



## Statement regarding charter schools in Tennessee

In 2012 the League of Women Voters of the US adopted a position on Privatization<sup>1</sup> which addresses the role of government in providing core government services. It states that “while the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. The list of core services includes public education. Furthermore, the League’s position, holds that when a move to privatization is deemed “appropriate and desirable” that it requires “an open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner.”

The position of LWVTN is that local government through their elected school boards are responsible for providing the core governmental function of public education. In situations in which a school board determines that a publicly authorized charter school will address the needs of its students for quality education, LWVTN believes that these criteria should be met based on LWVTN previously adopted positions on education.<sup>2</sup>

- Selected charter schools should be created and managed by non-profit organizations.
- Selected charter schools should provide non-sectarian education by abiding by the establishment clause of the First Amendment and provide non-sectarian education.
- Funding for traditional and charter schools within the same school district should be sufficient and equitable in order that all students in the district have access to quality education.
- Charter schools should be held to the same level of fiscal accountability and standards for growth in student achievement as traditional schools within the same school district.
- Charter schools should be held to the same rules, regulations, and minimum standards of the State Board of Education as traditional public schools to provide

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<sup>1</sup> *Impact on Issues.2020 of the League of Women Voters of the United States*, p. 64-65

<sup>2</sup> LWVTN Position on Education as adopted in 1963 and amended in 2021. [https://www.lwvtn.org/lwvtn\\_positions](https://www.lwvtn.org/lwvtn_positions)



appropriate educational services for all students including those with disabilities and English language learners.

- Students should have equal access to charter schools. This includes making every effort to have charter school applicant pools be comparable to the populations of their local school district.
- Local school boards should provide an open process that allows for citizen input in the authorization of public charter schools. Local school boards should maintain input and authorization over charter schools in their jurisdiction.