

BM

League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur
STATE Illinois

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
CAMPAIGN FINANCING QUESTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

Please circle the appropriate symbol (letters) for each item on page 2. Any line not marked will be counted as a no response. Ignore the numbers under the letters.

Key: Y = Yes

N = No

U = Undecided (question considered but no agreement reached)

NR = No response (question not considered)

Please make any comments, whether on the basic statement or on the questions (both of which appear on page 2), on pages 3 and 4, NOT ON PAGE 2. Be sure to label clearly what your comments refer to (for example, Limitations: 1-c).

Each local League should send one copy of this form to the national office and one copy to state (retaining one for its local League file) as soon as possible but NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 21, 1973. League reports which are sent in on other than this form CANNOT be counted.

LEAGUE PROFILE

Number of members in local League 94

Number of members taking part in decision-making process 23

What methods were used for eliciting member views? Please check:

- Unit meetings
- General membership meeting
- Voter tearoff
- Telephone
- Concurrence (describe on pp. 3-4)
- Other (describe on pp. 3-4)

Signature _____

Position _____

Date _____

The national council directed that there be a simple and fast process for reaching agreement on campaign financing. Our Representative Government position calls for "an open governmental system which is representative and responsive." Such a system requires campaign financing practices which

- ensure the public's right to know,
- eliminate corruption and undue influence, and
- enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

The initial steps toward achieving such a system are measures which provide for

- full disclosure of all campaign contributions and expenditures, and
- effective monitoring and enforcement by an independent body.

The following broad questions focus on the major problem areas in campaign financing. Your decisions will provide guidance for effective League action.

Limitations

1. Should there be limitations on

a. contributions	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
b. expenditures	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
c. expenditures for media	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
d. number of campaign committees	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
e. length of campaigns	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4

Base of funding

2. Do you approve broadening the base of campaign financing to include some direct or indirect public funding?

If yes, do you approve

	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
a. tax credits/ deductions	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
b. income tax checkoff	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4
c. direct public funding	Y	N	<input checked="" type="radio"/> U	NR
	1	2	3	4
d. "free" government services	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4

Use of the media.

3. Would you approve modification of the "equal time" law?

	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N	U	NR
	1	2	3	4

COMMENTS

All answers to consensus questions are based on the premise that there should be full disclosure and enforcement.
Limitations

1. a. The majority felt that contributions should not be limited, but a strong minority felt that they should be limited. Majority felt that contributions and expenditures should be considered together and we did so.
- b.
- c. It was recommended that spot announcements be eliminated.
- d. Majority felt that there should not be a limit on the number of ad hoc committees a candidate may have if there is one central finance campaign committee per candidate through which disclosure of receipts as well as expenditures is made.
- e. Majority felt that the length of campaigns probably could not be shortened, but we favored setting a later date for primary elections. A minority felt that the length of campaigns should be shortened.

Base of Funding

2. c. We could not reach a consensus here, therefore we must answer undecided.
- d. We did favor an equalization of the franking privilege to include the incumbent and the opposition candidate alike and any time limit of such privilege should apply to the candidates equally.

Use of Media

3. It was agreed that some "Voters time" should be mandatory and that the candidates could be encouraged to use their time on issue oriented matters as opposed to personal or emotional matters. This answer applies to the discussion of radio and television, we did not discuss the problems of newspaper and other publications.

President's Comment.

While there were no objections expressed to any of the statements which served as the introduction and basis for our discussions, one person did point out that this is not our usual method in reaching consensus, and that a rather large number of assumptions were made. The key assumptions that full disclosure of all campaign contributions and expenditures, and effective monitoring and enforcement by an independent body are necessary for "an open governmental system which is representative and responsive" would have added only two questions and would have served as an adequate base for the discussion.