

MEMBERS' Consensus Questions Worksheet

Instructions: *AFTER reading the relevant Briefing Paper, mark on the scale below each question the answer that best reflects your views. Take this Worksheet with you to use in group discussion.*

NOTE to those participating by mail: *Fill out this worksheet and mail it to the person your League designates to receive it, by the time assigned. Make sure your worksheet arrives by the date of the last Consensus Meeting of your League. ALSO please fill out the short form for mail participants at the end of the questions.*

I. The Committee System *See BP: The Committee System*

Committee Membership and Chairs

1. In the assignment of members to committee, the following factors should be considered:
 - a. Political party ratios within a chamber.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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 - b. Expertise in the subject matter handled by the committee.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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 - c. Previous experience on the committee.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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 - d. Other. Please explain: _____

2. Which of the following procedures should be used in selecting committee chairs? (Circle the letter of the selections your Leaguers agree should be used)
 - a. Appointment by the elected leadership of each chamber.
 - b. Appointment by majority party leadership in each chamber.
 - c. Election by the full membership of each committee.

- d. Election by the majority party membership on a committee.
 - e. Committee seniority (length of service on the committee).
 - f. Committee seniority calculated by party (majority member with the longest service on the committee).
 - g. Other. Please explain: _____
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Committee Jurisdictions

1. Both the House and the Senate should maintain clear jurisdictional lines for each standing committee.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. All legislation in the House and Senate, including bills returned from Conference Committees, should be sent to a committee based on jurisdiction.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Committee Operations and Procedures

1. Each committee should have an established budget controlled by the committee chair.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. The minority party should be given a prescribed portion of funds allocated to each committee.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

3. Both chambers should require all committees to establish and maintain written rules.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

4. The method of selecting committee chairs should be part of the written rules of each chamber.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. House and Senate rules should include mechanisms for members to call committee meetings should the committee chair fail to do so.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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6. All committee meetings should be open to the public.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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7. All committee votes should be true roll call votes, with each member called on by name to indicate his/her vote.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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II. Staff Support *See BP: Legislative Support: Research and Staffing*

1. The LWVAL's existing position in support of the Legislative Fiscal Office should be maintained.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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2. Legislative staffing based on nonpartisan, professional support is the appropriate model for all legislative support agencies.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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3. A policy analysis support agency should be established by the legislature.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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4. If a policy analysis agency is created for the legislature, its operations should include:
 - a. Appointment of the director by joint action of the House and Senate leadership.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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 - b. Merit selection of the director.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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 - c. Merit selection of all analysts.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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d. Director selection of all analysts.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

e. Nonpartisanship

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

f. Giving priority in task assignments to assisting the leadership and committee chairs.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

g. Giving all members equal access to agency assistance.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. Every legislative committee should have access to objective legal advice.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

6. More clerical staff for members in legislative offices is a high priority.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

7. Clerical staff for legislators in their districts should receive some state funding.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

III. Transparency *See BP: Citizen Access*

Which of the following should be posted on the Internet for use by media, citizens and others?

A. Legislative budgets (chamber, leadership, committees)

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

B. Disbursement of discretionary funds, controlled by the House and Senate leadership.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

- C. Disbursement of discretionary funds that are under members' control.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- D. Information about meetings (time and exact location), agendas, roll call votes, bills and their amendments, with posting required by House and Senate rules.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
- E. Filings required of lobbyists, including payment of fees and new client registration, using technology for e-commerce.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

IV. Lobbying *See BP: Lobbying and Interest Groups*

1. The amount a lobbyist is allowed to spend on each legislator and her/his family without disclosure should be lowered from \$249 per day to \$99 per day.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
2. After the yearly registration, a lobbyist should file disclosures of new clients within 3 days.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
3. The LWVAL should establish a position calling for the banning of PAC-to-PAC transfers for use in lobbying as well as in campaigns and elections.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

V. Leadership Selection *See BP: Legislative Basics*

1. The internal leadership of the House and Senate should be elected by the membership of each chamber.
- Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
2. The legislative role of the Lieutenant Governor should be limited to that of presiding officer, who makes decisions based on Senate rules and votes only in

the event of a tie vote.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

3. The Lieutenant Governor should have a role in the assignment of Senate members to committees.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

4. The Lieutenant Governor should have a role in the selection of Senate committee chairs.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

If you are participating by mail, please provide the following information for your local study leaders:

Your name _____ Date _____

Check items that apply:

I am participating by mail. _____

I attended no meetings _____ *or one meeting (which?)* _____

I studied the BPs related to the questions I have answered before completing the Worksheet. _____

I have the following Additional Comments: