

Coalition Policy

- I. **Definition.** A coalition is a formal alliance of organizations and/or individuals working together to achieve agreed-upon goals. The combination of numbers of people and groups working together can often enhance political power and/or influence. Coalitions can also help establish closer relationships with organizations and individuals who share or endorse some aspect(s) of LWVGT's mission or principles or one or more tenets of LWVGT, LWVAZ or LWVUS position statements. The characteristics of a coalition will generally include all the following: (1) an identity in the eyes of the public or elected officials or both that is separate and distinct from LWVGT; (2) autonomy insofar as the coalition may act without specific authorization by LWVGT; and (3) an expected duration of at least six months.

- II. **Procedure to form or join a coalition.** Any Board member or the President may request that the Board informally discuss forming or joining a specific coalition.

Prior to the Board making a final decision to form or join a coalition, however, a member or other applicant must submit to the President an application in electronic format which contains at least the following information:

- name and description of the coalition;
- purpose or goal of the coalition;
- names of other coalition participants or proposed participants;
- reasons that the applicant thinks that LWVGT should form or join the coalition;
- estimated amount of money required to accomplish the goals of the coalition;
- amount or percentage of the total that LWVGT is expected to provide;
- description of any other LWVGT responsibilities or commitments required or anticipated;
- estimated duration of the coalition;
- list of any expected "deliverables" from the coalition; and
- any potential issues, especially any relating to the League's nonpartisan policy, that may arise out of or be related to the coalition.

The Board shall adopt an application form for use by applicants

The Application may also contain additional information. For example, the application could include the name of a member who is willing to serve as the LWVGT representative to the coalition ("Representative"); the specific LWVGT, LWVAZ or LWVUS Position Statement(s) that the proposed coalition's work would support; or background information about other coalition participants.

The President shall distribute the application to all Board members at least 3 days before the Board meeting at which it is to be considered. The Board shall consider the application using the criteria stated in Section III. It may approve or reject the application at the initial meeting or it may delay a final decision to a later meeting if the Board requires more information or if, for any reason, the Board does not believe an immediate decision is in the best interests of LWVGT.

A motion for a Board decision authorizing LWVGT to form or join a coalition shall contain at least the following: a title or brief statement of the coalition purpose; the names of the other coalition participants; the name or names of the LWVGT representative(s); and a cash authorization not-to-exceed a stated amount or a statement that no financial contribution is anticipated.

A Board authorization decision shall also include the following statement:

LWVGT participation in the coalition is subject to the following: LWVGT is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. It neither supports nor opposes any candidate or political party. Consequently, LWVGT's continued participation in the coalition is conditioned on coalition-related events and activities being conducted in a nonpartisan manner and on all coalition participants avoiding the appearance of partisanship in their actions relating to, or on behalf of, the coalition.

The Board may authorize LWVGT's participation contingent upon other conditions it determines are necessary or appropriate.

III. Criteria to form or join a coalition. In determining whether LWVGT should form or join a proposed coalition, the Board shall use the following criteria:

- What are the goals of the coalition? Are these goals consistent with LWVUS, LWVAZ and LWVGT mission, principles and position statements? Will coalition participation help LWVGT carry these out more effectively?
- What are the expected consequences of pursuing and achieving these goals?
- Are the other groups and individuals in the coalition known, responsible, and reliable?
- Are the other groups and individuals in the coalition nonpartisan? Do they support or oppose candidates or political parties?
- Are the non-coalition activities of the other groups and individuals likely to compromise LWVGT's nonpartisan reputation?
- Does LWVGT have a member qualified and willing to serve as LWVGT's Representative to the coalition?
- Does LWVGT anticipate having sufficient financial and other resources to support its coalition commitments throughout the expected duration of the coalition?

IV. Coalition participation following Board approval. Following Board approval, the LWVGT Board Secretary shall forward an electronic copy of the Board's authorization, together with the nonpartisan statement, to the President and to the Representative.

The Representative shall provide a copy, either in paper or electronic format, to each of the other coalition participants and shall secure their agreement to all Board-adopted conditions. If requested by the President, the Representative shall obtain a written statement from each coalition member confirming agreement to all Board-adopted conditions.

Throughout the duration of the coalition, the Representative:

1. shall submit a monthly report of coalition meetings, activities and events to the board on the same schedule as other Board member meeting reports; if there has been no coalition activity in a month, the report can note the lack of activity;
2. upon request of the President or the Board, shall attend a Board meeting to report and answer any questions; and
3. shall immediately notify the President if the coalition breaches the prohibition on nonpartisan conduct or if there is any anticipated or actual monetary shortfall or other significant conduct or occurrence that might be reasonably likely to jeopardize the integrity of LWVGT or its reputation in the wider community or adversely affect LWVGT's ability to continue to perform its mission effectively.

The Board may appoint an additional Representative or may replace the Representative with another League member at any time. If the Board cannot identify a member willing to serve as Representative acceptable to the Board, it may terminate LWVGT's participation in the coalition.

The Board shall review all coalitions and representative assignments at least once annually and has

discretion to review any coalition at any time.

- V. **Procedure for early withdrawal.** All Board members and any Representative shall report promptly to the President if they become aware of any reason to suspect that a coalition has violated any condition of LWVGT's participation or if a coalition or any of its members are engaging in partisan or other conduct that is reasonably likely to jeopardize the integrity of LWVGT or its reputation in the wider community or to affect adversely LWVGT's ability to perform its mission effectively. Upon receipt of a report, the President may investigate to the extent s/he deems necessary or may request someone else to investigate. If the President discovers that there is no significant problem or that any problem has been adequately corrected, the President may advise the Board of the report and its resolution and take no further action. The President's statement, either in Board meeting minutes or as a written report, shall become part of LWVGT's official records.

If the President determines that there may be a significant or continuing problem, the President shall place the matter on the agenda of the next regular meeting or schedule a special Board meeting to discuss the facts and issues. The Board shall review and resolve the matter as it deems appropriate. Resolution may include requiring the coalition to take corrective action as a condition of LWVGT's further participation or terminating LWVGT's participation in the coalition.

Any termination shall be communicated to the general membership and the public in a manner that protects the LWVGT's integrity, nonpartisan status and reputation in the wider community and its ability to continue to perform its mission effectively. However, care shall be taken not to adversely impact the coalition or other coalition members unnecessarily if LWVGT's interests are adequately protected.

**APPLICATION TO THE LWVGT BOARD
FOR COALITION PROJECT**

Date:
Name of coalition:

Description of the coalition:

The specific LWVGT Position Statements that the proposed coalition work would support:

Person filling out this form:

Member willing to serve as the LWVGT representative to the coalition:

What is the purpose or goal of the coalition? What are the “deliverables” from the coalition?

What are the names of the other coalition participants or proposed participants?

What are the reasons that LWVGT should form or join the coalition?

Give a complete description of LWVGT responsibilities or commitments that are required or anticipated.

What is the estimated amount of money required to form or join the coalition? What is the percentage of the total that LWVGT is expected to provide?

What potential issues may arise from or be related to the coalition, especially relating to the League’s nonpartisan policy?

Anticipated duration of coalition.