

LWVLA Education Bills/Instruments 2023 Legislative Session (updated 4/22/2023)

Committee	Bill Number	Author, Party & District	Summary	LWVLA Position
House Education	HB 8	Dodie Horton (R-Haughton)	SCHOOLS: Requires display of the national motto, "In God We Trust", in every public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education classroom	<p>WATCHING</p> <p>As far back as World War II, when the LWV advocated in support of the creation of the United Nations, the League has supported policies that “include all peoples, regardless of race, <i>religion</i>, or political persuasion.” Public schools play an important role in fostering values of civic inclusion. However, Louisiana public school students are increasingly diverse and the proposed law could send a chilling message of coercion to students who may practice non-monotheistic religions or who are not religious.</p>
House Education	HB 117	Aimee Adatto Freeman	SCHOOLS: Requires public schools to provide free menstrual products in easily accessible locations	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Provision of free and accessible menstrual products will enable Louisiana students to attend school in comfort and dignity.</p>
House Ways and Means	HB 32	Laurie Schlegel (R-Metairie)	TAX/INCOME TAX: Increases the amount of the individual income tax deductions for elementary and secondary school tuition, educational expenses for home-schooled children, and educational expenses for a quality public education	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>Since its 1978 Convention, the LWV has opposed tuition tax credits for families of children attending private elementary and secondary schools out of concerns for equal access to education and support for desegregation as a means of promoting equal access. The LWV has expressed concern about the negative impact that tuition tax credits have on the public schools by encouraging flight to private schools.</p>
House Education	HB 68	Valarie Hodges (R-Denham Springs)	CURRICULA: Authorizes public high schools to offer a course of instruction in the history and literature of the Bible	<p>WATCHING</p> <p>The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity in education, for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, <i>religion</i>, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Understanding of the history and literature of the Bible, with other classic texts and traditions, such as Greek and Roman mythology may contribute to being and educated person. However, given Louisiana’s religious pluralism and diversity, it would be even better to offer</p>

				such a course alongside or as part of instruction in world religions to promote greater social inclusion of students of all faiths and none.
House Education	HB 81	Raymond Crews (R-Bossier City)	EDUCATION: Provides relative to the use of certain names and pronouns for students	OPPOSE The use of names that misidentify and misgender students is a civic assault on their developing sense of personhood and identity. The policy contained in this law violates LWV commitments to the equality of LGBTQ+ people and to principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in civic life—particularly for our young people in public schools.
House Education	HB 375	Barbara Carpenter (D-Baton Rouge)	SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Requires high performing charter schools to report certain information to local school systems	WATCHING
House Education	HB 466	Dodie Horton (R-Haughton)	CURRICULA: Provides relative to discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools	OPPOSE Sexual orientation and gender identity are crucial markers of personhood and civic identity. Prohibiting their discussion at a crucial period in which young people should instead be learning about sexual responsibility, health relationships, and their own values as they grow into adulthood is counterproductive and harmful at both individual and social levels. To the extent that it disparages particular orientations and identities, it violates LWV commitments to equality of peoples and to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs	SB 10	Franklin Foil (R-Baton Rouge)	TAX/INCOME/PERSONAL: Increases the individual income tax exemption for deposits into certain education savings accounts for tuition expenses for elementary and secondary schools.	OPPOSE Since its 1978 Convention, the LWV has opposed tuition tax credits for families of children attending private elementary and secondary schools out of concerns for equal access to education and support for desegregation as a means of promoting equal access. The LWV has expressed concern about the negative impact that tuition tax credits have on the public schools by encouraging flight to private schools.