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POLICY ON MAKING DECISIONS BETWEEN BOARD MEETINGS

03/20/2021 – Amended and re-adopted by LWVME, LWVME Education ,
Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and MCCE Action

Any issue that can be voted on by the LWVME State Board, Ed. Fund Trustees, MCCE Board, and/or MCCE Action Board at their regular meetings may also be decided between meetings via email. The president or any other board member or trustee may call for an email vote. The question can be decided with a majority vote of the responding board members or trustees once a quorum of the members has responded unless any board member/trustee objects promptly. If a question has been open for seventy-two hours without a quorum responding, the question may be called closed with a “no” vote. Email messages calling for a vote will include the word “VOTE” in capital letters in the subject line and the date by which a response is required. Board members and trustees shall respond with “reply all.”

For email votes, as for in person votes, the president acts as presiding officer regardless of who calls for the vote. The presiding officer does not vote except in the case of a tie or failure otherwise to achieve a quorum.

If the vote is for ratification of a committee recommendation, even if the committee members voted on the question in committee, the committee members signal their vote again for the record in the vote of the boards of the organizations.

Decisions made between board/trustees meetings are reported to the full board/trustees via email as soon as the question is closed. Decisions made between board/trustees meetings are recorded in the minutes of the next subsequent board/trustees meetings.

To facilitate decisions on whether to take action or speak for the organizations on public policy issues or other issues, the boards/trustees may establish committees, plus an executive committee consisting of the officers of the organizations. The president is a member of each committee ex officio. If the committee chair or authorized officer and the president believe the issue to be clear cut, consistent with previous actions of the organizations and with established policies or positions, the committee may decide on the proposal and take action without further consultation as long as there is broad agreement in committee. If an action is taken by committee, the boards of the organizations are notified as soon as practical.

If the issue is not clear-cut, or if there is disagreement in the committee, the members consult the boards of the organizations, as appropriate. If no committee has been previously established with purview over the question area, the vote is taken to the full boards/trustees.

Questions to be considered:

- Is it consistent with a current priority of the organizations?
- Is it consistent with positions of the organizations?
- Does it make good public policy?
- Do we know the objections or counterarguments? Can they be refuted or dismissed? Are they outweighed by the benefits?
- Will it enhance an important relationship with another organization?
- Will it contribute to the organizational strength of the organizations?
- Will the resource demands be appropriate and available?
- Have the boards approved similar proposals in the past?

Useful Links:

[LWVME Board Members](#)

[MCCE Board Members](#)

[Board Policies](#)