OPTIONS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE SUPPORT OF STUDENT-LED CIVICS PROJECTS

The options list is meant to be a menu of options that Leagues can discuss with schools. Schools can identify the options that they would find the most helpful. They correspond to the six stages of civics projects that are listed in DESE's Guidebook on Student-led Civics Projects.

Six Stages of Civics Projects	Options for League Support
1. Examine Self and Civic Identity – Students start by exploring issues and topics that matter to them, their families, and communities.	• Leagues can raise awareness about issues facing the community that will have an impact on youth and current efforts to address those issues. • Invite the Town Manager/Mayor to discuss key issues and make a Zoom recording available to classes.
2. Identifying an Issue – Students select the focus issue for their project.	
3. Researching and Investigating – The purpose of this research is to examine the context, policies, perspectives, and history of the issue, and to learn about possible root causes.	• Leagues can share resource information about local organizations or government offices that can provide background information on the selected topics.* • If schools wish, Leagues can assist students or classes with contacting sources relevant to their topic or help pave the way for quicker responses.
4. Developing an Action Plan – Students build a theory of action and action plan aimed at achieving systems impact.	• Leagues can share information about strategies for advocacy.**
5. Taking Action – Students begin the tactics they planned. They move beyond the classroom and exercise their voice.	
6. Reflecting and Showcasing – Students end their project with a final, summative reflection and work showcase.	• Serve as judges if the showcase the school selects is a judged event or be an audience. • Provide constructive feedback to students that will help students improve their plan. • Help this be a celebratory event with awards or recognition.

* See the Cape Cod Civic Resource Directory for Student-led Civics Projects as a model.
 Civic Resource Directory
** See LWV Needham resources on advocacy as a model. https://lwv-needham.org/nhs-civics-projects/