

## Reaching Positions

In order to take action a League needs to have a position. The process of reaching a position is reflective, thorough, and deliberate. Any issue that is studied must be one where government action is necessary.

All local, state or national positions are reached through a complex process of member agreement and include the following steps:

- Formal adoption by members of an issue for study
- Study and agreement on broad concepts
- Formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors
- Action or advocacy on the position
- Annual or biennial re-adoption of the position

Once an issue has been adopted for study, a committee is appointed by the board. The committee pursues facts and details, and discusses pro and con responses to the issue. Based on the study and discussions the committee fashions questions that are to be addressed by the membership.

Information and questions are presented to League members. Members attend meetings where the study committee presents the information. Discussion follows and members reach consensus or concurrence. Consensus is not a simple majority nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group. Consensus means that agreement is reached using League responses to specific questions: concurrence means that Leagues have agreed on a pre-stated position.

Based upon the consensus/concurrence statement, the board then forms a position statement. Action and advocacy can be taken based on this position.