

LWVSC Glossary of League Terminology

There are certain terms that are used by the League of Women Voters in unique ways. Some are listed here to help LWVSC members.

ACTION/ADVOCACY: 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, LWVSC, or local League to take action in support of a League position on the appropriate level.

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 previously adopted after study 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, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget for the biennium. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention; local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

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

DEI: Acronym for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. A foundational principle of LWV.

ISSUE SPECIALIST: A person appointed by the LWVSC board to serve as an off-board resource in order to track developments in its less active League positions and bring any important developments to the state board through the Director for Issue Specialists and Coalitions. Examples: taxation, nuclear waste, transportation.

LEAD—Acronym for League Education and Advocacy Day, held annually in-person and/or virtually for local Leagues' representatives at the end of January.

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.

LOCAL LEAGUE—A League recognized by and accountable to LWVUS and LWVSC that operates autonomously but within LWV parameters as a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4) organization under LWVSC's group exemption with the IRS. (Local Leagues are not "chapters.")

LWVEF: The League of Women Voters Education Fund, the 501(c)(3) educational arm of LWVUS, which handles funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues. (LWVSC no longer has an LWVEF account.)

LWVUS: The League of Women Voters of the United States, which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It is a 501(c)(4) organization.

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

MAL UNIT: A state-recognized group of Members-At-Large, in an area where there is no local League.

NONPARTISANSHIP: A foundational principle of LWV. To be nonpartisan is to not be biased toward or aligned with a political party or candidate or their interests, and to not appear to make decisions reflecting such bias or alignment.

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. Capitalized to distinguish from the more common usage of “program” to mean an event or function.

PROGRAM AND ACTION AGENDA: A statement of the public policy positions adopted by the League of Women Voters of South Carolina at each biennial convention. It is designed to define positions that can serve as a foundation for educating members and the public and for shaping both member and organizational advocacy during that two-year period.

STUDENT MEMBER: A person 16 years of age or older who is enrolled in a high school or full-time in an accredited institution of higher learning. Student members pay no dues to LWVSC. If they are members of local Leagues, their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.

VOTE411: LWVEF’s online guide to elections and candidates vying for public office. State and local Leagues may subscribe and provide state and local information.

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

WORKING GROUP: A network of members of multiple local Leagues around a LWVSC position to encourage educating members and the public and to encourage individual action. Reports to the board through the Director for State Program.

501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION: A nonprofit organization recognized by the IRS as tax-exempt under the 501(c)(3) section of the US Tax Code. Donations are tax-deductible. Grassroots advocacy and lobbying expenses are restricted to no more than 20 percent of the annual budget. LWVSC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

501(c)(4) ORGANIZATION: A nonprofit organization recognized by the IRS as tax-exempt under the 501(c)(4) section of the US Tax Code. Donations are not tax-deductible. Unlimited lobbying is permitted. LWVSC is planning to create LWVSC Action, a 501(c)(4) companion organization.

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