

LWVHC Policy #8

LWV Protocol for Taking Action on Local, State, and National Positions

Action under **LOCAL** positions is taken when a local committee, the portfolio chair, or the local president brings to the Board a request for action under one of the local positions and it is approved by a majority of the Board. The president signs or may co-sign letters that go to the various governmental bodies when the Local League chooses to communicate an official position. The president or her/his designee speaks for the League. Local coalitions are encouraged and shall be approved by the local Board before any publicity is released with the name of the League of Women Voters.

Action under **STATE** positions may be taken by a local league once the local Board has approved a statement or sponsorship or co-sponsorship of a program or project, i.e., a household hazardous waste, stream cleanup, etc. In all such cases, a copy of the communication should be delivered to either the State Board liaison or the State Board President. The local league speaks only for the local league – not the State League on any State position unless the State Board or State President has authorized a local person to represent the State League on a given matter. In lobbying legislators, this is especially important.

Topics selected for emphasis by the delegates to the State Convention should be given priority for local leagues in order to be more effective at the State level in answering Calls to Action. However, local leagues may find there are local situations which warrant taking action on other issues and action under these circumstances is encouraged but always with the communication to the State Liaison or State President.

Action under **NATIONAL** positions may be taken by a local league once the local Board has approved a statement of project. Local leagues are encouraged to offer educational programs to the general public to provide a forum to advance the priorities for emphasis as determined by the delegates to the National Convention and the National Board. The areas of emphasis or the focus for the national agenda are significant to local leagues insofar as responding to Calls to Action for legislative measures. They should be given priority for local leagues, but this does not deter local leagues from responding to a local situation which does not fall under the topics selected for focus. **Local leagues should make prior contact with the National Office before speaking with a Congressional representative about a national position.** When in doubt, it is always advisable to contact the national office to seek advice. Contact the Membership Chair to initiate this inquiry and you will receive proper contact information and guidance.

Individual league members are encouraged to speak as individuals to local, state and national positions, but should not speak for a given league unless designated.

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