

STATE CONSENSUS, UPDATE AND CONCURRENCE PROCESS

Process used in developing new Positions, updating existing Positions, and concurring with a Position of another League

Adopted by LWWNYS Board, March 2019

Amended by LWWNYS Board, June 2019

Introduction

The goal of this revision of the LWWNYS process for reaching member “Consensus” or “Agreement” on a new or updated Position, or “Concurrence” with another League’s Position, (“change in League positions”) is to be more responsive, swifter and to include more members in the conversation.

This revised process opens up new avenues for local Leagues and League members to initiate a change in League positions, and streamlines the process. In addition, the LWWNYS Board can recommend changes in League positions at any time, not just as part of the program planning process. At a minimum the process requires local Leagues and League members be provided with a statement or statements that will provide the basis of the proposed new Position (“Statement of the Position”), or the Position to be concurred with in the case of Concurrence, and an explanation/rationale. Different forms of discussion (in person, by phone, online conferencing) will be available to local Leagues and members. Local Leagues will be encouraged to hold Consensus/Concurrence meetings and respond on the League level, but individual League members who participate in a discussion will also be able to respond as individuals and have their Agreement/Disagreement counted. If there is no Member Agreement, there will be no new/updated Position

Initiation of a Proposed Change in League Positions

The LWWNYS Board may propose a change in League positions at any time. [This will require a change in bylaws.]

A local League, MAL, ILO or a member to the LWWNYS Board 90 days before Convention or Council, may submit recommendations for a proposed change in a League position. The Board will vote whether or not to accept the recommendation. Recommendations not accepted by the LWWNYS board may be adopted at Convention or Council as a non-recommended item in accordance with the by-laws (i.e. consideration is approved by a majority vote, and the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifth’s vote). [Change in bylaws required for member recommendations.]

Recommendations from local Leagues, MALS, ILOs, and members for a change in a League position may also be considered by the LWWNYS Board anytime outside of this time frame. [This will require a change in bylaws.]

Local League and Member Recommendation Requirements

Any recommendation to the LWWNYS Board for the adoption of a change in a League position must:

- State the proposed subject matter to be studied
- Provide background information,
- Provide an explanation of the rationale for the recommendation,
- Provide evidence of member interest either by co-sponsorship of the proposed Position or the results of a member survey indicating a level of interest, and
- Include proposed Study Committee members, including members who have agreed to chair/co-chair the Study Committee.

New Study Process

Once the Board has recommended a change in a League position, or a non-recommended change has been approved by Council or Convention, there are three ways to proceed.

Regular Process - The Board appoints a Study Committee to assemble/organize appropriate background materials and draft a Statement of Position. If appropriate, the Statement may be divided into two or more segments for approval. The Board will assign a board or staff liaison for the Committee. Background information exploring both sides of the issue will be assembled by the Committee and made available to all local Leagues and League members online before the member approval process.

Expedited Process - When circumstances are such that a more lengthy process is not feasible or appropriate, the LWVNYS Board will develop a Statement of Position to be presented to local Leagues and League members for member agreement along with an explanation/rationale.

Concurrence - The Board presents the Position, with explanation/rationale to local Leagues and League members for approval.

Local League and Member Approval

Discussion Process- group discussion is essential.

1. Group discussion conducted by local Leagues - Conversations may be in person, by telephone or by other electronic means at the option of the boards of the local Leagues, and should be made available to all local members. Local Leagues are encouraged to hold a public event on the issue as part of the Study process.
2. Group discussion conducted by individuals - Rather than participation in discussion sponsored by their local Leagues, individual members may participate in:
 - a. Group conference calls sponsored by the State; or
 - b. Online group discussions sponsored by the State.
3. Group discussion by members of local Leagues opting out of the Study - In-person or telephonic or online meetings, among "Study groups" consisting of members who are interested in participating in the Study but who are members of local Leagues which have opted out of such participation.

If a member is interested in becoming a member a Study group, she/he may contact the LWVNYS office, which will facilitate communication among interested members. Participation in a Study Group may be:

- In person,

- By participation in an online group discussion, or
- By participation in a group telephone call.

Member Agreement

Member agreement will be expressed by agreement or disagreement with the Statement of Position submitted for consideration or the Position of another League in a Concurrence. On all responses to the LWVNYS Board, the responding local League or League member will indicate the number of participants in the League meeting or the manner in which the individual member participated in a group discussion.

Member Agreement will be determined by the LWVNYS Board after consideration of responses from local Leagues using the same standards for geographic distribution for participating local Leagues as is currently used and the same 2/3 standard for approval. Responses of both individual members and local Leagues will be considered, with responses from local Leagues being weighted by the number of members participating in that League's meeting. For example, a local League with 16 participating members will get 1.5 times 16 or 24 units. Each individual responding as an individual will count as 1 unit. This weighted counting is intended to encourage local League participation in the process.

State Board Action

The LWVNYS Board is responsible for interpreting and applying LWVUS Positions and LWVNYS Positions to state governmental issues. But other than through the consensus and concurrence processes outlined above, the LWVNYS Board may not change any state position.