



The League of Women Voters of Virginia

CONCURRENCE POLICY and PROCEDURES

Concurrence is the act of agreeing with or concurring with a statement or position. A decision-making technique used by the League for some time, concurrence can work in several ways. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with (1) recommendations of a resource committee, task force, members or unit group; (2) decision statements formulated by League boards; or (3) positions reached by another League or Leagues. (*League Basics* 9-17.) The revised LWV-VA bylaws, adopted at the 2013 Convention, expanded the process by which concurrence can be used in adopting or amending program. See *Article X, Sec 3*. This change recognized the fact that the LWV-VA has many support positions which are due for updates, and which can most likely be achieved through a concurrence process. The new bylaws open the process of proposing and adopting updated positions, while retaining the oversight of the board and role of the membership.

Basic Concurrence Process:

1. Any League Board, LWV-VA study committee, task force, or voting member that plans to propose the adoption, elimination, or amendment of a state League position by concurrence of the convention or council shall give notice to the state board of its intention to do so at least three months before the council or convention.
2. Background information on the issue, including the timing, need, and importance of the issue and rationale for using this method, must be submitted to the state board with the proposal. Copies of the material may be sent to local Leagues and members-at-large (MAL) units for their information.
3. The state board will consider the proposal and include or exclude it from the proposed program, which will be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILO's and to the chairs of MAL units at least four weeks before the council or convention.
4. A majority vote of those present and voting at the council or convention is required to amend, eliminate or adopt a state League position recommended by the state board for concurrence by the council or convention.
5. A properly submitted concurrence proposal not recommended by the board for consideration by delegates at state convention may be adopted if it is ordered for consideration by a majority vote and is approved by a three-fifths vote of the convention delegates present and voting at a subsequent session of the convention. (This allows time for the delegates to consider the proposal.) According to the bylaws, delegates to state council may consider only those proposals that are recommended by the state board.
6. There is the possibility that a LWV-VA board, study committee or task force will determine that a concurrence rather than consensus process is more appropriate to determine member support for a new or amended position. In such a situation, the board will seek the agreement, disagreement, technical edits and comments from local Leagues and MAL units regarding the proposals of the committee or group. Following receipt of aforementioned feedback, the state board will determine whether concurrence has been reached and approve the wording of the new or revised support position. Pursuant to Article X, Sec 4, the position is thereby adopted as a LWV-VA position upon which it may take action and can only be amended by following the procedures of Article X, Section 3.