

LWVSC STUDY: SCHOOL DISTRICT STRUCTURE AND AUTHORITY

What are the issues in school district governance and authority?

1. The School Board

- How many members should the district board have?
- Should they be elected at-large, single-member districts, or some of each?
- Should they be elected or appointed?
- Who makes these decisions/who should make these decisions?

2. The School District

- How many districts should there be in the county/state? How large should they be (minimum, maximum, average)
- Who does/should have the power to split or consolidate districts or to redraw district lines?
- What roles are/should be played in changing district lines by citizens, the legislative delegation, and existing school authorities?
- How might it be possible to create multi-county districts? Who should decide?

3. Multidistrict counties

- Who does/should have the coordination responsibility for school districts in multi-district counties?
- If there is such a coordinating entity, what powers and responsibilities does/should it have?
- How are its members selected, and to whom are they accountable?

4. Fiscal powers

- What authority does/should the school district board have over the mill rate and the budget? Over the issuance of bonds for school construction?
- Should school districts in multidistrict counties be permitted or encouraged to share the county property tax base by means of a countywide levy that is either shared on a per pupil basis or used to fund particular services to all school districts? Who should have the authority to decide?

5. The Legislature

- What is/should be the role of the legislative delegation and the General Assembly in making these decisions for the state's public schools?