
January 30, 2021



LWVSJC Advocacy Workshop

*How Does the League of Women Voters do
Advocacy Work?*

League of Women Voters Functions

- Advocacy
- Voter Service



Advocacy Definitions

- “The act of arguing in favor of something, such as an idea, cause or favor”. (American Heritage Dictionary)
- “The League of Women Voters take action on an issue only when we have a position addressing that particular issue. Members must study and come to consensus on an issue, in order to form a position”.



League of Women Voters Levels

- National
- State
- Local



LWV Level Responsibilities

- National - advocate on national issues
- State - advocate on state issues
- Local - advocate on local issues
- Each level of League chooses issues for Education and Advocacy, also known as Program



The League “Speaks with One Voice”

Once an advocacy position is established on an issue, other Leagues must either support it or remain silent.

All members are free to act as individuals on any issue, but unless they are formally prompted to act by a national, state, or local League, they should refrain from referring to the League as part of their actions.



League Positions

National, state and local positions provide the reasoning and support for all advocacy.



League Positions

- Areas:
 - Government
 - Natural Resources
 - Social Policy



League Positions

- Adopted through formal study process
 - Develop and review study materials
 - Consensus process
- Consensus with an existing position



League Positions

- Found on League websites
 - LWVUS – “Impact on Issues”
 - LWVC – “Positions” (under “Our Work”)
 - LWVSJC – “Issues”
- Form the basis of our advocacy



Taking Action on a National Issue

- If issue is not a priority, consult with LWVUS
- Complete a Federal Action Request Form (on LWVUS website)



Taking Action on a State Bill

- Review the “Bill Status Report” (LWVC website)
- Action should be limited to contacting legislators representing your local area after LWVC notified



Taking Action on a Local Issue

- Considerations (“Impact on Issues”)
 - Does the League have a position supporting the proposed action?
 - Is the Board understanding and agreement?
 - Is it a League priority?
 - Unique role to play or lead?
 - Best use of League resources?
 - Others working on this issue?
 - Timing?
 - Optimal community involvement?



Taking Action on a Local Issue

- “DEI Lens” (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)
 - Who is involved?
 - Who will be impacted?
 - What are the outcomes?
 - Does this align with our DEI vision?
 - How could it be more equitable?



Advocacy Methods

- Public forums
- Letters or position statements to:
 - Governing bodies
 - Local publications
 - League website and social media
- Speak at local meetings
- Form coalitions (may need pre-approval)



Advocacy vs Lobbying

- Advocacy
 - Developing policy briefs/recommendations
 - Conducting educational forums
- Lobbying
 - “An attempt to influence specific legislation”
 - Contacting elected officials
 - Urging the public to consult their elected officials



Monitoring and Observing

Once an action for which we have been advocating is implemented by a local governing body, we monitor and observe how that action is implemented.



LWVSJC Advocacy Efforts

- Measure K (2006)
- Water Privatization (2003-12)
 - “Water Privatization Checklist” (LWVC Positions)
- San Joaquin General Plan
- Stockton General Plan



LWVSJC Advocacy Committee

- Jeri Bigbee, chair
- Cate White
- Susan Mora Loyko
- Margo Praus
- Mary Kenefick



Join Us!

Questions???

