

Tips for League of Women Voters Observers

1. WE ARE OBSERVING. Only the president, or her/his designee, speaks for the League.
2. We are the eyes and the ears of the League. We're the first line for conveying information that impacts League positions to League leaders. What we see and hear can lead to League action.
3. Feel free to introduce yourself to the governmental body you are observing and to wear a League of Women Voters badge to identify yourself as a member of the League. Contact Karen Madsen if you want to receive a LWV badge.
4. Since we represent the League, we must be on our best nonpartisan behavior.
5. The League of Women Voters' *They Represent You* pamphlet has websites, phone numbers, names of officials and meeting times for government entities you may want to observe.
6. Visit the website of the entity you are planning observe to become familiar with who's who and which district each member represents (if elected by district).
7. Copies of the agenda will be available at the meeting site, but you can check the website the day before to see the agenda and also to look at background information, and confirm meeting time and location.
8. Some government entities offer you the opportunity to subscribe online to an extended meeting schedule which is updated regularly. Check the websites.
9. Some government entities broadcast their meetings, so you can virtually "attend" some meetings and report on them if you like.
10. Complete an observation form for each meeting that you observe. Turn them in to the coordinator after each observation. (Contact information is on the observer form.)
11. Keep your own file with agendas and notes. You may want to write a brief article for the Voter about your experience as an observer.
12. Share your excitement and your frustrations with the Observer Corps Coordinator. Sometimes you just need to talk about something that happened NOW.
13. Enjoy yourself as you learn more about how government works and pass along any ideas you have to help the observer corps be a vital part of our organization.

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