



Observer Corps Guide

The Goals of the LWV Observer Corps Program are:

- To inform members about local government activities
- To keep local government accountable, transparent, and representative
- To facilitate informed action by the League
- To form connections with the community

League Observers are expected to:

1. Attend selected government board, council, commission, or committee meetings
2. Report back to our local League about important issues and activities

An Effective League Observer does the following:

1. Wears LWV buttons to meetings
2. Remains **impartial and unbiased** as you are observing. Remember that you are observing so that you can bring back information to the League.
3. Introduces her or himself to the board/council members at the first meeting you attend or as soon as it is appropriate.
4. Takes notes, but not about everything. Note most important issues. It may take a while to figure out what those issues are. You can use the League report form or take your own notes as it suits you.
5. Does not speak publicly to express opinions about issues, as long as you are representing the League. You may speak publicly at meetings or to individual board members about procedural questions for clarification.
6. Talks with others at meetings (media, visitors, and board/council members) about the League, your role as an observer, and gets others' views of the issues.
7. Sends/emails reports to the League leadership about any meetings attended. You can use the League report form or your own format.

Adapted from LWV Greeley-Weld publication of the same name – thank you, LWVGWC!