

Ground Rules for the Consensus Meeting on Nuclear Power Issues

December 2023

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Consensus Questions for the Nuclear Issues Study and come to a consensus of the assembled membership of LWVNM.

What Exactly Is Consensus?

Consensus is a decision-making process which equalizes power over a group of people. Instead of simply voting for an item, and having the majority of the group get their way, the group discusses the issues and develops a solution that is acceptable to all. The solution the group thinks is the most positive gets chosen, unless a member of the group finds the solution totally unacceptable. Consensus is based on compromise, and the ability to find common ground.

Process and ground rules

1. The meeting should start and end on time. It will be recorded.
2. The meeting moderator must encourage participation by all in attendance.
3. All current members of the League may participate in the consensus meeting.
4. There will be a limited time for discussion of each of the questions.
5. At the end of the allotted time, the meeting moderator will ask if there is consensus on the question.
6. In order to allow for broad participation, no member may speak more than once on any question until all members wishing to speak have been heard. Comments are limited to 1 minute.
7. Raise hand (virtual if possible, physical if not).
8. Please do not speak until recognized by the moderator.
9. The recorder will keep track of the status of comments and consensus on each question.