

Coordinating Local Fundraising Activities with State Fundraising

SHARING POLICY

The goal of the sharing policy is to achieve the best fundraising results for the League as a whole in Illinois. It is important that potential contributors be approached in the most appropriate way. In accordance with this rationale, **the LWVILEF reserves the right to approach major corporations and foundations in Illinois for contributions** (major corporations are defined as first- and second-level "Fortune 500" companies as well as the corporate headquarters with several locations). The criterion is that the company serves an area larger than that of the local League. Similarly, foundations that fund in geographic areas larger than that of the local League are considered to be major foundations.

When the LWVILEF or any local League solicits major companies and foundations and receives a grant or significant donation, the donor is informed that a portion of their contribution will benefit the local League in their area, if there is one. The portion shared with the local League is 10% of the grant amount.

WHAT IF A LOCAL LEAGUE WANTS TO APPROACH A CORPORATION OR FOUNDATION?

In all cases, local Leagues should call the LWVIL executive director before contacting any potential donors who might be approached by the state League. You should also call the executive director if you want help approaching a local funding prospect. Approaching businesses and foundations for funding support of various projects is a good thing to do.

There are two important points regarding this fundraising activity:

1. **WE CAN HELP.** The state office has documents that you are likely to need to prepare funding applications and proposals. Most foundations and corporations require-proof of tax exempt status, and often need other documents that we can provide.
2. **WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE.** We all know that people outside of League have a hard time understanding the difference between the state, local and national levels of League. If we accidentally send the same organization multiple requests from both a local League and the state League, they may be confused and League will look inept. Call the state office **before** submitting funding requests.

If both a local League and the state League wish to approach the same company or foundation for support, we will decide together the best way to proceed. In cases where a local League has established a relationship, the LWVIL will consult with that League about how or if a request should be made; the same goes for cases where the state has a relationship.

PROFIT SHARING POLICY

When local Leagues and LWVIL collaborate on profitable projects in the local League area involving sizeable contributions from each, sharing will be on a 40% local and 60% LWVIL percentage. For instance, if a local League planned a seminar and the program/speakers were provided by LWVIL and the location, food and publicity were provided by the local League, all expenses including travel would be deducted and profits would be split on a 40%/60% basis. Most collaborative projects could be run through the Education Fund. Phonathon will not be included under this policy.

RESTRICTED GRANTS

Grants that are awarded to 501(c)(3) status organizations are awarded to LWVIL Education Fund. If a local league wants to apply for such a grant it needs to do so with the participation of LWVIL Education Fund. The level of participation of LWVIL Ed Fund may vary from a minimum of being the fiscal agent for the local league, to active participation in the project. LWVIL Ed Fund as fiscal agent may assess the project a fee for assuming this responsibility.