

## How We Decide What to Study

Deciding what are important issues usually seems pretty easy to us. However, then we have to decide if WE are the right people to study it, and how we would do it. Please consider the questions below to help you decide what our active issues should be and what we are able to do about them.

1. **STUDY:** to reach member agreement on an issue so that the League can take action. **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELVES:**

- Does the League already have a position?
- Is there a government solution to the problem?
- Is there enough time to do a study and then act to influence the resolution of the problem?

2. **UPDATE:** to review an issue. **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELVES:**

- Is the League position still useful?
- Is the position sufficiently general?
- Are there significant developments in the issues area that are not reflected in the position?
- What is the proper scope of effort to update the position?

3. **ACTION:** always the goal of the League's study process. Member understanding and strong support are essential for successful action. **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELVES:**

- Are the timing and the political realities right for success?
- Does the community expect or need the League to be a player on this issue?
- Will League action on this issue make a significant difference?
- Could a focused, targeted action campaign enhance LWV visibility and stature?
- Do our members understand our position and our action goals?

4. **CITIZEN EDUCATION:** to help citizen understand the complexities of an issue and encourage people to participate in reaching a solution; can also lay the groundwork for successful advocacy.

**QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELVES:**

- Does our community need help in understanding this issue and its possible solutions?
- Is there enough time to develop and implement our project before citizens must make a decision?
- Is it more important to help citizens understand this issue than to advocate our League position at this time?

5. **CONCURRENCE:** to agree with a position already held by another LWV. **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELVES:**

- Is their study available to us?
- Is their resulting consensus of sufficient use to us?
- How can we be sufficiently well informed on the issues?
- How do we obtain the statement, background materials including pros and cons?
- How do we comply with the requirements not to amplify, make subject to conditions, or alter the statement of position reached by the other League.