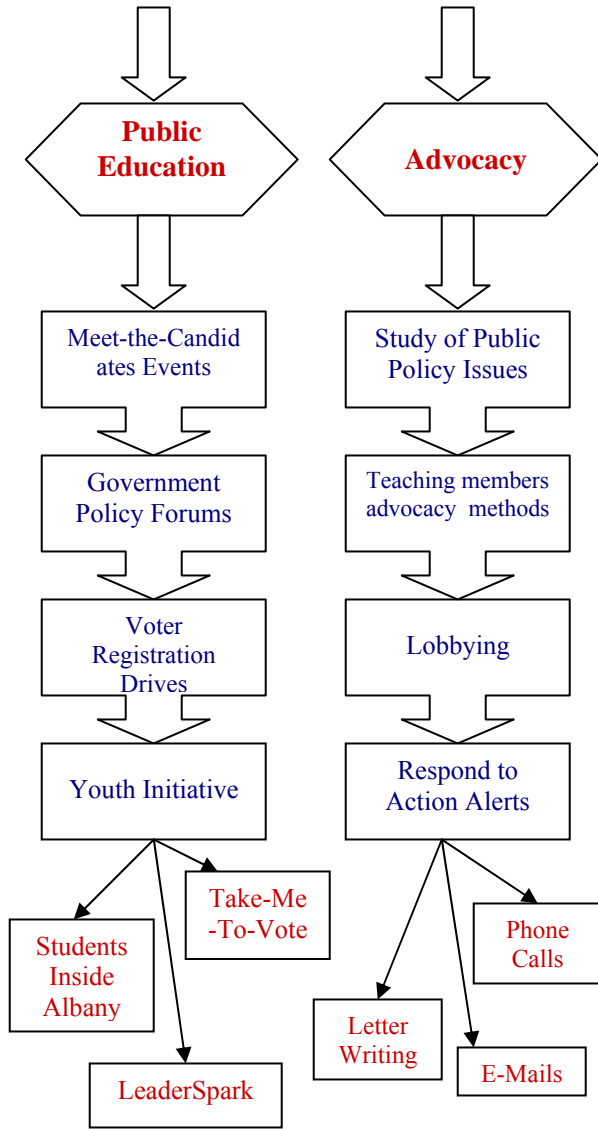


# WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE DO??

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



### POSITION IN ACTION

The League's Position on Citizens' Right to Know supported the adoption of The Media Center Committee with its goal to bring true cable public access TV to Saratoga Springs. We're making strides!!!  
See: [www.lwvsaratoga.org/mediacenter](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/mediacenter).

# A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION

THE LEAGUE'S POSITIONS AND DECISIONS FLOW FROM THE LOCAL LEAGUES TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES



**JOIN THE LEAGUE**

Your membership will enroll you at the local, state and national levels, subscribe you to our local Bulletin, NYS Voter and the National Voter.

**\$50 Individual    \$75 Family    \$20 Student**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**  
**LWV Saratoga,**  
**P.O. Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**  
 \*see our website for a printable form\*  
[www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org)

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

If ...

- ◆ You want to make informed decisions about how you vote;
- ◆ Participate in growing an informed electorate;
- ◆ Have a real input into laws and policies of America;
- ◆ You believe that educated voters are absolutely essential to American democracy....

**Then... You are needed in the LWV!**

### Our Mission

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to the informed and active participation of citizens in their government. The League never supports candidates or political parties. League membership is open to any US Citizen of voting age. The League influences public policy through its education and advocacy.



**The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County**

**PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**  
**Phone: 885-9769**  
**Email: [info@lwvsaratoga.org](mailto:info@lwvsaratoga.org)**

# The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

## **WHERE DO LEAGUE POSITIONS COME FROM?**

They come from the League's study of an issue, and are reached by consensus. Since our founding in 1920, we have accumulated quite a few positions.

### **How are issues selected for study?**

At the local level they are adopted at the Annual Meeting; at the state level they are adopted at the LWVNY Convention; at the national level they are adopted at the LWVUS Convention. Study topics must be capable of being addressed by government action at the level at which they are adopted.

### **How does the League define consensus?**

Consensus is member agreement. It is not a vote; it is discussing a topic and working to find a position that almost every member can agree to.

### **How is consensus reached?**

A study committee is formed to research the topic, consensus questions are formulated, the committee presents its findings to the membership of the local League, the consensus questions are discussed until consensus is reached (or not). If a State or National study, the local consensus is reported to the Board at that level and the Board formulates a position from all the local consensus reports.

## **HOW CAN I TAKE PART?**

**That's your decision!** You can stay informed by reading the Bulletin, or take it a step further and attend consensus meetings, serve on, or chair, the study committee.

## **GET OUT THE VOTE!**

## **HOW DOES THE LEAGUE HELP VOTERS PARTICIPATE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT?**

The League is committed to prompting active participation in government. Democracy works best when citizens are actively engaged in it.

### **Voter registration drives**

We educate on the process, the deadlines, and actually help potential voters obtain and fill out their forms.

### **Candidate forums**

We set up forums, invite all the candidates, and moderate the events, so that voters have an opportunity to find out where candidates stand on the issues.

### **Advocacy for voters**

We advocate for accessibility and for election processes that encourage fullest participation in the electoral process.

### **Advocacy for transparent government**

We support the Open Meetings Law, and the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). We believe you should see the options on the table before the choices are made by government officials.

### **Forums on Public Policy Issues**

We hold forums so voters can cast an informed vote.

## **HOW CAN I TAKE PART?**

**That's your decision.** You can just keep informed on the issues, or get actively involved and attend a forum, staff voter registration activities, be a timer or moderator at a candidate forum, write a letter to the editor, or organize an issue or candidates forum.

Visit [www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org) for a complete list of upcoming forums & events

## **HOW DOES THE LWV ADVOCATE FOR ITS POSITIONS?**

Because the LWV represents informed voters, dedicated to political participation, the LWV's voice is one of the strongest in the nation!

### **Public Advocacy**

☞ Press releases ☞ Letters to the Editor  
☞ Public meetings to educate voters

### **Email Alerts**

You can sign up for alerts from LWVNY and LWVUS by going to their websites.

### **Lobbying Efforts**

☞ Visiting your elected officials to discuss an issue ☞ Talking with your legislators at our Legislative Breakfast ☞ Writing, e-mailing or phoning a legislator

## **HOW CAN I TAKE PART?**

**That's your decision.** You can just keep up on the issues, or you can get more involved and respond to email alerts, attend meetings, write press releases, attend lobby days, be part of a league delegation to lobby an issue, or attend or organize an event.

**Don't just place a vote—make it an informed one.** Think about what you are doing if you don't know the issues and candidates—you're going to the polls and saying "Represent me please!" to someone who is a virtual stranger. Know who you're asking, what they really represent, and how they think.  
**Then...VOTE!**