



Response Form for the LWVIL Criminal Justice Position Update Study (2021)

Please return the completed form to issues@lwwil.org.

The Board of the _____ (name of your local League) agrees that this report represents the Consensus of the League.

Leader's name: _____ Date: _____

QUESTION (The Question numbers correspond to each of the fourteen sections of the study.)	YES	NO	NO CONSENSUS
1. To reduce crime and violence, should there be investment in underserved and/or impoverished communities?			
2. Should there be periodic training for individuals working in the criminal justice system to recognize implicit racial and ethnic bias in order to more adequately work toward the goal of equal treatment under the law?			
3. Should a Gender-Responsive Approach be used for all offenders with the goal of equitable and appropriate treatment?			
4. Are efficient data collection, data sharing, and transparency critical in an impartial and unbiased criminal justice system?			
5a Should Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs) be created throughout the state?			
5b Should CJCCs include a wide representation from local justice systems agencies, other government bodies, service providers, and the community?			
5c Should incentives and support be provided for the establishment of local CJCCs to assist them as they develop strategic plans to address crime and corrections policy?			
5d Should there be cooperation and coordination between the State and CJCCs in order to share experience and data with the goal of improving plans to address crime and corrections policy both locally and statewide?			

6a Is building trust and nurturing legitimacy on both sides of the police/citizen divide foundational to positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve?			
6b Should law enforcement agencies collaborate with community members to develop policies and strategies to reduce crime?			
6c Should law enforcement adopt model policies and best practices for current technology-based community engagement that increases community trust and access?			
6d Should community policing be the guiding philosophy for all stakeholders (law enforcement agencies, schools, social services, churches and businesses)?			
6e Should quality training and education begin with recruits and continue throughout an officer's career?			
6f Is the wellness (health) and safety of law enforcement officers critical not only for the officers, their colleagues, and their agencies but also to public safety?			
6g Is it desirable for police to use alternatives whenever possible to deflect offenders from arrest?			
7a Should we delete the existing position and revise our position based on consensus regarding the following issues?			
7b Should cash bail be abolished?			
7c Should defendants be detained in jail only if they are a flight risk or a danger to society?			
7d Should risk assessments be transparent and designed to exclude weights that may be prejudicial against certain populations?			
7e Should electronic monitoring be used rarely for offenders prior to trial and/or sentencing?			
7f Must the Bond Court Judge review the Public Safety Assessment that is the basis of determination as to an individual's release?			
7g Should Pre-Trial Service providers remind defendants of court appearances?			
7h Should an attorney or a public defender be present for all defendants, at all hearings?			
8a Should the criminal justice system be open to the use of restorative justice approaches and values?			
8b To be successful, must restorative justice courts involve members of the community?			
8c Must restorative justice courts be adequately funded?			
9 Should emerging adults (ages 18-25) in the criminal justice system be treated in a developmentally appropriate manner,			

recognizing that those in this age group are not fully mature and culpable for their actions?			
10. Should barriers to and within the courthouse and courtrooms be eliminated whenever possible?			
11a Should we delete from existing position: “The League believes that there should be strict penalties and enforcement for all crimes committed with a handgun or an assault weapon.”			
11b Should evidence-based practices and best practices guide sentencing laws and prosecutorial decision-making?			
11c Should sentencing take into consideration the public health issues involved in any crime committed?			
11d Should there be more collaboration between stakeholders so that sentencing outcomes are more just and fair?			
11e Should racial impact statements inform any new criminal law or regulation?			
11f Should legislation that reduces penalties for a crime also benefit those previously convicted and sentenced for that crime?			
11g Should the charge of felony murder be abolished?			
12a Should offenders be entitled to humane treatment and access to healthcare?			
12b Should all programs be evidence-based or based on best practices?			
12c Should all rehabilitative and evidence-based programs be made available to all for whom they are appropriate?			
12d Should programs be tailored according to individual needs?			
12e Should all offenders have access to program credits?			
12f Is pre-release planning critical for successful reentry into the community?			
12g Are adult transition centers critical in bridging the gap between prison and the community in order to ensure successful reintegration into society?			
12h Should the length of Mandatory Supervised Release (MSR) be determined by completion of goals tailored to the individual rather than a strict length of time?			
12i Should rules attached to MSR be clearly explained to the offender as well as expected consequences if rules are violated?			
12j Should caseloads be manageable so that parole officers are able to play a supportive role with the parolee?			
13a Should all unnecessary barriers encountered by people			

with criminal records which hinder their successful return to society after completion of sentences be removed?			
13b Should people with criminal records have access to the same income-based support opportunities and services that are available to others in society and for which they would otherwise qualify?			
14a Should we delete from existing position: "The League believes that state funds should emphasize community-based sanctions over the construction of more prisons."			
14b Should state funding emphasize community-based sanctions and treatment instead of incarceration?			
14c Should all program funding be periodically evaluated for its effectiveness and to ensure that proper offender populations are being served?			

Comments from your League:

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