

Legislative Procedures
Update Study
Consensus Meeting Fall 2016



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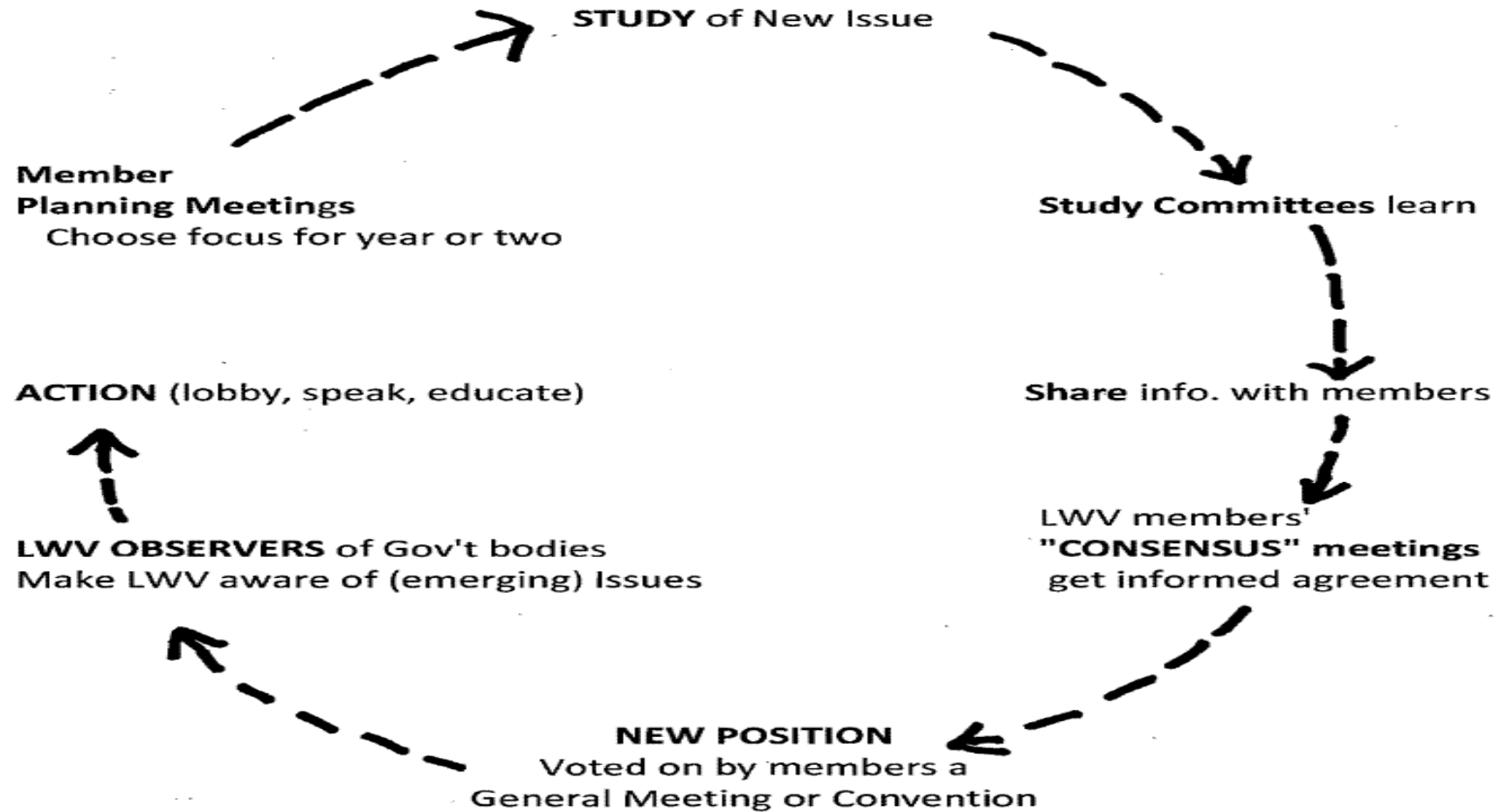
Why Conduct Studies?

- **Consider all sides**
- **Members understand & agree**
- **Position for action**



LWV Cycle: Study, Consensus, and Action

The League of Women Voters is a Multi-Issue Organization



What is an Update?

Update - A study of limited scope to reevaluate a position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position.



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Position Update

A Program Update study on the Legislative Procedures Position was adopted at the 2015 LWVNYS Convention.

For your consideration:

**The legislature should continue to serve as a part-time body.
Terms for legislators should be longer, and possibly staggered.**



Why an update for Legislative Procedures?

LWVNYS advocacy is hampered by ambiguities in the current position.

Part time?

Term Lengths – longer?

Staggered?



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Legislative Procedures Study Scope

1. Should there be an outright ban or limits on outside earned income for New York State legislators?
2. What should be the length of the terms in each chamber?
3. Should terms in either chamber be staggered?
4. Should there be term limits on legislative leadership positions?



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Why an Update?

The current Legislative Procedures position's reference to a "part-time legislature" has been interpreted by the state League Board to mean that the League **cannot support either a limit or a ban on legislative outside income.**



Please Note:

If the results of the update are in favor of a ban or limits on outside earned income, then the new position would no longer reference being in favor of a "part-time legislature."



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Why an Update?

A history of financial malfeasance and recent scandals in the legislature have renewed calls for a limit or ban on outside income.



Why an Update?

There is an outcry from good government groups and the public for:

- limits on outside income for legislators and
- changes in the way the legislature manages itself



Why an Update?

A significant number of Leagues expressed a desire to discuss the **length of legislative terms** during the consensus meetings on *Term Limits* in 2015.



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FYI

Term Lengths to consider:

Two year terms (Status Quo)

Four Year Terms

2-4-4 Year Terms

FYI

What does it mean to have state representatives elected to 2 - 4 - 4 year terms?

Members are elected to a 2 or 4 year term depending on how close the state general election is to the legislative reapportionment that occurs after the US census every 10 years.

FYI

Example of 2-4-4 year terms

2020 – Elected for 2-year term

2022 – Redistricting, elected for 4-year term

2026 – Elected for 4-year term

2030 – Elected for 2-year term

FYI

Staggered Terms:

Some electoral districts are staggered by odd and even numbered districts.

Some are divided 1/3-1/3-1/3 like the US Senate or a variation of 2-4-4 taking into account reapportionment every 10 years.

The following slide demonstrates the 2-4-4 system, staggered.



Year	Staggered Elections	Group 1	Group 2
2020	Presidential election	Elected for 2-yr term	
2022	Redistricting	Elected for 4-yr term	Elected for 4-yr term
2026		Elected for 4-yr term	Elected for 2-yr term
2028	Presidential election		Elected for 4-yr term
2030		Elected for 2-yr term	
2032	Redistricting	Elected for 4-yr term	Elected for 4-yr term
2036	Presidential election	Elected for 4-yr term	Elected for 2-yr term
2038			Elected for 4-yr term
2040	Presidential election	Elected for 2-yr term	
2042	Redistricting	Elected for 4-yr term	Elected for 4-yr term
2046		Elected for 4-yr term	Elected for 2-yr term

FYI

Term lengths for legislative leadership

- The New York State Constitution gives each house of the legislature the power to make its own rules.
- Current New York Senate rules support an 8 year limitation on some leadership positions.
- The New York Assembly has no limits on terms for leadership positions

FYI

Term lengths for legislative leadership

- 15 states have *Term Limits* for legislators.
- 6 states limit leadership tenure by tradition or statute
- Voters in some states have indicated a preference for limits on leadership instead of *Term Limits* for legislators

What is Consensus?

- Discuss both pros and cons of an issue

- Consensus – is a “sense of the members”

A mutual agreement among members arrived at through discussion and understanding

- It is not a vote!



Reaching Consensus: Ground Rules

All voices are heard

- Our time is limited -- use it fairly.
- Listen to learn and not to debate.
- Everyone is encouraged to share views.
- Every view has merit and will be respected.
- Dissenters often hold the key to the wisdom of the group.
- Relax and participate fully.



Legislative Procedures Consensus Questions

Part I. Outside income (Questions 1 - 3)

Part II. Length of terms and staggered terms (Questions 1 - 4)

Part III. Term limits for legislative leaders (Questions 1 - 8)



Part I. Outside Income

Q1. Should there be limits on earning income from outside employment by state legislators?

[Yes]

[No]

Part I. Outside Income

Q2. If there are limits, should

(You may choose more than one for yes or no)

- a) all outside earned income be prohibited [Yes] [No]
- b) New York follow the federal model of a percentage of base salary
[Yes] [No]
- c) a dollar amount to be specified [Yes] [No]
- d) some other criteria applied, please specify. [Yes]_____ [No]

Part I. Outside Income

Q3. Should legislators salaries be weighted by the cost of living in different regions of state?

[Yes]

[No]



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Part I. Outside Income

OPTIONAL

Rank as many of your selections as you wish with 1 being the favorite

- a) Ban on outside earned income _____
- b) Percentage of base salary _____
- c) there be a specific dollar amount _____
- d) Some other criteria _____



Part II. Term Lengths for State Assembly

Q1. Should Assembly members serve:

First Choice Second Choice Third Choice

Two-year terms

Four-year terms

2-4-4 year terms

Part II. Term Lengths - State Assembly

Staggered terms for Assembly members

Q2. Should elections for state Assembly members be staggered?

[Yes]

[No]



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Part II. Term Lengths for State Senators

Q3. Should state senators serve:

First Choice Second Choice Third Choice

Two-year terms

Four-year terms

2-4-4 year terms

Part II. Term Lengths for State Senate

Staggered terms for Senate members

Q4. Should elections for state Senate members be staggered?

[Yes]

[No]



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Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q1. Should there be restrictions on how long a particular legislator is allowed to serve in any of the leadership positions listed below?

(Yes) (No)

Speaker of the Assembly

Temporary President of the Senate (Majority Leader)

Majority Leader of the Assembly

Minority Leader of the Senate

Minority Leader of the Assembly

Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q2. If yes, check off all those leadership positions that should be restricted.

- Speaker of the Assembly
- Temporary President of the Senate (Majority Leader)
- Majority Leader of the Assembly
- Minority Leader of the Senate
- Minority Leader of the Assembly

Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q3. If you restrict a member who holds one of these titles, shall that person be allowed to take on a different title after that “term” expires?

(Yes) (No)



Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q4. If you restrict a member who holds one of these titles,

- should the limit be a *life-time* limit or
- should reappointment be allowed after a specified period of time?



Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

- Q5. Should there be restricted tenure for committee chairs?
(Yes) (No)

Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q6. If you restrict the length of time one can hold a committee's chair, shall that person be allowed to take on a different committee's chair after that "term" expires?

(Yes)

(No)



Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q7. If you restrict the length of time one can hold a committee's chair,

should the limit be a *life-time* limit or

should reappointment be allowed after a specified period of time?



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Part III. Term Limits for Legislative Leaders

Q8. Should stipends (lulus) continue for committee chairs and all leadership positions?

(Yes)

(No)



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FINISHED !!

Thank you!

