and Health: Challenges and Opportunities**” Five panelists discuss how economic policy influence our health outcomes and which economic policies have the potential to advance the health of populations nationally and globally.

Upcoming

MASS POOR PEOPLE’S & LOW WAGE WORKER’S MORAL MARCH TO STATE HOUSE ASSEMBLIES, A PART OF 40 WEEKS OF MASSIVE VOTER MOBILIZATION ACROSS THE US

MARCH 2, 2024 GATHER AT 10 AM ASSEMBLY AT 11 AM

THIS IS A RESURRECTION, NOT AN INSURRECTION!

A DAY OF NATIONALLY-COORDINATED, SIMULTANEOUS DIRECT ACTION IN 31 STATE CAPITALS!

poorpeoplescampaign.org

31 States Mobilizing for March 2nd

JOIN US IN BUILDING A 3rd RECONSTRUCTION BY DEMANDING:

- abolishing county jail fees
- ending state of debt in the US
- ending voter suppression
- workers rights & labor rights
- healthcare for all
- affordable, universal housing
- ending gun violence, profits
- ending oil & gas
- environmental justice
- high quality public education
- just immigration laws
- ending corporate tax cuts, when appropriate
- ending the fossil fuel era

BE A LEADER. BE A PARTNER. BE A CENTER.

poorpeoplescampaign.org