

Using the New LWVC Homelessness Action Policy & Tool Kit

Specially Prepared for
LWV California State Convention

June 9, 2021



Setting the Stage

Just Like Us video

<https://youtu.be/Ekm8HI4cRRc>

Our goal is to provide your League information that enables you to educate, advocate and guide voters using the LWVC Housing & Homelessness Position, Homelessness Action Policy and Toolkit.

A copy of this presentation will be sent to you, and it will also be available on the state website.

LWVC Homelessness Task Force

Started after last state convention in **2019**

Great team from around the state – they did all the work:

Emily Allen

Chris Collins

Roma Dawson

Joni Halpern

Marjie Larson

Bill Loftus

Diane Nied

Anne Omsted

Myles Pomeroy

Susan Russell

William Smith

Jennifer Waggoner

Created Homelessness Action Policy and ToolKit

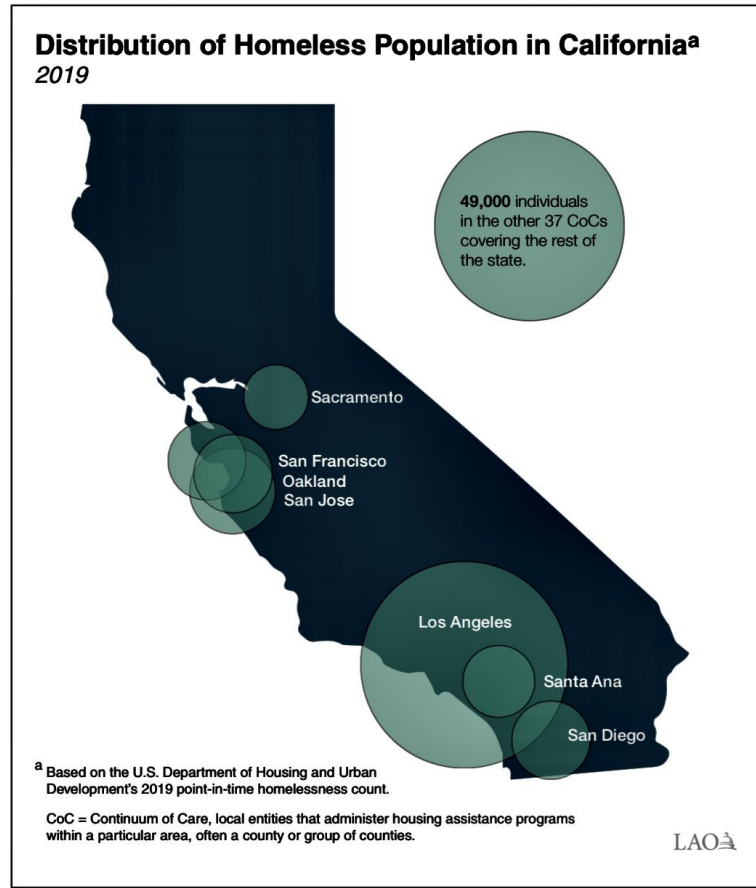
Housing Team developing **Housing Handbook**: technical, complex topic

Thank you to

Elizabeth Leslie (website), Susan Connell (video) and Patty Santry (tech support)

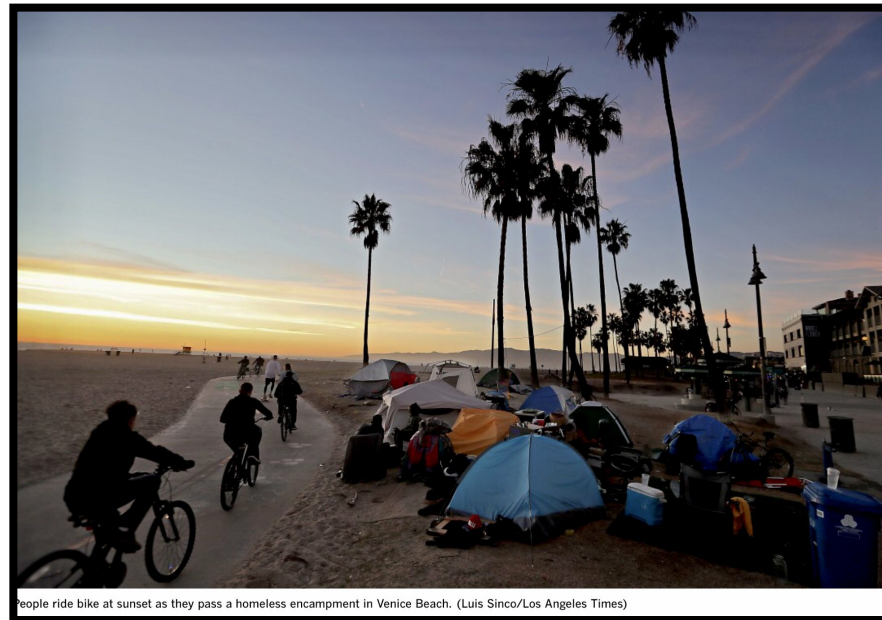
Thank You -- from our entire Homelessness Task Force

Homelessness in Most Populated Areas.



Policy starts with those we are trying to help
“Lived Experience”

Treat people with dignity, respect; Build trust



People ride bike at sunset as they pass a homeless encampment in Venice Beach. (Luis Sinco/Los Angeles Times)

Change of Terminology and Mind Set

“People Centered Language” emphasizes *personhood*;
views other social identities as secondary

Defining a group by its *condition* – places undo focus on the condition
(such as housing status, disability, criminal justice system involvement)

People Experiencing Homelessness: they are *people first* and foremost
Minimize generalizations and stereotypes

People who are unhoused/experiencing homelessness/housing insecure

For poverty: opportunity gap, families who receive SNAP, people facing barriers due to poverty, under-resourced, neighborhoods with high poverty rates

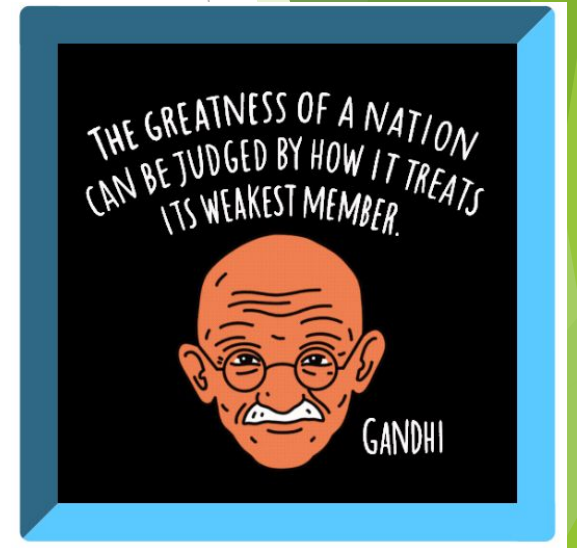
State of Homelessness

How many? Depends on your source...

In the United States...

- ▶ 2020 HUD 580,000 Point-in-Time Count
 - ▶ 67% individuals; 209,413 unsheltered v 199,478 sheltered
 - ▶ “Moral responsibility to end homelessness” HUD Sec Marcia Fudge
- ▶ National Center for Education Statistics
 - ▶ 1.5 million US students 2017-18 school year
 - ▶ California 2018-19 269,000 students k-12
 - ▶ UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools study

Population Reference Bureau



Let's look at the state...

In California

- ▶ 161,548 in months before pandemic struck (2020), 7% increase
- ▶ >1,300+ have died on the streets
- ▶ In 2020, local providers (44 CoCs) reported serving 248,130 people
 - ▶ 91,626 of those served moved to a place they can call home in 2020 (37%)
 - ▶ 117,109 (47%) remained actively engaged with services or in shelters
 - ▶ 39,395 disengaged from services (16%)
 - ▶ 49,000 are chronically homeless
 - ▶ 60% have been incarcerated at some point
- ▶ Homeless Data Integration System
<https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/hdis.html>
- ▶ How do we turn off the spigot?

Understanding Homelessness in California

Since 2017, CoCs across California **have increased the number of people they serve by 39%**, indicating increasing efforts by state and local systems to address the homelessness crisis.

Project Roomkey and other life-saving crisis response efforts taken to address the pandemic are clear. In 2020, **people served through street outreach increased by 13% and people accessing emergency shelter increased by 12%** (compared to 2019).

Among the people experiencing homelessness who accessed services in 2020:

- ❑ **41% reported a disabling condition** (101,733)
- ❑ **9% were veterans** (22,332)
- ❑ **17% reported experiences with domestic violence** (42,183)
- ❑ **22% were under the age of 18** (54,588)

2020 Sub-populations

160,238 people were **adults** living alone or in the company of other adults

84,710 were people in **families** with children. 4,690 were **unaccompanied youth**.

134,766 were **White**. 84,775 were **Hispanic/Latinx**. 72,258 were **Black** or African American.

Largest age groups:

<18 53,736 **55+** 51,612

How do we end Homelessness?
How do we turn off the spigot?

HOUSING

- ▶ **Prevention**

In 2020, 32,189 people received homelessness prevention assistance, double those in 2017.

- ▶ **Support and Re-Housing**

- ▶ **Permanent Housing Creation**



What comes to mind when you think of

▶ Affordable Housing

- ▶ Family of 4 spends no more than 30% of its income on housing

▶ Low Income Housing (California)

- ▶ Family of 4 makes 51-80% of median family income
(\$45,951-\$72,080)
- ▶ Very Low Income - 31-50% of median family income
(\$27,931-\$45,050)
- ▶ Extremely Low Income - 0-30% of median family income
(\$0-\$27,030)



▶ Federal Poverty Guideline

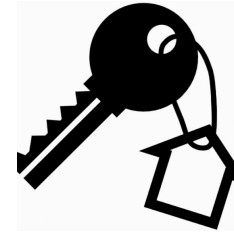
- ▶ Family of 4: \$26,500 CA Minimum wage: \$14/hour (\$28,000 annually)

CA Median Income: \$90,100

Metro County: \$90,600

Non-Metro County: \$69,700

US Median Income: \$79,900



County/No. in HH	LAKE 2/4	LOS ANGELES 2/4	SANTA CLARA 2/4
Extremely Low Income	\$17,420 -- \$26,500	\$28,400 -- \$35,450	\$39,800 -- \$49,700
Very Low Income	\$28,000 -- \$34,950	\$47,300 -- \$59,100	\$66,300 -- \$82,850
Low Income	\$44,750 -- \$55,900	\$75,700 -- \$94,600	\$94,200 -- \$117,750
Median Income	\$56,550 -- \$70,700	\$64,000 -- \$80,000	\$121,050 -- \$151,300
Moderate Income	\$67,900 -- \$84,850	\$76,800 -- \$96,000	\$145,250 -- \$181,550

Dept. of Housing and Community Development, April 2021

Lowest Paying Jobs

Annual Mean Wage

In US \$23-28K
\$56,310

In CA: \$28-34K
\$63,660

Paid by the hour, often female

Shampooers

Dishwashers

Manicurists & Pedicurists

Fast Food Cooks, Counter Workers;

Food Prep Workers; Short Order Cooks

Waiters & Waitresses

Pressers (textile, garment and related materials)

Sewing Machine Operators

Amusement & Recreation Attendants

Ushers, Lobby Attendants, Ticket Takers
Attendants

Cashiers

Parking attendants

Slaughterers & meat packers; graders, sorters ag products

Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers

Childcare Workers

Recreational Protective Services

Gambling Dealers

Hotel/Motel/Resort Desk Clerks

Hosts & Hostesses

Home Health and Personal Aides

Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners

Non-farm Animal Caretakers

Automotive & Watercraft Service

Forest & Conservation Workers

Physical Therapist Aides

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/top-worst-paid-jobs-2061699>

<https://stacker.com/stories/2245/lowest-paying-jobs-los-angeles>

2021 CALIFORNIA HOUSING PROFILE



Across California, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

SENATORS: Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla

KEY FACTS

1,271,125
OR
21%

Renter Households that are extremely low income

\$27,330

Maximum income of 4-person extremely low income households (state level)

-962,667

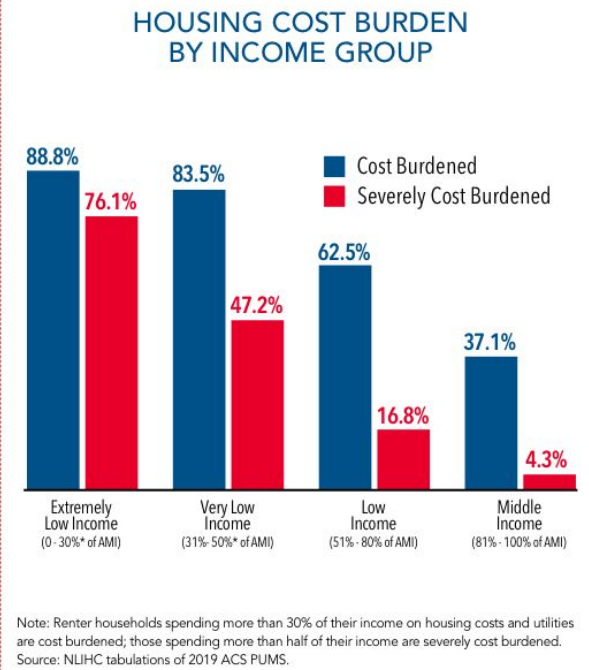
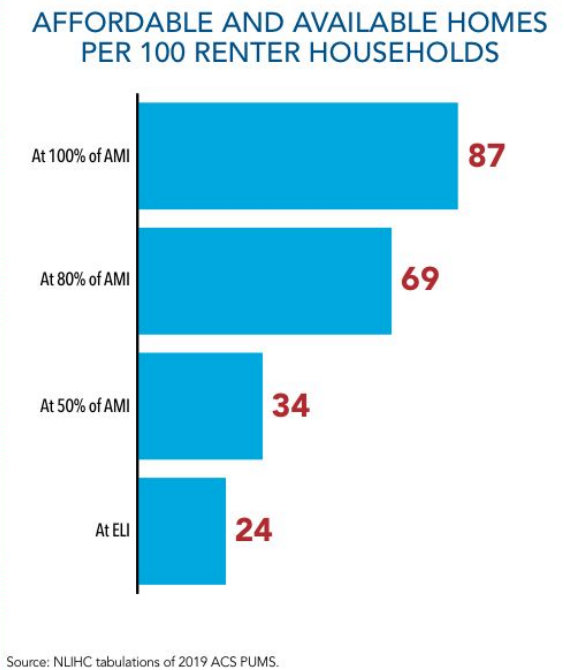
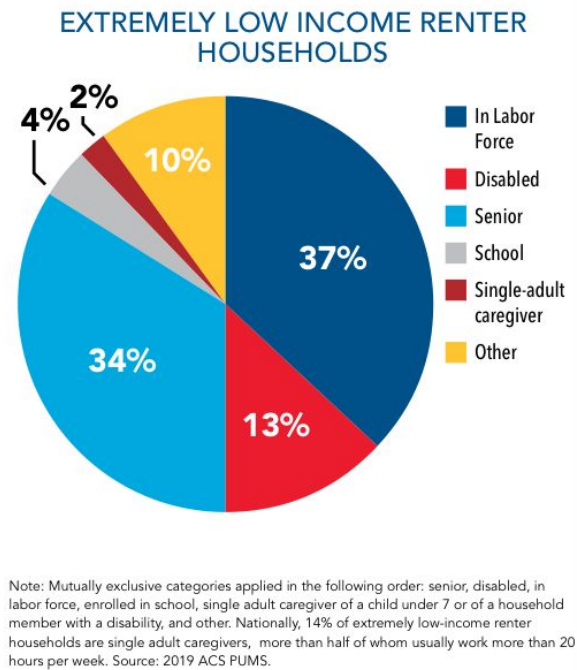
Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters

\$76,879

Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.

76%

Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden



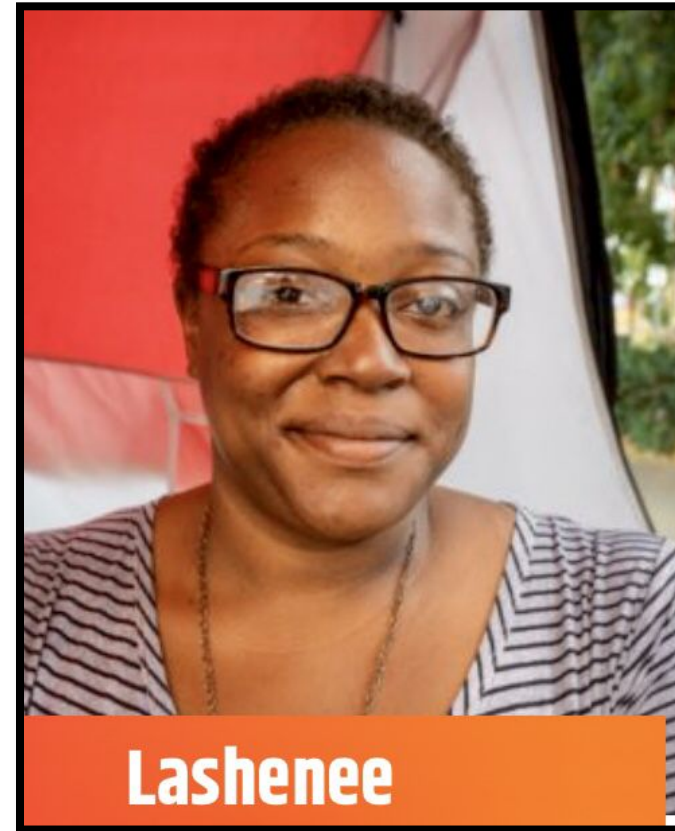
Causes of Homelessness

- ▶ Severe Deficit of Affordable Housing
 - ▶ 3.5 million homes needed by 2025
 - ▶ Built 44% of what's needed over the last decade
 - ▶ Disinvestment in Affordable Housing
- ▶ Wealth Inequality
 - ▶ Low wages; housing costs out of reach; poverty
 - ▶ More than a third of Californians live at or near poverty level (CPM: \$34,200) *PPIC*
 - ▶ Health issues: disability, PTSD, mental/behavioral, chronic
- ▶ Systemic Racism; Gender/Age/Sexual discrimination
- ▶ Unemployment, Lack of tenant protections
- ▶ Pandemic, Eviction, Job Loss
- ▶ **Domestic Violence; Aged Out of Foster Care**
- ▶ **Prison release; Immigration**

MYTH: All Homeless People are mentally ill or addicts

FACT: Based on homeless counts, year-to-year approximately *25-30% of those experiencing homelessness have a severe mental illness, and approximately 30% have a substance abuse disorder*

- ▶ *Many self medicate with drugs or alcohol as a coping mechanism for surviving on the streets, with research showing **substance abuse is more likely to be a result of homelessness rather than the cause***



MYTH: If people can afford a cell phone or a tv, they really aren't poor

FACT: People experiencing homelessness typically have a *basic cell phone that they receive free* through government programs. Like us, phones are the way they stay connected to the world.

- ▶ *They access the internet where it is free, such as libraries, fast food eateries and coffee shops*
- ▶ *Phones are a lifeline to their case manager as well as to employment and housing opportunities*

MYTH: People on the street don't want help, they like that lifestyle and the freedom

FACT: No one wants to be homeless: *it's dangerous, stressful and humiliating*. Living on the streets statistically shortens one's life, aging people by 20 years.

Sometimes outside is chosen instead of a shelter

- ▶ *Small amount of belongings allowed*
- ▶ *No pets*
- ▶ *Unsafe around strangers (women and kids in particular)*
- ▶ *Feeling closed in (past trauma)*
- ▶ *Serious physical or mental illness*
- ▶ *Shelter is far from their neighborhood*
- ▶ *Families/couples fear separation*



MYTH: Homeless People are all dangerous - They're criminals

FACT: People who are homeless *are more likely to be victims of a crime* than to commit a crime, especially women and young adults.

- ▶ *Targets of gangs*
- ▶ *These are neighbors in need of shelter and housing*



MYTH: People experiencing homelessness are just lazy - get a job!

FACT: Many have full time jobs but do not earn enough to pay for the high cost of housing in CA. According to recent homeless counts *about 60% of newly homeless individuals cite economic hardship for the reason they become homeless.*

Barriers to Employment

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Disabling Conditions | Criminal Record |
| Lack of a permanent address | Prejudice and Hidden Racism |
| Inconsistent Access to Showers | Transportation Challenges |

MYTH: They just made bad choices

FACT: People's actions are often *influenced by circumstances beyond their control*, such as losing a job, being a victim of domestic violence, having a physical or mental disability.

- ▶ *People experiencing homelessness live in a survival mode day-to-day, finding it difficult to make longer range plans.*
- ▶ *Their daily frame of mind is often about how to find food and water, use the facilities and how to stay relatively safe avoiding dangerous street situations.*



LWVC Public Website

The screenshot shows the LWVC website page for 'Housing and Homelessness'. The header includes a menu, the LWVC logo, and navigation links for 'Donate', 'Sign Up', and 'Join'. The main content area features a large image of a homeless person, a 'CURRENT STATEWIDE ELECTION' box for the Primary Election on June 7, 2022, and a 'VOTER TOOLBOX' with links for Elections, Register to Vote, How to Vote, and Find a Local League. A yellow callout box contains text about the importance of housing and homelessness, along with links to 'State Position POSITION ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS' and 'State Position HOMELESSNESS ACTION POLICY'. A 'Find your ballot' section includes an address and zip code input field with a 'Go' button. A 'SHOP OUR STORE' button is at the bottom.

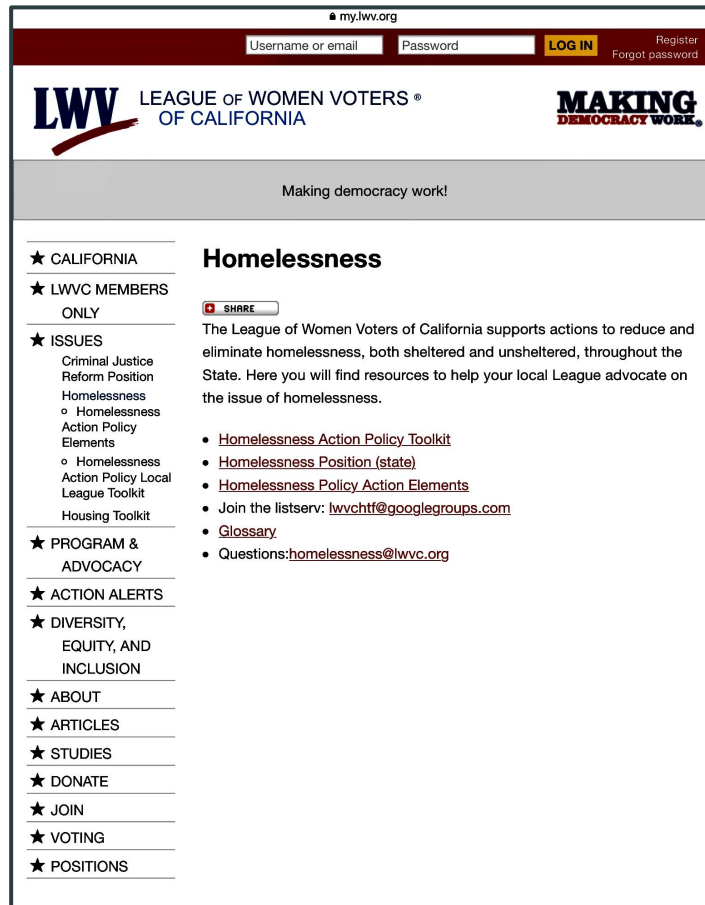
<https://lwvc.org/issues/housing>

The screenshot shows the LWVC website page for 'Position on Housing and Homelessness'. The header is identical to the previous page. The main content area features a large image of a homeless person, a 'CURRENT STATEWIDE ELECTION' box for the Primary Election on June 7, 2022, and a 'VOTER TOOLBOX' with links for Elections, Register to Vote, How to Vote, and Find a Local League. A yellow callout box contains the text 'The Issue: Housing and Homelessness'. A 'Position in Brief' section provides a summary of the organization's support for equal opportunity in housing. A 'Details' section lists three key points: 1. Programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. 2. An overall state plan for development with integration of housing, land use and transportation and with attention to factors such as natural resources and basic human needs. 3. State financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, tax incentives and other means to encourage housing construction and rehabilitation. A 'Find your ballot' section includes an address and zip code input field with a 'Go' button. A 'SHOP OUR STORE' button is at the bottom.

<https://lwvc.org/position/housing>

LWVC Homelessness Action Policy and Toolkit

<https://my.lwv.org/california/issues/homelessness>



- ▶ On state “mylo” membership website
- ▶ One place for all things “Homelessness”

LWVC Homelessness Action Policy and Elements

Includes *Action Policy in Brief* as well as expanded explanation of each Position in regards to Homelessness

National and State positions under “*Elements*”:

Meeting Basic Human Needs, Equality of Opportunity, Urban Policy, Health Care, Natural Resources, Violence Prevention, Children & Family Issues Action Policy, Criminal Justice, Housing & Homelessness, Land Use, Mental Health Care, State & Local Finance

The screenshot shows the LWVC website page for the Homelessness Action Policy. The page includes a navigation menu, a search bar, and a header with the LWVC logo and the slogan "MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK". The main content area features the title "Homelessness Action Policy" and a "Position in Brief" section. The brief states that the League of Women Voters of California supports actions to reduce and eliminate homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, throughout the State. Below the brief, there is a "Details" section with a list of bullet points. The right sidebar contains a "CURRENT STATEWIDE ELECTION" section for the Primary Election on June 7, 2022, and a "VOTER TOOLBOX" with links for Elections, Register to Vote, How to Vote, and Find a Local League. At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a "VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA" section with a "Find your ballot" form and a "SHOP OUR STORE" button.

<https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions/homelessness-action-policy>

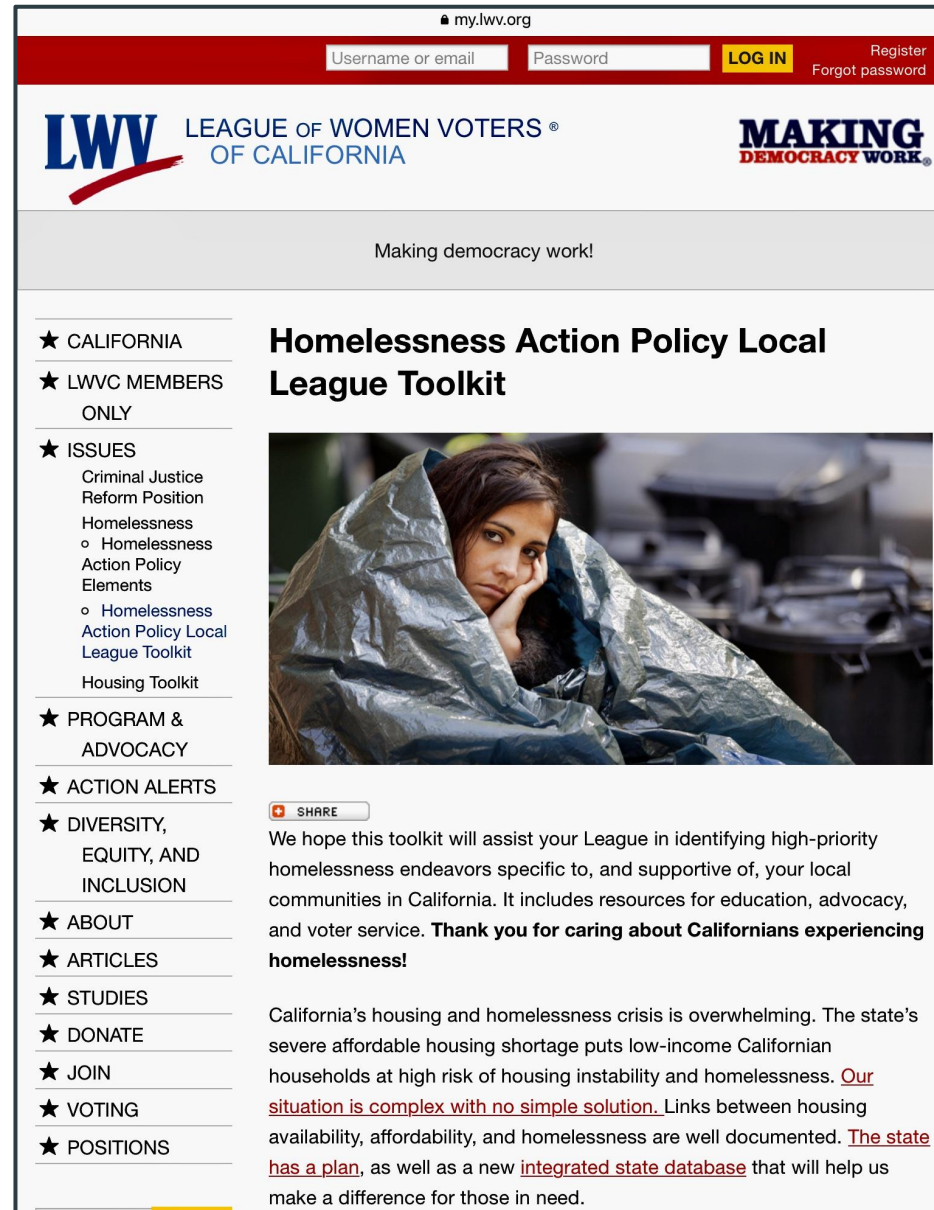
The screenshot shows the my.lwv.org website page for the Homelessness Action Policy Elements. The page includes a navigation menu, a search bar, and a header with the LWVC logo and the slogan "MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK". The main content area features the title "Homelessness Action Policy Elements" and a "Position in Brief" section. The brief states that the next sections specify National and State League positions that justify elements of the proposed Action Policy. Below the brief, there is a "Details" section with a list of bullet points. The right sidebar contains a "CURRENT STATEWIDE ELECTION" section for the Primary Election on June 7, 2022, and a "VOTER TOOLBOX" with links for Elections, Register to Vote, How to Vote, and Find a Local League. At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a "VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA" section with a "Find your ballot" form and a "SHOP OUR STORE" button.

<https://my.lwv.org/california/homelessness-action-policy-elements>

Homelessness Action Policy Toolkit

<https://my.lww.org/california/homelessness/homelessness-action-policy-local-league-toolkit>

- ▶ Educate yourself - Know your local situation
 - ▶ Interviews with officials and agencies (Sacramento)
 - ▶ Start somewhere - service project
 - ▶ Local study - San Diego



The screenshot shows the website for the League of Women Voters of California. The page title is "Homelessness Action Policy Local League Toolkit". The navigation menu on the left includes: CALIFORNIA, LWVC MEMBERS ONLY, ISSUES (Criminal Justice Reform Position, Homelessness, Homelessness Action Policy Elements, Homelessness Action Policy Local League Toolkit, Housing Toolkit), PROGRAM & ADVOCACY, ACTION ALERTS, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION, ABOUT, ARTICLES, STUDIES, DONATE, JOIN, VOTING, and POSITIONS. The main content area features a photograph of a woman wrapped in a silver emergency blanket, looking distressed. Below the photo is a "SHARE" button and a paragraph of text: "We hope this toolkit will assist your League in identifying high-priority homelessness endeavors specific to, and supportive of, your local communities in California. It includes resources for education, advocacy, and voter service. **Thank you for caring about Californians experiencing homelessness!**" A second paragraph follows: "California's housing and homelessness crisis is overwhelming. The state's severe affordable housing shortage puts low-income Californian households at high risk of housing instability and homelessness. [Our situation is complex with no simple solution.](#) Links between housing availability, affordability, and homelessness are well documented. [The state has a plan,](#) as well as a new [integrated state database](#) that will help us make a difference for those in need."

Let's Get Started

Whether your League is just beginning to explore homelessness or has been actively involved with your local community for years, start here to find out more about California's current situation.

Are you a "just the headlines" kind of person? If you only have 15 minutes, read these:

1. [You've just been named California's Homelessness Czar -- What's your first move?](#)
2. [Problems Facing the Unhoused](#)
3. [California's Homelessness Challenges in Context, 2021](#)
4. [The Governor's Homelessness Plan: Executive Summary, Introduction, Background](#)

Want to get into more depth on a topic? With an hour or more, start above, then continue on:

1. [How California became the Nation's Housing Market Nightmare](#)
2. [This 2018 Homelessness Task Force Report provides practical tools for cities and counties in California to use in addressing homelessness in their communities.](#) It offers details on how to create a homelessness plan, identify resources and funding for homelessness, and build support in communities to address homelessness. [Initial recommendations from the State Homelessness Task Force.](#)
3. [Why is Homelessness such a Problem in US Cities?](#)
4. ["Housing Not Handcuffs" is the only national report that provides an overview of laws in effect across the country that punish homelessness.](#) Many people experiencing homelessness have no choice but to live outside, yet cities routinely punish or harass unsheltered people for their presence in public places.
5. [The Criminalization of Homelessness, Explained: legal experts help unpack some of the most complicated issues in the criminal justice system.](#)

Reference Materials

1. [Glossary of Terms](#)
2. [Homelessness Myth Busters; Part Two](#)
3. [Suggested Reading on Homelessness](#)
4. ["Yes In My LA!"](#)
5. [Related LWV Positions from across the country](#)
6. [Trustworthy Organizations and Government Entities](#)

HOMELESSNESS ACTION POLICY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Prevention

1. [Despite recent efforts, many obstacles to fixing the affordable housing problem.](#)
To solve the country's persistent affordable housing problem fiscal and land-use policies must change dramatically along with views and attitudes of American voters and their elected representatives.
2. [To Address Unsheltered Homelessness, Shelter and Housing Must Be Connected](#)
This short article by the National Alliance to End Homelessness recommends a balanced approach between building new shelters and rapid rehousing. For each new person housed in a shelter, there should be one person moved out into permanent supportive housing or other rental housing. Shelters and housing must be directly connected.
3. [Federal role in addressing homelessness](#)
This LA Times article discusses the Trump Administration's desire to address the homelessness issue in Los Angeles and other major cities. It suggests possible ideas that the federal government might pursue such as reducing federal regulations for new housing or using surplus federal facilities as shelter facilities. The federal government still has not announced any formal federal strategies for working on the homeless issue.
4. [Homelessness and Domestic Violence: What's the Connection?](#)
October 2015 article authored by National Alliance to End Homelessness detailing how homelessness and domestic violence are inextricably linked. It has good (if somewhat old) data and bibliography. It also has a link to ACLU's Women's Rights Project.
5. [How Far Can Cities Go to Police the Homeless? Boise Tests the Limit](#)
This NY Times article details the case regarding Boise vs. Martin. The Ninth District Appellate Court ruled that cities do not have the right to cite homeless people for sleeping on sidewalks or other public property.
6. [Pervasive Penalty: How the Criminalization of Poverty Perpetuates Homelessness](#)
7. [The Criminalization of Homelessness in US Cities](#)
By National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
8. [Punishment without Crime](#)
How our massive misdemeanor system traps the innocent and makes America more unequal by Alexandra Natapoff (UCI)
9. [You've just been named California's homelessness czar — what's your first move?](#)

Homelessness Action Policy Toolkit

my.lwv.org

Advocacy: Make a difference

What actions can our Leagues take to effect change and improve the lives of people who are unhoused? Make sure you review our [Homelessness Action Policy](#).

Applying an Equity Lens

Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other people of color are [disproportionately represented among Californians experiencing homelessness](#). While 6.5 percent of Californians identify as Black or African-American, almost 40 percent of the state's population of people who are unhoused are Black. Indigenous peoples are over six times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population. Latino Californians are least likely to access housing and services available in their communities. Addressing housing affordability and accessibility issues are key to solving the problem of inequitable access to decent housing. For more information on diversity, equity and inclusion check the League of Women Voters' resources listed [here](#).

Homelessness Action Policy Roadmap

What can we possibly do to affect this complex situation? [These letters](#) outline some positions your local league may want to take.

Observer Corps

This is an excellent way to learn about homelessness in your community if you're new to the issue or just want to more fully understand the interconnections between the groups assisting people who are unhoused: it will help you become a more effective advocate. Consider observing city councils, council of governments, service provider area groups, or other appropriate meetings. You can sign up for [online training from LWV San Francisco](#). Join the [National League Observer Corps Facebook Group](#).

ROADMAP FOR USING THE LWVC HOMELESSNESS ACTION POLICY

The purpose of the LWVC Homelessness Action Policy is to enable any League in California to TAKE ACTION on homelessness issues in its own community. During its work on this issue, The Homelessness Task Force found it possible to address almost any specific matter related to homelessness by carefully examining the language and intent of existing [LWV positions](#). The following list will help identify where to seek positions which, while not specifically mentioning a particular action that any League is contemplating, might be available to support the action.

Following are some situations and suggestions that can serve as examples of how actions on homelessness can be supported by existing positions:

Example 1: A League concludes it should openly support, through public testimony of its leaders, the building of shelters or very low-income housing. What positions support this action?
Building of Shelters; very low-income housing: LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs, Urban Policy and LWVC Housing and Homeless section and Land Use.

Example 2: A League wants to take a public stand with community nonprofit advocates who have called attention to the fact that homeless shelter policies are interfering

Advocacy: How can we make a difference?

Roadmap

- ▶ Real Life examples with supporting positions - the keys to effectiveness
- ▶ Criteria for how to address a situation
- ▶ Letters

Observer Corps

Homelessness Action Policy Tool Kit

- ▶ Issue Education Forums
 - ▶ Flyer and Program Examples
- ▶ Program Planning
- ▶ Actions and Advocacy Ideas

Issue Education Forums

The public is in need of general education about homelessness. Consider hosting a forum, webinar, or creating a FAQ to print and share online. Write an Op Ed. Host a book club; watch related movies. Here are some examples for you to consider.

- [Letters](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Books & Movies](#)

Program Planning

There are several ways to include homelessness in your local priorities:

1. Make homelessness an Education Issue for Emphasis in your local league (you do not need to have any positions to do this).
2. Make homelessness an Advocacy Issue for Emphasis in your local league (you can use the state position but might want local positions to do this as well).
3. Propose concurrence locally in order to adopt positions if you want additional local positions.

Using the Action Policy. While the [Roadmap](#) has some terrific ideas, [here are others you might find helpful in your league area.](#)

Local League Actions and Advocacy for Consideration



Local League Actions and Advocacy for Consideration

Support Safe Parking or Camping proposals in your community.

Support Proposals for any kind of low-income housing or Homeless Shelters - attend community and council meetings as an advocate.

Hands-on service to help area homeless/domestic violence victims: put together "Necessity bags"; help a service group in your area to do meals, food pantries, clothing drives, kids' educational and basic items: Ask the local groups serving the homeless what your League could do.

Eviction help: work with local lawyers to assist them as well as educate tenants and landlords about rental laws. Especially important during the pandemic!

Educate your League and the public:

- a. research your city and county on its policies and actions related to homelessness
- b. Talk to local police, non-profits, librarians on how things are handled in your community.
- c. Put on a LWV forum/Local Educational Forum to help people become more aware about how many homeless are in your area, who serves them, what issues are there and how are they being addressed. What can YOU do to assist?
- d. Research your city's General Plan and how it addresses housing — educate your League about what's being planned.
- e. Take a look at how money is spent for services, shelter and housing for the homeless in your city.
- f. Review your County's plans for the region related to the homeless and housing for very-low-income families and individuals.

Homelessness Action Policy Tool Kit

- ▶ Advocacy ideas and resources in one spot
- ▶ Legislative and Local Actions
- ▶ Keep in touch!

my.lwv.org

Advocacy Resources

1. [Ideas for Advocacy projects](#)
2. [Letter](#) and [Forum](#) examples
3. [Reliable Regional Resources](#)

Legislative Action at all Levels of Government

The [LWVC Bill Status Report](#). Please do not take action as a League on state bills without discussing the bill with your Board, your Local Coach (LC), and a state Board Member or the LWVC staff. Check out the [Speaking with One Voice: LWVC Policy Explainer](#) for more information.

Local Action. Testifying at regional or city council meetings about proposed legislation and programs is one way to assist the homeless in your own community. All such meetings are now recorded and many are viewable live from home. Use existing positions and the Homelessness Action Policy to find a position upon which to base your comments.

Stay in Touch, Get Help

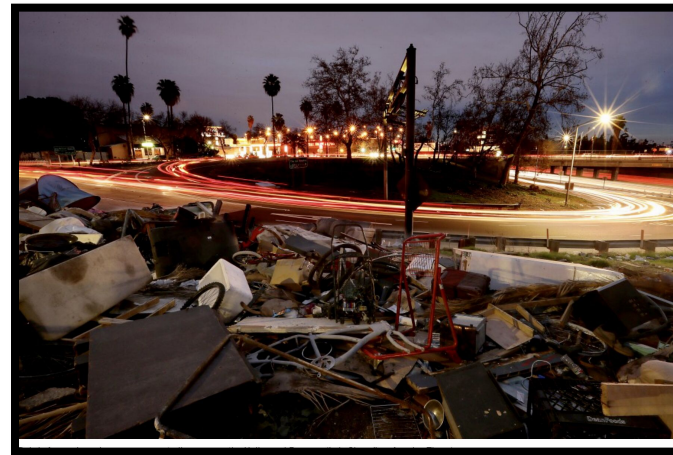
Please contact us by joining our ListServ lvchtff@googlegroups.com to get informational updates; send us a direct note to Homelessness@lwvc.org. We are eager to help!

"Government has to recognize that it has an obligation to lift the homeless up, not to chase them around, not to incarcerate them, but to lift them up and restore them to a place of dignity that they deserve."
-Mark Ridley Thomas, 11/2020, LA City Council and Co-chair of Governor's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors

Photo courtesy of Mark Horvath of [Invisible People](#).

In Our Neighborhoods

- ▶ Pandemic has been difficult - Homeless are more visible, Neighbors are impatient
 - ▶ Consider what happened to the unhoused
 - ▶ Encampments grew, Police came
 - ▶ When broken up, where do they go?
- ▶ Homeless Encampments = Community
 - ▶ Safety, sharing, support
 - ▶ Friends and family
- ▶ Evictions, Rental Assistance
 - ▶ Help Prevent Homelessness
- ▶ More government support coming: federal, state
- ▶ New ideas all the time; quarterly updates



References

[The Big Issue: Housing & Homelessness](#)

[LWVC Housing & Homelessness Position](#)

[LWVC Homelessness Action Policy](#)

[LWVC Homelessness Action Policy Elements](#)

[LWVC Homelessness Resource Page](#)

[LWVC Homelessness Action Policy Toolkit](#)

[Invisible People](#)

Great site for stories, news, videos and other resources

[Homeless Data Integration System](#)

New state website combining all 44 CoCs information