

League of Women Voters – Los Altos Mountain View
Program Planning: February 4th, 2017
9:45am – Noon with Lunch afterward

Welcome to this year's Program Planning meeting!

We are a grassroots organization. **Program Planning** is one of the ways for all of us to participate in a meaningful way. We all have the opportunity and the responsibility to participate in program planning – to add our voices. The LWV California wants to know our League's recommendations for **Issues for Emphasis in 2017- 2019**.

At the LWVUS convention last June, we adopted a national **"Campaign for Making Democracy Work"** program, with a focus on a) Voter protection and mobilization; b) Election reform; and c) Money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting.

Through this year's Program Planning, we will discuss and determine the state and local issues that our League wants to prioritize.

What's new about program planning this year?

To focus on where we should concentrate our energy in the next two years, the traditional questions reviewing each of the **LWVC positions** are removed. Our subject specialists – the people who guide our work in each of the League positions – will be responsible for regular reviews of our positions. If you have questions about any position we definitely want to hear them; email advocacy@lwvc.org.

The **study process** and how we apply our positions may need to be updated to meet current needs. The LWVC is seeking our thoughts about these aspects of League program. Cathy Lazarus and Ellen Wheeler are forming a sub-committee to discuss and make recommendations to LWVC by February 24th, 2017.

Julie Cates

VP Programs

League of Women Voters – Los Altos Mountain View area

Contents of this Prep for Program Planning Packet:

- Agenda for the meeting
- 2016-2017: List of LWV LAMV Board and Portfolio Directors & Consultants
- Background Information for this year's Program Planning process
- LWVC – Form Requesting Input from our Program Planning Meeting
- Highlights of our League's Work
 - Education (State Higher Ed Study, Early Learning)
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - City of Los Altos Development Directions
 - Silicon Valley Clean Energy
- Inputs for Discussion on Civic Engagement and Political Participation
- Suggestions to improve the League Study Process

**League of Women Voters – Los Altos Mountain View
Program Planning Meeting: February 4th, 2017**

Agenda for 2017 Program Planning Meeting

9:45am: Arrival, Settling in Seats

10:00am: Welcome – Katie Zoglin, President

- Overview of program planning process. Review the purpose of program planning and, more specifically, this year's program planning – Julie Cates

10:05am: Introductions around the room

- Attendees state their role with the League and/or their policy/position areas of interest

10:15am: Updates on State Issues:

- Education: Higher Ed Study, Expanding access to quality Early Learning – Ellen Wheeler
- Money in Politics – Katie Zoglin

10:25am: Updates on Local Issues

- Affordable Housing: Mountain View Rent Control; County Affordable Housing Bond --- Sue Russell
- Transportation sales tax implementation and oversight – Lucas Ramirez
- Silicon Valley “Clean Energy” – Gary Hedden
- Los Altos development directions – Cathy Lazarus
- Civics 101 Training – What you need to know about your local government – Nancy Cavagnaro

11:00am: Discussion on Civic Engagement – Led by Dorothea Grimes-Farrow, Julie Cates

- What should our League do to promote a more engaged citizenry? How should we promote more civil discourse among disparate groups?

11:20am: Open discussion of local issues and member interests – Led by Katie Zoglin

- In this segment local League members are encouraged to present proposals for actions that our League should take on local issues, policies or positions.
- If you have specific proposals for League action, do submit to Julie Cates Julie.Cates@gmail.com a written proposal (one page maximum) by 6pm Thursday Feb 2nd. Proposals should state a specific policy change, study and/or actionable event. Proposals should include background information as to why change is needed.

11:50am: League Study Process: LWVC asks for inputs – Cathy Lazarus, Ellen Wheeler

11:55am: Wrap Up and Adjourn for Lunch

Noon-12:45pm: Continue informal discussions over lunch. There is an opportunity to continue discussing the topics addressed in the meeting.

LWV LAMV Board and Portfolio Directors & Consultants 2016-2017

League Officers

President	Katie Zoglin
Vice-president, Action	Cathy Lazarus
Vice-president, Program	Julie Cates
Secretary	Abby Longcor
Treasurer	Natalie Elefant

Board Directors

Government	Nancy Brewer Cavagnaro
Natural Resources	Gary Hedden
Social Policy	Ellen Wheeler
Membership	Sue Graham
<i>Voter</i> Editor	Open
Tech Team	Max Beckman-Harned
Data Manager	Therese Kristensen
Voter Service	Natalie Elefant
Directors-at-large	Dorothea Grimes-Farrow, Merrian Nevin, Jackie Johnson

Off-Board Support

Bulk Mail Distribution *Facts for Voters* Susan Younkin
2017-2018 Nominating Committee Sue Graham, Sue Russell, Crownie Billik
LWV Santa Clara County Education Chair Ellen Wheeler
LWV Santa Clara County Voter Services Chair Crownie Billik
LWV Santa Clara County Voters Edge Coordinator Hoa Phan

Portfolio Directors and Consultants

Government	<i>Director</i> Nancy Brewer Cavagnaro
Natural Resources	<i>Director</i> Gary Hedden
Social Policy	<i>Director</i> Ellen Wheeler
Education	Ellen Wheeler
Housing	Sue Russell, Donna Yobs
Juvenile Justice	Melody Grandell

Voter Service and Citizen Education *Director* Vikki Gilfix

Voter Registration, Voters Guide, Candidate Forums	
Voter's Edge	Lois Rosenblum
Ballot Pros and Cons presentations	Sue Graham

Observer Corps

<i>Coordinator</i>	Sue Graham
El Camino Hospital	Dorothea Grimes-Farrow
Mountain View City Council	Julie Lovins, Lucas Ramirez
Los Altos City Council	Claire Noonan
MV-LA High School District Board	Sally Ahnger
Bullis Charter School Board	Ellen Wheeler
Foothill-DeAnza Community College Board	Terry Terman
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors	Dana Bunnett

Background Information for the LWV LAMV Program Planning Meeting

What is Program Planning?

In League, **Program** is the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work.

The **Program Planning process** is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. You'd never skip voting in an election; you shouldn't skip the League's equivalent. The program planning process is your voice!

The process starts with our local League Program Planning, the meeting at which our members propose the areas on which we'd like to focus our local energy, the energy of other local Leagues in California, and the resources of the state League (staff, board, consultants, and other volunteers) over the next two years.

The Issues for Emphasis our League proposes as priorities may be based on current League work or on new topics we believe LWVC should focus on. One or more of our choices could be a new study or an update of an existing LWVC position.

What's new for 2017-2019 Program Planning?

The LWVC asks local Leagues for their input to the LWVC board's choice of a recommended program for 2017-2019.

The adoption of program at the June 2017 LWVC convention has two parts:

- 1) Decisions on retaining or dropping the current LWVC positions, and
- 2) Adoption of priorities for the coming biennium—the ***Issues for Emphasis***.

Contrary to prior years, the LWVC is not asking that we discuss and recommend retaining, dropping, or updating each LWVC position. Too much of the meeting time ends up being spent on that exercise and not enough time considering where our focus should be in the next two years. Instead, the LWVC board will consult our subject specialists—the people who guide our work in the various program areas—about retaining or dropping the positions. (Of course, LWVC always welcomes any suggestions our League would like to send. There's a space for comments at the end of the online response form, or one can send an email message to advocacy@lwvc.org.)

The goal for our Program Planning meeting is to decide on our League's recommendations for **Issues for Emphasis**—those timely and critical issues on which League resources for study, action, and community education will be concentrated. In addition, the LWVC would like our input on possible improvements to the study process and how positions can be acted upon as situations change.

Our League's response is due no later than February 24, 2017. The LWVC board will review all the responses from Leagues across the state at their March 25-26 board meeting. In the *LWVC Leaders*

Update following that meeting (early April 2017) the board will send local Leagues their Recommended Program for 2017-2019 for review.

The program planning process culminates in the delegates' adoption of the statewide program at our June 2-4, 2017 convention in Sacramento. Every member is encouraged to attend; find out more on the LWVC Convention [blog](#)

LWVC Program Planning Form – to be completed by February 24, 2017

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2017-2019 PROGRAM

A. The LWVC wants to know our League's recommendations for **Issues for Emphasis** in 2017-2019.

At the LWVUS convention last June, we adopted a national ***"Campaign for Making Democracy Work"*** program, with a focus on

- Voter protection and mobilization
- Election reform
- Money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting

In addition to the ***Campaign for Making Democracy Work***, are there issues where you think the LWVC should concentrate?

List up to three choices.

One or more of these choices could be a new or update study.

Be as specific as you can in your recommendations; that is, state both the issue you want the state League to focus on and what you want us to do. Should the focus be on community education?

Concerted action in the legislature or state agencies? Toolkits for local League action or education?

Other? Continue on another sheet if you need more room. Who in your League would be willing to work on a statewide committee on the issue?

B. THE LEAGUE STUDY PROCESS

What changes, if any, would you suggest making to the League study process?

C. APPLYING LEAGUE POSITIONS

Should we continue to rely on specifics of each position, and require update studies to change these details? The alternative is to give the statements of principle more weight than the details of the position. Yes ____ No ____

Comments:

Should there be a distinction between issues that previous studies did not cover, and issues that were studied but on which no consensus was reached? Yes ____ No ____

Comments:

Summary Information on our League's Services, Positions and Advocacy Efforts

LWV LAMV Voter Services – Vicki Gilfix

This year, Voter Services was handled by a Committee of three, Natalie Elefant, Sue Graham and Vicki Gilfix. We divided responsibilities, starting in July, met regularly to compare notes, contacts and progress. We organized and / or were involved in or moderated 19 Candidates forums. All were well attended and most were videotapes for later viewing. The Candidate Forum for the City of Mountain View City Council was held at Google and had over 200 attendees. We partnered with other Leagues and the AAUW (American Association of University Women) for some of the Candidate Forums.

As there were a large number of propositions – 17 - on the State Ballot, Sue Graham organized five separate Pros and Cons forums where League member Peter Stahl prepared and gave the presentations. Most of these presentations addressed standing room only crowds.

During the year, our LWVC moved from Smart Voter to **Voter's Edge**. Many thanks to Lois Rosenblum who gathered and entered much information to the site on local candidates. 24 of 25 local candidates signed on to Voter's Edge during the November location. We presented information about **Voter's Edge** at each event.

We believe that our League and the other four Leagues in Santa Clara County helped to increase voter turn-out. Across Santa Clara County over 82% of registered voters cast ballots.

We are preparing for our League's participation in the Citizens Naturalization ceremonies. These events are coordinated by the Southwest Santa Clara Valley League. Our League is responsible to cover ceremonies on February 23rd and July 27th. League members who would like to participate should contact Vicki Gilfix at <gilfix@att.net>

LWV LAMV Support for the LWVC Study on "Public Higher Education in California" – Ellen Wheeler

1. Background: At its biannual state convention in May 2013 LWVC delegates voted (in a squeaker led by LWVLAMV delegates and others) to do a statewide study on "Public Higher Education in California." This study focused on the issues of the accessibility of quality public higher education, the funding sources and allocations, and student debt and affordability. Using League process, a statewide study committee was formed of volunteers from all over the state who are experts in education. They met multiple times to discuss and prepare study materials for interested Leagues to utilize in their local convenings. Following much organizational work, 46 of the 62 California Leagues were actively involved in their local Leagues, putting together local consensus meetings utilizing the study materials and consensus meeting booklet. Those results were sent to LWVC for tabulation and discussion by the state study committee. The study committee then crafted recommended positions and submitted them to the state board. And, at a state board meeting in 2016 the board voted to approve those recommended positions.

2. Grand Result: We finally (finally) have LWVC positions on public higher education in California! We can now use those positions to cite when we try to persuade legislators and the public regarding accessibility, funding, and affordability.

Relevance to our upcoming LWVC convention in Sacramento in June of this year: A question always comes up about how convention delegates approve the positions including those at the conclusion of much-publicized studies like this one. The answer is that delegates, generally by voice vote, approve the general positions of LWVC, voting category by category (Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy). The recent board-approved policies for public higher education in California will be approved within the Social Policy voice vote. (See LWVC.org for all state positions and look at the back of our local League Directory.)

Many thanks again to our local Leaguers for leading the way all the way through the study process!

It's worth repeating that our League was the 1st in the state to get its consensus meeting report in to the LWVC study committee. Our LWV Santa Clara County Education Committee has stayed on top of this work for three years. Our committee will continue to pay attention to the issue of public higher education in California. (It's an evergreen agenda topic in our bimonthly meetings.)

LWV LAMV Support for LWVUS Education Study Stating Need for Early Learning – Ellen Wheeler

LWV LAMV Support for Early Learning:

The LWV Santa Clara County Council formally supports the Santa Clara County Strong Start Coalition. This is largely based on the vertical position of LWVC advocating for strong support for high quality early learning. Strong Start is a coalition of community leaders, early education providers, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, members of the business community and other key stakeholders who are committed to expanding access to high quality early learning opportunities for all children age 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County. Ellen Wheeler and Julie Cates are active participants in these meetings and the communications campaign to raise awareness for the need to expand access to quality preschool for low income children in Santa Clara County.

A tangible Success! LWVLAMV and the other four Leagues in Santa Clara County voted to ask our County Council to support AB 2368, Assemblymember Gordon's bill advocating for using Santa Clara County's higher cost of living index for State Preschool funding for children in our county. Our County Council joined with Strong Start and dozens of preschool and good government advocates from up and down the state to urge Governor Brown to sign this legislation. In June of 2016 the governor did sign this. Now preschoolers all around Santa Clara County will benefit from more preschool slots that are available thanks to this legislation. Mountain View Whisman School District has recently announced that they are opening more such slots.

Helping to make high quality early childhood education more widely available is another evergreen topic at our LWV Santa Clara County Education Committee meetings.

LWV LAMV Housing Committee – Need for More Affordable Housing - Housing Committee Chairs Susan Russell, Donna Yobs

The Housing Committee has been advocating on many issues in both Los Altos and Mountain View.

Mountain View's Measure V. In November Mountain View voters approved Measure V, a charter amendment to curb rent increases and allow a roll-back to October 2015 rates. Last month the

California Apartment Association (CAA) filed a lawsuit against the rent-control program, arguing that it violates the constitutional rights of property owners. On January 24th, the Mountain View City Council voted unanimously to defend Measure V in court from the CAA lawsuit. The CAA attorneys are expected to file a preliminary injunction seeking to halt the rent-control measure by February 3rd. A hearing on that request could be scheduled by the court for March, and the judge's ruling would likely come by April. While the litigation leaves Measure V in a holding pattern, the City Council is currently interviewing candidates for a rental-housing committee that would be in charge of implementing rent control in Mountain View.

Study on Rent Control. The Housing committee would like to see a study on rent control. Because the trial date for Measure V is a few years in the future, we have time to do a study and see if the LWV could take a position.

In Los Altos, we pushed the City to perform a **nexus study** in conjunction with other cities (to reduce the cost of our study). The nexus study shows how building offices, retail, hotels, market rate housing, etc. leads to a need for affordable housing. Once the nexus study is completed, the City can legally adopt commercial and housing impact/linkage fees.

In Los Altos and in Mountain View we advocated for loosening the requirements for **second units**. Mountain View did loosen the requirements and now allows second units whenever the second unit can comply with setback and similar requirements; it doesn't matter what the lot size is. Mountain View also reduced the park fees required for second units.

Los Altos completed their **Housing Element** last year. They committed to review their second unit ordinance. This is still pending and has now become more imperative due to State law changes on second units.

As you are aware, **Santa Clara County's Measure A** was passed in November with LWV support. As most of the \$950M funds will go towards helping the county's homeless or near homeless, Mountain View/Los Altos may not receive much of the funds. If Mountain View comes up with a development that would help this population, the City/developer could apply for these funds. \$50 million will go for first-time homeowners, which might help some in our cities. The oversight committee has not been chosen yet.

At the State level, we expect the LWVC to support several bills this spring. **SB 2** is a bill that has been introduced several times in similar form, and the LWVC has always endorsed. It would impose a \$75 document recording fee, up to a maximum of \$225 on one transaction, and exempts commercial and residential real-estate transactions. It would provide a continuing source of affordable housing funding. **SB 3** is a proposal for a \$3 billion statewide general obligation bond for affordable housing to go on the November 2018 ballot.

We continue to be optimistic that a bill will be reintroduced to override the **Palmer decision**. In 2009 the appellate court ruled that inclusionary zoning (i.e. requiring below-market-rate units) in rental housing developments was not legal due to the Costa-Hawkins (rent control) law.

Sue Russell and several members of our League attended the January 28th Bay Area League Day with its focus on housing. Visit http://www.lwvbayarea.org/2017_League_Day.html to find links to the presentations slide sets prepared by multiple housing experts sharing their perspectives on the scope of

the issue, barriers to increasing the housing supply and recommendations of how our League members can help advocate for more affordable housing.

Transportation –2016 Measure B – Lucas Ramirez

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure B, a 30-year, half-cent sales tax to enhance transportation infrastructure throughout the county. The measure passed by nearly 72%. The tax is projected to generate approximately \$6 billion, and tax collections are expected to begin April 2017. A Citizen's Oversight Committee will be formed to ensure transparency and accountability, and VTA is developing a web presence that will include a reporting dashboard and an interactive map showing planned, funded, and completed projects.

Transportation projects are built using a variety of funding sources. A countywide sales tax provides a local revenue source that can be leveraged to help obtain additional funds through regional, state, and federal sources. Projects for Measure B were drawn from the Envision Silicon Valley and Plan Bay Area 2040 long-range transportation plans. Measure B includes the following nine funding categories:

\$1.5B – BART Phase II: extension to San Jose/Santa Clara. 6 miles, four stations.

\$250M – Bicycle/Pedestrian Program.

\$314M – Caltrain Corridor Capacity Improvements. Expand capacity, increase service, level boarding.

\$700M – Caltrain Grade Separations. Separate tracks from roadways.

\$750M – County Expressways. Intersection/interchange widening, non-Caltrain grade separations.

\$750M – Highway Interchanges. Connectors, on/off ramps, widening.

\$1.2B – Local Streets and Roads. Repairs, complete streets requirements. All cities receive funding.

\$350M – State Route 85 Corridor. Corridor transit study, transit, noise abatement.

\$500M – Transit Operations. Increase bus frequency, first/last-mile connections. Programs for seniors, disabled, low-income, and students.

Measure B program guideline development and review for these funding categories will occur February-April 2017. A VTA Board of Directors Workshop and review of the Final Draft Program is scheduled for April 2017. In June 2017, the Final Draft Program will be approved, and the Measure B FY2018-2019 Allocation will be approved with the VTA Budget.

A good overview and slide set on Measure B is available from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority website: <http://www.vta.org/measure-b-2016>

Complete Text of Measure B:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Nov2016Info/Documents/E110%20-%20Measure%20B.pdf>

List of Projects:

<http://vtaorgcontent.s3-us-west->

[1.amazonaws.com/Site_Content/FINAL%20BOARD%20ADOPTED%20PROJECT%20LIST.PDF](http://vtaorgcontent.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Site_Content/FINAL%20BOARD%20ADOPTED%20PROJECT%20LIST.PDF)

City of Los Altos Development Directions -- Cathy Lazarus

Los Altos remains a divided community on many issues important to the League of Women Voters; affordable housing, building heights on El Camino Real and downtown, a new community center, city-school relations, economic vitality and much more.

The League housing committee continues to communicate to the City Council on affordable housing topics and is one of the few voices in support of slightly denser projects that include below market rate housing units. The League is an active member of the Los Altos Community Coalition, a consortium of community groups and others that meets every other Friday to hear speakers about downtown vibrancy and to discuss developments pertaining to the Downtown and Civic Center. The mission of the group is to advocate for an adopted plan for the downtown and civic center ending years of flip-flops and uproar every time a development is proposed.

This year Los Altos will finally begin the process to develop a vision for its downtown. A consultant team has been hired and is developing a community outreach and engagement plan. We also understand an economic analysis of the downtown has been initiated. The League is planning to monitor and participate in the visioning process and take positions as appropriate on topics relevant to adopted League positions.

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) – Gary Hedden

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) will soon be your official electricity provider, bringing us 100% carbon-free electricity at rates 1% lower than PG&E. Formed by twelve local government agencies in 2016, SVCE was established to provide clean electricity to PG&E customers; PG&E remains responsible for the transmission and distribution of the electricity, management of outages and billing.

All customers in the participating cities will be automatically enrolled in SVCE's baseline service, GreenStart, which offers 100% carbon-free energy from solar, wind farms and hydroelectric sources. Residential customers will be enrolled in three phases - 20% of the customers in April, 35% in July and the final 45% in October. The roll-outs will start on the south side of each city, move to the middle and finish on the north side. Customers will receive two notices before their roll-out date and two after announcing and explaining the service. These notices also announce the opportunity to easily opt-out and stay with PG&E.

Solar customers will be enrolled in four phases, to better match their annual "true-up" dates. Importantly, solar customers will receive full retail pricing for any excess electricity generated.

Customers may choose to opt-up to GreenPrime, offering 100% renewable electricity (solar and wind) at a cost premium of 0.7 cents/kWh. An average residential customer account using 460 kWh per month would pay about \$3.22 more per month with GreenPrime.

The Cities of Mountain View, Los Altos, Campbell, Cupertino, Saratoga, Morgan Hill and Sunnyvale have each enrolled their municipal electricity accounts into GreenPrime. By upgrading from GreenStart to GreenPrime, these cities have demonstrated additional commitment to climate protection and environmental sustainability, and by choosing GreenPrime, they further expand the demand for generation from renewable energy sources.

For more information, visit <http://www.svcleanenergy.org>

Civics 101 Training – Get to Know Your Local Government – Nancy Cavagnaro

Local government has a great impact on everyday life in Mountain View and Los Altos. Local governments work on vital areas such as transportation, housing, services for seniors and the needy,

and education in our communities. To help members of our community better understand how to have an effective impact on issues relating to local government, the League has developed presentations on “Understanding Local Government” for Mountain View and Los Altos.

The goal of the presentations is to help people have a voice in shaping City policies, and to learn how decisions are made in each jurisdiction. A single person can have a positive impact on the issues that are important to that person. The presentation is designed to give people the tools and information to do just that. Are you aware of a community organization or group that would be interested in such a presentation? If so, please contact Nancy Cavagnaro at nancav@aol.com.

Discussion on Civic Engagement and Political Participation – Julie Cates, Dorothea Grimes-Farrow

On January 21, 2017 millions of women and men around the world turned out to make our voices heard. The Women's March was an historic day that brought attention to important issues - but our work is just beginning. “Civic engagement” can be defined as working to promote the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. We want to hear League member perspectives on civic engagement and political participation to better understand opportunities for our League to make a difference in your community and beyond.

[Suggestions for action](#) from our National League:

- Expand our League membership – reach out to all segments of our community
- Contact local, state and national elected officials about issues we care about
- Become an e-Activist! Read updates from the League and take action by holding your elected officials accountable on the League’s key priorities like voting rights and money in politics.
- Continue to make sure that voter registrations are up to date. Check out www.VOTE411.org for more information.

See the [Remarks](#) by Melissa Breach, LWVC Executive Director, delivered at the Women’s March in Oakland, January 21st, 2017.

Suggestions to LWVC on the League’s Study Process – Cathy Lazarus and Ellen Wheeler

The LWVC has asked local Leagues to provide comments on the current League Study Process and ways to improve it. Cathy Lazarus and Ellen Wheeler have provided multiple recommendations as listed below. If League members have further recommendations, they should forward them to Cathy cathylazarus@gmail.com and Ellen <ellenwh@aol.com>. If a member has a suggestion for a specific Study Topic, they should forward the suggested topic to Katie Zoglin ktzoglin@gmail.com.

1. Shorten the overall process so topics of urgency can be addressed expedited.
2. Rather than forwarding all of the detailed background study papers to local Leagues, streamline the process by providing a document with short, higher level findings, conclusions and recommendations. Members do not have the time read all the details.
3. Develop short, clear and concise consensus questions. Questions are often unclear or too technical leaving local Leagues the challenge to unravel the actual intent.
4. Consider sending around draft policy positions for review and abandon the consensus question process entirely.

5. Recognize that not all Leagues have interest in study topics; so again higher level information is more than sufficient.
6. By shortening the process and conducting higher level analyses more people might be willing to participate. Again, people are too busy to grind down into the detail.
7. Establish a system that puts more trust in existing League committees to draft and recommend policy positions rather than going through the laborious study process.
8. Ensure that consensus questions are unbiased and not titled toward a particular outcome.
9. Create opportunities for League members to provide open-ended feedback during the study process.