

January 16th, 2025

LWVUS Advocacy Presents:

# League Positions and How You Can Use Them!

# Presenter



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# Agenda

- Advocacy
- LWV Policy Positions
- What's New in *Impact on Issues*?
- Applying a DEI Lens to Our Work
- Resources
- Q&A



# Housekeeping

- All trainings will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.
- If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.
- Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions
- **Staff will be monitoring the chat box.** If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

# Community Norms



Bring your full self and limit distractions



What is learned here, leaves here



No one knows everything, together we know a lot



Don't yuck my yum



Oops, ouch, and educate



Assume best intentions

# Poll

# Advocacy

# Advocacy

Includes:

- Supporting or opposing a cause
- Educating the public and policymakers on an issue or policy
- Supporting or recommending a position or policy
- Building public support for, or opposition to, a position or policy

Examples:

- Providing forums for discussing issues
- Analyzing issues and recommending reforms
  - Public policy briefs, legislative testimony, etc.
- Speaking in support of the League



# LWV Policy Positions

# LWVUS Public Policy Positions

Adopted by delegates at biennial national Convention

- Ensures member understanding and agreement

Drive organization-wide work

Can be used by all Leagues

Ensure League is "speaking with one voice"

## Impact on Issues

- **Content:** national positions and history of action
- **Purpose:** help Leagues use positions effectively at respective levels
- **"Taking Action" section:** advocacy guidance



# Other League Positions

Level of League	Local Positions	State Positions	LWVUS Positions
Local	✓	✓	✓
State	--	✓	✓
National	--	--	✓

- Note: The level of League still determines the level of government advocacy

# Local and State Action on Federal Issues

Level of League	Federal Offices that May Be Contacted	Chapter(s) that Must Approve
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District rep in US House of Representatives</li><li>• Executive branch offices/federal agencies</li></ul>	State and National
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State reps and senators in US House and Senate</li><li>• Executive branch offices/federal agencies</li></ul>	National
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• US Congress</li><li>• Executive branch offices/federal agencies</li></ul>	LWVUS Board & through membership agreement from IOI policy positions

# Federal Action Request

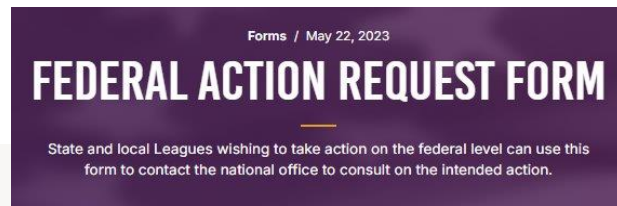
## Advocacy Actions

- Communicating with a federal elected or appointed officials
- Writing an op-ed or letter to the editor about a national issue
- Joining a national coalition
- Participating in a national press conference or rally

## Communication with Federal Officials

- League or coalition letters to Members of Congress, executive branch, etc.
- Meetings with federal officials

Form [link](#)



# Federal Action Request Cont.

LWVUS consideration when outside stated legislative priorities...

Whether the action:

1. is an unforeseen or unexpected crisis, **and**
- 2a. requires an immediate response, **or**
- 2b. addresses a significant risk of harm to many.

# Position Language

Non-prescriptive



Applied in many contexts

Broad language



Adapt with time

Example: LWWUS Gun Policy Position

- LWW "supports strong federal measures to *limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership* of [semi-automatic/automatic] weapons by private citizens."
- "assault weapons"

# Applying Positions: Specific Policy Solutions

- General policy positions
- Specific policy solutions
- Speak to pieces of policy that are supported
- Example: legislation mandating lockbox use
  - Position language: LWV "supports regulating firearms for consumer safety"
  - Advocacy language: "firearm storage"; "There are a number of ways this can be achieved including lockboxes"



# Applying Positions: Combining Positions and Principles

To guide work, can use...

- League's [DEI Policy](#)
- League Principles e.g. LWV believes...
  - in representative government
  - in the individual liberties established in the US Constitution
  - democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government
  - every citizen should be protected in the right to vote
  - no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination
  - government should be responsive to the will of the people
  - government should share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare

# What's New in *Impact on Issues?*

# IOI 2024-2026 Additions

Updated history sections

New position: Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy

- "Support credible and ethical journalism as essential to our democracy."

Note: Approved LWWUS study

- Federal Judiciary

# Applying a DEI Lens to Our Work

# Applying a DEI Lens to Our Work

- A way of examining a program, process, product, or otherwise with an eye toward how it will be perceived by and impact a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives, and what barriers may exist that prevent it from being equitable or inclusive to everyone.
- [\*Impact on Issues\*](#) p.5
- Webinar [recording](#) and [slides](#)



# Advocacy Resources

# LWVUS Advocacy Support

LMS Resources

[Home Page](#); [Modules](#); [League Update Sign-up](#)

Legislative Office Hours

[Sign Up Here](#)

Position Interpretation

Legislative Tracking

Legislative and Policy Analysis

Legislative Testimony Writing

Advocacy Strategy Development

Advocacy Email

[advocacy@lww.org](mailto:advocacy@lww.org)

**Litigation Support:** [litigation@lww.org](mailto:litigation@lww.org) or [Federal Action Request](#)

# Questions?