

The LWVWA Meeting to Review the Consensus Process

September 15, 2022

Recorded on ZOOM

Program of Work (Work Group): Liz Bander, Mary Coltrane, Dee Ann Kline, and Beth Pellicciotti.

The link and password to the full recording of the meeting are listed below. The recording is about one hour. The questions and answers below provide a quick summary of parts of the meeting (see the boldfaced times following each question to listen to that part of the recording).

What is the process for Program of Work?

The [PowerPoint on the process of Program of Work](#) shows a fairly complex process in three slides.

The League of Women Voters at every level is a grassroots organization. Everyone in the League can be involved in how positions come about on which we base action.

It starts with the local Leagues doing Program Planning in January. Ideas for studies are sent to the LWVWA. At Convention in odd-numbered years, local League delegates vote on recommended and non-recommended studies.

Once the studies are completed, local League member read and discuss the study attempting to reach consensus on key issues.

Consensus forms are returned to the local League Board which in turn reviews this consensus and sends its final consensus statements to the LWVWA Board for development of a new League position. (**recording time 0:54 - 1:05**)

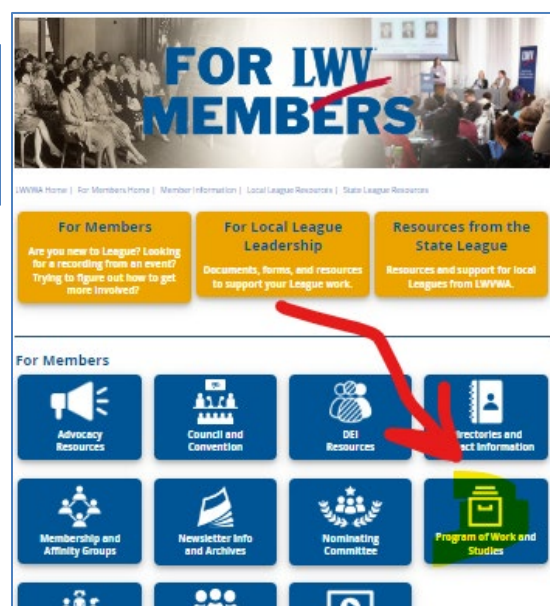
How do I find the upcoming study and review the consensus questions?

[This link](#) will take you to the page with all of the relevant information. Or, from the lwvwa.org homepage, click on “Log in” in the upper right-hand corner. If you don’t know your password, click “forgot password” on the next screen and a new one will be emailed to you.



The new “For Members” page will appear after you have logged in. Scroll down until you see “Program of Work and Studies” (see image on the right).

On the next page that opens, click on “Updates on Shorelines Study.” (**recording time 2:20 - 2:35**)



What is consensus, and what are the different ways that local League presidents recommend for consensus meetings to take place?

Consensus involves members discussing key parts of the study. In the case of the Shoreline study, an executive summary at the front of the consensus form highlights these key parts. In this summary, the study authors provided references to different parts of the study and discussion questions that might aid decision making on the consensus statements.

Consensus is not about voting, but reaching agreement as a group as to how much the group agrees with various consensus statements.

During meetings this past August, local League presidents discussed how the consensus process could be coordinated. Their ideas included:

- 1) asking their established environment committees to coordinate the consensus process,
- 2) dedicating a regular monthly meeting to consensus or
- 3) planning a special consensus meeting of the membership.

(recording time: 4:54)

What percentage of members have to be involved in consensus?

There is not a hard and fast rule on percentage of members involved. However, all members should be invited to participate. **(recording time 5:25 – 7:49)**

Do we have to answer all the discussion questions and consensus questions?

No, the discussion questions are optional, as they might be helpful background for the consensus questions. **(recording time 8:49)**

How did the Study Committee decide on both the discussion and consensus questions?

In conducting the study, the Study Committee framed consensus questions around issues that were NOT settled and that were concerns that came up in the study. In framing these questions, the Study Committee developed questions in this context, “What can the League do in forming a position for future advocacy?” **(recording time: 9:53 – 11:23)**

For the consensus questions, the Study Committee also wanted questions that were broad and might elicit both pro’s and con’s.

Can the discussion or consensus questions be modified at this time?

No, they cannot. Arriving at the both the consensus and discussion questions is a process that involves state Board approval. What the Program of Work (Work Group) learns from the current consensus process will be applied to the upcoming Local and Regional News Study. **(recording time: 17:30)**

How will local Leagues fit the consensus process into a busy fall schedule?

In an ideal world, this process would have been known before the local Leagues’ summer planning, but the Program of Work Group knows that it is finding its way.

The Work Group also knows that many people in the local Leagues are very new to this process, and that the Work Group needs to explain the consensus process carefully and consistently.

With a crowded calendar, some Leagues may want to set up a separate meeting for consensus. Hopefully, using ZOOM may make this more manageable. **(recording 20:14)**

One suggestion from a member who has done consensus in the past was to hold two separate meetings for consensus. **(recording time: 22:14)**

Will the September 24, 2022, Shoreline Study presentation be recorded for members who cannot attend to hear?

Yes, it will be recorded. Shoreline Study Committee Chair Shelley Kneip also noted that members of her Committee would be glad to meet with local Leagues who want more information about the study. **(recording time 22:35)**

Quick Links:

View Recording of Meeting:

<https://youtu.be/bnMInmxf44E>

Shoreline Study:

<https://lwwa.org/resources/Documents/Studies/Shorelines/Final%20Study%20pdf%202.pdf>

Shoreline Consensus Form:

<https://form.jotform.com/222013246012133>

Program of Work page:

<https://lwwa.org/Program-of-Work-and-Studies>