

## INTRODUCTION

LWVNYS *Impact on Issues* is a guide for League leaders on the LWVNYS public policy positions. Every two years, local Leagues participate in the LWVNYS program planning process by reviewing existing positions and making recommendations for the future. Member agreement on issues (consensus or concurrence) follows in-depth study and is developed into the formal positions presented in this publication. These positions are the basis for action. Action is also taken in support of the League Principles listed on the following page.

The format of this edition provides the positions in brief, the full position statements, and the background and action that have been taken. Some sections have an “Action Taken under LWVUS Positions” section for LWVNYS action only. This guide is meant to be used not only for LWVNYS positions but also as a companion book to the LWVUS *Impact on Issues* when deciding what action can be taken on an issue.

Leagues at the local and Inter-League Organization (ILO) level should use national and state League positions to take action in their own communities. It is the responsibility of the local or ILO League board to determine whether member understanding and agreement exist; whether the specific action to be taken is clearly covered under the position(s); and whether the action makes sense in terms of timing, need and effectiveness.

If the local or ILO League wishes to initiate action at the state level using state League positions, it must first consult with the state League Issues Vice President.

We encourage local and regional Leagues to use League positions to influence public policy. A visible action plan can help the League of Women Voters contribute to an “informed and active participation” by all the citizens of New York.

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