

Fracking Discussion Overview

At its March 2013 Board meeting, the LWVO Directors reviewed the results of the Local Leagues' program planning process. Several Local Leagues recommended further study of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and some expressed concern about the extent to which the League's current positions permit advocacy about fracking.

Many environmental issues are involved in the fracking techniques being used to extract oil and gas from shale formations. We can advocate now by drawing on League stances on, e.g., clean air, water quality, use of renewable energy sources, conservation, public right-to-know & participation in decision-making, ecosystem integrity, reduction in climate change, reclamation of land damaged by mining; disposal, safe treatment, transportation, storage & disposal of waste (including low-level radioactivity); and environmental review.

We have attached some of the relevant sections of LWVUS' "Impact on Issues" & LWVO's "Agenda for Action". Both documents mention fracking specifically as an area in which Leagues may advocate. (Impact on Issues at page 43 and Agenda for Action at page 25) Also attached are pieces of testimony that LWVO lobbyist Al Rosenfield has given before committees of the Ohio General Assembly concerning fracking.

Advocacy on fracking will be the topic of the All Member conference call at noon on April 2. Please review the League's existing positions. We would like to talk about any particular concerns Local Leagues have about fracking, what aspects of fracking are particularly important to address through advocacy, what role Local Leagues can take in advocacy, and whether the LWVO and LWVUS positions are sufficient to address League members' concerns about fracking.