

LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study – Prep for the Consensus Meeting - Please Plan to Attend!

Background – studies and positions

The League of Women Voters advocates for good government and many other issues. It can only do so if it has arrived at a position that supports the advocacy. Positions are arrived at after careful study and meetings of the members to come to consensus on the study results.

The League operates at three levels:

- LWVUS studies, takes positions and advocates on national issues affecting government <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>
- LWVNM does the same for state level issues - <https://www.lwvnm.org/positions.html>
- LWVSFC and all local Leagues do the same for local issues - <https://lwvsfc.org/lwvsfc-positions/>

Consensus: Leagues meet to consider the issues raised in study and examine the advocacy position possibilities. Consensus is an agreement among a substantial number of members, reached after study and group discussion at face-to-face meetings. No voting takes place; consensus 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. The Study Committee uses questions to guide discussion, after providing background materials prior to a consensus meeting.

LWVUS Study of the Federal Judiciary

The League of Women Voters of the US and other groups have become increasingly concerned about financial impropriety and ethical compromises in the US Supreme Court. The League believes that our advocacy could be important, as good government is our priority. Thus the League is conducting a one-year study of the Federal Judiciary.

Please join us for the Consensus Meeting to discuss and come to consensus on the proposed statements. Following the Consensus meeting, we will send the results to LWVUS, where all results from all Leagues will be weighed to create a national position.

The best way to prepare for this meeting is to go to the LWVUS webpage and read the study guide and background papers They cover these topics and will be indispensable for our discussion at the Consensus Meeting. There is also a study guide and the questions for the consensus meeting.

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and>

The background papers are:

- [Financial Disclosure](#)

- [Judge Shopping](#)
- [Judicial Ethics and Enforcement](#)
- [Legitimacy and the US Supreme Court](#)
- [Key Terms for the Federal Judiciary Study](#)
- [Recusal](#)
- [Representation](#)
- [Shadow Docket](#)
- [Stare Decisis and Binding Precedent](#)
- [Structural reforms for the US Supreme Court](#)

Also highly recommended: watch the Feb. 4 Town Hall, with legal experts, study leaders and staff: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0gEKqafpg4>

Discussion prompts can also be used to start discussions:

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Discussion%20Prompts.pdf>

The study guide contains information on the process and issues.

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/STUDY%20GUIDE%20FOR%20LEAGUES%20FINAL1.pdf>

Questions? Contact Judy Williams, Program Chair: jkwilliams24@gmail.com