



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF VIRGINIA**

**MEMBERSHIP GUIDE**

March 2025

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

Dear League Member,

Welcome to the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA)! The League is exciting and challenging. We are committed to defending the rights of voters, to providing a broad array of information and opportunities to educate and engage voters, to promoting nonpartisan redistricting, and to reforming money in politics. The League offers a variety of options for member participation as time and interest permit.

We have prepared this overview to introduce you to the League and the many ways that you can take part—whether working on voter education and registering voters; contacting and meeting with members of the legislature about League priorities; participating in League studies and issue groups of interest to you; or serving your local League as a Board member, newsletter contributor, or in another volunteer role.

Our members are people who make a visible difference. They use their League experiences to serve as leaders who make democracy work and create lasting change in the communities where they live. The League is nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

If you know someone who may want to know about the League, please share this guide with them and ask them to join us and become part of a community that shares a passion for creating positive change on the local, state, and national levels.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me ([president@lwv-va.org](mailto:president@lwv-va.org)) or, if you are a part of a local League, to their President. We are here to help you.

With thanks,

Joan Porte  
President  
League of Women Voters of Virginia

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## ABOUT THE LEAGUE

### Mission, Vision, and Value

**Mission:** Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

**Vision:** We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

**Value:** We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

### History

The spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War gave rise to the idea of a nonpartisan organization that would provide political education and experience for women, contribute to the growth of the citizenry, and strengthen democracy in the United States. In 1919, at the 50<sup>th</sup> convention of the National American Women Suffrage Association, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a “league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation.”

On February 14, 1920—six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified—the National League of Women Voters was formed in Chicago, and the League of Women Voters of Virginia was established in Richmond immediately thereafter.

From the beginning, the League’s activities were not focused exclusively on women’s issues. Over time, the League’s legislative priorities have evolved to reflect the changing needs of society and critical issues of concern. We opened our membership to men in 1973 and now welcome all people. The organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens. The League of Women Voters makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of thousands of members committed to our principles.

### Nonpartisanship

**The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; it neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office at any level of government.** It has guidelines for directors and members who publicly represent the organization, restricting their participation in political activity affiliated with any party or candidate. It also has guides and policies for ensuring non-partisan events with candidates for office. Each League’s Board is responsible for drafting and implementing its own nonpartisan policy and for ensuring that its members and the public understand the League’s nonpartisan role.

### DEI Policy

The LWV-VA, its Board, and local Leagues and their Boards adhere to the [LWV US DEI Policy](#):

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League

is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission/achievements as well. (January 2024)

## **Organization**

The League of Women Voters is organized to parallel the three levels of government: local, state, and national:

- Local Leagues address concerns on the level of county boards of supervisors, city and town councils, and other local appointed or elected bodies.
- The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) is composed of 15 local Leagues (see page 6 for a list of local Leagues) and Members-at-Large around the state; LWV-VA addresses concerns on the state level of government.
- Northern Virginia Leagues are also part of the National Capital Area League, an inter-league organization (ILO) that also includes the District and some Maryland Leagues.
- The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is composed of all state, ILO, and local Leagues. It addresses concerns on the federal level.

At each level of League, the membership elects volunteer members to manage activities, including serving on the Board for that level. Board members are typically elected for a two-year term. There are usually elected officers: President or Co-Presidents, one or two Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. The remainder of the Board is composed of elected and appointed directors. Each member of the Board has a portfolio (a specific area of responsibility) such as program, voters service, membership, action, and newsletter editor.

## **Membership**

Any person over 16 years of age may be a voting member of the League. There are no gender identity restrictions to membership. LWV-VA is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and practice. Member categories may include individual, household, life member, and student member.

Generally, joining the League confers membership in a local League as well as at the state and national level. Those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or become state members-at-large (MALs). When enough MALs live in an area, an attempt is made to form a League-at-Large there.

A portion of dues paid by members to local Leagues is paid to the state and national Leagues through per-member payments (PMP). Members-at-Large pay their dues directly to LWV-VA and are national members. Individuals who have been members of the League for 50 years or more become life members excused from the payment of dues.

## **Financing**

LWV-VA is a non-profit organization financed by PMPs, publication sales, and contributions from members and other supporters. We also may receive public and private grants for special projects.

## Operating Fund and Education Fund

LWV-VA comprises two entities:

- The League of Women Voters of Virginia Operating Fund, a 501(c)(4); and
- The League of Women Voters of Virginia Education Fund, a 501(c)(3).

The LWV-VA Board serves as the governing board for both entities. The League of Women Voters of Virginia Education Fund, also a nonpartisan organization, performs citizen education and voters service activities. Contributions to the Education Fund can be deducted as charitable contributions; dues and contributions to the Operating Fund are not tax-deductible.

## Local Leagues in Virginia

As of 2024, there are 15 local Leagues in Virginia:

[Arlington and Alexandria City](#)

[Charlottesville Area](#)

[Fairfax Area](#)

[Falls Church](#)

[Fredericksburg Area](#)

[Loudoun County](#)

[Lynchburg](#)

[Montgomery County](#)

[Northern Shenandoah Valley](#)

[Prince William-Fauquier Area](#)

[Richmond Metro Area](#)

[South Hampton Roads](#)

[Washington County](#)

[Williamsburg Area](#)

In addition, LWV-VA recognizes one ILO: the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA), which comprises the District of Columbia League and those Leagues in Maryland and Virginia surrounding the nation's capital.

## Communications and Social Media

Stay up to date on LWV-VA news through:

- [The website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Virginia Voter](#)

## WHAT THE LEAGUE DOES

### Voters Service and Voter Education

Voters Service is directed toward encouraging citizens to register, vote, and participate in government and politics. The League provides unbiased, factual information about voting procedures, candidates, and ballot issues to help voters understand the election process and make informed decisions.

The League's voters service activities include:

- Making registration, voting, and ballot information available through a variety of means, including the League's [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) site (Virginia Leagues compile and maintain information about [Virginia elections and candidates](#) specifically). Leagues may also publish *Voter's Guides*.
- Organizing voter registration and Get out the Vote (GOTV) campaigns that target groups that traditionally have not participated in elections, including registering new citizens and high school students as first-time voters.
- Sponsoring candidate meetings, debates, and interviews.
- Providing educational information to voters on a broad range of issues of concern to the community by hosting speakers on election issues, voting procedures, and ballot measures, as well as on health, housing, education, and other issues.

### Program and Advocacy

#### *Establishing Program*

The League develops positions through its "program" work and then advocates for those issues. We do not advocate for an issue if we do not have an agreed upon, written position, which has been approved by League members. (See page 12 for a list of LWVUS and LWV-VA positions.)

Approved positions can be added to or revised through the "program planning" process, which occurs every year at the local level, and biennially for state and national positions. Through this process, members identify issues for which they feel a new or revised position is needed. To develop a new/revised position, the suggestion must be approved by the relevant Board and the full membership at the annual meeting (or biennial convention), a "study" conducted that examines the issues and the recommended League response, member deliberation occurs on the findings and recommendations of that study, and approval of the final language of the position by the relevant Board. During the program adoption discussion at the annual or biennial meetings, members often give suggestions to the Board on scope of inquiry, timing, emphasis, and ways to manage the study or action phases.

#### *Consensus and Concurrence*

Before the League can act, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about various aspects of the policy issue. The Board usually selects the method to be used:

- Consensus—agreement is reached using League responses to specific questions, or
- Concurrence—agreement or a vote on a pre-stated position is required.

The method most often used for reaching member agreement is consensus by group discussion. It is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity. It is the sense of the group, whether in a meeting of the full membership or a series of smaller discussion meetings. Once the League has a position on a given issue, action can be taken. However, each League Board decides when it is appropriate to undertake advocacy or other action on any given position, based on political realities and other considerations.

### *Taking Action through Advocacy*

The League advocates for specific issues based on positions that have been developed through the program planning and development process. The League takes action only on issues that have been studied and on which the members have reached agreement regarding the position.

Advocacy may include:

- Providing information to members and the public
- Influencing public opinion
- Forming and joining coalitions
- Urging governmental action
- Supporting or opposing legislation
- Meeting with or contacting elected or government officials
- Urging government action on the local, state, or federal level
- Becoming a member of the Observer Corps and attending county board and city council meetings as well as the meeting of auxiliary government agencies to assess the need for League action.

Advocacy is a broader term than direct lobbying. The latter occurs when a League seeks to influence decision-makers on a specific piece of legislation. For more information see: [www.lwv.org/league-management/other-issues-tools/defining-advocacy-vs-lobbying](http://www.lwv.org/league-management/other-issues-tools/defining-advocacy-vs-lobbying).

### *Speaking with One Voice*

“Speaking with one voice” is one of the most important tenets of the League. The national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League’s message on national issues is consistent. State Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate to ensure that regional issues are consistent. Ensuring consistency with national and state messages is one reason action must be approved by the local League leadership. Before anyone speaks on behalf of the League, they must be authorized to do so by the President of their local or the state League.

## **Member Education**

Most local Leagues have monthly meetings for members. Many meetings are informational: they present studies or speakers to educate members and guests on a range of local, state, or national topics. Members have a chance to discuss and ask questions of the speakers and study resources. League members become the “go to” person on many issues because of what they have learned at League meetings and through League publications.

## **Observing Government**

League members serve as observers at meetings of various local, state, regional, and national governmental bodies. Observers do not speak for the League but attend meetings as individuals to listen, learn, and make factual reports of the proceedings for other League members.

## **Publications**

Leagues at the national, state, and local levels publish reports of their studies and other information about governmental operations, as well as our monthly newsletter. During General Assembly sessions, we publish the timely [Action Alerts](#) as needed. Members are also kept informed via the monthly [Virginia Voter newsletter](#). Many local Leagues also publish newsletters.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

As a League member, you can be as involved with the League as you choose. Opportunities abound!

Get Involved in our many Voter Registration, Education, and [Get out the Vote](#) efforts! These include [candidate forums](#), [voter registration drives](#), and [postcarding](#) and texting for getting out the vote.

### Lobby Public Officials as an Individual

All League members are encouraged, as individuals, to contact public officials about public policy decisions or pending legislation when directed by the state League or their local League. As a member, you may receive an “Action Alert” for issues that are nearing a vote or decision. It is important to call or e-mail your elected representative quickly when you receive an Action Alert. Contacts with public officials are important to the passage of legislation and implementation of public policy.

Written letters, postcards, and emails are effective tools to communicate your concerns. Whether you call or e-mail public officials or write a letter, remember:

- Mention the issue or bill number in the subject line or first sentence.
- State your purpose or position. Use your own words—they are more convincing than rote responses. You can support your ideas with information from the Action Alert.
- Discuss only one issue in each communication.
- Put your address in the e-mail or tell the aide where you live: it shows you are a constituent.
- You are not speaking as a member of the League, but as an individual. Only Presidents or the people they designate to speak officially for the League.

Additional information about the legislative process and Virginia General Assembly can be found on the [Advocacy](#) page of the website.

### Attend the Women’s Legislative Roundtables and League Day (Our In-person Day of Advocacy)

Hosted by LWV-VA every Wednesday morning during the Virginia General Assembly session.

### Join a Committee or Issue Group

Every League member is encouraged to join resource or working committees that focus on specific issues in various areas of the current League program. Members of these committees do research, clarify issues, identify options, and present the information to other League members for their consideration. Committees do the work of creating and amending the policy positions used for action (see Program and Advocacy section, pp. 7-8).

LWV-VA committees write studies and consensus questions that formulate the positions approved by the state Board. Committee members may also spearhead action on their study area. You can find opportunities on local League websites.

Members are invited to join current LWV-VA Issue Groups by indicating their interests [here](#). Current Issue Groups are:

- Affordable Housing
- Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice

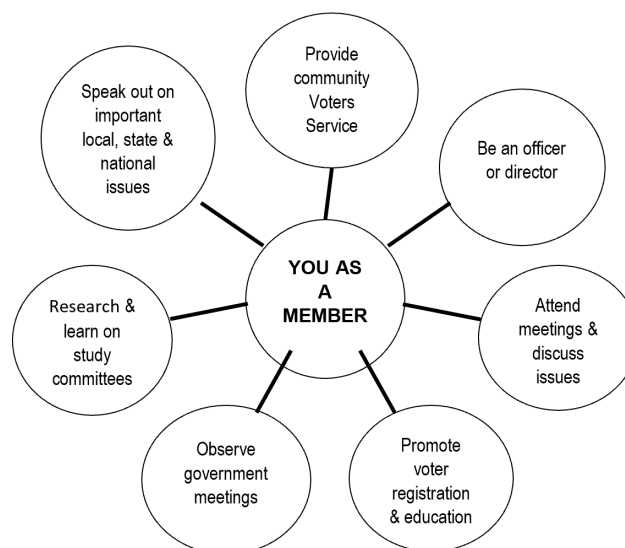
- Child Care
- Domestic Violence
- Education
- Environment
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Mis/Dis Information Task Force
- Physical Health Task Force
- Redistricting (*paused*)
- Reproductive Health
- Transparency (*forming*)
- Voting & Elections (includes Elections Security, Money in Politics, and Voter Access).

## Become a Leader

Members who seek leadership positions can chair committees, serve on a League Board of Directors, or become an official representative for a League. Official and designated representatives testify about public policy issues, lobby regarding legislation, and raise public awareness by giving speeches or writing letters to newspapers/media or government officials. Members may also represent the League on committees, boards, and commissions. Official representation of the League is limited to the League's positions and the extent to which the representative is authorized to speak for the League. League leaders also further our work through fundraising and heading up voters service activities.

## Get Involved!

In short, to get the most out of your membership and to help the League be effective, get involved! Learn how government works, how bills are introduced and become law, and what role you can play in that process. Learn who your state and federal legislators are and their key issues. Be in touch with your legislators; go to their community meetings; stop by their offices to visit and tell them what's important to you. Respond to "Action Alerts" about issues that are nearing a vote or decision. Get actively engaged in any local, state, or national studies underway. Encourage others to get involved with you. Attend Women's Legislative Roundtables and League Day in Richmond during the session. Attend state and national conventions and local annual meetings. Register to vote and VOTE!



## PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes:

- In representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- That all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- That democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.
- That every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.
- That efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- That responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- That cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Source: League of Women Voters of the United States, [\*Impact on Issues, 2022-2024\*](#).

## LWVUS POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters of the United States has adopted positions on:

### REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Voting Rights  
Election Process  
Citizen Rights  
Evaluating Constitutional Amendment  
Proposals and Constitutional  
Conventions  
Congress and the Presidency  
Privatization  
Digital Equity

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

United Nations  
Trade  
Developing Countries  
Arms Control  
Military Policy and Defense Spending

### NATURAL RESOURCES

Resource Management  
Environmental Protection and  
Pollution Control  
Transfer of Federal Public Lands  
Climate Change  
Public Participation  
Federal Agriculture Policies

### SOCIAL POLICY

Criminal Justice  
Equality of Opportunity  
Fiscal Policy  
Health Care  
Immigration  
Meeting Basic Human Needs  
Child Care  
Early Intervention for Children at Risk  
Violence Prevention  
Gun Policy  
Urban Policy  
Death Penalty  
Sentencing Policy  
Human Trafficking

A full description of these positions is available in [\*Impact on Issues, 2022-2024\*](#).

## LWV-VA POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters of Virginia has adopted positions on:

### GOVERNMENT

Delegation of Power  
Election Laws  
Fiscal Policy  
Money in Politics  
Reapportionment and Redistricting  
Transportation  
Women's Rights in Virginia Law

### NATURAL RESOURCES

Air Quality  
Environmental Justice  
Extractive Industries: Hydraulic  
Fracturing/Uranium Mining  
Land Use  
Water Supply and Distribution

### SOCIAL POLICY

Adult Domestic Violence  
Adult Justice  
Affordable Housing  
Child Care  
Children at Risk  
Education  
Juvenile Justice  
Behavioral Health  
[Civil] Rights of Felons in Virginia  
Offender Re-entry

See [\*Positions in Brief\*](#) for a short description of all our state positions  
and [\*Positioned for Action\*](#) for additional detail.

## LEAGUE LINGO: A GLOSSARY

**ACTION:** Promoting the League's positions on local, state and national public policy issues to government officials, the media, and the public.

**ACTION ALERT:** Request from the LWVUS or state League to take action in support of a League position.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

**CONSENSUS:** Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.

**CONCURRENCE:** Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.

**CONVENTION:** A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes, and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention; local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

**COUNCIL:** An assembly held in alternate years. Local Leagues send delegates to state council; state Leagues send delegates to national council.

**EDUCATION FUND:** The tax-deductible arm of national, state, and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:** A person who has been a member for 50 years or more. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.

**ILO:** Acronym for an Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area, or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope.

**MAL:** Acronym for Member-At-Large, a member who resides outside the area of, and is not enrolled in, a local League.

**MALU (Member-At-Large Unit):** A state-recognized group of Members-At-Large, in an area where there is no local League.

**MEMBER:** Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

PMP: Acronym for Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid to the LWVUS and the state League on behalf of each member.

POSITION: A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board, and used as a basis for League action.

PRINCIPLES: Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for adoption of program at all levels.

PROGRAM: Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state, and national levels for study and action.

PROGRAMS: Plans for speakers, discussion, or other activities for League meetings.

UNIT: Groupings of members within large local Leagues to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour), geographically oriented, or both.

VOTERS GUIDE: Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

VOTERS SERVICE: Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voters service activities.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional information about the League can be found in these LWVUS resources:

- [League Basics](#)
- [Introduction PowerPoint](#)
- [Membership Brochure](#)

Additional information about the policies and operations of LWV-VA can be found:

- in the [State Board Handbook](#)
- on the [League Management](#) page of the website.

LWV-VA bylaws can be found here:

- [LWV VA Operating Fund](#)
- [LWV VA Education Fund](#).

## LWV FAQ<sup>1</sup>

**Who is eligible for membership in the League of Women Voters?** Anyone who wants to become informed about issues and actively participate in the democratic process may join the League.

**What are the kinds of membership in the League?**

Anyone over 16 years of age may be a voting member of the League. Member categories include individual, household, life member, and students. Generally, joining the League confers membership in a local League as well as at the state and national level. Those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or become state members-at-large.

**Who joins the League?**

Anyone who supports the mission of the League. There are no educational, social, economic, political, or gender barriers to membership. The League seeks to be representative of our democracy and community.

**What are the benefits of joining the League? How are individual members involved?**

The League offers unique opportunities to collaborate with others to advance issues of greatest interest to you. There are many opportunities for individual League members to learn about the League and participate in its work. You may do as much or as little as you wish and have time for. All members are valuable to League.

To get the most from your League membership you may wish to:

- Attend meetings and events and participate in the discussion.
- Take on specific volunteer or leadership roles.
- Work on Issue Groups (see p. 9-10) and program studies.
- Register voters, organize candidate forums, and contribute to [vote411.org](http://vote411.org).
- Promote the League and recruit, orient, and welcome new members, or serve on the nominating committee to identify new board members.
- Participate in advocacy activities, including meeting with legislators and calling or writing elected officials as an individual, taking action when you receive Action Alerts.
- Volunteer for jobs in the areas of greatest interest to you. Deploy your financial skills by serving as your League's treasurer; your writing and communications skills by working on a newsletter, website, or social media; your organizing, leadership, and research skills by chairing an Issue Group; your event planning skills by organizing candidate forums and other speaker events. Whatever your interest, the League can put your skills to work!

**What is Program?**

"Program" means the collection of governmental issues that League members have chosen for concerted study and action. The League program process is designed to involve the

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<sup>1</sup> LWV-VA is grateful to LWV New Jersey for the FAQ example provided in their member handbook.

membership at almost every stage. You, the member, are given the opportunity to suggest the issues, choose the program, study the facts, agree on the position, and help take the action.

The principles of the League of Women Voters provide the authorization for adoption of program. Other criteria for choosing program items include:

- How much member interest exists?
- Is government action needed? Is it possible?
- Will League involvement make a difference?
- Do we have enough time and money?

Local program includes items of interest to the local Leagues only; it is adopted at the local League annual meeting. State program is adopted at state convention, national program at national convention.

### ***How does the League study the issues?***

If convention delegates approve a study of a topic (or an update to an existing position), the study and consensus process is put into place.

A state level (or national level, as appropriate) committee will form, to do background research, and develop possible positions or questions for League members.

Local Leagues will gather in meetings to learn about the issue and eventually to provide feedback to the higher level of League on their opinions. *Consensus* is the process by which members reach agreement through group discussion of an issue. The consensus or agreement reached is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity, but rather represents the “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. Often there is some negotiation involved, with consensus being something like, “Many of us agree on this statement, but we would all be happier if it included X, so our consensus is to agree but strongly recommend adding that extra component.”

Members have various opportunities to participate in League studies. If you are especially interested in the issue, you can join the relevant study committee in your League. It is responsible for the overall coordination of a particular program issue, from research and study through member decision and action. It will help League members get the information needed to make decisions as informed citizens, not as experts in the field, and it shares its research through reports and conducts discussion at a meeting.

For a state study, there are opportunities for members to join the state level committee researching the issue. Members-at-Large can participate by joining a state committee or attending a local League consensus meeting near them.

Instead of a new study, another way to reach member agreement is *concurrence*—agreeing with (or concurring with) a position previously arrived at. For positions and program, this generally means that delegates at convention or a local League annual meeting agree to “concur” with a study done at a similar League level by another League. Why re-study something another League has already devoted attention to, if it is relevant to your League?



An opinion agreed upon by consensus or concurrence is called a *position*. Positions express the League's point of view and form the basis for League action. The appropriate Board determines when and how to carry out action. Positions are worded in terms broad enough to enable the League, over a period of time, to initiate, support, or oppose a variety of legislative and executive proposals.

### ***What is League Action?***

League leaders never take action before study and agreement. Leagues act only on current local, Virginia, or national positions and on League principles. Actions can include testimony, letters, and phone calls to legislators, working in coalition with other groups, community outreach, and media campaigns. Leagues also do not take action without coordination with and approval from the appropriate level of the organization. For example, a local League cannot take state action or meet with a state legislator without coordinating with the LWV-VA President. Similarly, the League of Women Voters of the United States must be consulted prior to taking action at the federal level. This process ensures we are speaking with one voice and as effectively as possible.

No member must speak for the League without permission the local or state President.

### ***How are Board members chosen? What do they do?***

Nominating committees of each level of League nominate directors and officers of their respective Boards. Local Leagues then typically hold elections at their annual meetings. Delegates from each local League elect state League officers and directors at state conventions, which are held in odd-numbered years. Delegates from each local and state League then select national officers and directors at national League conventions, held during even-numbered years. These elected members may appoint as many additional directors as they consider necessary within the maximum allowed by their bylaws or other policies.

Officers and directors carry overall responsibility for the management and activities of their League. They also usually have a specific job assignment, such as a program (advocacy) area, voters service, or an organizational job.



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