

TEN STEPS FOR ARRIVING AT A LOCAL LEAGUE POSITION

- I. Board solicits ideas for an issue to study.
- II. Board members (or members at a program planning meeting) choose an issue, keeping in mind the following:
 - a. ***Is this issue politically relevant?***
 - i. *Does it need government action?*
 - ii. *Will it have long term impact?*
 - iii. *Will there be member and community support and interest?*
 - b. ***Can the League be effective on this issue?***
 - i. *Is there a unique role for the League?*
 - ii. *Does it fall within the League Principles?*
 - iii. *Can the League be visible on this issue?*
 - c. ***Is this issue timely?***
 - i. *Is the issue moving in the political arena?*
 - ii. *Are there opportunities for League advocacy and/or education?*
 - d. ***Is this a manageable issue for our League?***
 - i. *Are there sufficient members and resources to make a difference?*
 - ii. *Is the member interest strong enough to sustain League activity?*
 - iii. *Are there potential allies for coalitions in the community?*
 - e. ***If the issue is already covered by a current position, the local League can consider an action approach.***

{This list of questions was taken verbatim from A Guide to Local League Study compiled from materials from LWV of Connecticut, LWV of California, LWV of Illinois, LWV of New Jersey and LWV of Ohio.}

- III. Board formulates a statement recommending an issue study—must have a carefully worded Focus and Scope.
- IV. At Annual Meeting, members vote whether or not to adopt study program.
- V. If adopted, Board chooses a chair for study committee, and members are solicited.
- VI. At first meeting of committee the issue study is organized—timeline, plans for research, division of labor, plans for reporting to membership.
- VII. Toward the end of the study, committee draws up a list of questions for the consensus meeting.
- VIII. Full member consensus meeting held—includes a discussion leader and a recorder.
- IX. Study committee holds wrap-up meeting to discuss whether consensus was achieved.
- X. Study committee gives recommendation as to consensus to League Board. Board makes final decision as to whether the chapter has arrived at a consensus position.