

# POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters lobbies on an issue or advocates for a cause **only** after a rigorous process of study, discussion and reaching consensus. Studies are done by League members and can take anywhere from 6 months to 2 years. After approval by the chapter or state board, the study results in a written Position. Only then can the League advocate or lobby on this issue.

## Process for Selecting Positions

*The step-by-step process the LWV use to take a Position at the local, state, or national level includes the following:*

- **Program Planning:** During the program planning process, each League member can influence the selection of issues on which the League will focus its time, talent, and resources. This consideration of issues “from the bottom up” is part of what makes the League a true grassroots organization.
- **Study:** A study committee undertakes thorough, factual research and continually discusses the pros and cons of every facet of the issue.
- **Concurrence:** Before presenting results to the general membership, the study committee determines whether other local chapters or state Leagues have reached consensus on the topic. If so, and if the position of the other local chapters or state Leagues meets the findings of the study committee, then the local chapter or state League discusses the results, reaches concurrence, and issues a **concurrence statement**.
- **Consensus:** If no other local chapter or state League has established a position on the topic, the study committee circulates questions among its local or state membership. Further discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the local chapter or state League forms a position and issues a **consensus statement**.

After approval by the chapter or state board, the concurrence statement or consensus statement becomes a Position. Only then can the local chapter or state League take action – in the form of advocacy or lobbying – on the issue. If members have not studied or have not reached consensus or concurrence on an issue, the League has no position and therefore cannot take action, neither supporting or opposing the issue.