

LWVUS 2024 Program Planning Survey
LWVWA Instructions for Proposing Concurrence with Local News Positions

You can find the “survey” at [2024 - 2026 Program Planning Instructions | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#). There is a button link "LWVUS Program Planning Survey" that will take you to the live survey. The survey can only be submitted once, so make sure you are ready to fill it out when you go online. At the bottom of the webpage, there is a link to a pdf of the survey in case you need a hard copy.

Note that some survey questions have a red asterisk (*) near them -- this indicates there will be a drop-down menu for that question. We ask that your leagues support national concurrence by filling out the LWVUS Survey as follows:

- 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 (question 10 on the pdf version of the survey), ***“Please check which of the four LWVUS issue headings your recommendation would fall under,”*** please check ***“Representative Government.”***
- This is followed by a request for a statement describing the scope of the recommendation (question 11 on the pdf version of the survey). LWVWA has prepared language for that statement that can be cut and pasted into the box. It is as follows:

Rationale: The LWVWA’s study [The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy](#) showed local news media is declining at an alarming rate. This loss impacts our democracy, including: (1) fewer candidates running for office; (2) lower voter turnout; (3) increased political divisiveness; (4) decreased civic engagement; (5) increased cost for government; and (6) public health challenges. These issues are occurring nationwide.

Based on this study, LWVWA adopted the positions below. LWVUS concurrence with these positions 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 for adopting this concurrence.

Positions:

“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.