

TERM LIMITS

The LWWUS position opposes term limits for Congress and supports the current two-term limit for president of the United States. The League's opposition to term limits for Congress was arrived at by the National Board in July 1991 by applying LWWUS positions on Congress, the Presidency, Citizens Rights and Voting Rights. (LWWUS *Impact on Issues, 2006-2008, p. 24*)

The 1992 LWWUS Convention authorized state and local Leagues to use national positions and principles to take action against term limits for state or local office holders. The language adopted by the convention is permissive only; that is, it allows state and local Leagues to apply the national position in opposition to term limits at other levels, but it does not require opposition to term limits at other levels. It does not supersede positions arrived at by study and consensus at the state or local League level that may support term limits for state or local office.

“State and local boards may, at their own discretion, apply the national position to their own jurisdictions and thus oppose term limits for state or local elective offices. However, state or local Leagues with positions in support of term limits for their jurisdictions may keep those positions and may act on them. State and local Leagues may also study and reach consensus to determine support or opposition to term limits for their jurisdictions. State and local Leagues may not, however, take a position in support of term limits for federal legislative office (the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives).” (Post Board Summary Following the October 1992 Meeting of the LWWUS Board of Directors and the LWVEF Board of Trustees)

In 1996 the LWWNYS Board decided it was time for the state to take a position as several local Leagues had already done so. Although the state board had the authority to adopt such a position without referring this matter to the membership, delegates to Council 1996 voted to concur with the following statements.

**TERM LIMITS--Statement of Position
As Approved by the 1996 State Council**

The League of Women Voters of New York State opposes term limits for members of the New York State Legislature.

The League of Women Voters of New York State opposes term limits for New York State statewide elected officials.