***SOCIAL PROGRAMS Revisions***

***Substance Abuse Policy***

**Drug Policy** (Adopted 1984; revised 2002, 2003, 2007, 2015)

The term “drug” is meant to include all addictive drugs, including alcohol. The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports

1. ~~Drug court programs;~~ (*moved to Admin of Justice*)
2. Treatment for all persons with drug addiction;
3. Syringe exchange programs in the State of New Mexico;
4. Rehabilitation programs;
5. Public education programs;
6. Close cooperation between tribal, local and state officials; and
7. Adequate funding for enforcement, rehabilitation and education programs. These programs should be prudently and appropriately funded.

~~The League opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.  In general, alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.~~ *(moved to Admin of Justice)*

**Alcohol** (Adopted 2014)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that alcohol abuse is a public health issue and can be most effectively approached as such.

To address the impact of alcohol abuse, the League supports the following:

* raising taxes on the sale of alcohol. Research has shown increasing taxes is the single most effective way to reduce death, harm, and costs associated with alcohol abuse.
* dedicating all funds raised by increasing taxes on alcohol to treatment and prevention programs. No taxes on alcohol should be distributed to the New Mexico General fund.
* giving a high priority to screening and treatment solutions for alcohol abuse.
* consolidating prevention programs to make better use of limited resources.
* increasing the emphasis on community after-school services and supervision programs for minors.
* enacting laws making consumption of alcohol by minors illegal except under the supervision of their parents.

The League’s priorities for taking action to reduce alcohol abuse are

 1. establishing education and prevention programs, especially for minors.

 2. developing and funding well-organized, efficient, and effective treatment programs with dedicated revenue streams.

 3. increasing parental responsibility by means of education and social responsibility laws.