

**The Changing “Democracy Space”
Guidance on Opportunities
January 2018**

The results of the 2016 election have inspired many Americans to ramp up their political activism. The League has experienced this with an influx of members and potential members and spiked interest in our mission. With this heightened passion for civic activism, a new generation of advocacy groups have emerged to play a formidable political role in communities across the country.

With many new groups entering the political advocacy circle, League members may be feeling unsettled about how to handle so many groups entering “our space.” However, this influx of new groups presents an excellent opportunity for potential partnerships and spreading the League’s mission and message to a wider audience. In short, it means that more people than ever are declaring their interest in our impact work.

It is important to remind ourselves that the League does have several competitive advantages:

- The League of Women Voters is a long standing, highly trusted, non-partisan organization.
- The League has a long history of effective citizen advocacy.
- League members have successfully influenced policy at the local, state, and national levels by sharing our positions on important issues that affect our democracy.

While there are more groups entering “our space”, it’s important to remember the weight of the League’s mission and the more people committed to making democracy work is a good thing. The sum of each groups work is much bigger than our many parts.

Ways to Partner:

- Co-Sponsor events
 - Lobby Days
 - Panel Discussions
 - Happy Hours/Networking Events
 - Voter Registration Drives
 - Candidate Forums/ Education Forums
- Invite speakers from local activist groups to discuss their work with your members
- Encourage members to attend and advertise on social media events in the area sponsored by other groups and reach out to local groups to do the same for the League.

This month in the League Spotlight, we’ve highlighted two Leagues that have done excellent jobs of partnering with local organizations to create events that highlight the League’s mission. These events serve as excellent examples of ways to engage with groups outside of the League that share a similar message.

LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT

LWV Los Angeles

During the month of November LWVLA has held two great co-sponsored events with local civic engagement groups!

Constitution Happy Hour: LWVLA recently held a Constitution Happy Hour with My Daily Constitution, a project that inserts candid public conversation about the U.S. Constitution in spaces around cities and towns. This happy hour served as a guided conversation about Voting Rights, the US Constitution and its role in our democracy with drinks!



Night of Action: The LWVLA Gun Safety Committee teamed up with Women Against Gun Violence for a Night of Action on Nov. 15th at Angel City Brewery in downtown LA. These individuals came together to contact their congress people and create petitions focused on gun safety legislation.



LWV Minneapolis

On the first Tuesday of every month, the League of Women Voters Minneapolis, with the Whittier Alliance, hosts The Civic Buzz. Each month this group hosts a new speaker followed by a discussion where all voices are heard and opinions taken seriously. There have been a wide range of topic covered at the Civic Buzz including: Affordable Housing in Minneapolis, Caucus Information and Equity in Minneapolis Parks.



ACTION Kits

The League has prepared ACTION Kits on relevant topics. These kits contain tools including planning lists, Letter templates, and links to additional information on that topic. They're a great way to engage other groups.

Redistricting: This Action Kit provides tools for League members to take action in your community or state related to redistricting. More information can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/document/redistricting-action-kit>.



Money In Politics: This Action Kit provides tools for League members to take action in your community or state related to reforming money in politics. More information can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/document/money-politics-action-kit>.

