Election Security Issues - Pro's and Con's

1. **LWVUS needs an Election Security position:** League of Women Voters of the US (LWVUS) past conventions addressed election security, but did not adopt a formal position.

   Pro: Although there is convention resolution language, LWVUS's actual voting position says nothing about election security. The peaceful transfer of power depends upon voters accepting the results of elections, which only happens if they have trust in election systems across the United States; that trust has been seriously eroded in recent years. LWVUS should adopt an Election Security position so that local Leagues can advocate effectively. The current League position does not cover any aspect of election security.
   Con: LWVUS has a general position from 1982 that is adequate:"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed." A 2006 convention resolution called for voter-verifiable paper ballots or paper records that can be used in audits and recounts, and said that audits can be conducted. The 2010 convention added the principle of transparency, so that the League would support voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible, and transparent. The League does not need any additional positions.

   Pro: Election interference by foreign nationals in recent elections clearly supports the need for greater election security measures in the US.
   Con: Concerted partisan efforts have been employed to undermine the confidence that American voters have in the security and outcome of national elections. If the League speaks out, we could be seen as partisan.

2. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include the security of voter registration databases**
   Pro: Accuracy, regular updating, transparency, independent audits, and individuals' ability to verify their own records and voting history will increase voter confidence.
   Con: Databases can be hacked.

3. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include chain of custody security**

    Pro: Strict Chain of Custody protocols will provide for and show direct accountability and control of key systems and passwords and will designate select personnel with appropriate expertise and security clearance to enforce limited access to original ballots with strictly documented ballot access times and places.
    Con: Strict protocols can limit the flexibility of local election officials.

4. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include qualifications and training of election officials, workers, and volunteers and security for sensitive tasks**
    Pro: Establishing qualifications, including no history of fraud or election offense, and implementing training for election workers ensures fair and accurate election administration. If sensitive tasks are performed by teams, with no two team members from the same political party, it improves security.
    Con: Background checks for election workers and having teams could be too expensive for some small jurisdictions.

5. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include voting systems hardware and software security**
    Pro: Voting systems hardware and software will be more secure if supported and tested.
    Con: Testing and support could be expensive.

6. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include verifying voter eligibility to cast a ballot**
    Pro: Verification via best practices that promote the ease and security of voting can help counteract false claims of illegal voting.
    Con: Verification could be cumbersome and discourage voters.

7. **An LWVUS Election Security position should require audits and auditability**
    Pro: Voter-verifiable paper ballots can be audited and recounted so

election outcome changes caused by software can be detected without relying on software, making accurate vote counts possible.

Con: Paper ballots are old-fashioned; electronic voting is more modern.

Pro: Risk-limiting audits can provide convincing evidence that reported outcomes actually reflect how people voted.

Con: Risk-limiting audits seem complicated and may increase election costs.

8. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include voter-verifiability**

   Pro: Voters need to be encouraged to confirm their votes by reviewing their easily verifiable paper ballots before casting them.

   Con: If voting in person, spending time re-reading an already marked ballot can hold up the line of people waiting to vote.

9. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include equitable voting access**

   Pro: When a voter would otherwise be disenfranchised, they should have access to a voting method which is as secure as possible under the circumstances.

   Con: Only completely secure voting should be allowed.

10. **An LWVUS Election Security position should allow recounts in voting systems**

    Pro: Recounts can be needed in very close or contested elections and increase voter confidence.

    Con: Recounts can be costly.

11. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include voter privacy**

    Pro: Voter privacy must be protected so ballots are not traceable to individual voters.

    Con: Not all voting methods are completely private

12. **An LWVUS Election Security position should include disaster and cybersecurity plans**

    Pro: An Election Security position must include development and

rehearsal of contingency plans for disasters and cybersecurity recovery.

Con: Developing and rehearsing plans is time-consuming and expensive.