

ELECTION SYSTEMS

Voter Representation/Election Process

Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.

The LWV-TN promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. We encourage election methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible, have a positive effect on voter participation, and are expressive of voter choices.

Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Promote competitive elections
- Maximize effective votes/minimize “wasted” votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Discourage negative campaigning
- Encourage meaningful discussion of issues
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail

The LWVTN believes in representative government. The League supports systems that elect policy-making bodies – legislatures, councils, commissions and boards – that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).

The LWVTN supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative elections methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any election system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

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