



Barbara Pearson <bzpearson@gmail.com>

Statements at the Pro Microphone at Friday Plenary:

1 message

Candy Birch

Tue, Jul 21, 2026 at 12:59 AM

----- The NY Privatization Concurrence

In addition to adding Healthcare to the list of public goods in the Privatization [*not the Health Care*] Policy, the NY Concurrence recommended the addition of the following wording:

The League opposes further privatization of needed healthcare.

The League favors a system where fiduciary responsibility (for managing public goods) is to patients and the public.

Where private entities fail to deliver programs that provide and protect basic human needs, the League supports de-privatizing them.

Statements at the Pro Microphone at Friday Plenary

Barbara Pearson from Amherst, Massachusetts. I'm here to ask for the consideration of this concurrence tomorrow because ownership and control of public goods by investors has overwhelmed the Democratic provision of public goods and services in almost every sector of public life. My own local League has three campaigns that we would like to launch to take back and help our town to get rid of the people who have co-opted these services and make it more democratic for my town and we had no position that lets us move it back and that's the key element that we are interested in and seeing this and hope it can be considered. Thank you.

My name is **Candy Birch**, the League of Women Voters of Alachua County Florida. I urge the putting this privatization concurrence on the agenda tomorrow because it is such an urgent issue. Privatization has its tentacles in every part of US society right now and we cannot wait 2 years for a study that will reap the very same results that Vermont and New York has thoroughly studied. Delegates from over 25 states have come to the wares table and every one of them has a state or local example of how privatization of PRIVATE GOODS has harmed Americans. Privatization is harming people of color, poor people, rural residents and more and more Americans can no longer afford essential needs because of privatization. Think public goods like water, electricity, Internet, prisons, healthcare, public education, even journalism. Without a position in Impact on Issues, Leaguers cannot effectively lobby their legislators with the power and reputation of the League behind them.

My name is **Regina Goutevenier**. I'm from the League of Women Voters Port Washington Manhasset, and I'm here to talk about privatization. I urge voting yes. In my area property taxes are a huge issue. A recent study co-authored by a member of my League shows that for-profit healthcare costs in my county are \$500 million a year and in Suffolk County. the next county over, is \$700 million a year. Our school district would save \$12 million in paying teacher healthcare costs. Privatized public goods cost us too much and it's starving local governments. We are seeing districts firing dozens of teachers and ending programs because the budget is being eaten by healthcare costs that they have to pay. This is an urgent issue. Please vote yes on this privatization issue.

I'm **Betty Keller**, League of Women Voters of Vermont, and I want to urge our delegates to vote in favor of considering this update to our privatization position. Vermont did the study back in 23 and we have been happy to be able to use that as an opportunity to decide whether to support or oppose a piece of legislation. This is too urgent across the country to wait two years or four years to complete broader studies and it would be much more efficient so that our League members

could be working on voting and engaging our voters and due process and many other things if they weren't spending time on a study that's already been done. Thank you.

Linda Smith, League of Utah. I wish to urge that we consider this tomorrow. The League has long taken a position that we should keep money out of politics. Converting public goods to private goods invites corruption. If we adopt this position, it will not require Leagues to oppose all conversions of public goods to private goods; rather it will allow the League to oppose a conversion when that would, in fact, harm the public. It would allow the League to protect the fiduciary duties owed to the public. Thank you.

Nancy Rosenthal, president. The League of Women Voters of New York State supports this concurrence. This concurrence has a history that shows how this body works. Initially, a similar item was turned down from another state. The Port Washington League then took it on, revised, reworked and now it is before this body again. Please vote yes today so this concurrence will be considered tomorrow.

Kim Cameron, League of Women Voters, in Cortland County, New York and I'm asking everyone to vote yes on this proposal today. 2012 was the last time this process was brought up. That was before privatization became such an issue here in the United States. It is accelerated and now is the time that we need to look at this again.

Carla Machalak, Broome and Tioga Counties of the State of New York and I also implore all of you to vote yes for this. New York has worked really hard on getting this updated to the point where we can use it in our advocacy. A public good is something we all need to have access to and we're quickly losing our access to things that everyone should have access to: water, clean water, clean air, public parks, and now health care. Healthcare is a basic need that we all have need of and this update to the privatization would allow us to lobby for that.

Vote to put the NY Concurrence on the Saturday Plenary Agenda: Yes 772 No 101