

## Charter School Consensus Study

### *Response Form*

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Space is provided after each question if your League would like to comment on the question.

- 1. Should charter schools continue to ensure equal access to all interested students, making every effort to have their applicants be comparable to the percentage of students in sending district schools with respect to income, English Language Learner status, special needs status, ethnicity, and gender?**

Yes

No

No consensus

- 2. Should charter schools in Massachusetts continue to be non-profit schools?**

Yes

No

No consensus

Furthermore, LWV Amherst does not believe that charter (or any public) school boards should be allowed to hire for-profit educational management organizations to run their schools.

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**3. (a) Massachusetts has created both district and charter schools. Should the state therefore assure both types of schools are funded adequately and in a way that does not disadvantage either type of school?**

Yes

No

No consensus

The state should fund charter schools as a separate line item in the state budget. Moreover, as increasing the number of schools costs more money, the state needs to develop additional sources of funding for charter schools, rather than taking the money from district school budgets.

**3. (b) Would the current process of per-pupil tuition payments from local school districts to charter schools be fair if the state fully funded its reimbursement program for district schools and covered the actual costs of programs such as special education for all public schools?**

Yes

No

No consensus

The current charter tuition transfers the entire per-pupil cost from the district to the charter. At most, a marginal cost similar to the \$5000 “choice” transfer would be appropriate. However, LWV Amherst notes that even that amount is leading to destructive competition among neighboring districts in the western part of the state, where out-of-district “choice” is used quite a bit.

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**4. Should the state’s foundation budget funding formula be adjusted periodically to cover costs associated with required areas accurately, such as health insurance, and costs for educating special education, English language learner, and low-income student populations?**

**Yes**                       **No**                       **No consensus**

**5. Should the state continue to limit the number of students attending charter schools in a district based on a percentage of the net school spending within each school district?**

**Yes**                       **No**                       **No consensus**

LWV Amherst believes the 18% cap for “low-performing” districts is too high.

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**6. Should the state continue to regulate the number and location of charter schools?**

Yes

No

No consensus

**7. Should the state continue to be the authority to establish and oversee charter schools?**

Yes

No

No consensus

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**8. Should the state foster more cooperation and provide programs to encourage collaboration between district schools and charter schools?**

Yes

No

No consensus

**9. Should charter schools be required to meet the same criteria for teacher licensure as district schools?**

Yes

No

No consensus

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**10. Should the state continue to ensure that accountability requirements and reporting by charter schools are fair, transparent, and easily accessible to the public?**

Yes

No

No consensus

**11. (a) Should it be a requirement that charter school boards of trustees include parents of children attending that school?**

Yes

No

No consensus

**11. (b) Should it be a requirement that charter school boards of trustees include people from the community being served?**

Yes

No

No consensus

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***Consensus meeting participants: Please enter additional comments here.***