

LWV-VA WORKSHOPS 9/14/19

LWV-VA: website defines advocacy:

<https://lwv-va.org/action-advocacy/advocacy-vs-lobbying-knowing-the-difference/>

Alliance for Justice definition:

https://mfth.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/AFJ_what-is-advocacy.pdf

Advocacy= Action “Keep it Simple” [Do not dwell on 501c3 or 501c4]

Advocacy is defined as any ACTION that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

Advocacy: Lobbying is only one kind of advocacy. Not all advocacy is lobbying... but all lobbying is advocacy.

Lobby: Direct influence on specific legislation

Action Alerts: members instructed to contact their own legislators to support or oppose bill, but not identified as League member.

Lobbyist (LWV-VA): Speak to legislators as League rep; speak to Committee as League rep

League Advocacy: Action to influence issues:

Study, establish Position, educate community, nonpartisan voter education, media statements as an individual on issues for which we have a position; respond to relevant Op-Eds or LTEs or news — but not identified as League member (unless by President or assigned member). Lobby legislators as individuals or as designated lobbyist.

Perfect example of lobbying Advocacy:

Education issue: League’s study of School Choice; LWV-VA voted for new Position; Lobbying by lobbyist against specific legislation (SB1356 to expand EISTC) using Position; Action alert to members to contact own legislators to oppose SB1356 as individuals.

Perfect example of non-lobbying Advocacy:

Education issue: School choice again but NOT related to specific legislation. IRS closed tax loophole (“triple dipping” for tax credit and deductions) used by EISTC donors. Op-Ed by TCI* in Charlottesville news in support of this change. Negative op-ed in response was observed by League member. League member’s LTE was published with opposition to the negative op-ed.

Titles of the three opinion articles: “New IRS Rule Narrows Tax Loophole in Virginia”, but “Tax credit accomplishes much good”, but “Credits benefit the rich.”

2019 & 2020: Need Advocacy/Action now on some causes:

Complete Count for 2020 Census: Community education, Outreach, collaboration

Election Security and Protection: Assure localities have funds for equipment and personnel for elections.

Community education: Arrange for debates, candidate forums

Community education: Changes in districts/precincts, what is on the ballot, deadlines; VOTE411 Voter Guides