

# League Lingo

## Glossary of League Lingo

There are certain terms that are unique to the League of Women Voters- "League Lingo." Some are listed here to help new members.

**ACTION:** 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 or state League to take action in support of a League position. See also TFA (Time For Action)

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

**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 on an issue reached 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 for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget, usually for two years. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

**COUNCIL:** An assembly held in alternate years. Local Leagues send delegates to state council (if held), state Leagues send delegates to national council.

**EDUCATION FUND:** The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, limited to 501(c)(3) approved activities or other additional restrictions implemented by the entity.

**HONORARY 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.

**ILO:** Acronym for an Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope.

**MAS:** Acronym for Member-Around-State, a member who resides outside the area of, and is not enrolled in, a local League.

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**MAS UNIT:** A state-recognized group of Members-Around-State, in an area where there is no local League.

**MAL:** Acronym for Member-At-Large, used by the national league to identify Members-Around-State. (LWVIL uses MAS terminology as an alternative acronym.)

**MEMBER:** Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues. (4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

**Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

**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.

**PROGRAMS:** Plans for speakers, discussion or other activities for League meetings.

**STUDENT MEMBER:** Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

**TFA (TIME FOR ACTION):** Request from the LWVIL to take action in support of a League position.

**UNIT:** Groupings of members within large local Leagues to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour), geographically oriented, or both.

**VOTERS GUIDE:** Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

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**VOTER/VOTERS SERVICE:** Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voters service activities. Voter Service activities also include coordinating and moderating candidate forums at state and local levels of government.

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