

League proposing the resolution: Karen Leith, Death Penalty Specialist, LWVO Lobby Corps

Specific League Position(s) the resolution supports: Abolition of death penalty; moratorium

URGENCY: Since complete abolition of death penalty has not been able to pass the General Assembly, the resolutions of the Task Force are being followed in in terms of introducing legislation. Currently, closing the gap in existing mental illness as an exemption to the death penalty has been a focus.(HB 81 and SB 40)

Body of Resolution:

Whereas, It has become clear that the current system of executing criminals has been deemed cruel and inhumane;

Whereas, the Task Force has recommended closing the mental illness gap in exempting those with diagnoses of certain severe mental illnesses be exempt from execution;

Whereas, Legislation has been introduced that would exempt these five diagnoses;

Therefore, be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of Ohio meeting in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in state Convention on May 5/6, 2017, urges the General Assembly to support HB 81 and SB 40.