The League of Women Voters of NW Maricopa County

PART 2
Since its beginning, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government.
We act only after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key issues at all levels of government.
We work to build citizen participation in the democratic process & to engage communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues via education & advocacy.
Two Roles:

- **Voters Service/Citizen Education**
  Presenting unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.

- **Action and Advocacy**
  After study, using our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.
This guide is an example of the League’s work on health care reform.

This guide, produced by the Arizona LWV with the input of many of our NWMC League members, was recognized and used nationally by many groups and individuals.
Voters Service/Citizen Education

- Work to build citizen participation in the democratic process.
Conducting candidate forums

Publishing guides for voter education
► Studying key issues in an unbiased manner.

► Enabling people to seek positive solutions to Public policy issues through education & conflict management.
Action and Advocacy

Although we are nonpartisan, after study and agreement, we do use our positions to advocate for or against policies in the public interest.
When and how do we take action on an issue or advocate for a cause?

- Action or advocacy occurs when there is an existing League position that supports the Issue or speaks to the cause.

  Or through study, consensus and/or concurrence
Study & Consensus

- Positions result following a process of study — whether it be National, State, or Local. The study is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details.

- Additional discussion, pro & con, takes place as members (not a part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study.

- After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.
Concurrence

Positions can be adopted by concurrence:

► When X league has studied a topic & reaches consensus on an area of national or statewide interest, a state or national position can be adopted by concurrence following the agreement of 2/3 or more of leagues.

► Positions can also be adopted by concurrence using studies done by outside organizations in an area of league interest.
It is the statement resulting from the consensus questions — that becomes a position.

Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position.

Without a position, League action/advocacy cannot be taken.
As League members, we will:

► act with trust, integrity and professionalism

► operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public

► take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership

► acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.
LWV Radio Programs to educate the public on issues.
In the 1930's, League members worked successfully for enactment of the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts.

Due at least in part to League efforts, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 removed hundreds of federal jobs from the spoils system and placed them under Civil Service.
Poster winner for Voter Kickoff Campaign - 1980s