



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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## **LWVME & LWVME EDUCATION FUND ISSUE FORUM POLICY** (Re-adopted 11/7/2015)

The League of Women Voters of Maine and League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund sponsor neutral educational forums on ballot questions and other issues of interest to local communities and the state.

The forums are designed to meet three goals:

1. to educate the public about the issues,
2. to provide an opportunity for voters to hear proponents and opponents discuss the issues face-to-face, and
3. to stimulate public interest and participation in the elections.

After careful consideration, the League of Women Voters of Maine and League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund have adopted the following policy for conducting issue forums.

1. LWVME/Education Fund will not sponsor neutral issue forums featuring both proponents and opponents on any question where the League has an advocacy position on the question. In this case, the League may sponsor programs promoting its position only.
2. To ensure parity between the two sides of a question or issue, participants should be the designated representatives of organized groups working on behalf of or in opposition to the question. This could mean that participants are affiliated with a political action committee formed to work on the question, or it could be that participants are representatives of long-standing organizations that have taken a position on the question.
3. If one or more of the invited participants declines to attend so that one side of the issue or ballot question is not represented at all, the forum should not be scheduled.
4. If one or more of the confirmed participants cancels at the last minute, they may designate a substitute or replacement to represent their views.
5. If one or more of the confirmed participants fails to appear or cancels at the last minute without designating a replacement, the remaining participant(s) may present their views and take questions from the audience.
6. Any participant who has registered for a campaign with the Secretary of State's office and is, therefore, a prospective candidate for elected office is prohibited from participating in an issue forum.