

MISSION

To educate and mobilize League members to work toward legislation and other reforms that enact the goals of our LWVUS health care position, with a strong focus on [expanded and improved Medicare for All](#).

Convention: Disappointing Scoreboard for Privatization Concurrence

Pre-Convention: 83 local and state Leagues included it in their LWVUS Program Planning Survey

Friday: Vote to consider at Saturday Plenary: 772 Yes 101 No

Saturday: Vote to concur (2/3 vote required to pass): 450 to 415

This is not to say that the whole convention was disappointing. So many interesting topics espoused by intelligent, passionate people — all in one place. We got to see HCR4US colleagues in person. We strengthened our ties within and across states. We heard [engaging panels](#) with LWV leaders and allied groups. But we can't stop asking:

WHY DIDN'T THE NY CONCURRENCE PASS?

- Is something wrong with [NY's position](#)?
- Did we present it wrong?

To the best of our understanding, the Program Planning Committee, speaking to it from the podium, raised the following concerns:

1. **Is the update necessary?** They alleged that the [health care position](#) alone could support advocacy. BUT HOW? The health care position supports any mix of public and private programs. It contains no basis for opposing private ownership when it fails to serve the public, a situation that is more and more common. The poor outcomes from private ownership of public goods are now well documented.

NY and VT sought to update the [Privatization position](#) to OPPOSE control of public goods and services that fail to serve the public. Unlike VT, in the privatization position, [LWVNY emphasizes](#) that health care should be explicitly included among the many diverse fields

— such as energy, internet, voting infrastructure, public lands etc. — who are allies against privatization wherever it threatens public access to public goods.

2. Does the update change the position?

The current [Privatization position](#) includes a guideline (p. 76) that calls for the return of public goods and services from contractors "who fail to perform," but the NYS Legislative Advocacy Team told our advocates that such wording did not support opposing bad actors that were private corporations.

So, NY took the well-known principle of fiduciary duty (articulated in the [Vermont study](#)) to provide a more concrete standard for "failing to perform." The Vermont Study spells out a range of remedies.

3. Was there adequate member understanding?

Between the 2024 and 2026 proposals, well over 120 state and local Leagues have expressed support of the Update. The NY process involved concurrences by several local Leagues and many educational sessions, before bringing the Update to their state convention for discussion and a vote to adopt. Our online materials for the concurrence have logged thousands of visits.

Still, we cannot deny a fair amount of confusion voiced, most noticeably in the [Convention Workbook \(p22\)](#). Many attendees believed the concurrence was simply a repeat of the Vermont Concurrence. The 450-415 vote was close.

NOW WHAT? While disappointed, we feel that we enlightened lots of delegates about the dangers of privatization. We don't want to give up.

A recent Google Group discussion came up with the proposed **ACTION ITEMS**:

1. **Create a "VOTE411.org"** for concurrence and other con-vention information which would specify LWVUS objections.
2. **Test it.** Seek to oppose privatization harms with current positions. Keep a record of LWV approvals or denials at state and local levels.

3. **Expand buy-in.** Find state and local Leagues (VA, MI, MA, CO?) willing to concur with NYS in time for adoption by 2027 state conventions.

4. **Plan a resolution** for the next convention to get attention for the issue, whether or not we go ahead with the concurrence.

5. **Engage the US Planning Staff** early in the process. Add your suggestions. Help us re-establish democratic control of essential public goods and services.

HCR4US will discuss these at the monthly meeting on July 26 at 8:00 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).



In Case You Missed It

July 9—KFF's Matt Rae unpacks the bigger health care affordability story hiding in plain sight in "[What Your Employer-Based Health Coverage Really Costs](#)". Access the 6-video series "[How Unaffordable Is Health Care?](#)"

June 26 — LWVUS presented "[Conflict and De-Escalation: Navigating Tension with Clarity and Care](#)" by Dr. Emily Morehouse at national convention

June 26 — Convention **breakout session** on the NY Concurrence presented by Judy Esterquest

June 26— Go to **2:35:30** for LWVUS Friday Plenary to see [HCR4US' motion to put Privatization](#) on the Saturday agenda

June 27 — LWVUS delegates discussed and voted on NY's Privatization Concurrence on the [Saturday Plenary](#). Start at **2:25:00**.

June 27 — LWVUS presented "[LWV DEI in Action: Building on the Foundations](#)"

June 28 — Here is the [link](#) to ALL the LWVUS convention recordings.

Also, "[The Cost of Denial](#)" A team of NBC News reporters dug into complex insurance systems and what's behind many denials

Networking

One Payer States

<https://www.onepayerstates.org/>

National Single Payer

<https://nationalsinglepayer.com/>

Healthcare Advocacy on Substack

[Here's the link.](#)

Physicians for a Nat'l Health Program

<https://pnhp.org/>

Center for Medicare Advocacy

<https://www.MedicareAdvocacy.org>

HCR4US Websites

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/c/
LWVHealthCareReform](https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform)

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

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

League Update Newsletter Sign Up:

[https://www.lwv.org/league-management/
league-update-newsletter-sign](https://www.lwv.org/league-management/league-update-newsletter-sign)



Wares Market Conversations

Our "Wares Market" table near the breakout sessions was our unofficial headquarters where we handed out materials and listened to the stories of local privatization issues. In addition to steering committee members, we are grateful to **Stephanie Lowenhaupt (VA)**, **Sara Fink (MI)**, **Marty Birch (FL)**, **Vicky Risk (MA)**, and **Sue Racanelli (VT)** for holding down the fort with us. We are especially grateful for **Mary Lynne Courtney (WA)**, who crafted a "tangle" of colorful octopuses which attracted people to our table and often left on the lapel of a supporter.

Reception and Breakout Session

Left: Judy Esterquest presented the facts and rationale during the 8:15 a.m. Breakout Session.

Below: Barbara Pearson and Linda Mahan engaged delegates in privatization conversations.



Advocacy for the NY Concurrence PRO Microphone at Friday's Plenary

Left: Judy Esterquest defended her motion to put the non-recommended NY Privatization Concurrence on the Saturday Plenary agenda.

Below top row L-R: Barbara Pearson, Candy Birch, Kim Cameron, Regina Goutevenier

Below bottom row L-R: Betty Keller, Nancy Rosenthal, Nancy Rosenthal, Linda Smith, and Carla Mahalik were recognized. A transcript of their statements can be found [here](#).

