



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

PO Box 863
Augusta, ME 04332-0863

(207) 622-0256
lwvme@gwi.net

POLICY ON MAKING DECISIONS BETWEEN BOARD MEETINGS (Re-adopted by LWVME Board 9/13/2007 & by LWVME Ed. Fund Trustees 9/15/2006)

Any issue that can be voted on by the LWVME State Board or Ed. Fund Trustees at their regular meeting may also be decided between meetings via e-mail. The president or any other board member or trustee may call for an e-mail vote. The question can be decided with a majority vote of the responding board members or trustees once a quorum of the members has responded, unless any board member/trustee objects promptly. If a question has been open for seventy-two hours without a quorum responding, the question may be called closed with a “no” vote. E-mail messages calling for a vote will include in the subject line the date by which a response is required. Board members and trustees shall respond with “reply all.”

For e-mail votes, as for in person votes, one of the co-presidents acts as presiding officer regardless of who calls for the vote. The presiding officer does not vote except in the case of a tie or failure otherwise to achieve a quorum.

If the vote is for ratification of a committee recommendation, even if the committee members voted on the question in committee, the committee members signal their vote again for the record in the vote of the full board.

Decisions made between board/trustees meetings are reported to the full board/trustees via e-mail as soon as the question is closed. Decisions made between board/trustees meetings are recorded in the minutes of the next subsequent board/trustees meeting.

To facilitate decisions on whether to take action or speak for the League on public policy issues or other issues, the board/trustees may establish committees, plus an executive committee consisting of the LWVME/LWVME Ed Fund officers. The president or one of the co-presidents is a member of each committee *ex officio*, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. If the committee chair or authorized officer and the president or co-president believe the issue to be clear cut, consistent with previous LWVME actions and with established policies or positions, the committee may decide on the proposal and take action without further consultation as long as there is broad agreement in committee.

If the issue is not clear-cut, or if there is disagreement in the committee, the members consult the full board. If no committee has been previously established with purview over the question area, the vote is taken to the full board/trustees.

Questions to be considered:

- Is it consistent with a current LWVME/LWVME Ed Fund priority?
- Is it consistent with LWVME or LWVUS positions?
- Does it make good public policy?
- Do we know the objections or counter-arguments? Can they be refuted or dismissed? Are they outweighed by the benefits?
- Will it enhance an important relationship with another organization?
- Will it contribute to the organizational strength of the League?
- Will the resource demands be appropriate and available?
- Has the board approved similar proposals in the past?