

## Local League Input Form

We hope you will use these educational materials on the Constitutional Convention (ConCon) process to inform both the public and your members. After you have reviewed and disseminated the enclosed educational materials, we ask you to **use the attached form for submitting any input from your local League to the state Board for its consideration of the ConCon question on the November 2017 statewide ballot.** It is the responsibility of the state board to apply League positions to specific action and advocacy. So, although the League state board is tasked with the decision to support, oppose or stay neutral on the upcoming ConCon question, it is seeking informed input from local Leagues and members. The state board will weigh this input, along with current policy concerns and the state League position as modified by the 2015 update on Delegate Selection. Please try as much as possible to give us a broad sense of group input as opposed to the views of any one or two individuals.

In 2015 the state League updated the Delegate Selection portion of the League's 1993 Constitutional Convention position to make it more flexible and clarify how Delegate Selection should impact the state board's decision-making on the ConCon question. The complete updated position is attached to this form.

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Statement of Position**  
**As announced by the State Board, February 1993, revised June 2015**

The League of Women Voters of New York State does not support or oppose the holding of a constitutional convention.

The League of Women Voters of New York State recognizes that a constitutional convention is an acceptable (legal) method of amending the New York State Constitution and that the provision requiring periodic mandatory submission of the question of calling a convention is a proper procedure.

The impetus for a convention between the mandated twenty-year referenda should come from the public. However we feel that certain principles are essential throughout the process:

- Education and involvement of the public must be an integral part of each phase of the process.
- Planning should be given adequate time and sufficient funding.
- Nonpartisanship is essential.

The League believes that specific conditions should be incorporated in the policies and procedures established for constitutional conventions:

- Pre-Convention Commission: A preparatory commission should be appointed with adequate time to study the issues, establish the agenda and procedures and prepare position papers for the convention. Such a commission should provide ongoing information to the public and solicit its participation.
  - Convention delegates: The League supports the following reforms as positive factors in deciding on support for a constitutional convention. Delegates should be elected by a fair nonpartisan process that complies with federal voting rights provisions and eases ballot access to encourage participation by racial and other minorities. Public financing should be provided for candidates and their positions on issues and convention goals should be widely publicized to enable voters to cast informed votes at their election. Statewide office holders, state or federal legislators, and state judges should not serve as delegates. Revised June 2015.
- Convention process: Procedures must be put in place to reduce partisanship, by assuring that committees and committee chairmanship are beyond party control.

Reasonable time limits must be placed on the length of the convention and its costs.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION INPUT**

1. Did you have a discussion at a board meeting, a membership meeting, or a public meeting, or public/membership meeting combined?

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2. How many members were present? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did you use the League PowerPoint? Did you have outside speakers (if yes, who)?

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4. Please summarize the thoughts, concerns, or hopes of your members and/or your board on how the state League board should approach the 2017 ConCon question. (Use back of sheet for additional comments)

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5. Please provide any additional remarks which reflect the views of your members and/or board on the 2017 ConCon question

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**Local League:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person Completing the Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO LWVNYS, 62 GRAND ST, ALBANY, NY 12207 OR  
BY FAX: 518-465-0812 BY MARCH 10**