



Legislative Action Committee Policy on Local League Support of Town/City/Region-specific Legislation:

In general, local Leagues and League members-at-large may advocate as League members only for state legislation that is approved by the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and the LWVMA board of directors. These bills are listed on the LWVMA website and are followed by LWVMA Legislative Specialists.

One exception to this policy is a matter that requires approval by the state legislature, but only impacts a certain municipality (city, town, or county). Usually, a town or city approves such an action, which then requires approval by the state legislature, for example, a bill allowing 17-year-olds to vote in local elections. When a local League wishes to support/oppose a bill before the state legislature that is specific to its town or city or region, the local League shall take the following steps:

- The local League should determine if there is a national, state or local League position supporting taking action on the bill.
- The local League board will decide whether it wishes to support/oppose a specific bill. A local League representative should contact the Chair of the LAC to inform her of its decision and determine next steps and timeline.
- The local League will prepare a Legislative Research Sheet (LRS) on the bill and submit it to the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). The LAC will assist with preparation of the LRS.
- LAC will discuss the bill at its next regularly scheduled meeting and determine if it is consistent with League positions. A local League representative should attend that meeting.
- LAC will vote whether the local League can support/oppose the bill, will notify the LWVMA board of this decision and will notify the local League.
- The LAC will not follow this bill, testify on it or post it on the LWVMA website.
- The local League may advocate for/against the bill and provide oral and written testimony at State House hearings on it. Written testimony should be submitted to the LAC chair for approval, if possible at least one week prior to the hearing date. The LAC will provide guidance to the local League as requested.

Local Leagues cannot decide on their own to support or advocate for state legislation other than such municipality-specific bills. Local Leagues can contact the LAC Chair to request that the LAC consider supporting or opposing broad legislation that the local League is interested in.

Adopted November 16, 2017