

League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Saturday, May 22, 2021

64TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

***Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome.....	1
Basic Convention Information.....	2
Convention Rules and Procedures.....	3
Proposed Order of Business.....	6
Program: Recommended and Non-Recommended Items.....	7
Budget Committee Report and Proposed Budgets.....	10
Bylaws: Proposed Bylaw Changes.....	12
Nominating Committee Report.....	27
LWVNJ 2021 Slate of Officers and Directors.....	27
Nominations Bios.....	28
Membership Count.....	38
Statewide Committee Reports.....	39
Positions in Brief.....	48
Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance.....	51
Parliamentary Virtual Guide.....	53
Special Thanks and Acknowledgments.....	58
Staff Biographies.....	59
Honorary Lifetime Members.....	61

WELCOME, DELEGATES AND VISITORS!

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey welcomes you to our 64th Biennial State Convention. While this year might look a little different, we continue a grand tradition dating back to our inception in 1920. We encourage you to carefully review this workbook before you arrive. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact Nancy Hedinger, President, hedingern@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Officers

<i>President</i>	Nancy Hedinger
<i>Vice President, Development</i>	Susan Sferas
<i>Vice President, Governance</i>	Ann Saunders
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ellen Kemp
<i>Secretary</i>	Deborah McComber

Directors

Jessica Backofen	Lauren McCaskill	Timothy Priano
Jason DeAlessi	Iveth Mosquera	Katharine Schumacher
Jennifer M. Howard	Henal Patel	Michael Ward
Natalya G. Johnson		Patricia Williamson

Off-Board Elected and Appointed Positions

<i>Chair, Nominations Committee</i>	Marlene Sincaglia
<i>Nominations Committee Members</i>	Michelle Bobrow
	Evelyn C. Murphy
	Natalya G. Johnson
<i>Chair, Budget Committee</i>	Ed Gracely
<i>Budget Committee Members</i>	Ellen M. Kemp
	Susan Sferas

Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	Jesse Burns
<i>Democracy Policy Analyst</i>	Philip Hensley
<i>Community Organizer</i>	Assatta Mann
<i>Community Organizer</i>	Melissa Marks
<i>Development Associate</i>	Fatima Munshi
<i>Office Manager</i>	Pat Thompson

Basic Convention Information

Convention Check-In: Convention delegates should arrive 8:30 – 8:45. Your credentials will be checked prior to admittance and only delegates will be admitted. Please rename yourself with your name, the League you are representing as a delegate, followed by the letter D (for delegate).

Delegates: Must be pre-registered. They comprise State Board members and the authorized representatives of local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units.

Delegate Instructions:

- Read this workbook *before you arrive*. If you have any questions during the meeting, use the Q&A function.
- Review the LWVNJ proposed budget, current and proposed bylaws, and current and proposed program and watch the webinar explaining these proposals. You should be aware of the opinions of your members but understand that you should come to convention *informed but not instructed*. You should be prepared to interpret the decisions of the convention to your members in your report to them.
- Have the Convention webpage available to you during Convention so you may more easily reference electronic documents: [Convention Home \(lwnj.org\)](http://lwnj.org)

Observers must also pre-register. They may not vote or address the Convention. They will be given a link to view Convention.

CONVENTION RULES AND PROCEDURES

After the opening motion to adopt the rules, amendments can be offered, which require a majority vote. Adopting the rules requires a two-thirds vote.

ADMISSION to Convention shall be limited to delegates and others authorized by the Chair.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Delegates, when authorized by the Chair, may address the convention.

VOTING: Only accredited delegates representing local Leagues, Inter-League Organizations, Member-at-Large Units and members of the LWVNJ board may vote. Voting will take place using one or more of the following three methods:

- Raising Your Hand – This will be used when the Chair seeks unanimous consent and to vote on motions. Instructions on how to raise your hand in Zoom can be found in our Virtual Platform Guide.
- Answering a Poll Question – This will be used to vote on motions as needed. Instructions on how to answer a poll question in Zoom can be found in our Virtual Platform Guide.
- Responding to an Email Survey – This will be used to vote on the nominated slate if there is a contested election or in cases in which a poll result is close or otherwise deemed in need of additional verification by the Chair. All registered delegates will receive an emailed survey to the email address she or he used during registration. Delegates will have one hour to respond.

MOTIONS: All main motions and amendments shall be submitted using an online form established for delegates. A staff member or other volunteer will submit motions from this form to the chair. Motions shall be identified by the number appearing on the motion form.

DELEGATES AND DISCUSSION:

- Please identify yourself and the League you are representing on your Zoom profile. Add the letter “D” after your League so you can be counted as a delegate. Instructions on how to do this can be found in the Virtual Platform Guide.
- Debate and discussion shall be limited to 15 minutes per main motion or per article of the bylaws. An amendment to a motion stops the clock. Debate on an amendment shall be limited to 10 minutes. The total time for considering any single bylaws article, including questions, discussion and amendments, shall not exceed 30 minutes.
- To seek recognition to speak, to make a motion or in debate please use the Q&A function. Send a message through Q&A that includes:
 - Your Name
 - Your League
 - To make motion: Motion #
 - During debate: The words PRO or CON

- Debate and discussion from the floor shall be limited to one minute per speaker.
- No one shall speak more than once to a question until all who desire the privilege of the floor have spoken. No person may speak more than twice on the same motion.
- Debate shall alternate between pro and con comments.

PROCEDURES FOR BYLAWS CONSIDERATION:

- A state board member will move adoption of the proposed bylaws amendments as circulated and set forth in the convention workbook. We will consider the bylaw amendments *in gross* (together), unless a member makes a proper motion and/or request for separate consideration and vote.
- When considering the bylaw amendments *in gross*, each article that is amended will be called up for discussion and amendment. After all articles have been called up, any additional discussion and/or amendment for any of the amendments considered *in gross*.
- There may be questions for clarification with responses limited to one minute, motions to amend the text of the article being considered, and debate and voting on such amendments.
- Any further amendments to bylaw amendments must be germane and within scope of the notice.
- Amendments that are considered *in gross* will be voted all at once. Any amendment(s) separated will then be considered and voted separately.
- Adoption of the bylaw amendments takes a two-thirds vote of the convention delegates.

PROCEDURES FOR PROGRAM CONSIDERATION:

- During the morning plenary, a state board member will move adoption of the proposed LWVNJ program. There may be questions for clarification with response limited to one minute, but no debate or motions will be in order at this time.
- Also during the morning plenary, following presentation of the proposed program, non-recommended items proposed by local Leagues by the February deadline may be moved for consideration. Presentation of such items shall require a motion and two seconds and shall be limited to a total of three minutes. To be eligible for consideration as a non-recommended item, at least two members must have committed to serving on the committee, one of whom agrees to be chair. The maker of the motion may have one minute and each seconder may have one minute. The mover and each seconder shall be from different Leagues. There may be questions for clarification with responses limited to one minute, but no debate or motions will be in order at this time.
- After all non-recommended items have been offered, votes on consideration of each item will be taken in the order in which the items were presented to the delegates. A majority vote will place a non-recommended item before the convention for consideration with debate, possible amendments and vote during the second plenary, Saturday afternoon.

PROCEDURES FOR PROGRAM ADOPTION:

(This occurs during the afternoon plenary)

- The proposed program items will be taken up for debate and action first. Adoption requires a majority vote.
- Should the delegate body amend a proposed program item, the amended motion becomes a non-recommended program item.
- Debate on each non-recommended item voted for consideration will follow. Amendments may be offered and will be debated and voted on before a vote for adoption occurs.
- Debate on amendments will be limited to 10 minutes, with each speaker allowed one minute. Debate on each non-recommended item will be limited to 10 minutes for each item, not counting time needed for considering amendments. Adoption requires a two-thirds vote.

ACTION MOTIONS propose legislative or administrative action by convention on League positions. Action motions must be in writing and must be submitted using the online form before the end of the first plenary session (Saturday morning). In order to be considered, you must meet to discuss the motions with the Action Motions Committee during caucuses. Motions recommended by the committee will be introduced during the final plenary session (Saturday afternoon) and require a majority vote for adoption. A sponsor may choose to introduce a motion not recommended by the committee; in such a case, the committee will explain to the convention its reasons for not recommending that motion. Action motions not recommended by the committee require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD shall be written and submitted using an online form after being read to the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS only relating to business of the convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made.

CONVENTION MINUTES shall be approved by the LWVNJ Board of Directors.

PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS

Presiding – Nancy Hedinger, President, League of Women Voters of New Jersey

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 9: 00 am | Call to Order, Welcome
Adopt Credentials Report
Appoint Elections and Action Motion Committees
Adopt Convention Rules and Procedures
Adopt Order of Business
Recommended Program Items
Non-Recommended Program Items |
| 9:45 am | A Message from LWVUS President, Dr. Turner (recorded) |
| 10:00 am | Presentations and Reports
Proposed Budget
Proposed Bylaws
Development |
| 10:45 am – 11:15 am | Awards Ceremony |
| 11:30 am – 12 pm | Caucus |
| 12 pm – 1 pm | Break |
| 1:10 pm – 4:05pm | Recommended Program – Debate and Vote
Non-Recommended Programs – Debate and Vote
Budget – Debate and Vote
Bylaws – Debate and Vote
Election of the Board
Nominating Committee Report
Nominations from the Floor
Action Motions – Present and Vote |
| 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Direction to the Board
President’s Closing Address
New President’s Address |

PROGRAM PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021 - 2023

Recommended items for 2021 – 2023: *Note that these items will be addressed at Convention. They require a majority vote to adopt.*

Current Positions

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) Board of Directors recommends retaining all current positions for the 2021 – 2023 biennium. The Board's decision to retain all positions was based on responses from 24 local Leagues.

Recommended Studies and Updates

The board does not recommend any new studies or updates.

Non-Recommended Items for 2021 - 2023

Two possible studies were given serious consideration by the board.

The strongest possibility came for two Leagues (Monroe and Ridgewood) advocating for a **study of alternative voting methods**. Both Leagues actually used the specific term "rank choice voting" (equivalent to instant runoff) but initiating a study of a specific method carries the risk of having a foregone conclusion, and would exclude other voting methods such as approval voting (voters vote for as many candidates as they "approve of", and the one with the most votes wins), score voting (voters give each candidate a score, and the highest average wins), proportional voting (common in Europe, by party, but with many variants). They have members willing to work on this study.

We already have positions that come close to letting us advocate in these areas. The board felt that a detailed white paper on the various methods and their implications in New Jersey could provide a basis for education and perhaps advocacy on these topics without the challenges and time commitment needed to implement a study on the topic.

The other possible study is of **Civics Education**, by Camden County. As part of the background research, the study committee would determine current practices. The actual study would determine the content we would like to see covered, at grade appropriate levels and determine how much time should be devoted to civics education per grade level. Several members were willing to work on the committee. They didn't volunteer to chair it.

We already have a position that supports broad discipline and content standards rather than detailed curriculum requirements. The Camden County study included interest in the details, like content and curriculum requirements (such as how much time at each grade level). This discrepancy, plus the lack of someone willing to chair the study, led the board to not recommend it.

Other Non-Recommended Studies for 2021 – 2023

LWV of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties proposed a **Security of Voting Study**. We already support some of these methods (note that all advocacy stops during a study on a topic – the fact of a study presumes that we don't yet know what to support). The scope is very broad and could be complicated to carry out.

Teaneck LWV proposes a study of **domestic terrorism and related issues**. They have no members willing to serve. The actual scope was primarily police reform. We are already able to advocate on this issue based on LWVNJ policy.

BHNPS has a one line study proposal: **Reforming the look of the ballot**. We are already acting on this as a partner in the Better Ballots Campaign. A study would stop advocacy until it was completed and could be too late.

Atlantic County suggested a study of **Workplace Health and Safety**: Workplace Health and Safety: Recommended by just one League. Not our core mission.

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Non-recommended updates for 2021-2023

One topic commonly mentioned was Charter Schools, which we updated 6 years ago, but there was no clearly-formulated proposal that states what we should be studying. Some made statements of concern, and suggestions for what should be in the position, but we did not see a study or update proposal, with scope, and willingness to work on it, so none are recommended.

Several Leagues suggested dropping the Lieutenant Governor position and to drop the voting rights for probationers and Parolees position (presumably no longer needed). The board is reluctant to recommend dropping positions without a careful review, as they may be needed in the future. The Lt. Gov. law, in particular, still requires a midterm election if the Governor is replaced – our position strongly opposes that idea.

Note that these non-recommended items may be addressed at Convention. They require both a majority vote to consider and, if approved for consideration, a 2/3 vote to adopt. They must be moved and seconded by at least 3 different Leagues or MAL Units, and have at least two members prepared to serve on the committee, one of whom agrees to be chair.

Most of the update requests were brief, often just a few words. A number are just a check in the "update" box on the form. The board decided that it would list all of them in this booklet. If a local League can obtain support from two other Leagues, write a scope for convention, and provide strong leadership, they may be able to attain the majority needed to do the update. This generally requires planning in advance -- it is very difficult to successfully campaign for a non-recommended item starting at Convention.

We received comments on the look of Study and Action and the fact that it doesn't include all our past advocacy and our many successes, making the League appear "dated". With the help of our program committees, LWVNJ will revise the document to better reflect the work of our organization.

Comments that request information or suggest that the League or a relevant committee look into something will be noted and passed along. While we value your comments and suggestions, program planning is not an ideal venue for them.

Non-recommended updates

1. Administration of Justice: Family Court
2. Administration of Justice: Mediation
3. Administration of Justice: Juvenile justice
4. Education: Charter Schools
5. Education: Private school choice
6. Education: School district regionalization
7. Education: State role in achieving quality education
8. Education: Teacher certification and professional development
9. Education: Tenure
10. Fiscal policy: Dedication of taxes
11. Fiscal policy: Public School Funding
12. Fiscal policy: Tax and spending limits
13. Fiscal policy: Tax and spending policy
14. Government: Lt. Governor
15. Government: Structure and procedures
16. Government: Voting rights for probationers and parolees
17. Natural resources: Radioactive waste
18. Social Policy: Housing and Zoning
19. Social Policy: Instate tuition
20. Social Policy: Drivers' certificates for undocumented drivers
21. Transportation

Not-recommended position drops

Dropping a not-recommended item requires similar procedures to adopting a not recommended study or update. The drop must be proposed and/or seconded by members of at least three different local Leagues or MAL Units. It requires a majority vote to be considered, then a 2/3 majority to drop.

1. Education: Charter Schools
2. Education: Tenure
3. Government: Lt. Governor
4. Government: Voting rights for probationers and parolees

BUDGET

The proposed budgets for both the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (NJ) and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund (EF) for fiscal years 22 and 23 follow. Delegates adopt both NJ budgets at convention. The EF Board of Trustees adopts the EF budgets.

The LWVNJ was established in 1920 and incorporated as a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization in 1924. It may lobby to further its purposes and donations are not tax deductible. It is the membership organization to which you belong.

LWVNJEF was established for educational purposes as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1982. As a 501(c)(3) it is prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates and may do only limited lobbying on public policy issues. Fortunately, the IRS defines "lobbying" fairly tightly, so EF activities can include, without restriction, activities such as creating position papers on issues and educating the public about our stance on them. Once we start supporting specific legislation, that meets the definition of lobbying and restrictions apply, but often specific legislation is at the end of a long trail of activities. Donations to EF are tax deductible and gifts from foundations or grants are usually given to LWVNJEF.

Both NJ and EF have the same staff and share office expenses. All office costs are budgeted in NJ (NJ expense lines 32-42) and EF reimburses NJ for its share of those expenses (NJ income lines 15-21)

LWVNJ income consists of three major components

- Development: The various appeals account for 15-19% of expected income. The Advocacy Appeal only supports LWVNJ. The Annual Appeal and Direct Mail support both entities at donor discretion.
- Membership dues, both local League per-member-payment (PMP) and MAL dues account for 10-11% of annual income. NJ PMP remains at \$23/member. It was last raised in 2007.
- Reimbursement from the Education Fund for shared staff and office costs accounts for 69% of expected income in FY22 and 71% in FY22. We have been able to increase our staff substantially, which means that office costs are a bigger part of the NJ budget than previously -- the implication for income is that a large part of the income in NJ is reimbursement by EF for the work NJ staff do on EF activities.

Both the various appeals and membership dues are projected to grow based on a membership increase of 10% each fiscal year envisioned in the strategic plan. These proposed growth levels were achieved in the past two budgets.

LWVNJ expenses include major expansions of program. For years, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey operated significantly understaffed. The 2017-2020 LWVNJ Strategic Plan called for increasing staff capacity from a staff of 2 to a staff of 5. This goal has been achieved and the cost of sustaining that size staff is reflected in this budget.

LWVNJEF income consists primarily of development efforts—annual appeal, direct mail, board fundraiser and board gifts. In this budget we are (for the first time) budgeting for some large corporation or foundation gifts -- these have become a fairly reliable source of income. We expect some

income from the 100th Anniversary celebration to come in during FY 22, then that stream will end. Fair Districts funding is past. LWNJEF owns 204 West State Street which provides rental income (EF line 18).

LWNJEF expenses include money for VOTE 411 (EF line 56), costs associated with fundraising (it's hard to raise money without spending some), various administrative expenses, and reimbursement to NJ for work performed by staff on our many EF tasks. Our building, without major repair costs, continues to provide a positive balance on our books (income EF line 18, expenses EF line 48). Insurance, audit, building maintenance and other fixed costs continue to rise.

Budgets are a guide. Both are net positive. We hope to end up the years with more money than we started and accomplish a lot for this great state while doing so!

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Gracely, Budget Chair

Susan Sferas, LWN of Southern Monmouth

Ellen Kemp, LWNJ Treasurer, ex officio

Jesse Burns, Executive Director, staff advisor

Nancy Hedinger, President, ex officio

BUDGET DOCUMENTS

Delegates have received links to the proposed budgets. They are linked below for your reference.

[League of Women Voters of New Jersey Proposed Budget](#)

[League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund Proposed Budget](#)

LWVNJ CONVENTION 2021

Board-Proposed Bylaws Changes

Highlights

The LWVNJ Board of Directors asked the Governance Committee to address three subjects: succession planning for the Presidency, term limits for State Board members and committee chairs; and co-officers. The Governance Committee developed a procedure for succession planning for the Presidency, but suggested testing this procedure in practice without adding it to the Bylaws. The State Board agreed with this suggestion. The procedure is as follows:

SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR BOARD PRESIDENT

- The Nominating Committee stresses leadership experience as a qualification and has several candidates in pipeline when nominating board members.
- 2 ½ years before the President's final term ends, the Nominating Committee identifies and reviews candidates.
- Potential candidates: prior LWVNJ directors, officers and chairs of local Leagues, League members with leadership roles on League issues, etc.
- Two years prior to President's retirement, the membership selects a President Elect (If already being nominated as a board member, no need for membership selection).
- The President Elect goes through a training program, shadows the President and gradually takes on responsibilities of the President.
- After retirement, the President joins the Advisory Board but continues to mentor the new President for one to two years.

The League of Women Voters, at the 2020 Convention, amended the LWVUS bylaws to include the commitment to DEI. As each State League is expected to mirror the first three articles of the LWVUS bylaws in the State League bylaws, the Governance Committee recommends adding this to Article II of the LWVNJ bylaws and reorganizing the former text.as follows:

~~Section 2 - Policies. LWVNJ may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.~~

- Political Policy.** The LWVNJ shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The LWVNJ is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy of the League of Women Voters of the United States.
- LWVNJ may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States.**

A previous Bylaws Committee had considered term limits, but had not been able to reach agreement on the multiple issues involved. The Governance Committee bit the bullet, and recommended a maximum of three two-year terms for all State Board members, elected or appointed, and for all committee chairs, whether program or State Board committees. The State Board agreed with these recommendations. The terms of State Board members for the initial period after these changes are adopted will be staggered by the State Board itself.

There are two exceptions to the general rule of three two-year terms. First, the President may serve three two-year terms as President without regard to his or her previous service on the State Board. Second, the Treasurer and the Chair of the Nominating Committee do not have term limits. This is because both those positions require expertise, and neither the Governance Committee nor the State Board wished to require that that expertise be lost to term limits.

The other request to the Governance Committee was to permit co-officers to serve on the State Board. This was very easy to accomplish, simply by adding a sentence to “Enumeration and Election of Officers” in Article VI of the Bylaws.

At the State Board’s suggestion, groups eligible to propose new studies have been expanded to add state program committees and the State Board itself to local Leagues. The normal requirements of providing a committee and leadership on the new study will apply to all proposed studies, no matter who the proposer is.

Finally, the Governance Committee decided to broaden the reasons why a Council could be called in the year between conventions, to include holding a Board election. This was to facilitate the Succession Planning for State Board President should it be necessary. The State Board agreed with the change, but there is no commitment of any kind to calling a Council in the interim year.

For your reference, the [current bylaws of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey is linked here](#). Suggested changes are on the following page.

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

Incorporated April 19, 1924

(as revised by delegates at Convention, May 4, 2019)

Contents:	
Article I : Name	Article VIII : Financial Administration
Article II : Purposes and Policy	Article IX : Convention
Article III : Membership	Article X : Nominations and Elections
Article IV : Recognition of Local Leagues & ILOs	Article XI : Principles and Program
Article V : Board of Directors	Article XII : Council
Article VI : Officers	Article XIII : National Convention/Council
Article VII : Committees	Article XIV : Miscellaneous Provisions
	Article XV : Amendments

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1 – Name and Principal Office. The name of this corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, Inc (“LWVNJ”) with offices at 204 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608. LWVNJ is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Section 1 - Purposes. The purposes of LWVNJ are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2 - Policy~~ies. LWVNJ may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.~~

- a. **Political Policy.** The LWVNJ shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- d. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The LWVNJ is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

- e. LWVNJ may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 - Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2 - Types of Membership.

- (a) Voting members are those persons at least 16 years of age who join the League of Women Voters and live in New Jersey. They may be enrolled in recognized local Leagues; members at large (“MALs”) who reside outside the area of, or are not enrolled in, any recognized local League (“unaffiliated MALs”); or life members. Life members are those residing in the state who have been members of the League of Women Voters of the United States for 50 years or more. The board of directors (“Board”) shall establish procedures for participation in LWVNJ councils and consensus meetings by MALs who are not enrolled in a local League. All voting members may serve on the Board or on program committees.
- (b) Associate members are all other members.

ARTICLE IV

Recognition of Local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (“ILOs”)

Section 1 - Local Leagues and ILOs. Local Leagues and ILOs are those Leagues and ILOs that have been recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2 - Recognition of Local Leagues. When there is, in any community in the state, a group of members of the League of Women Voters of the United States which meets the recognition standards for local Leagues as adopted at the national convention, the Board of LWVNJ shall recommend to the national board that recognition be granted. There are two sets of recognition standards for local Leagues, those relating to local Leagues that manage their own finances and membership, and a second set for state-administered local Leagues (“SALLs”).

Section 3 - Recognition of ILOs. When a majority of the members of a majority of the local Leagues in a county form an ILO to promote the purposes of the League, to adopt program, and to work on matters of common concern, the Board of LWVNJ shall recommend to the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States that recognition be granted.

Section 4 – Local Leagues.

- (a) When a group in a community in which no local League exists wishes to form a League of Women Voters, they may be organized by LWNJ into a local League which may or may not be state-administered.
1. If the local League is not state-administered, it must comply with the standards for local Leagues set out in the current edition of the appropriate LWNUS publication, including having its own bylaws, non-profit status, and handling its own financial affairs.
 2. If the local League is state-administered, it must meet the criteria for LWNUS recognition of new Local Leagues, originally approved in April 2017, as such criteria may have been amended from time to time. In addition, it must have a minimum membership of 10 LWNJ members. It must encourage a diverse membership. It must establish democratic procedures for running meetings and making decisions, including but not limited to at least one business meeting for the election of its leadership team at least every two years. Such a meeting must include: a procedure for nominations before the meeting and made known to the members in advance of the meeting; a procedure for nominations from the floor of the meeting; and a procedure for a secret ballot, if such a ballot is requested. See Article XIV for additional information.
- (b) When a local League has taken steps to disband but meets all of the standards for recognition as a SALL, the Board may recognize that League as a SALL.

Section 5 - Withdrawal of Recognition. In the event of recurring failure of a local League or ILO to meet recognition standards, the Board shall recommend that the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States withdraw recognition from the local League or ILO. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWNJ, and all funds held by an ILO from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be prorated among the member Leagues.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Section 1 - Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board shall consist of the officers of LWNJ and up to fifteen directors. The members at convention shall elect all of the officers and at least ten directors. The elected directors shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular biennial convention or until their successors have been chosen. The officers and elected directors shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding five (5), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of LWNJ. The term of office of the appointed directors shall be two years and expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors.

Section 2 - Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of LWNJ unless that person is a voting member of LWNJ.

Section 3 – Term Limits. All Board members, including officers other than the president and the treasurer, shall serve two-year terms but are eligible for re-election for up to a total of three consecutive terms in any combination of positions. An initial appointment as an officer or director to fill an unexpired term shall not count toward the three consecutive terms limit. Board members shall serve staggered terms so that, every two years, the new Board members shall

equal as close to one-third of the board as possible. The Board shall have the power to determine the number of additional terms then-present Board members and officers may serve after this amendment goes into effect at the close of the 2021 Convention. After one year of absence, a former Board member or officer may be reelected or reappointed to the board.

Section 34 - Vacancies. The president shall designate a vice president to serve in the absence of the president. In the event of the resignation, removal, disability, or death of the president, the Board shall elect by majority vote one of the vice presidents to fill the vacancy. If no vice president is able to serve, the Board shall elect by majority vote another of its members to serve as president. Any vacancy, other than in the presidency, occurring in the Board may be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

Section 45 - Powers and Duties. The Board shall have full charge of the property and business of the corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the convention. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state government matters as adopted by the convention. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 56 - Regular Meetings. The Board shall meet at least quarterly. Notice of the time and place shall be provided to all members of the Board not less than one week before the date of the meeting.

Section 67 - Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the Board, and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings at least three days prior to such meeting, provided, however that during a convention or council the president may, or upon request of five members of the Board shall, call a special meeting of the Board by notifying the members of the Board of the time and place of said meeting.

Section 78 - Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and a majority of the members in attendance at any Board meeting shall, in the presence of a quorum, decide its action.

Section 89 – Attendance and Removal from Office. In the event that a member of the Board is absent from three consecutive Board meetings without a valid excuse, s/he may be removed from office by a majority vote at a Board meeting. A Board member may be removed from office with or without cause by a two-thirds vote at a Board meeting. A vote for removal may not be taken unless notice has been given to the person whose removal is sought, and to the Board in the agenda of the meeting, at least one week prior to the meeting.

Section 910 - Electronic and Phone Meetings: Board members may participate in Board meetings by conference call or any other electronic method of communication, provided all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear each other, or that the technology used for the electronic meetings shall allow the members continuous full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions throughout the specified time of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

Section 1 - Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of LWVNJ shall be a president, two vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, ~~with a proviso that this amendment shall not go into effect until the close of the 2017 Convention.~~ Co-officers are permissible and references herein to any officers shall include the possibility of co-officers. They shall be elected by the convention and shall hold office until the conclusion of the next regular biennial convention or until their successors have been elected. The president shall not be eligible for election to more than three consecutive terms as president, without regard to his or her previous service as a director.

Section 2 - The President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board except as provided in Section 3 of Article V. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and may nominate the chairs and members of other committees established by the Board, subject to Board approval. The president shall give active direction to LWVNJ and be responsible for overall supervision and management of LWVNJ, and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 3 - The Vice Presidents. The first vice-president shall be in charge of state program. The second vice-president shall serve as field service coordinator between the state League and the local leagues. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board may designate.

Section 4 - The Secretary. The secretary or a duly appointed assistant shall keep the minutes of the conventions and councils of LWVNJ and of the meetings of the Board. The secretary may have other responsibilities as decided by the officers of LWVNJ. The secretary, president or treasurer shall sign all contracts and instruments when so authorized by the Board.

Section 5 - The Treasurer. The treasurer shall serve as chief financial officer of LWVNJ and shall be an ex-officio member of the budget committee. There shall be no limit on the number of terms the Treasurer may serve.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

Section 1 - Member-Elected Committees: The Budget Committee chair and the chair and two members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by LWVNJ members in convention. None of these shall be members of the Board. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the convention.

Section 2 - Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board. The Board members to serve on the committee shall be appointed by the Board immediately after the convention. The president of the LWVNJ shall send the name and address of the chair of the Nominating Committee to local League and ILO presidents and leaders. It shall be the duty of the chair of the Nominating Committee to request through the president or leaders of each local League suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled. The committee shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular convention.

Section 3 - Budget Committee. The Budget Committee chair shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular biennial convention. The biennial budget shall be prepared by a committee of both Board and non-Board members including the Treasurer, and approved by the Board before submission to convention. The committee shall be appointed for that purpose within six months after convention. The committee shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular convention; it will review the budget and suggest revisions as needed in the non-convention year.

Section 4 - Executive Committee: The Board may create an Executive Committee of the officers, including the president as its chair, which shall have the power to act for the Board on urgent matters between meetings, subject to ratification of its actions at a subsequent meeting.

Section 5 - Program Committees: The Board may create Program Committees to implement governmental issues for which LWNJ has positions. The Board shall review and approve: - appointments of all Program Committee chairs, whether self-nominated or nominated by an existing Program Committee; and all Program Committees' recommendations for action on specific legislation, regulations or public policy areas. Any LWNJ member may serve on a Program Committee.

Section 6 – New Study, Review or Update Committees: The Board may create new study, review or update committees to study new program items or to review or update existing program items as chosen by convention or council. The Board shall review and approve: the outline of study, the committee chair, the study and consensus timetable, plans and speakers for workshops, the type of publications (quantity and cost if a book), the consensus questions and member agreement form, and the results of the member agreement and position statement. Any LWNJ member may serve on a new study, review or update committee.

Section 7 – Other Board-Appointed Committees: The Board may, by resolution, create other committees having such powers as are permitted by these bylaws, by Title 15A of the New Jersey Statutes or its current equivalent, and as are specified in the resolution establishing the committee. Each such committee shall consist of not less than three members, at least two of whom shall be members of the Board, and may include voting members of LWNJ.

Section 8 - Nondelegable Powers; Rules of Committees: No committee of the Board shall be empowered to act in lieu of the entire Board in respect to the removal of officers or directors, the filling of vacancies on the Board or committees, authorization of merger or dissolution of LWNJ, or with respect to amendment of the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of LWNJ. Each committee of the Board shall fix its own rules governing the conduct of its activities, not inconsistent with rules promulgated by the Board, and shall make such reports to the Board of its activities as the Board may request or as required by law. All committees except the Nominating, Budget and Executive Committees shall perform an advisory function to the Board. **No committee chair other than the chair of the Nominating Committee shall serve more than three consecutive two-year terms.**

Section 9 – Termination of Committees, Terms, Removal of Committee Chairs, Filling of Vacancies, and Notice: All committees other than member-appointed committees may be terminated by the Board. The terms of all committee members will end at the end of each biennial Convention after their appointment, subject to reappointment. Any Board-appointed or Board-approved Committee chair may be removed from office with or without cause by a two-thirds vote at a Board meeting. A vote for removal may not be taken unless notice has been given to the person whose removal is sought and to the Board in the agenda of the meeting at least one week prior to the meeting. Any replacement for a Board-appointed or Board-approved Committee chair may be filled by a majority vote of the Board. All committees will give notice of each committee meeting at least one week before the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Financial Administration

Section 1 - Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of LWFVNJ shall commence on the first day of July of each year.

Section 2 - Financial Support. Financial responsibility for the work of the LWFVNJ shall be assumed annually as follows:

A. Local Leagues that are locally-administered shall pay a per member payment.

1. When two or more members reside at a common address in the same household the local League shall make a full per member payment for the first member and a payment equal to one-half the per member payment for each other member.

2. Local Leagues shall pay half the per-member payment for each student member.

B. MALs and members of SALLs shall pay annual dues to LWFVNJ as determined by the Board.

C. Life members do not pay annual dues.

Section 3 - Budget. The Board shall submit to the convention for adoption a proposed budget for the next two fiscal years. The budget shall propose the amount of per member payment to be made by the local Leagues. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each local League and ILO president or leaders at least six weeks in advance of the convention. The Board shall be authorized to make appropriate modifications to the budget in the second year of the biennium. If a new PMP level should be deemed necessary in a non-convention year, a meeting of council must be called to authorize the change. If there is to be a proposed increase in per member payment, local Leagues shall be notified of the amount of the increase at least six weeks in advance of convention or the council meeting.

Section 4 - Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution for any cause of LWFVNJ, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWFVNJ shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of the United States. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWFVNJ shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization, or corporation, for such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then Board of LWFVNJ.

Section 5 –Audit. The books shall be reviewed annually by a certified public accountant and formally audited by a certified public accountant at least every other year. The audit shall include both years of the biennium.

Section 6 – Inurement: No part of the net earnings of LWFVNJ shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that LWFVNJ shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II, above.

ARTICLE IX

Convention

Section 1 - Place, Date, Call and Notification. A convention of LWVNJ shall be held biennially. The time and place of the convention shall be determined by the Board. The president shall send a first call for convention to each local League and ILO president or leaders and make this information available to all members not less than three months prior to the opening date of the convention fixed in said call. Thereafter the Board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention not more than two weeks from the date fixed in the first call. The president shall send a final call for the convention to each local League or ILO president or leaders at least thirty days before convention and make this information available to all members.

Section 2 - Composition. The convention shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members of the local Leagues, as provided in Section 4 of this article, the president or a designated leader of each local League or ILO or their duly authorized representatives, unaffiliated MALs, and the members of the Board of LWVNJ.

Section 3 - Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate shall be a voting member of LWVNJ and thus have paid his or her dues up to date to the local League or LWVNJ, as appropriate. Each delegate from a locally-administered local League shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities. The board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4 - Representation. In addition to the president or leader or a duly authorized representative, each recognized local League shall be entitled to one delegate for any number of voting members up to the first 25 voting members. When the number of voting members reaches 26, an additional delegate shall be authorized (thus two, in addition to the president, leader or authorized representative, for a total of 3 delegates at 26 members) and one more delegate for every 25 additional voting members above that number belonging to said local League (thus 4 with 51 members, 5 with 76 members, and so on). The member count on January 31 of the convention year shall be used for these calculations. The record in the state office of paid up voting members shall determine the official membership count for this purpose. Local Leagues must have per member payments paid in full through the quarter preceding convention or council to guarantee representation. ILOs are entitled to one representative (their president or duly authorized representative) regardless of their number of members. There may be one unaffiliated MAL delegate for each 25 unaffiliated MALs in the member count, chosen on a first-come/first registered basis.

Section 5 - Authorization for Action. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program, shall elect officers and directors, shall adopt a budget for the next two fiscal years, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Section 6 - Quorum. A quorum shall consist of not less than twenty percent of the possible number of voting delegates (other than the Board), representing not less than twenty five percent of the local Leagues, for the transaction of business at a state convention.

ARTICLE X

Nominations and Elections

Section 1 - Suggestions for Nominations. Suggestions for nominations by local Leagues or ILOs shall be sent by the head of such unit to the chair of the Nominating Committee at least three months before the convention. Any member may send suggestions to the chair of the Nominating Committee.

Section 3 - Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, budget chair and the chair and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to local Leagues and ILOs one month before the date of the convention. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the convention on the first day of the convention. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the convention, providing the consent of the nominee shall have been obtained in advance.

Section 4 - Elections. The election shall be in the charge of an Election Committee appointed by the president on the first day of the convention. The election shall be by ballot except that, if there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be by voice vote. A majority of those present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE XI

Principles and Program

Section 1 - Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of a program.

Section 2 – Program. The program of LWFVJ shall consist of (a) League principles and positions (b) actions to implement those principles and positions, and (c) procedures such as studies and updates, by which new or revised positions are developed. Specifically:

- a. The LWFVUS principles referenced in Section 1 of this article form the core of the League's program at all levels. Specific positions on state issues must be approved by concurrence or consensus and reaffirmed biannually at convention.
- b. Any action by the LWFVJ in support of, or opposition to, a governmental issue shall be based on one or more of the following, as they apply at the state level: the principles and positions of the LWFVUS and the positions adopted by the LWFVJ.
- c. Procedures for studying an issue or updating existing positions are outlined below.

Section 3 - General Procedures. Changes to existing state League positions and addition of new state League positions can only take place after study or review at an appropriate level of League. There are three basic methods by which changes to program can be made:

- The convention is the normal method by which new studies, reviews and updates are authorized. The convention can also approve a new position by concurrence with a study done by another state League, and it can delete an existing position or part of one. For previously-approved program to be carried forward into the new League biennium, convention must reaffirm it. The process by which convention makes all these decisions is described below (Section 4).
- Although convention is the normal method for making program decisions, Council can do so as well, under special circumstances (See Article XII).

Section 4 - Procedure for program approval by convention:

The convention shall select the governmental issues for concerted study and action, deletion of an existing position or part of one, or concurrence with a study done by another state League, using the following procedures:

- a. Local League boards and state program committees may make recommendations to the Board at least three months prior to the convention.
- b. The Board shall consider the recommendations of local Leagues, state program committees and the LWVNJ Board and formulate a proposed program which shall be submitted to the local Leagues and ILOs at least two months prior to the convention.
- c. Any recommendation for the program submitted to the Board at least three months prior to the convention, but not proposed by the Board, may be adopted by the convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and the vote on adoption comes after a specified time has elapsed to permit proponents to hold caucuses and lobby to obtain support for their proposal. To be eligible for consideration as a non-recommended item, it must be proposed and/or seconded by members of at least three different local Leagues, and at least two individuals must have committed to serving on the committee, one of whom agrees to be Chair. These individuals may be local League members, MALs, or Board members. The final vote may be on the same day as the vote for consideration.
- d. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program, including a concurrence, and for deletion of an existing program item. Adoption of a non-recommended program subject requires a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

Section 5 - Member Action. Members may act in the name of LWVNJ only when authorized to do so by the Board of LWVNJ.

Section 6 - Local League Action. Local Leagues may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized by the board of LWVNJ. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, a position taken by LWVNJ.

ARTICLE XII

Council

Section 1 – Nature and Purpose of Council. The term “council” shall refer to a statewide meeting of the LWVNJ, with specified representation from local Leagues, ILOs, and the Board, that is called between conventions to transact business requiring member input.

Section 2 – Place, Date, Call and Notification. Council shall be called if the Board of LWVNJ wishes to change PMP other than at convention. The Board may also choose to call council into session to hold a Board election or to obtain member ratification and discussion of substantial changes in direction, program or financing. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the Board. The president shall send a formal call to local Leagues and ILO presidents and leaders at least thirty days before a council meeting.

A special council meeting may also be called by written request of 10 of the local League or ILO presidents or leaders.

Section 3 - Composition. The council shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members of the local Leagues, as provided in Section 4 of this article, the members of the Board of the LWFVNJ, and presidents and leaders of ILOs or their duly authorized representatives.

Section 4 - Representation. In addition to the president, leader, or a duly authorized representative, each recognized local League shall be entitled to one delegate for each 100 voting members or major fraction (51 or more) thereof.

Section 5 - Powers. The council shall give guidance to the Board on program, methods of work, and budget as submitted by the Board. The council is authorized to change the program only in the event of an emergency, provided that notice of proposed modifications of the program shall have been sent to the presidents or leaders of the local Leagues at least two months in advance of the meeting of the council, and provided also that a two-thirds majority of the members of the council present and voting shall be required to adopt the modifications. Limitations on action by council are similar to those for convention. The council may adopt a budget for the current fiscal year and shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the Board.

Section 6 - Quorum. A quorum shall consist of not less than ten members (other than the Board), representing not less than ten local Leagues for the transaction of business at a council meeting.Section 7 - Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities. The Board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship.

ARTICLE XIII

National Convention and Council

At a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, the Board shall elect delegates to the National Convention or Council in the number allowed LWFVNJ under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE XIV

Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1 - Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern the LWFVNJ in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Section 2 - Notice: Whenever under the provisions of these bylaws notice is required to be given to a director, officer, committee member, or member, such notice may be given by voice mail, electronic mail, other electronic methods, or hand delivery, and will be deemed given when received. Notice may also be given in writing by first-class mail or overnight delivery service with postage prepaid to such person at

his or her address as it appears on the records of LWVNJ. Such notice shall be deemed to have been given when deposited in the mail or the delivery service.

Section 3 - Mandatory Indemnification: The LWVNJ shall to the maximum extent permitted under the New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Law, as amended, indemnify and allow reasonable expenses of any person who was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of or volunteered services to the LWVNJ; or is or was serving at the request of the LWVNJ as a director, officer, employee or member of any committee or of any other corporation or enterprise. Such right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators and personal representatives of such a person.

In order for LWVNJ to obtain and retain qualified directors and officers, the foregoing provisions shall be liberally administered in order to afford maximum indemnification of directors and officers and, accordingly, the indemnification above provided for shall be granted in all cases unless to do so would clearly contravene applicable law, controlling precedent or public policy.

ARTICLE XV

Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any local League board, provided such proposed changes shall be submitted to the Board at least two months prior to a convention or council.

Amendments to these bylaws may also be directly proposed by the Board without having been first suggested by a local League. All such proposed amendments shall be sent by the Board to the presidents or leaders of all local Leagues, and unaffiliated MALs, at least six weeks prior to a convention or council together with the recommendations of the Board. The presidents or leaders of all local Leagues shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. The failure of a local League president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the bylaws, which may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any convention or council.

History

In May 2007:

The words "of citizens" were removed from article II.

The references to "paid life members" were removed from article III.

Both changes were mandated by LWVUS, which wanted to reference to citizens stricken, and which no longer has a "paid life" category.

In May 2009:

Article III.4: New Section on MALs added.

Article V.9: New Section on e-voting and such added.

Article VII.2: Paid life members removed, and bylaw setting fiscal year for MALs removed.

Article VII.7: Possibility of biennial audit added.

Quorum wording at both Council and Convention clarified.

Article X: Extensive changes to the definition of program, to allow the board to initiate a study, and to tighten requirements for a non-recommended item to be approved.

Article XI: Minor clarification of Council rules.

In May 2013 we extended the number of delegates from each local League (so the third delegate is added at 26, not 51) and gave MAL units the same numbers. We also changed the official member count date to Jan. 31, for consistency with LWVUS.

In May 2016 the Board appointed a Bylaws Committee to review the bylaws and bring them up to date. This revision was approved by Convention on April 29, 2017.

In May 2019 we made provisions for state-administered local Leagues (SALLs) and deleted references to MAL units, and increased the total size of the Board to 20, 5 officers and 15 directors

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Marlene Sincaglia, Chair

The Nominating Committee was composed of four members: an elected off-board chair, two off-board elected members and one appointed members of the Board.

Names of potential candidates were solicited from current Board members and each local League, ILO, and MAL unit through the presidents, leaders and members as well as from the Advisory Council.

The committee developed list of prospects. The prospects received the non-partisan policy and the Duties and Responsibilities of a Board member to look over in advance. The candidates were contacted and those who thought they would like to serve were interviewed. We wanted to give grassroots League members the opportunity to move up to leadership positions. We also wanted geographical diversity. We are very grateful for all the many excellent recommendations and very pleased with our slate.

Respectfully submitted, Nominating Committee

Marlene Sincaglia	Elected Chair
Michelle Bobrow	Elected member
Evelyn Murphy	Elected member
Natalya Johnson	LWVNJ Board appointee

Officers:

Office	Nominee
President	Jennifer Howard
VP	Iveth Mosquera
VP	Deborah McComber
Secretary	Lauren McCaskill
Treasurer	Susan Sferas

Directors:

Jessica Backofen
Lucy Beard
Jason De Alessi
Janet Fisher Hughes
Jin Hwang
Natalya Johnson
Lauren F. Nance
Henal Patel
Timothy Priano
Kelly Shea
Anne Torre

Committee Chairs and Elected Members:

Budget
Nominations

Chair: Ed Gracely
Chair: Evelyn Murphy
Committee: Michelle Bobrow
Nancy Hedinger

NOMINATIONS

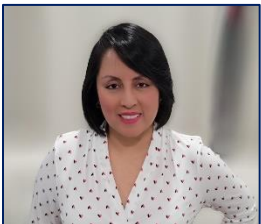
OFFICERS

President
JENNIFER HOWARD



Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH presently serves on the Board of the League of Women Voters of NJ. She is also the co-chair of the Communications Committee for the board and is a member of the board's Finance Committee and a member of the state Education Committee. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters of the Princeton Area since 2013 and currently serves on the Leadership Committee. Jennifer is a practicing OB/GYN physician in NYC having also previously practiced in NJ. She has been a Vice President for the African American Parent Support Group, WW-P Regional School district (a parent advocacy organization with over 25 years of addressing racial disparities and educational achievement gaps in African-American students), a preceptor to medical students and residents, a medical volunteer for overseas medical missions and a medical director of a reproductive health organization. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard/Radcliffe, her medical school degree from Howard University's College of Medicine and her Master's of Public Health from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

1st Vice President
IVETH P. MOSQUERA



Iveth is Director of PR and Development at [Matheny](#), Peapack, NJ - a nonprofit hospital, school, and social services org. for people with medically complex developmental disabilities. She has been Board Director of the [League of Women Voters of NJ \(LWVNJ\)](#) since July 2019 and is chair of the Membership committee. Iveth dedicates time to voter education, advocacy, and outreach and serves on the social justice committee and fair districts coalition. Iveth is VP of [Latinas United for Political Empowerment \(L.U.P.E.\) Fund](#). She joined in 2008 and is co-founder of the Young

Latina Leadership Scholarship. LUPE is a nonprofit org. that empowers, educates, and engages Latinas in the areas of civic engagement and leadership development. She earned a MPA from Rutgers SPAA and graduated with honors in 2005. Iveth is a proud mother, wife, and sister born and raised in Newark to Ecuadorian immigrants who taught her the meaning of hard work, integrity, and love.

2nd Vice President

DEBORAH MCCOMBER



Deborah McComber is a communications consultant specializing in communications strategies for small nonprofits and local businesses with limited resources to meet the challenges of the tech world. She designs and manages websites, social media / email marketing campaigns and public relations strategies for organizations in the Morristown New Jersey area.

For the League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area, Debbie developed a website and social networking campaign and manages both. She brought together local Leagues and provided tech support for shared virtual candidates' debates. At the state level, Debbie served on the advisory committee to the Fair Districts New Jersey campaign. Debbie represented the League as co-organizer of the NJ Women's March in Morristown 2018, adult advisor to March for Our Lives Morristown 2018, and webmaster for the NJ Women's March 2019. She co-organized the NJ Leagues' RBG Legacy Rally in 2020.

Debbie is a graduate of Wellesley College with a degree in Mathematics and a background in economic research and forecasting. Upon moving to Morristown, she became actively involved in the schools and community, including serving as trustee for the Morris Educational Foundation, administrator for the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee, and communications coordinator for The Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

Secretary

LAUREN MCCASKILL



Lauren McCaskill is CEO of Lauren McCaskill Consulting Group, LLC. Currently, Lauren serves on the Long Branch Board of Education and is a graduate of Emerge New Jersey, a premier national training program geared towards increasing the number of Democratic women leaders in public office. She holds a Bachelor's in Pre-Law and Africana Studies from Seton Hall University. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, she was hand-selected to attend Rutgers University's Center for Women in Politics NEW Leadership program which encourages young women to enter the political arena. She

continues to utilize her training and expertise to be an advocate and respected public figure in her hometown of Long Branch, NJ. Lauren has also worked on various political campaigns ranging from national to municipal races.

Treasurer

SUSAN SFERAS



Susan is currently serving as Vice President on the LWVNJ Board and has chaired the Development team for the past 2 years. Susan is looking forward to serving as LWVNJ Treasurer. Susan is a past president and has been an active member of her local league, Southern Monmouth County, for over 40 years. She also currently serves as the Treasurer of the Monmouth County ILO. Susan retired from Arch Insurance Company in Jersey City after a 37-year career in the Insurance industry as an Information Technology specialist. Susan grew up in Long Branch, NJ and currently lives in Neptune. She graduated from Monmouth University with a B.S in Education and received an MBA from Monmouth while working in the insurance industry. Susan is also on the board of the Sisterhood at her temple and currently serves as one of the Vice Presidents. Susan has an MA in Mathematics from Fordham University.

DIRECTORS

JESSICA BACKOFEN



Jess Backofen is the executive director at The Foundation for University Hospital and is charged with raising funds to support the Hospital's vulnerable patient community.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Jess held leadership roles at the American Cancer Society, Friends of the Children and JDRF International over the past 20 years, building strategic partnerships with philanthropists, corporations, and foundations to scale impact and accelerate mission. Ms. Backofen graduated from Quinnipiac University with a BS in Health Administration and currently sits on the board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey.

LUCIENNE BEARD



Lucienne Beard has been involved at the Alice Paul Institute since 1994, first as a volunteer and board member and later as a member of the non-profit's first professional staff. From 2000-2007 she was API's program director, establishing the interpretive story for public visitation at Paulsdale, Alice Paul's home and a National Historic Landmark in Mt. Laurel, and creating the Alice Paul Leadership Programs for girls. Today those programs serve k-12 students, using the example of successful women leaders from the past and present to teach and inspire today's young women to pursue leadership into the future. Beard was the Executive Director at the Alice Paul Institute 2012-2021 where she oversaw the organization's operations and strategic direction and led efforts to raise awareness of Alice Paul's life and work and advocate for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Beard has lectured on Alice Paul and her place in women's history across the country. Beard co-chaired New Jersey's statewide commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. She serves on the national steering committee of the Women's Vote Centennial Initiative and as treasurer on the board of directors of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, where she is helping to establish the National Votes for Women Trail. Beard formerly served as an officer on the board of directors of Girl Scouts of South Jersey Pines (2001-07), PA Museums (2010-12) and New Century Trust (2009-16). She is a charter member of Kiwanis of Greater Mount Laurel and is an active member of the Mt. Laurel Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting. She earned a B.S. in International Affairs from The George Washington University and an M.A. in American History from Rutgers University. Beard lives in Mt. Laurel NJ with her husband and the world's friendliest cat.

JASON DEALESSI



Jason DeAlessi is an entrepreneur who works in startups across the media, entertainment, real estate, and hospitality industries. His primary focus is currently with Fuerza Strategy Group, where he serves as Managing Director of the boutique digital and creative consulting firm on its projects with clients across the United States in the political and social justice arenas. Prior to starting his own firm, he worked at NBC News and for a national public affairs firm. Jason studied political science and public health at Johns Hopkins University and Rutgers University. He is currently

pursuing a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Rutgers, and previously served as President of his local Board of Education. In his spare time, Jason enjoys training for triathlons and officiating ice hockey.

JANET FISHER-HUGHES



Janet Fischer-Hughes' mother was an active volunteer for the League of Women Voters of Dane County, WI and Janet proudly continues in her footsteps as a board member for the League of Women Voters of Camden County. Janet currently directs LWVCC's Running & Winning program and Vote411 efforts and enjoys moderating candidate forums and registering voters at naturalization ceremonies.

As principal of the marketing research consultancy, Forward Marketing Insights, Janet helps her clients better understand their consumers to answer their key business questions. She welcomes the opportunity to apply these skills and experience in her role as a member of the LWVNJ board. Janet lives in Pennsauken with her husband, Bob and dog, Griff. She serves on the boards of the Friends of the Pennsauken Public Library and the Pennsauken Historical Society and is a member of the Westmont Accordion Club.

JIN HWANG



Jin Hwang is a seasoned in-house counsel with management experience and expertise in several areas of law. Most recently, Ms. Hwang was Associate General Counsel with Verizon Communications Inc., a Dow 30 company. Prior to her 16-plus years with Verizon, Ms. Hwang was an attorney with France Télécom (now Orange). Ms. Hwang is excited to found a startup, which will provide financial counseling, equity and inclusion consulting, and executive coaching.

For decades, Ms. Hwang has been passionate about equity, inclusion, and access for all. Among various leadership roles in New Jersey and at the national level, Ms. Hwang was honored to serve as the president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association in 2015-2016 to promote advancement in the legal profession and advocate for APIAs in society, including protecting U.S. citizens' right to vote and be counted. Ms. Hwang earned her bachelor's degree with double majors in Psychology and French Studies with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated with a law degree from American University's Washington College of Law.

NATALYA JOHNSON



Natalya Johnson serves as Senior Counsel with Johnson & Johnson. With over a decade of legal experience, she provides counsel on employment law matters and manages employment related litigations. She frequently speaks and writes about employment law, leadership, and diversity in the law. Natalya earned her J.D. from Cornell Law School and graduated *magna cum laude* from Cornell University. Natalya serves as Vice President of the Garden State Bar Association (GSBA) and is President of the Cornell Black Lawyers Alumni Network (CBLAN). On behalf of CBLAN and the GSBA, Natalya leads fundraising efforts in support of student

scholarships. Committed to pro bono service, Natalya started her legal career as an attorney fellow with Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ). At VLJ, she helped clients with criminal records address the civil legal barriers that serve as obstacles to successful community reintegration through its criminal record expungement clinic. In 2020, the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law selected Natalya as one of its Professional Lawyers of the Year. Natalya was also recognized as a New Leader of the Bar by the New Jersey Law Journal in its Professional Excellence 2020 Awards. Natalya's education includes a BA and MA from Rutgers-Newark, and a BS from Montclair State University. She is a Rutgers Eagleton Institute alumni fellow and a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program. Her interests include environmental and health policy, social justice and equity advocacy, and political transparency and accountability.

Lauren F. Nance



Lauren Nance is an active contributor to the business, service, and civic uplift of northern New Jersey. Driven by her passion for efficiency and community, Lauren works exceptionally well with leaders who share her vision and values. She frequently leverages these community connections to help *others* excel. As a Business Consultant and Certified Meeting Professional, Nance is the Chief Executive Officer of Nance Communications LLC. She is a sharp-shooting business communications leader and strategist, offering

extensive knowledge and experience in communications tools and techniques. NanceComm clients and partners include entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and creatives. Noncomm's greatest body of work in service, civic, and leadership engagement is through Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She

joined while attending her alma mater, Rutgers University, 31-years ago. Zeta's impact on social action, community service, and voter education initiatives are of national and local renown. In May 2021, Nance was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of Meeting Professionals International, New Jersey Chapter, as the Director of Education. For over 25 years, Nance has shared her life and love with retired law enforcement officer, Bert Nance, Jr. They have one daughter, Leah, who will attend college this fall to study music therapy.

HENAL PATEL



Henal Patel is Director of the Democracy & Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Before joining the Institute, Henal was an associate at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter. Previously, Henal had the honor of serving as a law clerk to Chief Justice Stuart Rabner on the New Jersey Supreme Court. While in law school, Henal was an Eagleton Institute of Politics fellow, participated in the Constitutional Litigation Clinic, and served as an assistant to the Chairman of the New Jersey Redistricting Commission.

Henal received her J.D. from the Rutgers University School of Law – Newark and B.A. from Rutgers University.

TIMOTHY A. PRIANO



Originally from Western New York, Timothy A. Priano and his nine siblings were raised with a sense of pride in their community and a responsibility to contribute towards its success. Priano was raised with a strong work ethic and a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to help others.

For over forty years, Priano has owned ABTP, an agency representing talent in hair, makeup, photography & styling. Priano has lived in major cities across the country and is now calls New Jersey home. He is an active member of the community as part of the Plainfield Arts

Council, Rotarian of the Plainfields, and duCret School of the Arts.

His upbringing gave him a community-first mindset, which he is proud to bring to his volunteer organization, Queen City Pride. Priano assembles and motivates groups of volunteers to have pride in Plainfield. QCP's work across the city to clean up public space.

KELLY SHEA



Dr. Kelly A. Shea is an associate professor of English/Director of the First-Year Writing Program (and former Writing Center director) at Seton Hall University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate composition and literature courses; trains graduate students as composition instructors; and studies, presents, and publishes on writing, teaching, faculty development, and technology issues - and their intersections. She is a co-leader of the SHU reading-/writing-intensive core proficiency project and works closely with SHU's Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center on course management systems, virtual instruction platforms, digital humanities tools, and other pedagogy-improvement initiatives. She was a founding member and officer of the League of Women Voters of Warren and West Morris Counties (NJ) and has been actively involved with voter education, voter registration, get-out-the-vote, and other LWV initiatives since 2018. She is also a small business owner in Hackettstown, NJ, and, like her two grown sons, has been a lifelong, attentive voter.

ANNE TORRE



Anne Torre joined the League of Women Voters when she moved to New Jersey in 1991, hoping to meet congenial people while following in the footsteps of her mother, a longtime League member. She is currently treasurer of the Greater Red Bank Area League, serves as a League moderator for candidate forums, and is active in the Monmouth County VOTE411 project. Now retired, Anne worked for over 20 years as a consultant to nonprofits, providing services in the areas of nonprofit governance and fund development. She has also served on the local Planned Parenthood board and the Rumson Board of Education. At present, she is a member of the Red Bank Zoning Board and secretary of the Red Bank Library Foundation.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair – Ed Gracely

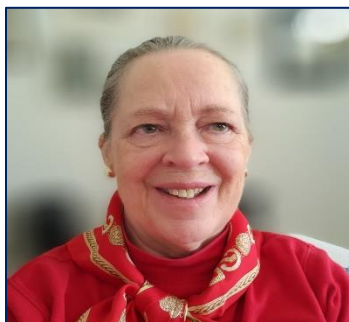


Ed has been a member of the League since 1987, serving Camden County League board since 1988 in various roles, including program vice president and president. He is currently bulletin editor, secretary, and webmaster. Ed joined the LWVNJ board in 1997, was Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer until 2015, and is currently Program Vice President. Twenty-two years on the board -- time for a new job! He was a member of the LWVUS Task Force on Election Audits. Ed earned his PhD in Quantitative Psychology (statistics!) from Temple U in 1986 and has been a faculty member at Drexel University College of Medicine since 1981. He

was editor the newsletter for the Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences Section of the American Statistical Association for over 10 years, and volunteers for Statistics Without Borders. Ed served on the Camden County Ethics Commission and the Winslow Township Drug Alliance in the 90's. He is currently on the board of the UN Association of Greater Philadelphia and volunteers at the Philadelphia Flower Show. He enjoys bird watching, jokes, reading historical fiction, languages, and music (especially classical and folk).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair – Evelyn Murphy



Evelyn C Murphy, PhD (she/her/hers). Evelyn was appointed to the Nominating Committee in 2019. A member of the LWV of Southern Monmouth County since 2018, she serves as its First Vice President, Voters Service Director, and DEI Team Co-Chair. Evelyn is an LWVNJ Certified Moderator, volunteers on the LWVNJ Development Committee, and was a member of the 2021 Convention Planning Committee. She represented LWVSMC as a delegate to LWVUS Convention 2020. In March, she served as an LWVUS Delegate to 65th Annual Session of the UN Committee on the Status of Women.

An economist by training, Evelyn began her career in the banking industry working at the Federal Reserve Banks of New York and Minneapolis before moving to the nonprofit sector. Today, she works with nonprofits and government agencies as a management consultant. Evelyn holds a BA in Economics from Manhattanville College and a PhD from Michigan State University.

MICHELLE BOBROW



Michelle has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1972. She is currently on the LWVNJ Nominating Committee. She served on the LWVNJ Board as Vice President for Voter Service and as a director, was active in the Death Penalty Study, and is the League representative to NJ Coalition against Human Trafficking. Michelle serves on the LWV Maplewood-South Orange management team and is a past president of LWV Maplewood. She is interested in issues affecting human rights, civil rights, voting rights, and women's issues. She has been an election board worker for over twenty years. Michelle is a parliamentarian and has been a child advocate with Court Appointed Special Advocate for almost 30 years serving over 20 children.

NANCY HEDINGER



Nancy is the immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. Having committed the past six years to raising the visibility of the League, increasing the capacity of our staff, and diversifying our membership and board, Nancy looks forward to continuing this momentum as a member of the Nominating Committee. She hopes to leverage her strong relationships with League members and the external network she developed as president in seeking committee and board members who have the skills necessary to advance our mission and who reflect the communities we serve. Nancy is a long-standing member of the Morristown Area League.

Membership Count

As of Midnight
January 31, 2021

League Name	Member changes 2017-19	League Name	Member Changes 2017-19
Atlantic County	25 - 27	Mountain Lakes	76-26
Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit	64 - 51	Northern Valley	84-72
Burlington County	46 - 46	Nutley Area	14-13
Camden County	62 - 80	Plainfield	14-21
Cape May County	29 - 30	Pompton Lakes	9 - 9
East Windsor - Hightstown	28 - 23	Princeton Area	56-51
Fair Lawn	25- 29	Ridgewood	103-96
Glen Rock	33-26	Somerset and Hunterdon Counties	14-32
Greater New Brunswick Area	53-48	Southern Monmouth	58-93
Greater Red Bank Area	66-78	Sussex Highlands	30 - 33
Hillside	14-18	Teaneck	31 - 40
Hopewell Valley	21-20	Union Area	33-21
Lawrence Township	77-103	Warren and West Morris Counties	10-20
Livingston	23-19	Wayne Township	28 - 28
Maplewood- South Orange	48-63	Western Monmouth	38 - 30
Monroe Township	63-55		
Montclair Area	75-125	Members at Large	98- 63
Montville Area	6-4		
Morristown Area	84-79		
Total: 1464 – 1572			

*Leagues in bold have increased or maintained membership since 2019.
Congratulations!*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

New Jersey League of Women Voters Education Committee

Compiled by Rozella Clyde & Patricia Lang

The Education Committee was reorganized during the summer of 2020 after the challenges presented by COVID and the decision by the outgoing Chair, Jill Lewis Spector to purchase a home in Florida. Rozella Clyde and Patricia Lang agreed to serve as co-chairs. Our first Committee meeting was held virtually in September 2020. Our first goal was to determine who from the committee were ready, willing and able to continue and then to recruit new membership from as wide a geographic area around the state as possible.

Over the course of the past two years, Rozella Clyde has represented the committee at the NJ Board of Education meetings and the Healthy Schools Network traveling to Trenton for the monthly Board and the quarterly HSN meetings. With the expansion of the pandemic in March, these meetings were moved to a virtual platform. Rozella additionally picked up Jill's representation at the Our Children / Our Schools Network and joined the OC/OS Task force which examines several pandemic related issues in depth. The OC/OS network is primarily interested in the Abbott schools supported by the Education Law Center, but also addresses the needs of all New Jersey students in public, renaissance and charter, but not in private schools. Patty will focus primarily on legislative issues, most particularly now following the Civics legislation through the legislature.

The active members of our committee include *Simona Brickers* from Lawrence Township, *Marlene Burton* from Ridgewood, *Jennifer Howard* from the Princeton area, *Rozella Clyde* and *Beth Hyre* from Morristown, *Nora Kreiger* and *Rita Caldwell* from Middlesex County, *Patty Lang* from Monroe Township, *Susan Mack*, *Donna Ward* and *Jeanette Williams* from Montclair Area, *Sandy Matsen* from Somerset and Hunterdon, *Marlene Sincaglia* from Union, *Patricia Supplee* from South Monmouth, *Melissa Tomlinson* from Atlantic, *Margot Embree Fisher* from Teaneck, Bergen, *Karen Neece* from Monmouth County, , and *Sally Tayeb* from Plainfield.

During the 2020 academic year, the State Board of Education reviewed and recertified ten of the twelve curriculum area Student Learning Standards, formerly identified as Core Curriculum standards. (ELA and Math had been recertified in 2018). There is a mandate that all learning standards must be re-evaluated every five years. There were major changes to the structure and organization of the Health and Physical Education Student Learning Standards and a realignment of all twelve standards to reflect a more consistent structure. Major push back came from religious communities concerning the interpretation of the LGBTQ+ legislation. There was also reaction from school nurses and sex education specialists concerning language indicating a preference for abstinence in the sexual education portions of the standards. This language was adjusted, and the section restructured to address sexual education from a position of physical, emotional and social well-being. Emphasis has also been placed on climate change across all twelve curriculum areas and all grades. Climate Change was a major initiative advanced by First Lady Tammy Murphy who celebrated with the Board as the standards were approved.

Attention was also addressed this year toward the certification of CTE (Career and Technical Education) teachers, and the cut scores for the three types of examinations adult students pursuing GED certification take, to align New Jersey cut scores with those of our neighboring states. There were also extended discussions concerning the certification of school bus drivers following the tragic accident last years when a school bus driver attempted to make an illegal turn on interstate 80 which resulted in the loss of life when the bus was hit by oncoming traffic.

In July, Commissioner Lamont Repollet accepted a position as President of Keane University and resigned from the Board of Education. On October 20th, the Board approved the appointment of acting commissioner, **Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan**, pending approval by the State Senate.

The Our Children / Our Schools task force has pressed the Department of Education to address the issues of student mental and emotional well-being during the pandemic, to monitor the digital divide between students not just in access to hardware and equipment, but also to Wi-Fi band width, emphasizing that each student in a family must be provided with her or his own functioning devices. There are also concerns about how the districts are tracking down and addressing the needs of absent or missing students. The Task Force is presently addressing the governor's budget requests for the 2021 fiscal year.

Our committee reviewed the Study and Action positions on Education and have agreed upon the following actions. We would like to **reaffirm** our positions for Charter Schools and Private School Choice. We believe that the Tenure issue for Supervisors and Superintendents has been decided so we are in favor of **dropping** that position point. Supervisors and Superintendents across the state have been working subsequent to Contracts negotiated with their respective local school boards for many years now. There are some issues with School District Regionalization that we really believe need to be reviewed, but this is not the most pressing issue. The position concerning the State Role in Achieving Quality Education and Teacher Certification and Professional Development has not been studied or updated for decades. We do believe that it is time to do a more thorough analysis of what is happening in these areas and are interested in **updating** at least one, but possibly all three areas. If there is a need to prioritize these updates then the State Role in Achieving Quality Education is the oldest position, having last been studied eighteen years ago in 1993. In particular, we are interested in the proposed Civics education legislation which fits within the Achieving Quality Education umbrella. It has become inherently apparent that our country needs much stronger support of civics education not just within our PK-12 educational system but in all aspects of public education. Our committee would like to research the status of Civic Education in New Jersey PK-12 schools and institutions of higher education, particularly within teacher preparation programs. We have pursued the new iCivics/CivXnow Roadmap and have encouraged the national LWV US to investigate the possibility for endorsing that program.

The Amistad legislation passed in 2002 required that the Learning Standards place greater emphasis on African Americans across all twelve standards. Because the treatment has been uneven across the years, new legislation was passed this year to fund greater professional development for educators to build expertise in this area. There was also legislation in 2018 to include individuals in the LGBTQ+ and disabled communities, across all twelve PK-12 learning standards. Additionally, as noted above, there is now also a mandate to address climate change in every curricular area.

We are also interested in learning how our schools have been impacted by the pandemic's forced use of virtual and hybrid educational platforms, and how local leagues are interacting with

students in schools. For these reasons, we see a need to study these areas and update the Study and Action plan to reflect the current realities. We do not foresee these as actions that will be topics of legislation in the upcoming year, so now is an appropriate time to update our position.

Our issue of second choice would address the concept of “recertification” mentioned under teacher Certification and Professional Development. These areas have not been addressed in any major way since 1994. Educational needs have changed dramatically in the past seventeen years. School District Regionalization has been brought up from time to time and remains a political football in the New Jersey gubernatorial campaigns. We still support the League position opposing county wide school districts. This may become an area of contention during the year, so it might be more prudent to wait to address this issue during the following program year.

The following table explains the status of current legislation under consideration during the current legislative session.

Status of Education Legislation January 2021

Senate # & Intro	Assembly # & Intro		
3360 1/12/21 Referred to Education Committee	5168 12/16/20 Referred to Education Committee	Requires New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education include content on risks of cannabis and marijuana use.	https://legiscan.com/NJ/text/S3360/2020
3349 1/12/21 Referred to Education Committee	5288 1/27/21 Referred to Education Committee	Provides three-year phase-in of full funding of extraordinary special education State aid	https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A9999/5288_11.HTM
3309 1/7/21 Referred to Education Committee		Establishes "Remote Instruction and School Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission" to review New Jersey Student Learning Standards and make recommendations to ensure that students utilizing remote instruction can meet curriculum standards	https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillView.asp?BillNumber=S3309
1/14/2020 854/237 1/14/2020 1/28/2021 Passed by the Senate (33-0)	3394 1/29/2021 Received in the Assembly, Referred to Assembly Education Committee Education Committee scheduled Hearing Feb 25, 2021	"Laura Wooten's Law"; Requires civics instruction in middle school; authorizes New Jersey Center for Civic Education to provide curricula, professional development and technical assistance for middle and high school civics.*	chrome-extension://oemmndcbldboiebfnladdacbfmadadm/ https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S1000/854_S2.PDF

	5315 1/29/21 Assembly Education Committee	Requires course in civics or U.S. government as part of high school graduation requirements; requires school districts to use DOE's curriculum guidelines for civics.	https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillView.asp?BillNumber=A5315
	5264 1/12/2021 Assembly Education Committee	Requires 11th grade students to complete civics course as part of high school graduation requirements	https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A9999/5264_11.HTM
2781	4454 Passed by both Houses	Requires school districts to include instruction on diversity and inclusion as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.	https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1239174

Respectfully submitted,

Rozella Clyde and Patricia Lang, April 6, 2021.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2019-2020

Ellie Gruber co-chair

Nancy Griffeth co-chair

The LWVNJ Natural Resources Committee has had another busy two years since our last report.

We follow and review most of the environmental issues impacting New Jersey. We testify on proposed legislation and attend hearings, meetings, engage in coalition building, write letters, both as individuals and also from our extraordinarily hard working and helpful State office. We lobby our legislators on all issues involving water, air, waste disposal, recycling, climate change and energy issues. Energy issues include energy from nuclear plants, hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and also from wind and solar sources.

We advocate for clean energy, a carbon free environment and most importantly, for environmental justice for over-burdened communities. We testified at the hearing for the NJ Energy Master Plan. We congratulated Governor Murphy for re-joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

We advocate for land, water and air protections; we support efforts to protect NJ's Green Acres program from towns' proposed "diversions" for private or non-conforming uses. We supported the ban on single use plastics and Styrofoam containers.

The study of each issue is led by LWVNJ member or members who have specific expertise or live in the area that is most immediately impacted. The LWV is not an environmental organization, rather we are a public interest organization and look at issues with a more holistic view. We consider the economic impact, what is the role of government versus business, what are alternatives.

All statements, letters, testimony prepared by our committee are submitted to the LWVNJ Executive Director and President for approval. We do sign on to letters or partner with strictly environmental organizations on occasion, but only with State Office advice.

We meet by ZOOM approximately 4 times each year. We communicate by phone or email as often as needed on issues that arise. We follow proposed legislation, join coalitions, and we sign onto letters and petitions when appropriate and within our guidelines.

Areas of Concern During 2019-2020 (and to continue during the next years):

- (1) Protection of drinking water, especially in our unique areas: Highlands, Pinelands and Delaware River Basin. Together they provide water to almost every resident of New Jersey.
- (2) The Highlands and Pinelands regions of our state are under threat of development and degradation with the real possibility of damage to natural resources and public health from pipelines and compressor stations. Also, there are proposals for increased septic connections which mean more development in protected areas.
- (3) Proposed off shore wind development. We are in favor of green energy, but must study the impacts of fish, birds to ensure no harm from these stations
- (4) Decommissioning of nuclear plants in New Jersey
- (5) Other areas: hazardous waste disposal, treatment of toxic wastewater; permits for new and expanded oil and gas pipelines, along with the polluting compressor stations they require; and advocacy to ensure a full complement of Commissioners to both the Highlands and Pinelands Commissions. Our member, Joann Held, represents the LWVNJ on the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.
- (6) Sadly things are getting worse, due to the past years of Government de-regulation and favors to industry. It seems like New Jersey still has the dubious title of the Pipeline State; and none of the proposals, as well as old Penn East, will be for our benefit. There is a surplus of both natural gas and oil, so the fossil fuel companies are looking for customers in other countries.
- (7) The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. has proposed an expansion of its pipeline across northern NJ and plans to increase the compression of gas in old pipelines, including revamping one compressor station in Wantage and adding a new Compressor Station in West Milford. Increased pressure on these pipelines compromise safety.
- (8) New Jersey Natural Gas Company's Southern Reliability link pipeline across areas of the NJ Pinelands threatens a federally protected aquifer. The Penn East pipelines join with this effort to ruin our water and air and endanger the lives of our residents. None of these projects are permanently stopped, and we continue to be vigilant.
- (9) Continued threats to the Delaware River Basin, including Liquefied Natural Gas terminals, pipelines, fracked wastewater, and much more. We work with the Delaware Riverkeeper and partners in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York.

Some of our Successes:

New Jersey has some remarkable successes, including: the passage the new Climate Act, (NJPACT) which requires every Master Plan in N J to ensure its land use element recognizes impacts from planning and zoning on climate change; updated Stormwater Regulations, and the new Environmental Justice Law. This law requires NJDEP to identify every census block that meets one or more of the criteria for overburdened community and publish the information. We are proud that our members Nancy Griffeth and Joann Held who are on the statewide committee for implementation of the new law. In addition an office of Energy Equity was established in the Board of Public Utilities.

We had success in joining environmental organizations to halt the proposed 1,200 megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in North Bergen.

Through the efforts of Louise Usechak we have coordinated with the Delaware RiverKeeper network to study, lobby and comment on the dangerous Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) proposal for Gibbstown, NJ. We also successfully worked with the Leagues of PA and DE to ensure that the LWVUS filed an “amicus brief” against bomb-trains transporting LNG to this plant. With LWVS in PA, DE, NY we submitted a Comment to the Delaware River Basin Commission opposing any activity associated with hydrofracking in the Basin. And are working with the Delaware Riverkeeper on this issue as well as a dangerous proposal for the extension of the Transco- Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE). The LWVJ and individual members have written to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in opposition.

We had success in joining environmental organizations to halt the proposed 1,200 megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in North Bergen.

We opposed a NJ Transit “Resilience” Project was proposed in the Meadowlands, an enormous gas powered station which will burn 24/7 “in case” of another Sandy. While we are all in favor of resilience, groups have proven that clean energy can furnish enough resilience, so for now the project is on hold.

The good news is we have Steve and Barbara Fielder from the coastal/ Pinelands region who have been invaluable new members of the committee and alerted us to the recent NJTransit multi-use permit for expansion through 180 towns in 15 counties, impacting flora and fauna. See: www.njcoastalcoalition.com

We are studying Homegrown National Parks and the benefits of native plants and streambank remediation.

We edited the LWVNJ Study and Action, to include new environmental regulations and our positions.

Arline Lowe has kept us informed about the cleanup of contaminated sites in Pompton Lakes by DuPont. She is also reporting on the TGP, mentioned above (7).

Marie Curtis keeps us informed about all environmental concerns in New Jersey through her membership in the Environmental Summit.

Ellie Gruber reports on diversions from Green Acres properties, as well as state and local bans on gas powered lawn equipment in favor of newer, quieter and less polluting battery equipment.

All of the members of the committee offer valuable information, which enables us to learn and take action.

Finally, all of our efforts would be less effective without the advice and cooperation of the LWFNJ Board of Directors, Executive Director Jesse Burns, interns, office personnel, and LWFNJ President Nancy Hedinger.

We urge any member who has an interest in the environment and would like to learn more to join our committee. Even though these issues seem overwhelming, we are confident that anyone interested can contribute, because members of the LWF are actively involved in their communities. No expertise is required, only a belief that citizen involvement in issues can change our communities and our state for the better. To join us or just ask a question email: mandegruber@gmail.com or ndgriffeth@mac.com

LWFNJ – Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Committee: Our History

The Social Justice Committee was created May 2020 in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. We are committed to being a better partner and ally to non-white communities. We are here to lead our members and leaders into action. We are guided by the Social Policy section from the LWFUS Impact on Issues. Our first order of business was to create our Mission and Vision Statement.

Our Mission and Goals:

We envision a mutually beneficial society whereby every person interacts with each other with fairness and congeniality. As such, our mission is to collectively create and promote a usable methodology that will form sustained interdependent relationships with others while ensuring all persons are received and treated with impartiality and fair-mindedness.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is dedicated to being an anti-racist organization. We define anti-racism as consciously and actively engaging in activities that will increase the transparency of as well as dismantle systemic “separatist barriers” wherever they exist.

What we’ve completed:

- 1) Annette Scott shared with us information about the Reentry Donation Program and what we could donate and where to send it.
- 2) Kyla Allen a new member of LWF Lawrenceville Township Chapter and CEO of The Black Solidarity Group (and Rebelution Media) spoke to us at our March 2nd meeting.
- 3) Webinar with AG Gurbir Grewal. More than half of our 300 registrants attended. Of the 27 people who responded to the post-webinar survey, 90+% said it was a very informative presentation.

What we foresee...

We maintain flexibility while keeping our finger on the pulse of current social justice issues and addressing issues that require immediate attention. We will continue to support and develop relationships, forming partnerships and/or offering support to other social justice organizations.

- Continued review of the marijuana reform laws.
- Begin a thorough review of Fair Housing issues.
- Continue our support of Better Ballots initiative.
- Educate voters how to review any candidate's historical voting record.
- Track State and/or Federal bills with social justice impact.
- Police reform and accountability - share these links with communities
- Educating parolees and those on probation about their right to vote - Annette Scott
- Fighting voter disenfranchisement and voter suppression.

Advocacy

In February we had an emergency SJC meeting to create a State League advocacy action request form for bills *S2656/A5301 which require access to law enforcement disciplinary records as government records and that such records be retained for a certain period of time*. This request for action was approved by the State League.

Women and Family Issues (WFI) Committee

Submitted 1/22/21 and updated 4/22/21 by MJ O'Leary

The LWFNJ Women and Family Issues Committee is dedicated to addressing issues that impact families across the state of New Jersey. In 2020 the committee focused on building awareness of the maternal mortality crisis in the state. We also engaged with partner organizations to help shape the proposed statewide Sexual Education standards.

At the end of 2019 we hosted an educational panel of experts to address causes and potential solutions for the serious problem of maternal mortality. Local chapter Presidents received a link to the video of this session. Our 2020 work included a continuation of advocacy and awareness. A package including a panel highlights video, an overview of current pending legislation, and talking points regarding ongoing challenges was distributed to all LWFNJ Presidents for use in awareness sessions with their local members.

We joined The Thrive Coalition's Sex Ed Subcommittee in their efforts to address the need NJ students have for comprehensive sex education programs. An early release of the curriculum standards was seen as a step back in time, so we lent our support to getting these standards revised and reflective of the need for educational programs that meet the needs of today's students. We are also participating in the development of comprehensive sex education standards legislation, which is scheduled to be introduced in 2021.

Our 2021 efforts will focus on The Reproductive Freedom Act introduced to the NJ Senate and Assembly in October 2020. The State Action Request form was approved by the Board of Directors. There are

natural intersections with this legislation, our ongoing involvement with the Sexual Education standards, and our continued efforts to monitor the maternal mortality crisis in the state of NJ. The next area of focus for the WFI will be childcare.

Committee Members:

MJ O’Leary, Morris County

Lisa Culhane, Essex County

Beth Dorer, Union County

Fran Chesler, Union County

Ellen Maak, Mercer County

Metta Cahill, Mercer County

Karen Doswell, Essex County

Lanisha Mackle, Passaic County

POSITIONS IN BRIEF

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

- **Death Penalty:** Oppose capital punishment under any circumstances and for any type of crime. Life imprisonment without possibility of parole is the appropriate alternative.
- **Family Court:** Support adequate funding and training of personnel.
- **Juvenile Justice:** Support rehabilitation programs including a broad range of graduated sanctions and services and adequate funding for community based facilities. Support measures to reduce disproportionate representation of minority youth in the system and a single independent state level agency.
- **Mediation in the Municipal Courts:** Support statewide implementation of mediation programs.

EDUCATION

- **Charter Schools:** Support charter schools to encourage innovation within the public schools, while preserving the public character of public education. Traditional public school districts should be protected from arbitrary funding changes with respect to charter school funding.
- **Private School Choice:** Oppose use of public funds to support students in non-public schools.
- **Public School Funding:** See Public Education Funding under Fiscal Policy.
- **School District Regionalization:** Support decision-making by citizens of affected districts, so long as right to equal educational access is not abridged. Support merger of some types of districts into a regional district, others into single k-12 districts, and elimination of districts with less than 500 students. Support revision of decision-making process for changes in tax-allocation formula. Oppose formation of countywide districts.
- **State Role in Achieving Quality Education:** Support the sharing of responsibility between state and local school boards for educational outcomes; support state assistance and monitoring; state-set curriculum content standards, and structural flexibility.
- **Teacher Certification and Professional Development:** Support continuation and improvement of the alternative route to certification to assure substantive training, valid evaluation and appropriate support. Support periodic renewal of certification and requirement of continuing professional development.
- **Tenure:** Support elimination of tenure for administrators.

FISCAL POLICY

- **Dedication of Taxes:** Oppose the constitutional dedication of taxes.
- **Public School Funding:** Promote state fiscal measures to improve and equalize opportunities for public education including aid for school facilities and adequate support for children with special needs. Protect school districts from arbitrary funding changes. State education mandates

should be used to meet educational standards, include significant state funding and adequate time for implementation.

- **Tax and Spending Limits:** Support limits on taxation and spending by school districts, municipal, county and state governments.
- **Tax and Spending Policy:** Promote sound fiscal policies through a progressive and equitable tax structure with adequate revenue to provide state and local services to meet the needs of New Jersey citizens. Support measures to reduce dependence on the local property tax and disparities in tax rates and services among communities.

GOVERNMENT

- **Campaign Finance:** Support an open and accountable system including contribution and expenditure disclosure and limitations. Support a system of public and private funding.
- **Independent Commissions and Authorities:** Support accountability, openness, coordination in planning between commissions and authorities and oversight by executive branch.
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Support office with defined responsibilities and succession for remainder of elected term.
- **Structures and Procedures:** Support longer staggered terms and single member districts.
- **Voting Rights for Parolees and Probationers:** Support restoring voting rights to all parolees and probationers who are U.S. citizens.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Planning for Growth:** Support a comprehensive state planning policy for land use decisions which includes open space conservation, habitat preservation for biodiversity, farmland preservation, provision of low and moderate-income housing consistent with environmental policies and historic preservation. Support watershed management, storm water management, non-structural approaches to flood damage reduction in all river basins and education and enforcement programs to eliminate both non-point and point source pollution. Support a transportation planning process that provides all segments of the population with a minimum level of mobility, contributes to sound land use planning, is consistent with local and regional development goals, considers energy conservation and environmental protection and enhances the social and economic welfare of all state residents.
- **Coastal Zone:** Support planning which leads to best possible outcome for people, land and coast.
- **Radioactive Waste:** Public health and safety should be the primary considerations in managing radioactive wastes. Greater weight should be given to prevention of environmental degradation over economic constraints.
- **Solid Waste Management:** Strategies for managing municipal solid waste should be implemented in the following order: source reduction, recycling, waste-to-energy, and landfill.

SOCIAL POLICY

- **Instate Tuition:** Support extending instate tuition to unauthorized immigrants who graduate

from NJ high schools and are admitted to NJ's public institutions of higher education. In addition, if the state funds private higher education for New Jersey students, the League supports including unauthorized immigrants who would qualify for instate tuition at par in the funding formula for private colleges and universities.

- **Driving certificates for undocumented drivers:** Support "driving certificates" or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers. Support permitting and encouraging auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation:** Support use of public monies to subsidize both operating and capital costs of public transportation.

WOMEN & FAMILY ISSUES

- **Child Care:** Promote state efforts to increase the availability of quality child care service.
- **Domestic Violence:** Support measures that protect victims and survivors.
- **Family Life Education:** Support the teaching of comprehensive family life education in the public schools.
- **Legal Status of Women:** Promote laws that protect the rights of women. Support revisions of property and inheritance laws, expeditious and less costly divorce procedures, equitable distribution statutes, strengthening of laws regarding disclosure of assets and methods for collecting support payments.
- **Reproductive Rights/Public Policy on Abortion:** Support the right of the individual to make the choice of whether or not to terminate a pregnancy.
- **Human Trafficking:** Oppose all forms of human trafficking. Support programs and services to combat human trafficking, training for law enforcement, medical and other professionals, and education on internet safety. Support effective laws and policies to combat human trafficking, protection and services for victims, and unequivocal recognition that victims are not criminals. Oppose discrimination and violence against women.
- **Sexual Assaults in the College Community:** Support policies and programs to combat sexual misconduct and sexual assault on college campuses. Support early and ongoing preventive measures; education on consent, policies, and other relevant information; counseling and protection for victims; and an active role by campus administration in combating sexual misconduct and assault.

Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance

Please also review Parliamentary Guidance for Virtual Meetings (next section) for more information.

The motions are listed in order of precedence. Whatever motion is on the floor, each motion above it is “in order” and will be considered, while each motion below it is “out the door” and cannot be considered at that time.

To Do This	Your Motion Is	Need a Second	Motion Debatable	Motion Amendable	Vote Required
Adjourn meeting	I move to adjourn.	YES	NO	NO	Majority
Recess the meeting	I move to recess.	YES	NO	YES	Majority
Complaint: noise, etc.	Point of Privilege (May interrupt speaker)	NO	NO	NO	Chair rules; may be appealed
Delay consideration (See also Postpone)	I move to table the motion (See Take from Table)	YES	NO	NO	Majority
Close debate	I move the previous question.	YES	NO	NO	2/3 Vote
Limit/Extend debate	I move to limit/extend debate to	YES	NO	YES	2/3 Vote
Postpone consideration to specific time	I move to postpone this matter until...	YES	YES	YES	Majority
Have something studied further	I move to refer this matter to a (specify) committee.	YES	YES	YES	Majority
Amend a motion (an amendment may be amended only once)	I move to amend by (adding, striking out, inserting, or a combination of the two).	YES	YES	YES	Majority
Introduce business (original main motion)	I move that...	YES	YES	YES	Majority

The motions listed below have no established order of precedence.

To Do This	Your Motion Is	Need a Second	Motion Debatable	Motion Amendable	Vote Required
Object to procedure	Point of order. (May interrupt speaker)	NO	NO	NO	Chair rules; may be appealed
Ask for a standing vote (before other business starts)	I call a division of the house.	NO	NO	NO	None
Ask for a counted vote	I move for a count.	YES	NO	NO	Majority
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move to take from the table.	YES	NO	NO	Majority
Reconsider a vote: 1. Mover must have voted on the prevailing side. 2. No vote may be twice reconsidered	I move to reconsider the vote on (further action after the second may be taken at a later time).	YES	YES: if original motion debatable	NO	Majority if carried, motion is before house as though no action has been taken.
Request information about a subject matter or parliamentary procedure	I request a point of information about: the subject under debate; or the correct parliamentary procedure to	NO	NO	NO	Chair answers or refers question to someone else.
Consider something out of its scheduled order or suspend a convention rule	I move to change the order of business. (Suspend the rules)	YES	NO	NO	2/3 Vote
Challenge a ruling by the Chair	I appeal the Chair's decision.	YES	YES	NO	Majority vote in the negative

Parliamentary Guidance for Virtual Meetings

Much of this Guide is taken and adapted from a presentation prepared by Barbara Rosi for the League of Women Voters of the United States Virtual Convention. We are grateful for her expertise.

The customary LWVUS and LWNJ rules and procedures followed during Plenary have been adapted for a virtual meeting and will be adopted at the beginning of Convention. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition, is the parliamentary authority designated in the LWNJ Bylaws. These rules are in practice at a full range of meetings from local organizations, such as your local League, to national and international governing bodies. The framework of Robert's Rules is not meant to stifle anyone or inhibit debate—or confuse anyone! —but rather to encourage participation and offer a structure by which the business at hand can be discussed and decisions can be made in an efficient and effective manner.

Making and Debating Motions

- Business is introduced to the delegation in the form of a main motion. A main motion is a formal proposal that the delegation take certain action.
- A motion made on behalf of an entity, such as a League, the Board or a committee, does not require a second. A motion made by a member needs a second to proceed.
- The Chair then restates the motion, putting it “on the floor” for debate and a vote.
- The maker of a motion is entitled to speak first to explain the rationale, that is the reason(s) the motion should be adopted.
 - To seek recognition to speak, to make a motion or in debate please use the Q&A function.
 - Send a message through Q&A that includes:
 - Your Name
 - Your League
 - To make motion: Motion #
 - During debate: The words PRO or CON
- During debate on motions, keep your remarks to one minute.
- Tips to help expedite the business:
 - write down what you are going to say;
 - stay on topic; and
 - bring new information to the discussion.

Business is introduced to the delegation in the form of a main motion. A main motion is a formal proposal that the assembly take certain action.

An online form will be set up for delegates to input their motions. **Main motions must be submitted prior to the end of the first plenary session on Saturday Morning.** This motion will be sent to staff who create the appropriate slides and share with the Chair. The motion will

then need to be made verbally from the floor at the appropriate time. Delegates making motions will be called on and their microphone will be unmuted.

Once unmuted begin by stating your name, League and state. If you are making a main motion or an amendment, refer to the motion by the number printed on the bottom, for example, "My name is Jane Doe, LWV of Happy Town, Illinois, my motion is number 001" and then read your motion, starting with, "I move that..." If the motion is being made on behalf of your League, then state, "On behalf of [League], I move that..."

A motion made on behalf of an entity (such as a League, the Board, a committee) does not require a second. Motions made by a delegate require another member to "second the motion" or simply indicate "second." These responses should be typed in the Q&A, not the Chat. The Chair then restates the motion, putting it "on the floor," so to speak, for debate and vote. The maker of a motion is entitled to speak first to explain the rationale, that is the reason(s) the motion should be adopted.

To seek recognition from the Chair to speak send a message through the Q&A function that includes your name, League, motion #, and pro or con. Once unmuted begin by stating your name, League; and whether you are speaking IN FAVOR or OPPOSED to the pending motion. During debate, keep your remarks to one minute. Timing will be especially important in this virtual setting.

Making and Amending Motions

- When there is a main motion being discussed on the floor, delegates may propose changes to the main motion. The different forms for amending are to insert or add, to strike out, to strike out and insert, or to substitute.
- Since most of the business for plenary is required to be "noticed" before convention, that is, distributed for delegate preview, proposed primary amendments:
 - must be germane (relate to the subject of the motion) cannot introduce something new; and within the scope of what was noticed (not a greater action); and
 - must be submitted in writing online.
- If an amendment is moved and seconded, delegates can only speak about the motion to amend and the idea it represents. If someone wants to propose a different amendment, they must wait until after the vote on the first amendment.
- With the explanation just given we work our way back when voting, that is a vote on the secondary amendment, then on the primary amendment, bringing the debate and vote back to the main motion. This is the time when a different amendment may be proposed to the main motion.
- After all amendments have been disposed of and debate has ended, delegates are asked to vote on the main motion [or main motion as amended].

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The LWVNJ Bylaws require notice of three months prior to Convention for Program Items and Concurrences to come before the delegation. Proposed Bylaws Amendments and Proposed Budget require notice of six weeks prior to Convention and the Slate of Nominees requires one month notice before the Convention. This information is distributed as written to be proposed on the floor. Robert's Rules advises that when notice is required, there are limits to amending those items of business on the floor because there is the expectation of the scope of the proposed action to be taken.

Proposing a change to a Bylaws amendment being presented is allowed only within a very narrow scope; the proposals for concurrence are, by League rule, not amendable; and the Program has its own process for amending in considering Not Recommended Items. It is also determined that members must fill out the online form when making amendments. It is feasible and orderly for this process considering time and logistics of the virtual session. If an amendment is duly proposed, delegates can only speak about the motion to amend and the idea it represents. If someone wants to propose a different amendment, they must wait until after the vote on the first amendment. However, a secondary amendment may be proposed to make a change to the [first aka] primary amendment and, with that, discussion and vote is only on the proposed change to the primary amendment.

No more than one primary amendment and one secondary amendment are permitted to be pending at a time.

With the explanation just given we work our way back when voting, that is a vote on the secondary amendment, then on the primary amendment, bringing the debate and vote back to the main motion. This is the time when a different amendment may be proposed to the main motion.

After all amendments have been disposed of and debate has ended, delegates are asked to vote on the main motion [or main motion as amended]. Here is an example on how it flows.....

Main motion: "I move we purchase a computer."

Primary amendment: "I move to amend the motion by adding the words "at a cost not to exceed \$1,000."

Secondary amendment: "I move to amend the primary amendment by striking out \$1,000 and inserting \$2,000."

Don't forget to vote on the main motion as amended.

Main motion: "I move we purchase a computer at a cost not to exceed \$2,000."

Review steps in this example.

Main motion: "I move we purchase a computer at a cost not to exceed \$2,000."

Subsidiary motion: "I move the Previous Question." Second.

Chair: "The Previous Question has been moved and seconded to close debate. Those in favor, raise your right hand. You may lower them. Those opposed, raise your right hand. You may lower them. There being two-thirds in the affirmative, the motion is adopted and debate is closed."

Don't forget to vote on the main motion:

Main Motion: "The question is...(restate main motion and take vote)

Previous Question: When a member believes there has been enough debate on the motion(s), a delegate recognized by the Chair may "call the question." Note that this is not what LWVUS has considers a 'Red Card' motion. The member must be recognized in the course of debate. This motion is to end debate and have the delegates vote immediately. This may be in the form to vote on the immediately pending motion or all pending motions. The Chair then calls for a vote on whether to end debate. With a two-thirds vote, debate ends, and then the Chair calls the vote on the pending motion(s).

Main motion: "I move we purchase a computer at a cost not to exceed \$2,000."

Subsidiary Motion: "I move to Lay on the Table the pending motion." Second.

For what purpose? This is to set aside temporarily and then take from the table and continue.

OR Subsidiary Motion: "I move to Postpone Indefinitely the pending motion." Second.

To kill the motion for this session. The motion can be renewed at a future meeting.

There is widespread misunderstanding of the use of the motion Lay on the Table. Let's take a look at that by this chart and learn the correct motion for action intended. Lay on the Table: The processing of a motion can be interrupted if a matter of an urgent nature needs to be taken care of by moving to "Lay on the Table" the pending motion. This requires a majority vote. After the urgent matter is taken care of, any member may move to "Take from the Table" the motion that was set aside temporarily and continue processing.

Other Motions: Point of Order

- A member may interrupt with a “Point of Order” if rules are not being followed.
- The Chair will ask the member to state the point.
- The Chair rules on whether the point is well taken and corrects procedure or is not well taken.
- If the member does not agree, a motion can be made to Appeal the Decision of the Chair. Needs a second.
- Chair further explains decision and there is debate. Chair can speak last before vote is taken.
- Vote is taken and assembly decides whether to uphold the decision of the Chair. This vote cannot be appealed.

A Point of Order is used to call attention to improper procedure and it is given immediate recognition. There is a process to question and remedy, if needed.

Other Motions: Red Card

- Request for Information: Seek urgent information necessary before making a decision.
- Parliamentary Inquiry: Ask for direction on a parliamentary procedure.
- Question of Privilege: Relating to operation of the assembly or comfort of the delegates.
- Reconsider a Vote: Can only be made by a delegate who voted on the prevailing side and only on same or next succeeding day. Requires second. Other rules may apply.

The first two of these must be posed as a question. What is your question? Cannot get into discussion. The next may be inability to hear the audio on a virtual meeting, perhaps static or interference. Action should be taken to remedy, if possible. To Reconsider a Vote that has been taken has specific time restrictions. **When submitting in Zoom using the Q&A – in addition to your name, also indicate: Point of Order, Question, Reconsider**

How this works in Zoom

The following is how we will handle receiving and presenting motions and amendments in Zoom. **All actions from the floor such as seconding, a point of order, questions or motion to reconsider should be done in Zoom using the Q&A function.**

- Main Motions: Submitted via an online form; Then use Q&A to be recognized
- Amendments to Motions: Submitted via an online form; Then use Q&A to be recognized
- Second/Point of Order/Questions/Reconsider: Submit in Zoom using the Q&A

Voting

- Unanimous Consent
 - Hand raising function to object
- Votes on Amending Main Motions
 - Hand raising function
- Votes on Main Motions
 - Hand raising function; zoom poll

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

We would like to thank and acknowledge the outgoing board members, Ann Saunders, Ellen Kemp, Kathy Abbott, Katharine Schumacher, Mike Ward and Patricia Williamson. Each one of them has served with distinction, giving generously of their time and talent, particularly in this difficult year. They are stepping off the board but not out of the League and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors. We also welcome and look forward to working with the new board. The members and supporters of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey are fortunate to have such a talented leadership team this biennium, committed to our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

Thanks to all who have made this virtual Convention a success. A special note of appreciation to the 2021 Convention Planning Committee, Shannon Currie, Jason DeAlessi, Elia Desruisseaux, Janice Flemings, Katie Mauro, Lauren McCaskill, Evelyn Murphy, Nancy Sabino, and Donna Ward. We are grateful for your thoughtful planning, creativity and time commitment. Special thanks to Ed Gracely, whose work on Program Planning and the Budget are greatly appreciated. True to his word, Ed continues to contribute to the League in big ways as an off-board member. Thanks also to Terry Thompson, another valuable off-board member, for her assistance with the Bylaws revisions. Shannon Sun, our Parliamentarian, helped us work our way through applying Roberts Rules to a virtual Convention - no a small task!

To all the members who helped create and present the workshops, panels and caucuses leading up to Convention, thank you! I hope our members have a better understanding of the work we do in state committees and that some have been motivated to join. And I also hope those who attended the Voter Services, Membership, Fundraising, Organizing, and the plethora of local League workshops left with new ideas to share with your own Leagues.

This Convention and the week leading up to it is made possible only through the tireless efforts of our staff Jesse Burns, Assatta Mann, Melissa Marks, Fatima Munshi, Philip Hensley and Pat Thompson. Moving a Convention to a virtual platform is much more difficult than it appears. Our staff marketed and did the back-end work needed to ensure all 25 pre-Convention workshops, caucuses and panels went off without a hitch. The hosted numerous rehearsals and were here today to ensure we got through the business of Convention smoothly. Thanks for their patience, persistence, and positive attitudes!

To all who contributed in any way, we thank you. Whether large or small, your efforts to make our 64th Biennial Convention a success is greatly appreciated.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey: Meet the Staff



Jesse Burns, Executive Director: Jesse has been with the League of Women Voters of New Jersey since 2007, leading the organization for the last five years. During that time, the League has strengthened its position as a critical, influential, and trusted voting rights and civic engagement organization, educating hundreds of thousands of voters about important election and advancing equitable policy reforms. Under Jesse's leadership, the organization has added several new chapters, tripled its staff, and has been instrumental in passing several pieces of voting rights legislation including online voter registration, automatic voter registration, an end to prison-based gerrymandering, in-person early voting, and rights restoration for people on parole and probation.



Philip Hensley, Democracy Policy Analyst: Philip uses his campaign experience, policy chops and redistricting expertise to support the League of Women Voters of New Jersey's advocacy campaigns. Prior to joining LWVNJ, he managed campaigns for Congress and local and state offices, and helped lead student voting outreach efforts with the Campus Vote Project in Pennsylvania. Philip earned a Bachelors degree in Political Science from McGill University in Montréal, Québec, Canada.



Assatta Mann, Community Organizer: A lifelong resident of the city of Passaic, Assatta earned a degree in Political Science from Rutgers University – Newark. Before joining the League, Assatta worked on electoral campaigns where she focused on forming powerful coalitions between grassroots community organizations and turning out key voting constituencies. Assatta is focused on mobilizing League members, volunteers, and community partners around an organizing strategy that builds lasting power to secure legislative and policy wins.



Melissa Marks, Community Organizer: Melissa grew up in New York and graduated from Lehigh University in 2017 where she studied the environment, political science, and business. After graduating she worked in environmental advocacy with Clean Water Action. As Canvass Director she was able to develop future activists and fight for environmental protections. In her new role as a Community Organizer at LWVNJ, Melissa is excited to expand her impact by educating residents and advancing representative policies.



Fatima Munshi, Development Associate: Fatima supports the League of Women Voters of New Jersey's long-term vision of building power for the next generation of women leaders and voting rights activists. Fatima works to advance the League's fundraising goals and connect New Jersey voters with the League's mission. She holds four years of experience serving in diverse roles across the social impact sector. Fatima earned her undergraduate degree in Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government (CLEG) from American University in Washington, D.C.



Pat Thompson has been the Office Manager for the League of Women Voters of New Jersey for fifteen years. In that capacity, Pat keeps the League's daily operations running by being the first point of contact for all phone and email inquiries, maintaining the state's member roster and database, and coordinating the assignments of moderators for candidate forums across the state. Pat also interacts extensively with all local Leagues, providing technical assistance and guidance to local leaders. Pat spent over 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry, taught exercise classes at the local YMCA and was the caretaker of an old Victorian building. She enjoys walking, movies and her neighborhood book club.

Honorary Lifetime Members

Those in **bold** have been added since our last convention.

Enid Alpern	Frances Goldberg	Marjorie Levy	Janice Robbins
Mary Appel	Bobbie Goldstein	Selma Lichtenberg	Vi Ruschman
Diane Armington	Sally Goodson	Marilyn Linder	Brietta Savoie
Evelyn Auerbach	Ellie Gruber	Helen Lindsay	Rosalie Scheckel
Joan Azzarello	Grace Hagedorn	Amy Liss	Pat Sebold
Peg Baker	Barbara Hallows	Alice Logie	Phoebe Seham
Ruth Banks	Sonia Hamberg	Ellie Lubin	Norma Seixas
Bernice Berger	Rose Harris	Nancy MacNeill	Shirley Shapiro
Carole Bernstein	Bobbie Hass	May Martin	Grace Sinden
Cynthia Bernstein	Joan Hecht	Reba Martin	Frances Smith
Glory Bowen	Lucy Heller	Millicent McBride	Marcia Smith
Earlene Cancilla	Sydelle Hirsh	Priscilla McKenna	Willa Spicer
Gwen Canfield	Marjory Hirshberg	Myrna Miller	Barbara Starr
Belem Carlin	Sophie Heymann	Alice Moskowitz	Marilyn Statland
R. Dawn Clarke	Ellen Hock	Doris Moss	Judith Stewart
Shirley Cobert	Caroline Huber	Mary Nash	Gail Swain
Lorraine Cohen	Leah Janus	Edith Neimark	Camille Terracciano
Joanna Conrad	Mary Lee Jones	Jane Neuviller	Jane Thompson
Lenore Danielson	Marcia Kastan	Marie Nigro	Terry Thompson
Frances Davis	Pat Kenschaft	Joan Noakes	Barbara Trought
Jane Diepeveen	Jean Klerman	Nancy O'Reilly	Lynn Uhrig
Sandra Dols	Carol Kurtz	Edith Oxfeld	Jeanne Unger
Eloise Douglas	Carolyn Lack	Estelle Perry	Joyce Usiskin
Elizabeth Elmendorf	Terry Last	Sandra Rabinowitz	Jeanne Van Steen
Pauline Fishkin	Susan Lederman	Jane Rappaport	Doris Weisberg
Doris Forman	Irma Leeds	Ingrid Reed	Lee Whildin
Kay Gellert	Marian Leibowitz	Mattie Reed	Diana Wing
Barbara Goldberg	Annemarie Godvin	Lois Riskin	Joyce Zeiller
		Renée Robbins	