



## GLOSSARY OF LEAGUE LINGO

### **Otherwise known as "do you understand what I'm saying?"**

As in: (HYPOTHETICALLY) "When we go to *convention* there'll be a *program action alert* on our health care *position* that *National* expects us to take *action* on immediately and a new *concurrence* on gun control. Plus, we'll be asked to raise the *PMP* and increase our *voter service*." Below are some terms that are used by League members.

**ACTION:** Expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or her/his authorized representative.

**ACTION ALERT:** Request from state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

**CONCURRENCE:** Agreement of League members with position reached by a small group or another League.

**CONSENSUS:** Collective opinion of League members on a particular subject. Also, process used to arrive at positions on issues.

**CONVENTION:** State and national League meetings held biennially. Delegates adopt program, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming year, and act on proposed by-laws changes.

**COUNCIL:** National meetings held in the years between conventions. Limited delegate body adopts budget for the coming year; may discuss program.

**DEI:** Acronym for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

**EDUCATION FUND:** The tax-deductible arm of the LWV (501c3). Education funds may be established at all three levels of League. Education monies may not be used for position support activities (action.). LWVUS handles management of 501c3 funds for the majority of local Leagues who do not have their own Education Funds. LWVUS now refers to this Fund as the **Impact Fund**.

**GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT ("GEO" Unit):** An entity of a local League designated as the mentor League and is answerable to it. LWVMI will serve as a consultant with the local/mentor League and the Geographical Unit.

**ILO:** Acronym for Inter-League Organization. Leagues in a geographic area may join for joint activities and have a governing board.

**LEADERS UPDATE:** A bi-monthly electronic LWV news briefing sent by the LWVUS president to state and local leaders. Any member can sign up to receive the Update: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management>

**LEAGUE LINKS:** LWVMI's emailed newsletter, usually sent monthly.

**LIFETIME MEMBER:** A person who has been a LWV member for 50 years or more. Once this status is achieved, the member is no longer required to pay annual dues.

**MAL MEMBER:** Acronym for Member-At-Large, this is a member who does not belong to a local League.

**MAL UNIT:** State-recognized group of Members-At-Large, in an area where there is no local League. NOTE: LWVMI is proposing a 2021 bylaw amendment to change the name of such a group to a State Unit.

**MLD:** Acronym for Membership, Leadership and Development Program, which is offered to all local Leagues.

**NATIONAL:** Short for League of Women Voters of the United States

**NON-PARTISANSHIP:** League policy of never supporting or opposing any candidate or political party.

**PMP:** Acronym for Per Member Payment, which is the amount of money paid to the state and national Leagues on behalf of each member. The amount of the PMP is determined by delegates to state and national Conventions and is assessed based on the membership count as of January 1 each year.

**PORTFOLIO:** The particular job assigned to a board member or off-board chairperson i.e. membership, finance, secretary, etc.

**POSITION:** League's point of view, arrived at through member study and consensus (or concurrence.)

**PRINCIPLES:** Governmental standards and policies supported by the League by which all proposed or adopted local, state or national issues are measured.

**PROGRAM:** Selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state and national levels for study and action.

**STATE UNIT:** State-recognized group of members in an area where there is no local League.

**STUDY:** The process (one-two years normally) of research and educating ourselves on an issue prior to consensus taking and arrival at a formal position.

**TAX STATUS 501 (c) (3):** Not-for-profit organization that is exempt from federal taxes. In addition, corporate and individual contributions are tax deductible (often called “Education Fund.”)

**TAX STATUS 501 (c) (4):** Not-for-profit organization that is exempt from federal taxes. Contributions are not tax deductible.

**VOTER:** Newsletter for members and other subscribers, published by local Leagues.

**VOTER'S GUIDE:** Nonpartisan publications giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

**VOTER SERVICE:** Activities to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process.

**VOTING MEMBERS:** All League members who are 16 years old.