

Action Procedures for Advocacy/Lobbying League of Women Voters of Door County (LWVDC)

An organization like the LWV relies on its members' vigilance and awareness of current events and issues to identify situations in which the League may wish to advocate (take action). This awareness may take place while observing a meeting, listening to the news, talking to a friend, or in many other ways. If a member or a group they are working with becomes aware of such a situation, they should follow these guidelines and procedures.

Once an issue of concern to the League is identified, a number of strategies are possible.

- If it is determined that the League has a position on that issue which addresses it, the LWVDC may advocate in the name of the League as well as inform their members so each can advocate for themselves.
- If it does not have a position that fits the issue, it may still inform its members of the circumstances. They would be notified that in the absence of an appropriate position, the League will not be advocating, but that members may want to act on their own behalf.
- **No member may ever act in the name of the League without the authorization of the LWV DC Leadership Team. However, members are always free to advocate as individuals in their own name even if their point of view opposes the League's position.**
- Sometimes no advocacy or action is appropriate or possible. League resources of time and effort are used strategically when effectiveness is possible, timing is appropriate, and there is a reasonable possibility of accomplishing the goals determined. Availability and willingness of personnel may impact advocacy.

Members or League groups that identify a concern should do the following:

- Research the national, state, and local positions to determine if there is a position which fits the concern identified. Links on the LWV DC website will assist in locating those position documents.
- Research the issue in order to understand it as well as possible. Some questions to consider:
 - What is the background of the situation?
 - Who is affected by the issue?
 - What is the history of the issue in this community?
 - What are the barriers to addressing the issue?
 - What are the consequences of the issue?
 - What are the resources available for addressing the issue?
 - What laws and/or policies relate to the issue?
 - Who supports and who opposes the issue?
- Consider and discuss what the member or group wishes to see happen, i.e. what is the goal of the action, and what strategies could be used to accomplish it.
- Complete the Google Form using the link on the League website to communicate concerns to the Observer Corps/Action Co-ordinators. They will make contact to determine next steps, i.e. writing up the Action Alert, as well as its presentation to the government body.
- It is the responsibility of OC/A Co-coordinators to file and record all approved actions.