



# Advocacy Training #2

What It Means to Be An  
LWVMD Advocate

November 21, 2025





# In Today's Training

## The Agenda

### Today We'll Learn About:

- Training Session 1 Recap
- LWVMD Advocacy Teams
- How to Be an LWVMD Advocate
- Advocacy Communications
- Advocacy Resources



# The Maryland General Assembly

Session Overview



# Session Timeline

January - April

## Jan

Bill drafting and  
bill introductions

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Briefings

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Budget submitted  
one week after  
session begins

## Feb

Committee  
hearings

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Starting to vote  
on bills

## Mar

Last committee  
hearings

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Voting on bills

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Crossover Date

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Hearing bills from  
opposite chamber

## Apr

Budget approval  
by 83rd day

*\* If no budget is passed,  
session will continue but  
only to consider budget*

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*Sine Die - Final Day  
of Session; midnight  
on the 90th day*

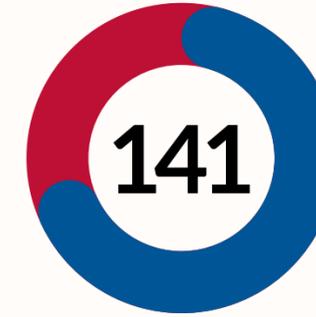


# Key Players

Who Can Help You Pass a Bill?



Senators



Delegates

## Friends + Allies

Other organizations  
+ Coalitions LWVMD  
is involved in

## Legislators

Bill sponsors,  
Committee Chairs,  
and Committee  
Members

## Caucuses

LGBTQ+ Caucus  
Legislative Black Caucus  
Legislative Latino Caucus  
Transit Caucus  
Veterans Caucus  
Women Legislators of MD

# Monitoring + Supporting Legislation

Bill Selection + Tracking



# Choosing Bills to Support

## Advocacy Strategies

***Be selective! Thousands of bills are brought forward each Session.***

### **Teams Should Consider Bills That:**

- Align with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lens
- The League has a position on (either supporting or opposing)
- Will make a positive or negative impact – per LWVMD’s position
- Have a chance of passing
- Have grassroots support or are supported by a Coalition that LWVMD is part of



# Bill Tracking

BillTrack50

*LWVMD uses a bill tracking platform to monitor legislation*

## Bill Tracking Features:

- Comprehensive list of all the bills we're following
- Monitors and updates the bill's movement
- Shows what bills different LWVMD Advocacy Teams are working on
- Allows teams to take notes + track actions they have taken on a bill



# Bill Hearings

## Testimony

- Know the rules of the Chamber and the Committee
- You can testify on a bill either verbally or in writing:
  - Positions: *support, oppose, or provide information*
- Verbal testimony can be more powerful
- If you testify verbally:
  - Try not to read your testimony straight from the page
  - Try not to repeat what others testifying have said
  - Emphasize how the bill affects real people and communities



# Advocacy Strategies

Building the Buzz



# Building Buzz

## Advocacy Strategies

- Literature Drops aka “Lit Drops”
- LWVMD Lobby Night
- LWVMD Legislative Day
- Rallies + Press Conferences
- Opinion Pieces
- Social Media



*Get the word out! Build excitement around your bill for Legislators and community members.*



# Communications

## Getting the Word Out

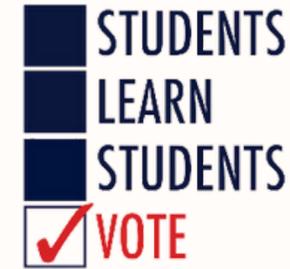
- **Issue Papers** – *Due by January 2nd*
  - Provide background on the topic, why the League supports it, and likely goals for the 2026 session
- **Testimony** – verbal or written
- **Legislative Updates**
  - Email blasts and LWVMD Action Blog articles
- **Social Media** – Instagram, Facebook, Threads
- **Action Alerts**
  - Calls to action sent to our database requesting action on a bill – *ex: calling or emailing your legislator, signing a petition, etc.*



# Coalitions

## Working With Partners

- Working in collaboration with other organizations based on shared values and priorities
- Coalitions can amplify the impact of our advocacy efforts by:
  - Expanding our reach
  - Bringing diverse perspectives to the table
  - Leveraging shared resources
- Action Team approval is needed for LWVMD to officially join a coalition
- Find all coalitions LWVMD is a member of on our website



# LWVMD Advocacy

How it Works



# League Advocacy Structure



## LWV United States

- Federal Issues before Congress or Federal Agencies
- Uses policy positions adopted by LWV Members following National Study and Consensus or Concurrence



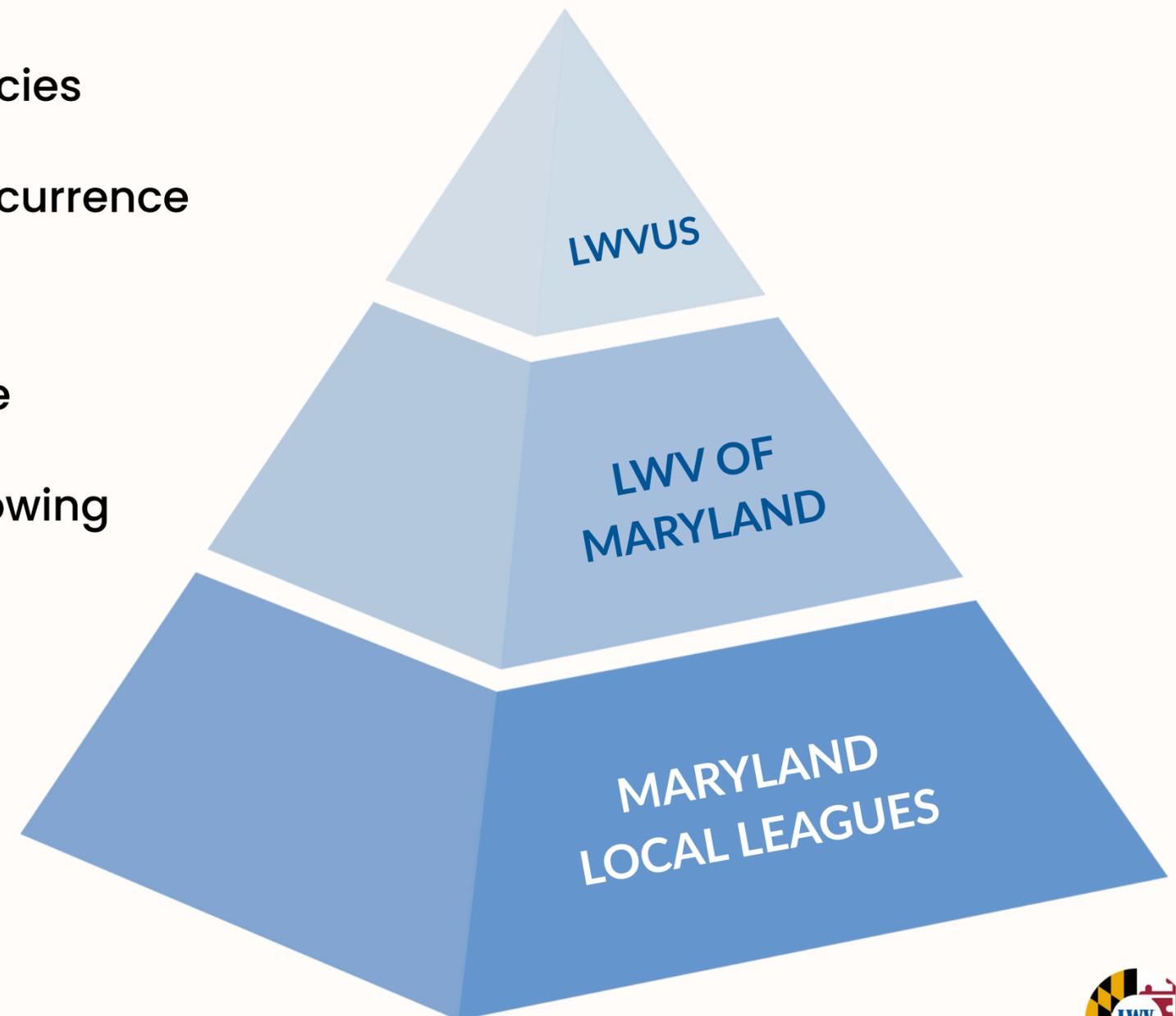
## LWV of Maryland

- State issues before the State Legislature or State Agencies
- Uses policy positions adopted by members following State Study and Consensus or Concurrence



## MD Local Leagues

- Advocate on City and County issues
- Uses policy positions adopted by members following Local Study and Consensus



# Action + Advocacy

## LWVMD Teams

### Action Team

Action Chair, LWVMD Exec.  
Director, LWVMD President, +  
other experienced advocates

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Approves testimony + Sign-  
On Letters

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Office Hours for guidance

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Members of Action Team not  
necessarily Team Leads

### Advocacy Teams

Teams are formed around  
issue areas

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Track bills + decide which bills  
to act on

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Lead or Co-Leads who  
manage the portfolio

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Manage advocacy + comms  
about their bills



# Advocacy Teams

## Roles + Responsibilities

### Team Leads

*Lead on Tasks such as:*

- Convene regular team meetings
- Coordinate and review testimony + communications
- Liaison to the Action Team
- Act as a resource for team members

### Team Members

*Assist w/ tasks such as:*

- Written testimony + communications
- Setting up meetings with Legislators
- Attending coalition meetings, briefings, or press conferences
- Create or share social media + blog content



# LWVMD Advocacy

## What Advocates Do

### LWVMD Advocates May:

- Meet in teams to discuss legislation
- Work in coalition with ally organizations
- Interact with Legislators
- Write or present testimony for hearings
- Share “sign-on” letters for approval
- Track key bills in their issue area
- Write articles for LWVMD’s Action Blog



*There is no one way to  
be an LWVMD Advocate!  
All levels of participation  
are welcome.*



# Advocacy Resources

Learn More + Stay Up to Date

- LWVMD Advocate's Manual
- LWVMD Action Team + Advocacy Team Leads
- LWVMD Weekly Legislative Updates
- LWVMD Legislative Wrap-Up
- MD General Assembly Website: [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov)
- News Sources:
  - Maryland Matters: [Marylandmatters.org](http://Marylandmatters.org)
  - [Marylandreporter.com](http://Marylandreporter.com)



# Advocacy Team Interest Survey

## Becoming an Advocate

Ready to be part of the action? Take the quick survey to share your interests. We'll use your responses to build our Issue Area Advocacy Teams for 2026!

<https://forms.gle/S9m6Phf2dYBELEv27>

Scan Me!



# ADVOCACY TRAINING #3

***Advocacy in Action:  
Becoming an LWVMD Advocate***

 Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

 3:30 – 5:00 pm

 Virtual



# Become a Volunteer Advocate!

Contact Us About Advocacy

Nikki Tyree: [NTyree@LWVMD.org](mailto:NTyree@LWVMD.org)

Nancy Soreng: [NSoreng@LWVMD.org](mailto:NSoreng@LWVMD.org)

