

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTION ON BALLOT ISSUES

The NYS Election Law requires, under certain circumstances, that groups supporting or opposing ballot issues file disclosure forms similar to those filed by groups supporting candidates. The requirements, as they apply to local Leagues, can be summarized as follows:

- If a local League wishes to support or oppose a ballot issue and plans to spend less than \$100, no filing is needed.
- If income or expenditures will exceed \$100 but will be less than \$5,000, a political committee must be established and a form reporting all contributions must be filed with the local board of elections. All expenditures and liabilities must also be reported.

Therefore, if a local League wishes to take action on a ballot issue and plans to spend more than \$100, it should form a political committee, naming a board member as treasurer and establishing a separate bank account. The League itself is not the political committee. The League can put, say, \$200 (taken from regular funds) in the bank account to be spent on the ballot issue. More money can be added at any time, and excess funds can be returned to the League at the end of the campaign.

Keep complete records of dollars collected and spent. Filing forms are available from the county board of elections or the clerk of the village, town or city involved. An article mailed in a regularly mailed newsletter or bulletin is not considered a campaign expense.

(Revised 2000)