

## SEPARATION OF VOTERS SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

The League takes positions on issues and may work to advocate our position during elections when there are proposals on the ballot. But in voters service activities, we work to educate the public on all sides of a ballot proposal, without mentioning our position if we have one.

- 1) **In educational materials and *Voters Guides***, the League position is not stated or referenced. Pro and con receive equal treatment. Advocacy is not permitted.
- 2) **In forums or educational meetings**, the League position is not stated. Present pro and con arguments equally. Do not distribute literature concerning League positions.
- 3) **If the League is asked to speak on a ballot issue on which we have a position**, ask the host if they wish to have a voter education or an advocacy presentation.
  - If an **advocacy presentation** is desired, it should not be made by the Voter Service chair. Do not register voters.
  - If a **voters service presentation** is desired, the speaker may acknowledge in the introduction that the League has a position, but that we keep our voter service and advocacy activities separate, and this meeting is to present all sides of the issue. Then indicate where or when the League position might be publicized. Do not distribute League advocacy materials.

### **Related activities:**

- 1) **Candidates Forums:** Do not display or distribute League advocacy materials. Do not allow candidates to distribute their campaign literature in the room. You may distribute *Voters Guides*, Elected Officials brochures, membership materials, etc.
- 2) **Board members:** The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the fact of the nonpartisanship of the organization. Members who are involved with voters service activity should not publicly advocate a candidate or a position on a ballot issue. Local non-partisanship policies should be written to reflect this.
- 3) **Voting Rights and Voters Service:** Seeing that existing voting rights laws are complied with is voters service and can include monitoring and poll watching, as well as litigation. Working to enact new election laws or to change existing ones is advocacy.
- 4) **Voter registration:** Do not distribute any League advocacy materials.