

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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To Local League Program Planner/seeking your support

RE: LWV of San Diego to introduce proposal for a state study on Death With Dignity or End of Life Choices at the 2015 convention.

At the 2014 Program Planning meeting, LWVSD discovered strong interest in doing a study on Death With Dignity. LWVSD has no position on it and it is very likely to appear on the state ballot again.

Civil rights groups believe that this is a matter of "Choice," similar to reproductive choice for women. There has been a number of CA legislative bills and at least one ballot proposition to address the issue (Prop 161 in 1992-Physician-assisted suicide; AB1592 in 1999- Death with Dignity Act) None have passed.

While several states have passed laws allowing some form of increased death planning rights similar to Oregon, assisted suicide has been defeated in a number of states.

The issue has drawn nation-wide media attention as the result of recent specific cases, as you are aware.

LWVSD has formed a committee to write a proposal for a state study to be voted on at the 2015 convention in San Diego. The LWV of Arizona has created a White Paper on the pros and cons of the Oregon model : <http://lwvaz.org/files/EndOfLifeChoices-LWVAZwhitepaper.pdf>

Other Leagues have looked at the subject but we have not found a state with a LWV position. The League of Boulder County, Colorado produced a report: http://lwvbc.org/files/2012_03_right_to_die_unit_report.pdf

LWVSD is covering this issue for our January units and will be having a Lunch with the League panel discussion with speakers from Compassion and Choices, the LWV Arizona and "Not Dead Yet," a group representing the disabled who oppose a change in the current laws.

Please consider a LWVSD study on "Death with Dignity" in your Program Planning and let us know if you would support our proposal at convention.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kay Ragan

President, LWV of San Diego