

CONSULTATION PRIOR TO LOCAL LEAGUE ACTION

To ensure agreement on the interpretation of positions, to coordinate activities of different levels of the League, and to enhance the effectiveness of League action campaigns, local Leagues are encouraged to consult with the state board about their action plans. **Consultation is required whenever (a) the intended action would affect the jurisdiction of other Leagues and/or (b) a local League wishes to act at the state or national level on an issue which has not been the subject of a state or national call to action.**

ACTION ON STATE ISSUES

If your League is considering state-level action that has not been requested by the LWVIL Board, it is necessary for you to contact the issue-action vice president. Consultation is needed to ensure that:

- the state board is informed about all state-level advocacy;
- there is no conflict with other LWVIL action;
- the proposed action is based on complete and current information;
- all state-level advocacy is evaluated in the context of our legislative agenda;
- League speaks with one voice.

Our legislative specialists are actively evaluating legislation in terms of our long-term legislative goals. Although bills may appear to include elements of our goals, political realities may preclude our support or we may decide that a bill does not go far enough to meet our goals. Decisions on appropriate action are evaluated daily and may change quickly.

ACTION ON NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

If an issue is national or international in scope, the LWVUS is the appropriate level to endorse the initiative. If the LWVUS declines to endorse the initiative, endorsement by state or local Leagues will not be appropriate. *Please send a copy of the request for action approval sent to LWVUS to LWVIL.*

A League wishing to contact a federal official on an issue that is not an LWVUS priority is asked to send a letter or fax to the Lobbying Division at the LWVUS office outlining the following:

- the proposed action and the message to be conveyed;
- the LWVUS position on which the action is based;
- evidence that the issue is a priority for that state/local League (examples of evidence: the League has a committee actively working in that issue area; the League has a board or off-board chair/specialist following the issue).

For further explanation, please refer to the following:

- LWVIL *Where We Stand* "Action Guidelines for Local Leagues"
- LWVUS October 1998 Post Board Summary, "Consultation with the LWVUS about Action on Nonpriority Issues"