

## DIRECTIONS for ACTION RESOLUTIONS

The introduction and passage of action resolutions is one of the most exciting parts of Convention. In this portion, the Convention as a whole instructs the League president to take action with specific officials on a specific issue. Approved action resolutions are sent shortly after Convention.

An action resolution is important and powerful. It has the weight of the Convention behind it. Advocacy-oriented action resolutions may be directed to state and federal officials such as the governor, other statewide elected officials, the legislature as a whole, a specific house or committee, agency directors and other appointed leaders.

### SCOPE:

- An action resolution should address a current issue that requires governmental action and is most effectively and appropriately addressed at the state level;
- An action resolution should be based on a state or national position; and
- An action resolution should relate to a current issue, a current piece of legislation or a timely and significant issue.

### PROCESS:

- To be considered by the delegates, resolutions should be submitted in writing to the Action Resolutions Committee no later than **Saturday, May 6, 2:00pm**.
- Each resolution will be reviewed by the Action Resolutions Committee to ensure that it meets the criteria for scope, format, etc.
- The Action Resolutions Committee will select for presentation action resolutions that 1) advance League program, 2) address a current or timely and significant issue, and 3) meet the criteria for submission.
- Resolutions will be presented by the Action Resolutions Committee during Convention general session.
- The initiator of the action resolution **must** be present when the resolution is presented in order to answer questions posed by the delegates; if not present, the resolution will be excluded from further consideration.
- After its presentation and discussion, Convention delegates will vote on the resolution.
- If there is not time enough for all submitted action resolutions to be presented for consideration, the creators of the remaining resolutions can present them as Direction to the Board.

### FORMAT: An action resolution....

- Should be no more than one side of one page in length, 12 point font.

- Should adhere to the following format and have all of the following sections completed:

**Proposed By:** List name of the League or Lobby Corps advocate proposing the resolution.

**Supports the League Position or Principle:** List the League position(s) or principle(s) that is relevant to the resolution. Be as specific as possible (see *Ohio Agenda for Action, 2013-2015*, pages 6 – 25, and *LWVUS Impact on Issues*). Avoid summary positions and generalities such as “Education” or “Government.”

**Background Information:** Provide a rationale that makes it clear why it is important for League to approve the resolution now. Spell out any acronyms when first used.

**Body of Resolution:** A resolution itself may have no more than four "Whereas" clauses. These are followed by one "Resolved" clause. The correct form and punctuation for a resolution are listed below. Spell out any acronyms when first used.

Whereas....

- Followed by no more than three other "Whereas" clauses.
- The final “action” clause begins with "Therefore" or "Therefore, be it resolved that ..."

**An example from 2007:**

**LWVO Action Resolution (sample from 2007 LWVO Convention)**

League proposing the resolution: Ann Henkener, Redistricting Specialist, LWVO Lobby Corps

Specific League Position(s) the resolution supports:

- *National positions-* representative government, affirmative representation of minority citizens, opposition to partisan gerrymandering, fairness, opportunity to select candidate of choice, full political participation

- *Ohio positions-* Apportionment/Districting: impartial process, opportunity for citizen participation

Background Information : The current methods of drawing districts for Congressional seats and for Ohio House and Senate seats result in one political party controlling the processes, to the detriment of the other political party and to the detriment of the citizens of Ohio. These methods have produced a Congressional delegation and Ohio legislature that is not reflective of the political party preferences of Ohio citizens and voters. For example, while 53% of the votes for Congressional candidates in 2006 were cast for Democratic candidates, the delegation is composed of only 39% Democrats. While the vote and the political composition of the delegation will generally not be an exact match, this disparity is the largest in the United States.

URGENCY: Unless the Ohio Constitution is amended, district boundaries will be redrawn

in 2011 using these same methods, again having one political party controlling one or both processes to their advantage, again producing a Congressional delegation, and an Ohio legislature which is not reflective of the political preferences of the citizens of Ohio and the voters.

Body of Resolution:

Whereas, Elected officials who are representative of the citizens are essential for democracy to work; and

Whereas, It has become clear that the current system of electing representatives is not producing representatives who are, in the aggregate, reflective of the citizenry; and

Whereas, Citizens from across the state have attended Town Hall Meetings supported by the imPACT project and have voiced support of a redistricting mechanism that doesn't give one party an unnatural advantage in electing representatives; and

Whereas, Legislation has been introduced that would delegate the responsibility for redistricting to a bi-partisan commission through which neither major political party would have an advantage in drawing district boundaries;

Therefore, be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of Ohio meeting in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in state Convention on May \_\_\_\_, 2007, urges the General Assembly to support its Eight Point Criteria for Redistricting and present the Ohio voters with a proposed Constitutional Amendment that provides a process for redistricting that does not give either political party an advantage in drawing district boundaries.