



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WAKE COUNTY

# Observer Corps Guidelines

The League of Women Voters has promoted open government processes since its founding in 1920 with many local League's across the nation having established active observer corps. An observer corps is a structured way to promote government transparency and accountability. LWV-Wake Observer Corps members attend government meetings and report on any issues that might concern the League. Observers attend meetings to learn about their community, to ensure that government meetings are conducted in the open, and to encourage the accountability of public officials.

League members observing government meetings as part of the LWV-Wake Observer Corps should follow these guidelines:

1. Take a copy of the meeting agenda with you to the meeting. (Agendas are usually available online.)
2. Take a copy of the *Government Meeting Observation Report* form with you to the meeting. (The form is available at [www.lvwwake.org](http://www.lvwwake.org).)
3. Wear your League pin and/or name badge. It is important that the League's presence be visible.
4. Observe the meeting's processes and decisions. Note any concerns regarding issues of potential interest to the League or the manner in which the meeting is conducted.
5. Be polite and respectful. Avoid behavior that could be perceived as distracting or disruptive.
6. If asked about your reason for attending, simply indicate that you are observing the meeting on behalf of LWV-Wake to learn about your local government and ensure that open meeting policies are honored.
7. When given the opportunity, cultivate a positive relationship with public officials and staff.
8. Do not speak publicly at the meeting without advance authorization from LWV-Wake's Leadership Team.
9. Do not make any partisan statements, engage in partisan discussions, or participate in partisan activities while serving as an observer at a meeting.
10. Complete the online *Government Meeting Observation Report* at [www.lvwwake.org](http://www.lvwwake.org) as soon as possible after the meeting.

***Making Democracy Work!***