Streamlining Local League Advocacy
How To Make a Difference with a Small Group or a Committee of One

Idea to Action: How To Make a Difference

9 Steps for Small-Group Success

It only takes a few working together to tackle a local issue. Follow these steps (and see the flow chart, next page) to make a difference.

1) **Organize** two to three members who want to do something.

2) **Identify** a community issue. (See the related guides to “Hot Topics” lunches and planning a community event.)

3) **Talk** to others in the community with background on the issue to **learn** what they are doing and to **connect** on common concerns.

4) **Determine** which League positions support your approach, and if national or state positions apply locally.

5) **Use** the LWVUS “Citizen’s Right to Know” position to promote transparency and accountability (powerful action item).

6) **Decide** where your League can make a difference. Is this really a local (city/county) issue, or does it rise to a higher level?

7) **Develop** talking points and a plan of action. (Keep it simple: based on data and facts.)

8) **Get agreement** from the board.

9) **Take action!**

The Power of One

Even one person designated as the advocacy/action coordinator for a local League can accomplish a lot with minimum effort and collaboration with the local League leadership team:

- Respond to state/national action alerts on behalf of your local League. Help with issuing letters-to-the-editor suggestions provided by the state/national League.

- Post state/national action alerts on your local League website or Facebook page and disseminate to others.

- Check the League’s website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (national) & state sites for action opportunities.

- Let members know how officials voted on action alert legislation.

- Use national templates to submit letters-to-the-editor for the Leagues priority issues, and notable dates, e.g. Women’s Equality Day, etc.

- Write your own letters about current events and link to League positions.

- Research a local ballot issue; provide pro/con arguments for your local voter guide, publicize to the media and other organizations.
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Problem ID'd at community event → Asked to join coalition → League-identified action issue

Check LL Policies before joining coalition
- Consider who else is in the coalition
- What is the LWV being asked to do?

1.) Gather information
2.) Talk to experts
3.) Identify “players”

Is there a LWVUS position?
- Yes → Can change be achieved by local government (city/county)?
  - Yes → Use citizen’s right to know or host an educational event to proceed
  - No → Collaborate with state/natl LWV OR host educational events
- No → Document

1. Develop action plan
   - Evaluate potential partners/coalitions:
     - impact on LL credibility & success?
     - make join or not join decision
2. Get Board approval
3. Take Action!