



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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LWVME & LWVME EDUCATION FUND COALITION POLICY

(Re-adopted 5/14/2016)

Membership by LWVME or LWVME Ed. Fund in any coalition is subject to approval by the League Board or Education Fund Trustees and is reviewed for renewal on a biennial basis. Activities cosponsored or promoted by the Education Fund must be consistent with its tax-exempt status and with its charitable purposes as enumerated in the Education Fund bylaws.

Consideration of membership is contingent upon having a League or Education Fund representative, responsible to the State Board or the Trustees, on the Coalition. Following are guidelines for deciding whether to join, keep membership or drop membership in coalitions.

1. Do the aims of the coalition mesh with League and Education Fund priorities? This should be yes, recognizing that some coalitions may deal with many issues, some of which are not part of the League's program. But the major thrust of the coalition should be part of the League's program.
2. Are the issues and goals of the coalition timely on the state or national agendas? This should elicit at least a qualified yes, acknowledging that some 'back burner' issues should be timely national issues.
3. Are other members or proposed members in harmony with League positions? This can have a variety of answers. It's an important consideration because it helps us evaluate old alliances and forge new ones.
4. Will coalition activity be more effective than the League or the Education Fund acting alone? While coalition activity by no means precludes the League from acting alone, coalition membership should enhance the League's ability to achieve the ultimate goal.
5. Are we confident in the leadership of the coalition? The answer should be affirmative.
6. Will the League or the Education Fund be a visible member of the coalition? Do we have expertise to provide? Preferably yes. But there are exceptions in cases where the League may deliberately enter a coalition as a low-key participant in order to gain information about an issue which is not presently a top LWV priority.
7. Will the demands on staff and volunteer time in the coalition be worth the effort? This is critical. We have to recognize that staff/board involvement in coalition activities means less time devoted to something else.
8. Will any cash or non-personal in-kind donations to the coalition be worth the investment? We have generally been more receptive to coalitions that are 'free' than those that require money. But the importance and effectiveness of the coalition, rather than the monetary considerations, shall be the decisive factor.
9. Will the membership in this coalition make the League or the Education Fund stronger? Will working on the coalition strengthen the League's reputation, enlarge our network of relationships, build public recognition for the League's work, or generate new fundraising opportunities? Preferably yes, but there may be exceptions.
10. The League or Education Fund representative to a coalition in which the League is a member must have the prior approval of the state League or Education Fund president before making any formal public statement of League position on a specific issue. If the coalition is taking public action in a matter where the League's position is contrary or where the League has taken no position, and if citing the coalition members is a prominent part of that action, the League's name will be footnoted to indicate that the League participates "when positions permit." If the League disagrees with the majority opinion of the coalition, a public statement of the League's dissent may be issued.