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Cybersecurity and Privacy Concurrence: Pros & Cons

E- Business and Social Media

LWV needs an electronic business and social media cybersecurity position.

Technology has changed dramatically in the past 40 years and the League has not addressed developing issues. Folks have not recognized the implications and scope of these problems. We have not thought we could make a difference and find it too complicated and hard to understand. Electronic commerce and social media must be recognized for their benefits and costs. Social media misinformation and free speech concerns must be concurrently considered. We recognize the urgent need for a League position.

E- Business

Businesses can manipulate, sort, combine and analyze almost all online actions to extract and market information on individuals, organizations, institutions, and industry.

Con: The subject is too broad and complicated to be addressed in a LWV position.

Pro: We have segmented our position into manageable portions.

Con: We don't even know how business intrudes on us from the technology we depend on everyday, with the expanding Internet of Things.

Pro: We're all vulnerable and LWV can remain silent no longer. The stakes are too high and we need clear positions.

Con: Data Brokers market our personal information and track our internet use. We aren't even able to even know what's out there, much less have recourse to protect ourselves.

Pro: We need this position for national advocacy to participate in developing policy discussions.

Con: LWV should focus at home and stay away from global issues.

Pro: Today's ubiquitous information and communication technologies (ICT), with pervasive digital services, platforms, and marketplaces require a global governance perspective to address societal and economic impacts.

Con: It is too complicated to keep state and federal legislation independent.

Pro: State laws which become inconsistent with future comprehensive federal privacy standards may be preempted, while more stringent laws may remain. At a minimum, citizens' information protection rights should be comparable to those of citizens around the world—both current and future protections that may be established.

Con: Can't we let states set their own policy?

Pro: Privacy and cybersecurity crosses borders and is best addressed with extensive coordination. Concurrence with this position gives Leagues a voice in policy at all levels.

Con: LWV does not have the time or resources to pursue a national study.

Pro: We agree. Adopt these concurrences and move forward in this rapidly changing field.

Con: Current generic league positions are adequate.

Pro: The current Impact on Issues has 143 pages of details deemed necessary. This new information should be added.

Con: LWV cannot consider a new issue in the current environment.

Pro: We disregard and delay considering these issues at the peril of our Democracy.

Con: Members should not have a vote unless they are experts.

Pro: We don't need to be computer scientists to understand the proposed concurrences.

Con: It is best to wait until members from more Leagues are comfortable with the issue.

Pro: E-Commerce is global. Increasingly, states and businesses call for standards, comparing the European GDPR and California's CCPA. We need positions to participate.

Social Media

The digital tools of information and communication technology (such as algorithms and artificial intelligence) can selectively distort or amplify user generated content. The resulting disinformation, digital manipulation, false claims, and/or privacy violations may endanger society or harm others.

Con: LWV is not in the business of regulating e-commerce and social media

Pro: Those who use our personal information in e- business and social media, commercializing it, bear the responsibility for protecting information. They must be liable for failure to protect individuals from harm. The League has very specific positions for protections from harm.

Con: Sophisticated social media misinformation campaigns are interfering in our elections. But isn't Election Security covered in a different concurrence proposal?

Pro: No. Elections' related concerns continue to evolve and we need a full toolbox to address them. The League needs positions to recognize and address weaponized misinformation in social media as cyber attacks.

Con: Protections against disinformation and manipulation can be construed as regulation of free speech. As misinformation is blocked on social media, this can be seen as partisan.

Pro: The world community needs greater protections against disinformation and manipulation.