



Guidelines for Observer Corps re Advocacy

As an Observer from a LWW local league one is expected to **observe only** and not participate in the observed meeting or comment during public comment time. The Observer would refrain from any advocacy directed toward the office they are observing, which must only be decided upon by their local league Board of Directors with assistance from their local Advocacy Committee, if there is one.

What if an observer notes that the Open Meetings Act is being violated?

If an Observer feels the Open Meetings Act has been violated they may note this in their report and raise it with their local Board of Directors for potential action.

After careful consideration of the Open Meetings Act, the local Board of Directors would either recommend or not recommend action.

Some actions could include:

- Meeting with the local body to discuss the issue and offering to assist in finding/implementing a solution,
- Writing a letter to the local body from the local League president or designee,
- Local League president or designee reads a statement during public comment time at a meeting of the local body,
- Engage candidates for local body by including a question in candidate forums, or local Vote411 voter guides, regarding the issue.

Note: The Observer of the office would NOT take part in these actions.

What if an observer notes possible grounds for local League advocacy regarding the actions of a local body?

If an Observer feels there may be possible grounds for local League advocacy on a local issue, they may note this in their report and raise it with their local Advocacy Committee, or if there is no Advocacy Committee, to their local Board of Directors for potential action.

A local League may advocate with a local public body about a **local issue**, so long as there is a relevant League position at the local, state or national level.

Remember, local leagues may not advocate for state or federal issues at the local level, unless asked to do so by LWVMI or LWVUS.

Some actions local leagues could take locally include:

- Public comment or testimony by local league president or designee
- Letter from local league president or designee to local officials
- Letter from local league president or designee to editor of local news outlet
- Media release from local league president for free coverage
- Paid promotion of stance
- Addition of local league to formal list of supporters/opponents
- Action alert to local league members and/or public
- Participation in local demonstration
- Engage candidates for local body by including a question in candidate forums, or local Vote411 voter guides regarding the issue.

Note: The Observer of the local body would NOT take part in these actions.