

LWVSFC Discussion Forum Principles and Guidelines

Civil Discourse Definition:

For the purposes of this forum, we are defining civil discourse as “the act of engaging in honest and respectful conversation to enhance mutual understanding.” This forum presents an opportunity for LWVSFC members to have those conversations and in so doing develop a deeper understanding of each other and our community.

Principles:

1. The Loyalty to Conscience principle: We ask you to honor and express your own individual judgment on any forum topic. Although the League has many positions, in this forum they do not govern or constrain the discussion. Participants may cite any sources they wish.
2. The Value of Engaging Differences Constructively: This can lead to new insights and better decisions and can feed innovative solutions. This is better than accommodating others’ views with which we genuinely disagree, which violates our own conscience and robs others of the opportunity to benefit from our honest views.
3. The Value of Curiosity: Because we live in a multicultural world with endless varieties of experience, curiosity has more value than certainty and can result in new points of view and solutions.

Guidelines:

1. Our commitment is to participate, listening to all opinions. If an opinion is expressed and we don’t agree, we commit to staying engaged, presuming good intentions.
2. We participate for understanding rather than rebuttal.
3. We participate with kindness, observing the Golden Rule.