

## How to Propose Concurrence with the Local News Position at the National Convention

Find the “LWVUS Program Planning Survey” at [2024 - 2026 Program Planning Instructions | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#). A button link takes you directly to the live document. The survey can only be submitted once, so make sure you are ready to fill it out when you go online. At link at the bottom of the page takes you to a pdf of it. We are asking each Local League to complete the survey.

Some questions have a red asterisk (\*), indicating a drop-down menu.

To support concurrence, please do the following:

- Answer “**YES**” to the question (question 9 on the pdf version of the survey): “***Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®?\****”
  - A "yes" answer will bring up a drop-down menu with two additional questions to answer.
- For the next question on the drop-down menu (question 10 on the pdf version), “***Please check which of the four LWVUS issue headings your recommendation would fall under,***” please check “***Representative Government.***”
- You are requested to provide a statement describing the scope of the recommendation (question 11 on the pdf version.) LWVWA has prepared language for that for you that you can cut and paste into the box:

**Rationale:** The LWVWA’s study [The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy](#) showed the decline of local news media is declining at an alarming rate nationwide and is impacting our democracy in several ways: (1) fewer candidates for office; (2) lower voter turnout; (3) increased political divisiveness; (4) decreased civic engagement; (5) increased government costs; and (6) public health challenges.

Based on this study, LWVWA adopted the position below. LWVUS concurrence with this position will provide a basis for advocacy for national, state and local legislation aimed at rebuilding independent local news outlets and expanding media literacy. No resources are needed as a result of adoption of concurrence.

### **Position:**

*“The League of Women Voters of Washington believes it is the responsibility of the government to provide support for conditions under which credible local journalism can survive and thrive.”*

- The League supports credible and ethical local journalism, in whatever format it is published, as essential to our democracy.
- The League of Women Voters of Washington supports efforts to ensure everyone has access to information necessary for casting an informed ballot and that credible local news sources are integral to this pursuit.
- The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that support for the viability of local news may take a variety of forms. Control of the content must remain exclusively with the news organizations.
- The League of Women Voters of Washington also believes media literacy and news education, including support for journalism students, are essential. These opportunities should be expanded in schools and throughout communities.
- The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that everyone should have access to comprehensive, credible local news and that barriers to access should be removed. These barriers include, but are not limited to, geography, economic status, and education.