

Consensus

In order to act on any issue the League has studied, it is essential that the League has a clear consensus among its members.

Consensus, as explained in the 1989 edition of In League, “is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The consensus “reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions...” (p.10-7).

Since statewide consensus is determined by the State Board. The State Board must decide what constitutes consensus based on the consensus reports received from local leagues. It is important that the State Board consider the following questions: Does a local League report complete member agreement? Fairly general agreement? Divergent points of view? All these factors must be considered by the entire board.

State Board is responsible for determining whether consensus exists on a state item. In order for a local consensus report to be considered, it must be received by the deadline set by the State Board.

Sometimes consensus on one or more questions is impossible to reach. This may happen because an insufficient number of members are concerned with the issue, or because, even with the best kind of study, discussion and participation, there is too much basic disagreement among members. In any case, a statement of alternative points of view should be included in the report. If no consensus is reached, report that no consensus was reached.