

## LWVIL Request for Action Policy

Part of the League's Speak with One Voice

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### CRITERIA FOR APPROVING REQUESTS FOR ACTION AT THE STATE LEVEL

The LWVIL board adopts annually a set of legislative priorities to guide its advocacy work in the legislature. The goals are:

- to enhance the League's effectiveness by concentrating resources on priority issues.
- to build the League's credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image.
- to ensure that the League has sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably.
- to enable the League to manage resources effectively.

In setting legislative priorities, the board considers the following:

- Opportunities for the League to make an impact.
- Program decisions made at convention.
- Member interest.
- Resources available to manage effectively.

The board regularly reviews the legislative priorities and is prepared to make adjustments should new opportunities for effective action emerge.

### REQUESTS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES FOR PERMISSION TO ACT AT THE STATE LEVEL

All action at the state level must be authorized by the LWVIL president acting as spokesperson for the LWVIL board. This includes any effort aimed at influencing the decision on a state issue, such as communicating with an elected or appointed official, joining a coalition, taking part in a press conference or rally, or writing a letter-to-the-editor.

As part of the consultation process, the local League is asked to provide the following information in writing to the Issues and Advocacy Co-Chairs:

- the proposed action and the message to be conveyed.
- the LWVIL position on which the action is based.
- evidence that the issue is a priority for that local League.

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The consultation process is designed to help make League action as effective as possible, to ensure that the League speaks with one voice, and to coordinate and reinforce the League's advocacy messages.

The Issues and Advocacy Co-Chairs will review the action request to determine that it is consistent with League positions and that it will not interfere with LWVIL action on a priority issue.

### **REQUESTS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES FOR LWVIL ACTION ON NON-PRIORITY ISSUES**

When a priority issue of a local League requires action at the state level that goes beyond contacting its own member(s) of the legislature, the League must request permission to act from the LWVIL. The request will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- The issue is a high priority for the requesting League.
- The requesting League is very knowledgeable about the issue.
- The requesting League has worked on the issue for some time.
- There is no objection to the action from any affected League(s).
- The proposed action is consistent with LWVIL positions.
- There is adequate lead time for LWVIL Issues and Advocacy committee to determine the most appropriate opportunities for action and for the LWVIL board to make necessary policy decisions.
- The proposed action will not interfere with LWVIL action on legislative priorities or work on other organizational priorities.
- The proposed action is limited in scope and in its demands on LWVIL resources.

### **REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO URGE OTHER LEAGUES/MEMBERS TO ACT ON A STATE ISSUE**

The LWVIL has sole responsibility for contacting local Leagues and League members about state issues.

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### **REQUESTS FOR ENDORSEMENT OF INITIATIVES SPONSORED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

If the issue is statewide in scope, the LWVIL is the appropriate level to endorse the initiative. If the LWVIL declines to endorse the initiative, endorsement by a local League will not be appropriate.

The LWVIL will endorse such an initiative if:

- the action will further a current LWVIL advocacy priority and/or
- LWVIL endorsement would enhance an important relationship with the organization making the request, and
- resource demands associated with the endorsement are compatible with efforts to achieve current LWVIL advocacy goals.

In evaluating the impact of the endorsement on League resources, the LWVIL will consider implications for the LWVIL office, the LWVIL board and local Leagues.

### **Document History**

Prior version Amended and Approved April 2013 (titled Consultation Prior to Local League Action)

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