



LOCAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEES POLICY
(Update approved by LWVMI Board of Directors: 10-14-23)

Purpose:

The purposes of a local League Advocacy Committee are (1) to recommend action to the local League Board on local issues which are supported by local, state or national League positions, (2) to consider issues of importance on local, state and national levels, as appropriate.

Establishment:

The local League Board of Directors may establish a local Advocacy Committee. If it does so, it shall appoint the Chair(s) of the committee who shall also serve on the local League's Board of Directors.

The local Advocacy Committee shall consist of interested local League members. The Advocacy Committee may include several subgroups in order to target special areas of interest, such as natural resources, education firearm safety, etc.

Activities:

The Advocacy Committee:

- Considers interests of their local League members in setting priorities for advocacy
- Gathers information on local issues using Observer Corp reports on local government meetings.
- Reviews local, state and national positions to ensure that any advocacy is supported by an appropriate position
- Recommends any advocacy action, i.e., writing a letter, giving testimony at public meeting, to the local League President and Board, for approval so that the local League can take action.
- Prepares letter, op eds or written testimony for President and/or local Board of Directors to approve.
- Provides articles for the local League newsletter on activities and actions by the local Advocacy Committee

- Recommends to the local Program Committee and/or local Board of Directors educational programs for League members and the general public about important local, state and national issues, consistent with local, state and national League positions.
- Advocates at the local League level:
 1. Encourages responses to Action Alerts sent by LWVMI or LWWUS
 2. Initiates advocacy at the local Level by:
 - Making a recommendation to Local League Board to advocate on an issue before a local unit of government, i.e., city council, local board of education.
 - Making sure advocacy is supported by an appropriate local, state or national League position. Permission from the state or national League to use the position is not needed.
 - Requesting Local League Board to authorize the League President (or designee) to speak on the local issue to local officials.
 3. Provides a local League support/oppose form for committees or local League members to use to initiate advocacy. Form should be submitted to the local Advocacy Committee who will submit it to the local Board along with a recommendation for action.