Questions to Ask

As your members consider what topics they would like to take up as Program items, it may be helpful to think about how topics fit in to overall League Program – both at the state and local level.

ADVANCE WORK

General Questions

* Check in with your community. What issues have been important in your community that have statewide significance.
* How can your League, as well as other local Leagues and the state League, work with partners in your community to advocate for public policy change based on new positions that might derive from a Program item?
* What about the DEI lens. How can it help you think about Program ideas.

How will you reach out to your members to make sure everyone knows about your Program planning meeting and has a chance to participate? Here are some ideas.

* Your *Voter.* This is a chance to explain and demystify the process.
* Email updates
* Friendly reminders at other meetings
* Peer to peer: encourage your members talk to their friends about Program-making.

AT YOUR MEETING:

Once members have decided that an issue of public concern requires League attention, you must determine what role the League should play in addressing those issues. Here are questions to ask in each of the Program item areas that will help you decide what type of Program item your League wants to submit.

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1. **Study**

* Does the League already have a position?
* Is there a government solution to the problem?
* Is there enough time to do a study and then act to influence the resolution of the problem3. Update: to review a position

1. **Update to Positions**

* Is the League position still useful?
* Is the position sufficiently general?
* Are there significant developments in the position topic that are not reflected and are they important enough to warrant the time necessary for more study and an update?
* What is the proper scope of effort to update the position?

1. **Concurrence**

* Is the study that’s the basis of the Concurrence available to us?
* Is the resulting consensus of sufficient use to us? Criteria include:

1. We would need to be sufficiently well informed on the issue(s).
2. We would need the consensus statement and background materials including pros and cons.
3. We could not amplify, make subject to conditions, or alter the statement of position reached by the other League.
4. **Education**

* Does our community need help in understanding this issue?
* What are the different ways to engage the public in this issue?
* What will the project deliverables be?
* Will the project comply with pertinent parts of Guide to Effective Studies (e.g. accurate, unbiased and are sources cited? See Guide to Effective Studies.)