



## Federal Judiciary Study

### LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study Survey Form

*This is a copy of the online survey form that state and local Leagues will complete with their consensus responses. This form can be used in your consensus meetings, but the official form must be completed online by a representative of the local or state League. No paper forms will be accepted. Forms from individuals will also not be accepted.*

Welcome to the LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study survey form. The survey provides local and state Leagues with an opportunity to report the results of their consensus meetings on the Federal Judiciary Study. Delegates to LWVUS Convention 2024, overwhelmingly voted for a one-year study of the Federal Judiciary. Leagues will be meeting from February 8-April 14, 2025, to discuss the Federal Judiciary Study information and respond to twelve questions. **The questions are structured as statements with which your League can report strong consensus for, moderate consensus for, strong consensus against, moderate consensus against or no consensus. You may also provide information you wish to share about your League's answer on each question (up to 100 words).**

**To see the full survey, Study Guide and the Policy Briefs by the FJS Committee, you may consult the [Federal Judiciary Study page](#) on the League Management Site.**

The survey form must be completed by a representative of a local or state League. Individual responses will not be accepted. If you have specific questions, you can direct them to [progplan@lww.org](mailto:progplan@lww.org).

Please have your League's responses ready when you begin the online survey form. The form should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Each of the 12 questions has an optional textbox to follow if your League wants to add anything regarding their decision, and there is a long textbox at the end of the survey for your League to further elaborate on the study. A copy of your League's responses will be sent to the respondent and secondary respondent added below.

**[This form will close at 6pm PDT on April 14, 2025.](#)**

## [Survey Form](#)

### League Information:

Please select (from dropdown menu)

State

League Name

If you could not find your League in the dropdown, please provide your League ID (example: ND107)

Name of Individual Responding

Email of Individual Responding

If you want a second person to receive a copy of this form once it is complete, please enter their information below.

Secondary Person to be Included on This Form

Email of Second Person to be Included on This Form

Date of League Consensus Meeting

Was Your Meeting:

- In-person
- Online
- Hybrid

## CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

*The first four consensus questions for your consideration and discussion cover the basic principles outlined in the scope of the Federal Judiciary Study.*

**1. Transparency is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**

Choose one:

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for

- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**2. Accountability is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**3. Independence is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**4. Ethics is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus
- 

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

***The remaining questions deal with more specific aspects of the workings of the Federal Judiciary.***

**5. There should be binding universal standards of conduct for judges and Justices at all levels of the Federal courts.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**6. Court hearings, documents filed in the court, and rulings for all federal cases should be open and available to the public.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**7. There should be an effective enforcement mechanism for the Federal Judiciary code of ethics at all levels.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**8. An enforcement mechanism should include a process to require a judge or Justice to recuse him or herself when a reasonable litigant would believe that the judge or Justice has a bias against any party or an issue raised in the case.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**9. A judge or Justice's decision and rationale to recuse or not recuse should be publicly disclosed in writing.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**10. Federal judges and Justices should be subject to rigorous financial disclosure requirements, enforcement, and penalties for all financial benefits, including but not limited to income, gifts, paid speaking engagements, and book deals.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**11. Stability of law (stare decisis) is a value that contributes to a strong democracy.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

**12. Public perception of the Supreme Court's legitimacy contributes to a strong democracy.**

**Choose one:**

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

***If you have further comments to share on your League's consensus meeting, either on content or process, please share it here (up to 400 words).***

**Thank you for participating in the Federal Judiciary Study. Be sure to check for updates on the [Federal Judiciary Study page](#).**