



# Streamlining Local League Advocacy

*How To Make a Difference with a Small Group or a Committee of One*

## Idea to Action: How To Make a Difference

### 9 Steps for Small-Group Success

It only takes a few working together to tackle a local issue. Follow these steps (and see the flow chart, next page) to make a difference.

- 1) **Organize** two to three members who want to do something.
- 2) **Identify** a community issue. (See the related guides to “Hot Topics” lunches and planning a community event.)
- 3) **Talk** to others in the community with background on the issue to **learn** what they are doing and to **connect** on common concerns.
- 4) **Determine** which League positions support your approach, and if national or state positions apply locally.
- 5) **Use** the LWVUS “Citizen’s Right to Know” position to promote transparency and accountability (powerful action item).
- 6) **Decide** where your League can make a difference. Is this really a local (city/county) issue, or does it rise to a higher level?
- 7) **Develop** talking points and a plan of action. (Keep it simple: based on data and facts.)
- 8) **Get agreement** from the board.
- 9) **Take action!**

### The Power of One

Even one person designated as the advocacy/action coordinator for a local League can accomplish a lot with minimum effort and collaboration with the local League leadership team:

- Respond to state/national action alerts on behalf of your local League. Help with issuing letters-to-the-editor suggestions provided by the state/national League.
- Post state/national action alerts on your local League website or Facebook page and disseminate to others.
- Check the League’s website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (national) & state sites for action opportunities.
- Let members know how officials voted on action alert legislation.
- Use national templates to submit letters-to-the-editor for the Leagues priority issues, and notable dates, e.g. Women’s Equality Day, etc.
- Write your own letters about current events and link to League positions.
- Research a local ballot issue; provide pro/con arguments for your local voter guide, publicize to the media and other organizations.



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