

CONSULTATION PRIOR TO LOCAL LEAGUE ACTION "SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE"

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 board member. 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

All action at the federal level must be authorized by the LWVUS board. This includes any effort aimed at influencing a decision on a federal issue, such as communicating with an elected or appointed official, joining a coalition, taking part in a press conference or rally, or writing a letter-to-the-editor. A state or local League wishing to work on a federal issue or at the national level on an issue that has not been the subject of an LWVUS Action Alert must consult with the LWVUS about the intended action. As part of this consultation process, the state/local League is asked to provide the following information in writing:

- The proposed action and the message to be conveyed;
- The LWVUS position on which the action is based; and
- Evidence that the issue is a priority for that state or local League.

An online form for submitting the request is available at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/advocacy-projects-and-studies> to contact the national office to consult on the intended action. Once the form has been filled out, national League staff will receive a copy via email as will the person making the submission. Be sure to consult with the Illinois League before making a request.