

CONCURRENCE POLICY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUCSON

ADOPTED 1996; READOPTED 9/2/16

Concurrence is the act of agreeing with -- or concurring with -- a position. Concurrence has been a decision-making technique used by the League for some time. Every member who joins the League concurs with program positions already developed. Members who move from state to state accept already arrived-at positions. Another form of Concurrence occurs regularly when a position is adopted at a local annual meeting or a state or national convention. The Equal Rights Amendment, for example, was adopted at a national convention by extending the Human Resources position. As the League seeks ways to cope with the growing number and complexity of issues of concern to its membership, the Concurrence process provides an efficient way to share findings and seek member accord. Concurrence is not intended to be a substitute for the traditional Consensus process. It should instead be viewed as a technique to be used, when appropriate, as a means of maximizing the time, energies and talents of the limited resources available to the League of Women Voters.

To be eligible for statewide concurrence, items shall be matters requiring state governmental action. To be eligible for nationwide concurrence, items shall be matters requiring national governmental action.

At the beginning of the process, the Board at the appropriate level shall accept the concurrence statements. At the end of the process, the Board at the appropriate level shall accept the final outcome of the concurrence and take appropriate action.

Concurrence at the state level requires a majority of the Local Leagues in the state. MAL Units may participate.

Acceptable sources of concurrence statements include:

1. Statements formulated by a resource committee.
2. Position statements formulated by another League or Leagues.
3. Position statements formulated by State or National League Boards.

A resource committee or unit group requesting concurrence shall:

1. Have done research on the subject and written concurrence statements.
2. Request that the State Board recommend a statewide concurrence process.
3. Request that the State Board accept its concurrence statements.
4. Distribute to the State Board the following items. If the concurrence is approved by the State Board, distribute the items to the Local Leagues:
 - An up-to-date fact sheet explaining the rationale for the request.
 - Its concurrence statement(s) and the rationale.
 - If the concurrence is achieved, what action is planned.

Local Leagues requesting concurrence from the state shall:

1. Have the item on its local program.
2. Have arrived at a local position by consensus.
3. Request that the State Board recommend a statewide concurrence process.
4. Request that the State Board accept its concurrence statements.
5. Distribute to the State Board the following items. If the concurrence is approved by the State Board, distribute the items to the Local Leagues:
 - An up-to-date fact sheet explaining the rationale for the request.
 - Its concurrence statement(s) and the rationale.
 - If the concurrence is achieved, what action is planned.

State and/or National Boards shall request concurrence on a state and/or national issue when:

1. They have enough information regarding an issue and can provide it quickly to Local Leagues.
2. They know that there is not enough time to go through the full consensus process.
3. They know that League action might have an important and immediate impact.