

Consensus Form

Please make additional copies if needed.

A pdf of the consensus form is on the Google listserv, which may be downloaded.

If you wish to complete the form electronically, please let either Donna (thehochs@hotmail.com) or Cheryl (cbarnes7223@yahoo.com) know and we'll e-mail it to you.

Please complete the form and send to the state office by February 15, 2010, Susan B. Anthony's birthday.

We will be preparing a report for the State Board to review at the March meeting.

Thank you for participating in the study, we hope you find the process interesting.



**Early Voting and/or
No-Excuse Absentee Voting Study
Consensus Questions**

League of Women Voters of Missouri

Consensus Form

Leader note: these questions are the same as in your notebook, there is more space here for the recorder. Discussion tips are not included in this Consensus Form.

Instructions for submitting form

One consensus form per League.

Deadline: February 15, 2010, Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
May submit by e-mail, league@lwvmo.org or mail
LWV-MO, 8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 105, St. Louis, MO 63144-2724
Attn.: State Study or fax 314-961-8393

Name of League:

Date local Board approved form for submission

Person completing form

League title

Day phone _____ e-mail _____

Number of members participating _____

Method(s) used to arrive at consensus (please check all that apply)

- Unit meeting
- General meeting
- Board meeting
- Educational panel – Kansas City, Oct. 10
- Polled members (if so, how) _____
- Other (please describe)

Instructions for completing form

The consensus form is divided into two sections, one covering no excuse absentee voting and the other covering early voting. Please indicate the consensus of your League for all questions.

The Leader's Guide has discussion tips and resources to help with the discussion and may be copied for handouts if needed.

Description of consensus process

Consensus / group discussion is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion. 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.

Recorder note: the recorder at a discussion/consensus meeting is not taking minutes. The recorder simply notes points of agreement (or lack thereof) and generally includes only major points of discussion.

If your League can't reach a consensus on an item, please note that in the comments of this consensus form.

Absentee Voting

Should the League of Women Voters of Missouri support absentee voting election laws that --

1. No longer requires a reason to vote absentee?
(Application required)

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

2. Allow early in-person absentee voting?
(Application required)

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

3. Allow early by-mail absentee voting? (Application required)

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

4. Eliminates the notary requirement for absentee voters?

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

5. Should Missouri make available the option of being placed on an annual or permanent absentee voting list at the voter's request?

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

6. Continue the current practice of placing voters with a permanent disability on a permanent absentee voter list?

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments

7. Develop instructions that are clear and concise to reduce the number of spoiled and uncountable ballots?

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

8. Should the League support no excuse absentee voting even if it costs more to administer?

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

Early Voting

9. Should the League of Women Voters – Missouri support early voting?

- _____ Yes _____ No
- Comments:

10. Should the League support early voting for voter convenience, even if it does not increase voter turnout?

• _____ Yes _____ No

• Comments:

11. In which election(s) should early voting be permitted?

_____ All elections--Presidential, State, county, municipal, special

_____ Some elections – Presidential, State, county, municipal, special, at the discretion of the local election authority

_____ Presidential elections only

_____ Statewide elections only

_____ All Federal elections--other elections at the discretion of the local election authority

• Comments:

12. Should the League support a reasonable amount of time to allow early voting?

• _____ Yes _____ No

• Comments

13. Should the League support early voting even if it increases voting costs?

• _____ Yes _____ No

• Comments

14. Please check the following voting practices you support.

_____ Same day voter registration

_____ Automatically register all 18 year olds to vote (make it an opt out program)

_____ Allow voter registration via the Internet (similar to car license renewals)

_____ Reduce the number of in-person elections by holding special elections via the mail (issue only, no candidates)

_____ Move special elections to primary and general election days

_____ Make Federal Election Day a State holiday

_____ Move Election Day to the weekend -- Saturday would become the Election Day.

_____ Allow centralized voting via Vote Centers (combined precincts, or super precincts, where any registered voter can cast a ballot, as in Columbia, Mo.)

_____ Other suggestions – please list.

(Space for suggestions on next page)

Thank you for your participation in the study.

Please return the consensus form at your earliest convenience
or by February 15, 2010, Susan B. Anthony's birthday

At the conclusion of the local study, each League may submit only one
completed consensus form to the state office --

**LWV-Missouri, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144-
2724, to arrive at the state office by Feb. 15, 2010. Attn. State Study**

Electronic forms may be sent to league@lwvmissouri.org

League of Women Voters of Missouri fax 314-961-8393

Please note: LWV-MO cannot accept forms from individuals;
the local League consensus form represents the local League position.