

Rationale: Why This Concurrence Is Appropriate and Timely

It is appropriate to amend the LWVUS Privatization position (2012) by concurring with the LWVPWM Privatization Update (2024) to clarify language or logic in four currently confusing areas. Utilizing the concurrence process will benefit state and local Leagues without requiring additional resources from the national League. Vermont, which undertook the study, has used its updated position in three legislative sessions. New York has used its shortened updated position successfully in one legislative session.

Notably, the Leagues of both states did the work of adopting new positions because of confusion over what the current national position supports. That confusion made using it for advocacy on state legislation problematic. Perhaps related, of the forty-plus national positions, the privatization position is one of only three without a history (and one of those was adopted in 2024).

By adopting (passing) this concurrence, convention delegates will update our national position to make it possible for Leagues to speak to current concerns — from health inequities that have grown more severe to the harms of monopolistically-priced private capture of public goods — without having to conduct their own studies, create their own study materials, and go through their own consensus meetings.

Note: the League position on Privatization is not about free markets or capitalism in general nor about allowing the private sector to earn profits — instead it provides guidance to local and state Leagues on legislation and regulation of **services that the League considers essential “to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society”** — and only those services. By adding the “fiduciary duty” standard, the Update will allow Leagues to advocate for legislation or regulation of both for-profit and non-profit entities that meet or fail that standard.