

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING: LWVIL RESOURCES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

Advocacy and Lobbying - what's the difference?

Both advocacy and lobbying involve discussing a position with a government official. In very broad terms, advocacy involves a position on an issue; lobbying involves a position on a specific piece of legislation.

[Read the explanation from LWVUS](#)

REMEMBER, THE LEAGUE “SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE.”

League members lobby and advocate as individuals. They do not identify themselves as members of the League. Only the President of the League or someone designated by the President is able to speak on behalf of the League. Unless an Action Alert has been issued by LWVIL or LWVUS, local Leagues need to get permission before asking their members to contact state or national officials. Find the following request forms on the LWVIL website, [For Members > League Resources page](#), under LWVIL Board Policies.

- For contacting federal officials:
 - LWVUS Request for Action Policy (at the end of this document, find the link to the Federal Action Request Form).
- For contacting state officials
 - LWVIL Request for Action Policy
 - Contact issues@lwwil.org

ENCOURAGE ADVOCACY IN YOUR LEAGUE

LWVIL has created and curated a number of resources that are available 24/7 on the LWVIL website. Below is a guide to some of the materials available under [Issues & Advocacy](#) and [For Members > League Resources](#) – all designed to facilitate local League advocacy.

LWVIL ACTION ALERTS

LWVIL Action Alerts emailed throughout the year make lobbying easy. Recent Action Alerts are posted on the lwwil.org website's [Issues & Advocacy > Action Alerts](#) page, along with the status of related bills. You will also find information on:

- How to file a witness slip (video)
- How to track bills on the Illinois General Assembly website (video)
- *Making Your Voice Heard*, a how-to guide for advocacy and the legislative process in Illinois

ATTEND LWVIL ANNUAL ISSUES BRIEFING

Issues Briefing is LWVIL's annual look at issues and potential advocacy and lobbying opportunities during the Spring session of the Illinois General Assembly. [Listen to this panel](#) from LWVIL 2022 Issues Briefing as they

share insights and advice about successful lobbying. Check out other recordings and resources from [Issues Briefing 2022](#). Find current Issues Briefing information at lwvil.org under News & Events.

CONDUCT PROGRAMS ABOUT CURRENT ISSUES

Go to lwvil.org > [For Members](#) > [League Resources](#). Scroll down to Issues & Advocacy, Program Planning, to find resources for local League Meetings

- Speakers available for local League programs
- 2022 Suggested Resources for League Meetings & Discussion: Books, Movies, etc.

CONDUCT LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Go to lwvil.org > [For Members](#) > [League Resources](#). Scroll down to Issues & Advocacy, Legislative Interviews. Local Leagues conduct Legislative Interviews during the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly, using questions provided by LWVIL.

- Legislative Interviews 2023: Getting Started
- Legislative Interviews 2023: Interview Questions (for Legislators)
- Legislative Interviews 2023: Interview Questions (with background)
- Legislative Interviews: Report Form

PARTICIPATE IN STUDIES LEADING TO POSITIONS

Go to lwvil.org > [For Members](#) > [League Resources](#). Scroll down to Issues & Advocacy, Program Planning.

- LWVIL Criminal Justice Position Update Study

COLLABORATE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- [Introduction to Grassroots Organizing](#) (video from LWV New Jersey)
- [Guidance: State and Local League Involvement in Democracy Movements](#) (LWVUS)