



EXPLANATION OF ACTION MOTIONS

DEFINITION:

An Action Motion is a motion that requires action by the League to a Florida government official agency or body. This is done in a formal meeting of Convention or Council and may include positions that may not be Legislative Priorities, known at the LWVUS level as the Action Agenda.

It is a way to extend action through direct delegate discussion and vote. This is a one-time only communication urging a particular response and does not alter the Legislative Priorities. The best use of an Action Motion is to address late-breaking government action such as a pending vote of the Legislature. However, should the Legislature not be in session, the Action Motion may also be used to address the governor, the cabinet and other state officials, as well as commissions on pending or upcoming matters.

PROCESS:

A delegate must submit an action motion in writing to the Action Motions Committee. The presiding officer appoints this committee. A prominently announced deadline for submission of proposed motions is necessary to give the committee time for review. As a practical consideration, the wording of the motion should be limited to one page on a projector or whatever visual aid is used.

The Action Motions Committee is charged with determining whether the action requested by the proposed motion 1) conforms with League position(s) at the state level or with the LWVUS Action Agenda, and 2) is addressed to the appropriate government level (in this case Florida). An action motion must always be addressed to the appropriate government level. If the motion refers to a bill, a copy of the bill must be submitted with the proposed motion and copies of the bill or any source material should be available to the committee and to the delegates as well.

If the Actions Motions Committee determines the proposed motion meets the criteria, the committee will approve the motion for submission to the delegate body. The committee is a facilitator – its approval does not constitute endorsement.

If the motion is made and, after debate, approved by a majority vote, the state board must perform the action requested (i.e., a letter sent to the governor), but its passage does not alter the Legislative Priorities. It is a one-time only action.

An action motion gives delegates the opportunity to address an issue that is not a Legislative Priority by requiring the League take specific action. Thoughtful use of this device can extend the League's voice.