

Why You Should Participate in Our Study

Our election administration study has always had a goal of creating positions that would enable League advocacy. Let's talk about how a study can result in positions that can make our voices heard.

League positions

When we speak as a group, our voices are amplified and our impact on issues increases. But speaking as a group requires having an established LWV position. The LWVUS, LWVMO and LWVKC have positions on many issues that enable us to speak as a group. Positions often enunciate core beliefs and enumerate measures that the league supports on an issue.

Where can LWV positions be found?

Our LWVKC website has a page on [League Positions](#). There you can find the revised positions for the [LWVUS](#), [LWVMO](#) and [LWVKC](#).

How are positions used? What is advocacy?

League positions enable advocacy. Advocacy takes many forms: it includes lobbying as a part of legislative action. But it also includes an educational dimension, where we educate voters, policymakers and administrators on policies and practices that we support.

What if we don't have a clear position? How are positions created?

Times change, new issues emerge and new positions are required. The LWV has a process to create new positions to adapt to new challenges called a League of Women Voters Study. While a study committee will do research and frame questions on an issue, it's up to league membership to study, discuss and approve positions. Only after membership's approval can a position be used to support advocacy.

What steps are taken to create a position?

First, membership identifies an issue that merits study. Then a study committee conducts research on the targeted issue and presents its findings to membership. After studying the research, membership also considers some questions that have been framed by the study committee. These questions are called "Consensus Questions". These questions are used to stoke conversations between members which leads to a "sense of the group" on its beliefs as well as measures that the group supports that are aligned with these beliefs. From that consensus, League positions are drafted. On approval by membership, those positions can then be used for advocacy.

