



# League PROGRAM CYCLE and League STUDIES

Would you like to understand the way the League of Women Voters conduct their STUDIES and arrive at CONSENSUS POSITIONS? All you need to know is here!  
LEARN EVEN MORE: See our [POSITIONS](#) page, and LEAGUE DEFINITIONS.

## "PROGRAM"



PROGRAM is the League term for issues that members have chosen for study and action. At local program planning meetings every December and January, members propose topics for local, regional, state, and national PROGRAM. The proposals are submitted to the appropriate Board for approval. See below\*. The recommended program is the sum total of the League's POSITIONS on issues and may include proposals for STUDY on new issues or for updating previous positions.

## #1 STUDY



Once an issue is chosen, a RESEARCH COMMITTEE gathers information for local study committees to read, consider, and discuss—that is, to do a STUDY. Local study committees may supplement the information as needed with interviews of local officials, residents, or professionals and by further fact-finding through reading and research.

## #2 CONSENSUS



The study research committee also fashions CONSENSUS QUESTIONS for discussion by the local membership at large. Through examination of facts and discussion, a substantial agreement is reached by the members. Once members reach CONSENSUS on their responses, the appropriate Board forms a POSITION based on the consensus.

## #3 POSITION



A POSITION is a statement of member agreement based on CONSENSUS and approved by the appropriate Board. If the study is local, the position will be developed and submitted to the members for approval at their annual meeting. If it is a county, state, or national study, local consensus statements are forwarded to the appropriate Board, to gather and combine statements from other local Leagues and then to form a POSITION. This position will be presented for approval to the delegates at county, state, or national conventions\*.

## #4 ACTION



Once a position has been adopted, the League can TAKE ACTION on issues and legislation that relate directly to that position. ACTION is a continuous process of working toward goals stated in POSITIONS established by member agreement. ACTION may include lobbying public officials through letter or other direct contacts, testifying at public hearings, organizing public forums, and contacting media to inform voters. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Board to plan and direct League ACTION.

## #5 NEW ISSUES



In the course of taking action, through observers' reports or member interest, NEW ISSUES may be encountered on which the League does not yet have a position. Then the process starts all over again on a new topic.

\*PROGRAM PLANNING and the STATE and NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONVENTIONS

During January of every year, local Leagues are asked to participate in a process of reviewing all current POSITIONS: National and local positions one year and State positions the alternate year. The purpose of the review is to recommend whether to propose a new study, update or discard older positions. The recommendations are forwarded to the appropriate Board and on the recommendation of the given Board will be presented at either the State or National Conventions for discussion and voting.