

PREFACE

League action occurs at every level of government after members reach a position on an issue. A League "position" is defined as: (1) a set of guidelines by which proposed government action can be measured; or (2) an expression of League goals against which proposed government action can be evaluated. League boards, with this guidance from the membership, can then study proposed legislation or regulations, and have the flexibility to work with others to achieve our goals. The League board decides whether to support or oppose proposed measures on specific issues.

Positions for Action reviews state positions and the kinds of action that LWVNC has taken under both state and national positions. The state League has used national positions for action on state issues, on issues on which members have been kept continually informed, and on issues in the state program that delegates to state conventions have voted to continue. If any action has the potential to affect Leagues in other states, the state League consults with the national League and with the affected Leagues.

Local Leagues may also take action within their jurisdiction based on state and national positions just as the state League may take action under national positions. Some issues, such as specific instances of enforcement or siting of any facilities may be particularly controversial with broad impact and should, therefore, be included in local programs. If, however, such action would affect Leagues in other communities or have an impact beyond the borders of that particular League community, it is necessary to consult with the state or national League and with the other affected Leagues. Most importantly, members should support the action, be kept informed, and have opportunities for discussion and evaluation.

This edition was revised in 1997 on the basis of adopted program for 1995-97 and on the basis of legislative action in the years since the publication of the previous editions. The revisions to this newly-designed edition were prepared by Shelley Day, Former Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. This edition is designed to make positions more readily accessible and more easily understood by local and state League members. The wise input and thoughtful advice of the following editors were of immeasurable benefit: John Anema, Marian Dodd, Betty Ellerbee, Diane Henderson, Margaret Holton, June Kimmel, Bernie Parker, Gladys Scott, and Jane Warsaw. Their efforts are sincerely appreciated.

For a history of the early years of the League in North Carolina, refer to *In the Beginning: 1920 to 1950* by Almelle Houk for the Citizen Education Foundation and *A Voice for Change: The Years 1951 to 1995*, available from LWVNC. To order either of these publications, call 1-800-851-8683.