

Guidelines for League of Women Voters Participation in Coalitions and Membership in Other Organizations

- A. Definition. A coalition is defined as an alliance that brings together individuals and/or groups for joint actions toward a common goal, limited and clearly defined. A coalition is not, nor is it meant to be, a lasting relationship.
- B. Criteria for Participation
 1. The group's major goals must be consistent with League position(s) and priorities. There need not be a League position on every issue with which the group is concerned, however, the aims of the group must not conflict with League positions.
 2. Participation will bring added effectiveness to accomplishing the League's goals.
 3. The group's member organizations should be organizations with which the League can work effectively. The League should have confidence in the leadership of the group and may serve in a leadership capacity.
 4. The group complies with state and federal laws, agrees to adhere to a democratic decision-making process, and to provide notice of meetings and minutes of meetings to member organizations.
 5. The group understands that the League may take action on its own, consistent with coalition purposes or the purposes of the organization.
 6. The League must be able to withhold its name or involvement in certain actions of the coalition (such as candidate endorsements) and yet still remain a coalition member if it so desires.
 7. The League will not participate in a coalition or an organization where the primary purpose is to endorse or oppose candidates for public office.
 8. The League should be aware of the time, personnel and financial commitment; these expenditures (staff, volunteer hours, cash and in-kind contributions) should be worth the investment.
- C. Procedures for Initiating Participation
 1. There must be state board approval for participation in a coalition or membership in another organization. Where timing is critical, the executive committee may approve participation in a coalition. In such case, the board must be informed at the next regularly scheduled meeting or through a board mailing.
 2. The coalition or the League member seeking the League's participation in the coalition should complete the standard coalition membership form (see attached) for consideration by the board and/or executive committee.
 3. The president, in consultation with the board or executive committee, must make appointments in writing for League representation in all coalitions.
- D. Communication with local Leagues
 1. The state League must inform local Leagues of its participation in state coalitions or membership in other organizations through mailings, the state VOTER or board minutes.
- E. Responsibilities of the League Representative
 1. The League representative should participate actively in meetings and activities.
 2. The League representative must report to the state board and/or executive committee on a regular basis on the nature and status of activities.
 3. The League representative must seek advice from the president, portfolio chair, executive committee and/or the board of directors should issues arise regarding League policies or positions.
- F. Annual Review.
 1. The board of directors should review, evaluate and approve participation in all coalitions and membership in other organizations annually prior to council or convention based upon the above criteria.