

Early in the 1st quarter of each year, Leagues at all levels do Program Planning. Local Leagues review local positions and, in alternate years, state (odd-numbered years) or national (even-numbered years) positions. These meetings are your opportunity to suggest revisions to existing positions or to propose a study on an issue for which we do not have a position.

Simply put, Program is education and advocacy. We can hold educational meetings on any issue but we can only advocate on issues where we have a position. As a reminder, LWVSFC advocates on the basis of positions that have been developed and adopted by the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County; addressing local issues that affect City and County residents. We can also advocate based on positions that have been adopted by LWVNM and/or by LWVUS when they apply to local issues.

The LWVSFC Program Planning meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2023, 10am-noon, at SJUMC. We'll ask you to prepare by reviewing existing state and local positions. You can find these on our website <https://www.lwvsfc.org/positions3.html>. We'll discuss areas that may need revision and agree on suggestions to pass on to the LWVSFC Board for approval. Our suggestions for revisions to LWVNM positions will be presented to the LWVNM Board for approval. Final adoption of local and state revisions and/or new studies happens at local/state conventions or councils.

An important part of the meeting is consideration of new studies. Is there an issue you think we should advocate on but where we don't have a relevant position? Perhaps an existing position is outdated in some way or doesn't cover one or more aspects of the issue? We're giving you advance notice here to begin to think about how we can keep our League positions current! Remember that local studies must address local issues and state studies must address state issues.

If you plan to propose a new study, we ask that you submit a [Program Proposal Form](#)

- Topic
- Why it's important
- What's the expected impact
- Who will chair (the assumption is that the chair will be the member proposing the study)
- Time period, *i.e.*, 1, 2 years – more?
- Estimate of resources needed
- Anticipated cost

We all know that League terminology can be confusing – we have Program *vs* Programs and Consensus *vs* Concurrence – all related to **Positions** and **Studies**. Here are brief definitions of these terms.

- **POSITION:** A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (**consensus** or **concurrence**), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.
 - **CONSENSUS:** Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue
 - **CONCURRENCE:** Agreement by League members that takes advantage of a study done by another League by using their background information
- **PROGRAM:** Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action.
- **PROGRAMS/EVENTS:** Plans for speakers, discussion or other activities for League meetings.
- **STUDY:** The process for formally investigating an issue, its supporting or contravening facts, and its policy implications.