

## Regional Strategy Team Guidance

### Background:

As LEE regions continue to launch Regional Strategy Teams (RSTs) and build organizing power, Regional Directors (RDs) and RSTs will encounter situations in which outside organizations express interest in mobilizing LEE members. This document will offer guidance rooted in LEE’s organizing philosophy that RDs and RSTs can use to create policies that determine when RSTs mobilize the LEE network.

### Policy Guidance:

RSTs should utilize the LEE member network to mobilize turnout for events *only* if:

Criteria	Rationale
1.) The issue the event or campaign is mobilizing around has been prioritized by an Issue Assembly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know the issue area is widely and deeply felt, and has been prioritized through a democratic participatory process owned by our membership.</li> </ul>
2.) The Issue Action Team in the region identifies a specific issue for action and creates an action proposal with a specific target. The Issue Action Team’s proposal clearly outlines their theory of how organized people in the region can plausibly impact the self-interests of the target and lead to change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We honor the work and leadership of our issue action teams.</li> <li>We can clearly articulate to our membership how taking this action step will likely lead to a specific change that will improve things for kids.</li> <li>We don’t exhaust our membership by asking them to devote their time and energy in an unfocused way. Our members know that if we ask for their time, it will lead to meaningful impact.</li> <li>We teach our membership principles of effective community organizing.</li> <li>We signal to the external world that when our team takes on a campaign, we go all out for it, keeping our brand potent.</li> </ul>
3.) The RST vets and approves the campaign plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RST can make sure that it will not cause extreme division amongst the LEE base.</li> <li>The RST can sequence different action campaigns proposed by different teams so that we don’t overextend our capacity.</li> <li>The RST can initiate a strategy to get full participation from the LEE base around this campaign.</li> </ul>



Overall, LEE as an organization does not take policy positions. Therefore, it is important that RST members understand that any decision they make to mobilize LEE members must be reached in an organic way. LEE can provide support and guidance will not impose any policy position on any issue. This means that RSTs should avoid offering any endorsement or taking any position on issues that have not been vetted through our organizing process, so as not to dilute LEE members' focus and collective power.

**Other considerations:**

LEE members are encouraged to use the organizing tools they learn at LEE trainings to build relationships with other members, and can mobilize those networks on their own whenever they discover issues of mutual interest that are not being prioritized by the issue action teams or RST, however they should not do so in their capacity as a representative of LEE or the RST.