

What Is a Consensus Meeting?

A **consensus meeting** is a structured group discussion where League members come together to share perspectives on a specific issue that has been studied in depth. The goal isn't to vote or reach unanimous agreement—it's to gauge the “**sense of the group**” through dialogue and deliberation.

Why Are They Important?

- **Foundation for Action:** The League only takes action on issues after reaching consensus. This ensures that advocacy is grounded in member understanding and agreement.
- **Grassroots Engagement:** It empowers members at the local, state, and national levels to shape League positions.
- **Informed Dialogue:** Members review study materials, attend informational sessions, and then engage in discussion to explore all sides of an issue.

How Does It Work?

- Members receive background materials and fact sheets ahead of time.
- During the meeting, a facilitator guides the discussion.
- Instead of voting, the group explores questions and shares viewpoints.
- If there's substantial agreement, the League records a consensus position.
- If opinions are too divided or unclear, no consensus is reached.

What Makes It Unique?

Unlike a simple majority vote, consensus is about **collective understanding**, not just numbers. It's a nuanced process that values quality of discussion over quantity of participants. If you're new to the League, consensus meetings can feel a bit mysterious at first—but they're one of the most empowering ways members shape the League's voice.