

In these times, and as we approach 100 years of national suffrage, the League's goals of "Making Democracy Work, Empowering Voters and Defending Representative Democracy" have inspired this concurrence position. The LWV of Sacramento County is requesting that it be considered and recommended by your League at your upcoming program planning meeting. [Background and more info on Page 2]

Concurrence on Voter Representation / Election Process

Category: Government. Possible title: Voter Representation /Election Process (LWVC Board decision)

Note: We are proposing our current LWVC Elections Systems position under Government, which supports a particular election method, be replaced with this concurrence position.

Position in Brief:

Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters."

Position in Full:

The LWV-CA promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. (LWVUS)* We encourage election methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible, have a positive effect on voter participation, and are expressive of voter choices. (AZ & CO)*

Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports election methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities.
- Are verifiable and auditable.
- Promote access to voting.
- Promote competitive elections.
- Maximize effective votes/minimize "wasted" votes.
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.
- Discourage negative campaigning.
- Encourage meaningful discussion of issues.
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices.
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail.

(LWVUS, ME, OR, CA, MN, MA, FL, NC, OK, SC, VT, WA, Santa Monica)*

The LWV-CA believes in representative government. The League supports systems that elect policy-making bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).

The LWV-CA supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative election methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any election system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

(LWVUS, AZ, CA, OR, SC, WA)*
End of Statement

* All language from LWVUS Principles and multiple State positions.