

DEFINITIONS FOR 2021-2022 LWV PROGRAM PLANNING

(PROGRAM is the League term for issues that members have chosen for study or action. See a more complete definition below. We do program planning annually for the coming year.)

ACTION: a continuous process of working toward goals stated in local, state and national advocacy positions on public policy issues. Action may involve listening to presentations by public officials, interviewing or lobbying public officials, testifying at public hearings, organizing public forums, contacting the media, joining campaigns for issues we support, informing the public, monitoring governmental functions, and litigating. The Board approves League advocacy.

CIVIC EDUCATION: programs for members and the public with prominent speakers on current issues and on League studies. The Civic Education Committee also is involved with discussion units, interest groups, study committees and annual program planning.

CONCURRENCE: an agreement with the exact wording of a statement that may be a position held by another state or local League or a decision statement made by a League board or study committee. The membership must vote to approve a concurrence, before we can use it.

CONSENSUS: a process by which members discuss the findings of a completed study and answer questions developed by the study committee. Consensus reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a membership meeting or a series of membership or unit meetings.

INTEREST GROUPS: small groups of members, interested in a topic related to a position, who gather for the purpose of collaborative learning. Interest groups must request and receive approval from the Board in order to function in the name of the League.

POSITION: a statement of the League’s point of view on an issue, derived through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence) and approved by the appropriate board. Once approved, the position can be used as a basis for League action/advocacy on public policy issues and legislation that relate directly to the position. The LWVPDX can use LWVUS, LWVOR and LWVPDX positions to advocate on local issues.

PROGRAM: the League’s “reason for being,” the basis for both education and action efforts. It consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action, including both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

STUDY: extensive, in-depth, balanced research on a public policy issue in order to form a new advocacy position. Studies must be approved by the membership and are conducted by committees of interested members established with board approval. The committee gathers information obtained from researching public documents, conducting interviews with local officials and experts, and further fact-finding activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POSITIONS TO CONSIDER DURING PROGRAM PLANNING:

- **RETAIN** means to keep a position as is, with no change.
- **DROP** means to remove the position completely from our list; discontinue advocacy. To reactivate requires a new study.
- **UPDATE** means to update information about the issues addressed by a position or to update wording to conform to current usage, without changing the basic position.
- **RE STUDY** means to undertake a review of the position to potentially change it.
- **ACTION** means to refer the position to the Action Committee for advocacy on the issues.