



League of Women Voters of New Jersey

65TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Team League: Moving Forward Together

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WELCOME, DELEGATES AND VISITORS!

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey welcomes you to our 65th Biennial State Convention. We are excited to welcome you back together for an in-person event! We encourage you to carefully review this workbook before you arrive. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact Jennifer M. Howard, President at jhoward@lwvnj-board.com.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Officers

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Jennifer M. Howard |
| <i>First Vice President</i> | Iveth P. Mosquera |
| <i>Second Vice President</i> | Deborah McComber |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Susan Sferas |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Janet Fisher-Hughes |

Directors

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Jessica Backofen | Lucienne Beard | Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell |
| Jason DeAlessi | Jin Hwang | Mariel Mercado-Guevara |
| Lauren F. Nance | Henal Patel | Kelly Shea |
| Anne Torre | | |

Off-Board Elected and Appointed Positions

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Chair, Nominations Committee</i> | Evelyn C. Murphy |
| <i>Chair, Budget Committee</i> | Ed Gracely |

Staff

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Executive Director</i> | Jesse Burns |
| <i>Democracy Policy Analyst</i> | Philip Hensley |
| <i>Operations Coordinator</i> | Elissa Kapp |
| <i>Community Organizer</i> | Assatta Mann |
| <i>Community Organizer</i> | Melissa Marks |

Basic Convention Information

Convention Check-In and Breakfast: 8:00 am

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, an usher can direct you to the appropriate microphone, give our point of order or point of information cards, or help you write a motion.
- Review the LWVNJ proposed budget, current and proposed bylaws, and current and proposed program and watch the pre-convention webinars 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:



Scan for Convention Homepage

Non-Voting Guests must also pre-register. They may not vote or address the Convention, but will be able to listen to presentations, discussions, and attend workshops.

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, non-voting guests, 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 may be by voice, standing/hand raising, or with voting cards with the chair deciding the method, unless directed by the delegate body. No one may enter or leave while a vote is in progress.

MOTIONS: All main motions and amendments shall be written on a Motions/Amendment form. A staff member or other volunteer will submit the form to the chair. It will then be handed to the Secretary for official documentation, assignment of a number for the record, and the staff will enable the motion to be projected on the screen for all to view.

DELEGATES AND DISCUSSION:

- A speaker shall use a microphone and announce name and League when addressing the convention.
- Debate and discussion shall be limited to 10 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 5 minutes. The total time for considering any single bylaws article, including questions, discussion and amendments, shall not exceed 20 minutes.
- 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 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 (afternoon plenary).

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 5 minutes, with each speaker allowed one minute. Debate on each non-recommended item will be limited to 5 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 and must be given to the secretary 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 to the secretary 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 – Jennifer M. Howard, President, League of Women Voters of New Jersey

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 8:00 am | Registration and Breakfast |
| 8:30 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 |
| 9:15 am | Presentations and Reports Proposed Budget Proposed Bylaws Strategic Plan |
| 10:15 am | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:30 am | Workshops |
| 11:30 – 1:50 pm | Lunch Awards and 50 year member recognition Panel Discussion: <i>Working in Coalition to Defend Democracy</i> |
| 2:00 – 2:30 pm | Caucus |
| 2:45 – 3:30 pm | 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 |
| 3:30 – 4:00 pm | Direction to the Board President’s Closing Address |

A Simple Guide to Using QR Codes at Convention

QR codes are a type of barcode that can be scanned using a smartphone camera. You will see QR codes throughout this workbook and around the convention – they are a convenient and quick way to access our donation page or other information without having to type in the URL or search through our website.

To use a QR code, follow these simple steps:

1. Open your smartphone camera app or QR code reader app.
2. Point your camera at the QR code on our poster or promotional material.
3. Your phone should automatically recognize the QR code and provide you with a link.
4. Select the link to view the content or donation options.

Your Support Makes Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is building political power to secure legislative victories, training the next generation of activists to protect democracy, and expanding our local League services to better serve our communities. This work is only possible with your financial support.

The League has a bold vision for the next few years, and we know that we must grow our presence and power in this unpredictable landscape. With you by our side, we will have the necessary resources to be prepared for whatever may come our way. Please make a donation today.



Questions? Ask a staff member! We are happy to assist you.

PROGRAM PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023 - 2025

Recommended Items for 2023 – 2025:

The items below will be addressed at Convention and require a majority vote to adopt.

POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board of Directors recommends that the League of Women Voters of New Jersey retain all current positions for the 2023 – 2025 biennium.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDED STUDIES

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board of Directors recommends a Reparations Study for adoption at convention.

Six Local Leagues Recommend a Reparations Study: Camden County, East Windsor-Hightstown, Fair Lawn, Livingston, Northern Valley, Paterson

Reparations: The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is part of a coalition supporting the passage of A938/S387, a bill that establishes “The New Jersey Reparations Task Force to conduct research and develop reparatory proposals and recommendations to address the general harms caused by New Jersey’s role in America’s institution of slavery and its legacy of systemic racial discrimination.” If the legislation passes, the task force will have two years to complete its research and make wide-ranging strategic policy recommendations to address NJ’s racial inequities. When these recommendations are issued, there will inevitably be legislation to carry them out. LWWNJ will only be able to support or oppose these recommendations if we have a position on reparations, which we currently do not have.

The scope of the proposed study might include the following:

1. Are reparations an appropriate response to wealth gaps caused by past discriminations?
2. If yes, which groups should be considered for reparations?
3. If reparations are an appropriate response, should reparations be given to individuals or should they take the form of corrections to policies or systems that have contributed to the wealth gap? Should reparative measures address both individuals and systems?
4. If reparations take the form of payments to individuals, what criteria should be used to determine eligibility and from where will the funds be derived?

The Program Planning committee recommends that the board recommend the Reparations study for adoption at Convention.

Non-Recommended Items

Note that these items MAY be addressed at Convention. They require both a majority vote to consider and, if approved for consideration, a two-thirds vote to adopt. 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.

Non-recommended Studies

- Alternative Election Systems (Fairlawn and Northern Valley): Recommend a study on alternative election systems, including use of Ranked Choice Voting. Note that the LWVUS current position on Voter representation/Electoral systems as shown in Impact on Issues already represents a compilation of positions adopted by state Leagues in AZ, CA, CO, CO, FL, MA, ME, MN, NC, OK, OR, PA, SC, VT, WA, and established LWVUS principles on representation."
- Rationale for not recommending this study: The LWVUS has already created a position that compiles studies done by many state Leagues. LWVNJ can act based on the national position. Furthermore, a detailed white paper on the various methods and their implications in New Jersey is being undertaken and would 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.
- Livingston: The problem of disinformation across media platforms. Related to this we would further study on increasing bias and a general lack of civility.
- Rationale for not recommending this study: Only one League recommended this study and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey does not have the capacity to conduct more than one study at a time.
- Montclair: Municipal Consolidation
- Rationale for not recommending this study: Only one League recommended this study and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey does not have the capacity to conduct more than one study at a time.

Non-Recommended Updates

Administration of Justice - Juvenile Justice: Does this include mental health services? FAIR LAWN

Education

Charter Schools

Charter schools' selection criteria may not be fair. Do they really provide a better education? Lack of need to provide annual reports is troubling. What innovations have been found? Are they being shared. Are charter schools bound by the state curriculum directives? FAIR LAWN

We recommend updating this position based on studying the effects funding and retaining talent in public schools, and looking at outcomes in the charter schools. Has the existence of charter schools really encouraged innovation in the public schools? What are the standards for teachers in charter schools? LIVINGSTON

LWV Teaneck reiterates its opposition to Charter Schools. However, recognizing that Charter Schools will remain and continue to grow, and after extensive discussion about LWVNJ's positions on both Charter Schools and public school and public education funding (Items 14, 18 and 30), we recommend an Updated study. Details provided later in this form.

We are not asking for an entirely new study but for an update on the inter-related topics of Charter Schools and public school public education financing. Would consider changes to promote more: 1) Equitable budget and funding for education in all NJ school districts.2) More public oversight over charter schools.3) Consider changes for raising revenue for public education instead of just through property taxes. Margot Embree Fisher and Judi Samuels-Ramos volunteer to work with the LWV NJ Education Committee on the subject of equitable public education in NJ. TEANECK

Reexamine for results: Has it been effective? What effect does it have on religious schools, the effect on public education and the quality of education? GLEN ROCK

Concerned about school funding being diverted from public schools to charter Schools. PATERSON

School District Regionalization:

Request clarification why countywide districts opposed. Also, we would like a clearer definition of "regional district." Unsure of the basis for supporting some mergers and opposing others. MONTCLAIR AREA

Teacher Certification

Members agreed on the need for continuing education but wanted a clarification regarding who needs recertification and at what intervals. TEANECK

Tenure

Need information on why tenure should not be eliminated for teachers too. Why should it not be at high school and elementary levels too? MONTCLAIR AREA

Fiscal Policy - Public Education Funding: See Teaneck submission under Charter Schools

Government

Campaign Finance Reform

Support open and accountable campaign financing at local level too. MONTCLAIR AREA

Voting Rights Parolee/Probationers

Please rename parolees and probationers as people on parole and probation. FAIRLAWN

Should be updated based on new laws in NJ. MORRISTOWN AREA

Social Policy

Driving Certificates Undocumented

Concern for providing undocumented drivers with more options than citizen/resident drivers. PATERSON

Instate Tuition

Update "unauthorized" to undocumented. FAIR LAWN

Women and Family Issues

Child Care

Perhaps post Covid, details of this should be revisited. In addition, there may be need for more mental and emotional health support for children in childcare facilities. Also, in light of active shooter drills. Also revisit post covid health guidelines. FAIR LAWN

We are not calling for an update of the study but rather recommending that the language be updated. We recommend an Update on the Women & Family issues section overall to make it more inclusive and reflective of current demographic, economic and legal environments. While the categories of topics and position statements currently adopted remain important, we recommend that the language and positions should be updated. For example, the child care discussion is presented with references to women's responsibilities and the impact on women, which is very important. However, in today's world, we suggest that child care should be recast/considered in terms of an evolved family issue that has an impact on responsibilities for spouses/partners, etc. and on employment opportunities for all involved. TEANECK

Family Life Education

In light of the current environment, this should be revisited, perhaps with regard to the increased resistance to accepting diverse family dynamics. FAIR LAWN

Legal Status of Women

Update pg. 82 to more fully include older women recognizing a change in condition and demographics. FAIR LAWN

This policy should be updated to reflect the economic security needs of women as they age. Change in demographics shows population growth in the elderly and expectations for women to live longer (due to advances in medical care). In addition, wage inequality between men and women and diminished earnings due to time off for child-bearing, child-raising, and care-taking result in economic issues that should be added to this League policy. NORTHERN VALLEY

We are not calling for an update of the study but rather recommending that the language be updated. We recommend an Update on the Women & Family issues section overall to make it more inclusive and reflective of current demographic, economic and legal environments. While the categories of topics and position statements currently adopted remain important, we recommend that the language and positions should be updated. TEANECK

Reproductive Rights/Public Policy on Abortion

We recommend the following: Support access to contraception, and the availability of medical services to all New Jersey residents and to those coming from other states. LIVINGSTON

Sexual Assault in the College Community

Update language "men and women" to include those who do not define themselves as men or women. FAIR LAWN

Include high schools and workplaces. GLEN ROCK

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 24 and 25 follow. Delegates adopt both NJ budgets at convention. The EF Board of Trustees adopts the EF budgets.

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 LWVNJ and LWVNJ-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 15-16% of expected income. The Advocacy Appeal only supports LWVNJ. The Annual Appeal and Direct Mail support both entities at donor discretion.
- Membership dues, together, local League per-member-payments (PMP) and State Administered Local League (SALL) and Member-at-Large (MAL) dues account for about 10% of annual income. NJ PMP remains at \$23/member. It was last raised in 2007. Note that for FY 25 we expect the LWVUS plan to begin collecting all dues and distributing an appropriate amount back to state and local Leagues to take effect. This renders comparisons to earlier years difficult.
- Reimbursement from the Education Fund for shared staff and office costs account for close to 70% of NJ income in both years.

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

LWVNJ expenses include major expansions of program from just a few years ago. 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 even exceeded 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 (like in the last cycle) budgeting for some large

corporation or foundation gifts -- these have become a fairly reliable source of income. 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, unfortunately, now operates at a deficit, because all costs have risen and we need to budget substantially more than in the past for routine maintenance (income EF line 18, expenses EF line 48). Insurance, audit, building maintenance and other fixed costs continue to rise.

Budgets are a guide. Although the proposed LWNJ-EF budget anticipates a deficit, we believe a number of initiatives under way will be achieved in the next fiscal year to reduce or eliminate the deficit. We continue to seek grant funding, membership is increasing and our online giving is growing. We ask you to approve the proposed LWNJ budgets for FY24 and FY25.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Gracely, Budget Chair
Lucy Beard, LWNJ Board
Susan Sferas, LWNJ Treasurer, ex officio
Janet Fisher-Hughes, LWNJ Board
Ellen Kemp, LWV Princeton Area
Jesse Burns, Executive Director, staff advisor

**Proposed LWNJ Budget
FY 24 and FY 25**

Scan the QR code below for full proposed budgets, including historical budget data.



| League of Women Voters of New Jersey | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | FY23 Budget Proposed | FY23 Actual | FY24 Budget Proposed | FY25 Budget Proposed | Notes |
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Development Income | | | | | |
| 1- Advocacy Support Appeal | \$15,000 | \$13,622 | \$20,000 | \$25,000 | Spring/Summer Fundraising Appeal (members and non-members) |
| 3 - Board Gifts | \$8,000 | \$4,125 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | We are working to increase board gifts |
| 4 - Annual Appeal (members) | \$28,000 | \$16,465 | \$50,000 | \$62,500 | Member Fundraising Appeal. Mail and Call (Callathon) |
| 5 - Direct Mail (non members) | \$12,500 | \$6,121 | \$15,000 | \$20,000 | Non-member fundraising appeal |
| NEW - Corporate/Foundation | \$7,500 | \$65,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | New line based on successful fundraising over past couple of years |
| Centennial Campaign | \$0 | \$3,000 | \$0 | \$0 | This campaign is over |
| 6 - General Fundraising | \$6,200 | \$2,888 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | unsolicited & MAL donations over dues, |
| 7 - Tributes/Memorial | \$1,500 | \$4,185 | \$2,000 | \$2,500 | |
| 8 - Bequest | | | \$0 | \$0 | |
| 8a - Fair Districts restricted funds | | | | | We do not expect more funds for this line |
| 9 – Sub Total | \$78,700 | \$115,406 | \$117,000 | \$140,000 | |
| Dues & Member Participation | | | | | |
| 10 - LL Insurance (General liability) | \$2,700 | \$2,800 | \$0 | \$0 | LL buy liability ins. at \$100/year. I think LWVNJ should absorb this cost for locals OR offer more coverage at a higher cost (JB) |
| 11 - Local League PMP | \$26,500 | 25,894 | \$41,469 | \$0 | PMP due to LWVNJ from Local Leagues. In FY 25 the dues collection process shifts to US |
| 12 - Membership dues that come to LWVNJ | \$20,000 | 13,226 | \$20,000 | \$54,650 | 25: reflects the US collection and distribution of dues |
| 13 - NJ Convention | \$10,000 | \$5,933 | \$0 | \$15,000 | 100 attendees at \$150. expenses NJ line 46 |
| 14 – Sub Total | \$59,200 | \$47,853 | \$61,469 | \$69,650 | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Office Costs Reimbursed by EF | | | | | |
| 15 - Office Costs from Operations | \$322,766 | \$268,267 | \$415,774 | \$476,707 | 80% NJ line 42. % based on time sheets |
| 16 - Pres., Bd. & Comm. Reimb. | \$600 | \$90 | \$1,750 | \$1,750 | 50% NJ line 51 |
| 17 - Development Costs Reimb | \$6,300 | \$5,955 | \$12,000 | \$13,500 | 60% NJ line 28 & 29 % based on 3 yr average of income raised. WE need to calculate if that calculation remains accurate |
| Civic engagement | | | | | |
| 18 - Annual Appeal LL share Reimb. | \$0 | | | | Combined with line 17 |
| 19 - Communications & Marketing | \$2,000 | \$1,071 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | 50% NJ line 50. |
| PPP Loan | | | | | |
| 20 - LWVUS Convention/Council | \$1,000 | \$432 | \$3,250 | \$5,000 | 50% line 47 |
| 21 – Sub Total | \$332,666 | \$275,815 | \$435,274 | \$499,457 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$470,566 | \$439,074 | \$613,743 | \$709,107 | |
| EXPENSE | | | | | |
| Administration Expense | | | | | |
| 22 - Audit & 990 preparation | \$6,500 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$12,500 | Audit cost is paid out of EF and NJ. See EF line 25 The EF audit costs more |
| 23 - Bank Charges | \$100 | \$0 | \$100 | \$100 | |
| 24 - Filing Fees, Reports | \$200 | \$183 | \$200 | \$200 | Charity registration \$150 & Corporate annual report \$30 |
| 25 – Insurance | \$3,000 | \$10,754 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | Complicated calculation |
| 26 – Sub Total | \$9,800 | \$20,937 | \$15,300 | \$17,800 | |
| Development Expense | | | | | |
| 27 - Advocacy Campaign | \$4,000 | \$4,008 | \$6,000 | \$7,000 | Supplies, printing & mailing. One mailing each year NJ only |
| 28 - Annual Appeal & Direct Mail | \$7,000 | \$5,319 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | Both campaigns done at same time--total cost for supplies, printing, mailing. Includes bulk mail permit |
| 29 - Annual Appeal LL Share | \$3,500 | \$4,518 | \$10,000 | \$12,500 | LL who contact members for the Annual Appeal receive a % of dollars they raise Calculate 10% of total revenue expected |
| 30 - EveryAction/Paypal Fees | \$3,000 | \$3,698 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | costs associated with credit card payments to NJ, expect growth in online giving, plus DEV Every Action |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| General Development | | | 3,000 | 3,500 | NEW LINE: Stewardship Cost |
| 31 – Sub Total | \$17,500 | \$17,543 | \$33,000 | \$37,000 | |
| Office Expense | | | | | |
| 32 - Accounting Services | \$14,000 | \$12,477 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | Bookkeeper and payroll company. These costs are increasing |
| 33 - Internet Services | \$1,600 | \$1,069 | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | |
| 34 - Office Supplies | \$3,500 | \$5,875 | \$7,500 | \$7,500 | general supplies + copier contract \$300/25,000 copies + postage meter lease (\$1,950) |
| 35 – Postage | \$500 | \$113 | | | Line absorbed into office supplies |
| 36 – Telephone | \$1,000 | \$1,455 | \$1,800 | \$2,000 | Voice Logistics |
| 37 - Salaries - Regular | \$314,220 | \$272,285 | \$368,905 | \$421,230 | 7 employees with 3% increases |
| Salaries minus restricted | | | -18750 | -25000 | Some salaries are paid out of restricted funds |
| PPP Loan salary | | | | | One time payment |
| 38 - FICA – Employer | \$24,038 | \$21,056 | \$28,221 | \$32,224 | 7.65% payroll line |
| 39 - Unemployment & Disability – Employer | \$11,000 | \$7,593 | \$21,385 | \$24,001 | FUTA-fed. unemployment & NJUC-NJ unemployment & disability |
| 40 - Employee Health Insurance | \$32,000 | \$26,345 | \$72,900 | \$94,080 | |
| 41 - Workers Comp Insurance | \$1,600 | \$856 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | |
| 41a - Pandemic payment one time | | | | | |
| 41b - Retirement Benefits | | | \$14,756 | \$16,849 | 4% calculation: 3% match plus extra for admin/employee resources |
| 42 – Sub Total | \$403,458 | \$349,124 | \$519,717 | \$595,884 | |
| 43 – Rent | 14,500 | 13,292 | 14,500 | 14,500 | EF owns the building, NJ pays rent for space, equipment |
| Programs & Member Services | | | | | |
| 44 - Advocacy Lobbyists/Coalitions | \$2,000 | \$4,156 | \$2,300 | \$2,300 | \$575 per registered lobbyist -- we will have several |
| 45 - Fair Districts | \$0 | | \$0 | \$0 | |
| 46 - LWVNJ Council/Convention | \$10,000 | \$5,160 | \$0 | \$20,000 | income NJ line 13 |
| 47 - LWVUS Convention/Council | \$2,000 | \$1,644 | \$6,500 | \$10,000 | partial help with registration costs for board member representation or one staff |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | | | | \$2,000 reflects 2 people to Council |
| 48 - Membership Services | \$500 | \$45 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | support for local Leagues Invest more resources here if we are going to grow membership |
| 49 - Pass Through Dues to LL | \$4,100 | \$4,250 | \$5,000 | \$0 | Members who join at LWVNJ level & affiliate with a LL or state admin LL NJ line 12. 25% The pass through is really just the SALLS - the LLs that come through are a wash and aren't calculated on the income or expense side even though they appear in the budget |
| 50 - Communications & Marketing | \$4,000 | \$2,142 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | Visibility on social media, Includes Every Action software \$2,200 |
| 51 - Pres Board and Committees | \$1,200 | \$181 | \$3,500 | \$3,500 | Reimbursement for out of pocket expenses when invoiced \$500 added for Presidential travel expenses. |
| 54 – Sub Total | \$23,800 | \$17,578 | \$24,800 | \$43,300 | |
| Total Expenses | \$469,058 | \$418,474 | \$607,317 | \$708,484 | |
| Net gain (loss) | \$1,508 | \$20,600 | \$6,426 | \$623 | |

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund

| INCOME | FY23 Budget Proposed | FY23 Actual 5/17/23 | FY24 Budget Proposed | FY25 Budget Proposed | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Development – Operating Fund | | | | | |
| 1- Annual Appeal (members) | 40,000 | 34,598 | 50,000 | 62,500 | Mail and calls (Callathon). Most income comes to EF |
| 2 - Bequest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 3 - Board Fundraiser | 25,000 | 567 | 45,000 | 50,000 | Need to grow this event |
| 4 - 100th Anniversary Celebration | 0 | \$5,520 | 0 | 0 | |
| 5 - Board Gifts | 6,000 | 6,231 | 10,000 | 10,000 | As in NJ, we want to increase board gifts |
| Corporate Giving | | | 10,000 | 20,000 | |
| 6 - Unrestricted Grants | 300,000 | 231,200 | 300,000 | 300,000 | We have been reliably getting these |
| 8 - Direct Mail (non Members) | 8,000 | 9,685 | 15,000 | 20,000 | |
| 9 - Honoraria & Fees | 500 | \$150 | 0 | 0 | |
| 10 - Tributes/Memorials | 1,000 | 7,146 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| 11 - General Fundraising | 12,000 | 3,639 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| 12 - Sub Total | \$392,500 | \$298,736 | \$440,000 | \$472,500 | |
| Development Restricted Funds | | | | | |
| 13 - Citizens Guide Sponsorship | 2,500 | 500 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| Restricted Grants | | 1,875 | 75,000 | 100,000 | We believe we can safely budget for these |
| Energizing young voters | | 9,600 | 0 | 0 | |
| LWVUS MDW | | | 0 | 0 | |
| Fair Districts | 0 | \$10,050 | 0 | 0 | |
| 14 - Sub Total | 2,500 | \$22,025 | \$80,000 | \$105,000 | |
| Building Income | | | | | |
| 15 - Rent from outside groups | 6,000 | 5,775 | 6,300 | 6,300 | |
| 16 - Rent from LWVNJ | 14,500 | 13,292 | 14,500 | 14,500 | EF owns the building so NJ must legally pay rent. |
| 17 - Utility payments from outside groups | 400 | 253 | 276 | 276 | |
| 18 - Sub Total | 20,900 | \$19,320 | \$21,076 | \$21,076 | |
| 19 - Programs/workshops | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | |
| 20 - PMP revenue LL option | 1,500 | 406 | 1,000 | 0 | |
| Sub Total Programs and PMP | | \$406 | \$3,000 | \$2,000 | |
| Publications & Sales Income | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| 21 - Citizen's Guide Sales | 3,500 | 1,793 | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| 22 - Other Pubs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 23 - Sub Total | 3,500 | \$1,793 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | |
| Interest | 0 | 95.81 | 0 | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 422,900 | \$342,376 | \$547,076 | \$603,576 | |
| EXPENSE | | | | | |
| Administrative Expenses | | | | | |
| 24 - Affiliations | 250 | 284 | 600 | 600 | |
| 25 - Audit and Tax Prep | 15,000 | 6,000 | 15,000 | 17,500 | |
| 26 - Bank Charges | 250 | 1,922 | 250 | 250 | |
| 27 - Board/Staff development | 2,500 | 15,915 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| 28 - Commercial Insurance | 3,700 | 0 | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| 29 - State Fees & Reports | 200 | 183 | 200 | 200 | |
| 30 - LWWUS Council (June odd yrs) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 31 - Office Supplies | 1,250 | 712 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| 32 - Sub Total | 23,150 | \$25,016 | \$28,050 | \$30,550 | |
| 33 - MAL PMP to LWWUS | 7,000 | 5,648 | 10,656 | 0 | We can pay this from EF. But the system changes for FY 25 |
| 34 - Development Expenses | | | | | |
| 35 - Board Fundraiser | 10,000 | 93 | 25,000 | 25,000 | |
| 36 - 100th Anniversary Celebration | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| 37 - Centennial Campaign | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 38 - Every Action/Paypal | 900 | 999 | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| 39 - Planned Giving | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 40 - Supplies including Software | 0 | 550 | 0 | 0 | |
| Other development expenses | 0 | 15.54 | 0 | 0 | |
| 41 - Sub Total | 11,200 | \$1,659 | \$28,000 | \$28,000 | |
| Restricted Funds Expenses | | | | | |
| Voters Service | 0 | 2,446 | 25,000 | 25,000 | |
| Energizing young voters | | 3,967 | 0 | 0 | |
| Fair Districts | 0 | 19,616 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hyde and Watson | | 2,386 | 0 | 0 | |
| Program staff | | | \$18,750 | \$25,000 | |
| 42 - Sub Total | 0 | \$28,415 | \$43,750 | \$50,000 | |
| Building Expenses | | | | | |
| 43 - Property Insurance | 3,600 | 0 | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| 44 - Routine maintenance | 3,500 | 6,081 | 12,000 | 12,000 | Increasing cost |
| 45 - Building repairs | 3,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| 46 - Security | 1,800 | 1,195 | 2,500 | 2,500 | |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| 47 - Utilities | 4,500 | 4,770 | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| 48 - Sub Total | 16,400 | \$12,046 | \$31,500 | \$31,500 | |
| Publications Expenses | | | | | |
| 49 - Citizen's Guide - Production | 6,200 | 4,724 | 8,000 | 8,000 | |
| 50 - Citizen's Guide - S/H | 1,000 | 48 | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| 51 - Other Publications & Sales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Sub Total | 7,200 | \$4,772 | \$9,500 | \$9,500 | |
| Voters Svc & Educ Workshops | | | | | |
| 53 - Ed. Projects/Coalitions | 500 | 185 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| 54 - Workshops | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 55- VOTEline | 350 | 135 | 200 | 200 | |
| 56 - Voters Service + Vote 411 | 20,000 | 22,139 | 10,000 | 10,000 | |
| 57 - Sub Total | 22,850 | \$22,459 | \$11,200 | \$11,200 | |
| Expenses reimbursed to LWVNJ | | | | | See NJ side for some of the calculations |
| 58 - Office operations | 323,406 | \$268,267 | \$415,774 | \$476,707 | |
| 59 - President Board & Committees | 350 | \$90 | \$1,750 | \$1,750 | |
| 60 - Officers | 250 | \$0 | | | |
| 61 - Development | 6,300 | \$5,955 | \$12,000 | \$13,500 | |
| 62 - Annual Appeal LL share | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 63 - Communications & Marketing | 2,000 | \$1,071 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | |
| 64 - LWVUS Convention | 1,000 | \$432 | \$3,250 | \$5,000 | |
| 65 - Sub Total | 333,306 | \$275,815 | \$435,274 | \$499,457 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 421,106 | \$375,830 | \$597,930 | \$660,207 | |
| Net gain (loss) | 1,794 | -\$33,454 | -\$50,854 | -\$56,631 | |
| Gain/loss on investments | | -20,275 | | | |
| Building endowment income | | | | | |
| Net gain (loss) including investment | | -53,729 | | | |

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LWVNJ BYLAWS AMENDMENTS FOR 2023 CONVENTION
As of April 28, 2023

APPROVED BY LWVNJ BOARD, WHICH RECOMMENDS VOTING IN FAVOR AT CONVENTION

| PROPOSAL | RATIONALE |
|---|---|
| <p>1) Replace Existing Language with Gender Neutral Language</p> <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article V, Section 9; • Article IX, Section 3; • Article XIV, Section 2; and • Article XIV, Section 3 <p>Proposed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWVNJ Governance Committee | <p>In response to the motion passed at the 2021 Convention, the Governance Committee drafted these proposed gender-neutral language changes to promote inclusivity.</p> |
| <p>2) Remove the NJ Residency Requirement to Be a LWVNJ Voting Member</p> <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article III, Section 2(a) <p>Proposed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWV Monmouth County; • LWV Morristown Area; and • LWVNJ Governance Committee | <p>The Governance Committee does not believe it is necessary to limit our voting members to only those who live in New Jersey. Further, the Governance Committee and the Board discussed and do not believe it is necessary to include any in-state connection requirement. If people would like to join and participate in LWVNJ and they meet any other applicable criteria, then they should be able to be a voting member of LWVNJ. This proposed change is consistent with the current bylaws of other state leagues, including neighboring states Pennsylvania (“LWVPA”) and New York (“LWVNY”), which do not have an in-state residency or other in-state connection requirement.</p> <p>In addition, we have enumerated the various categories, similar to what LWVUS, LWVPA, and LWVNY have done in their respective bylaws.</p> |
| <p>3) Remove the Sentence Regarding the Council from the Membership Article and Add at the End of the Council Article</p> <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article III, Section 2(a); and • Article XII, Section 4 <p>Proposed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWVNJ Governance Committee | <p>All language regarding the Council should be in the Council Article to avoid potential duplication, confusion, and/or conflict among various bylaws articles.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>4) Remove the Sentence in the Membership Article That Only Voting Members May Serve on the Board or Program Committees</p> | <p>The Governance Committee proposed this deletion for 2 reasons:</p> <p>1) Article V, Section 2 already addresses Board member qualifications, so no need to repeat here causing potential duplication, confusion, or conflict among various bylaws articles; and</p> <p>2) We want to encourage non-members to become involved with LWVNJ's program committees so that they may want to become voting members of LWVNJ.</p> |
| <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article III, Section 2(a) <p>Proposed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWVNJ Governance Committee | |
| <p>5) Add the LWVNJ Executive Director as Ex Officio, Non-Voting Member of the LWVNJ Nominating Committee</p> | <p>The Governance Committee proposes this change to model LWVUS' recent change to add its CEO as an <i>ex officio</i>, non-voting member of its Nominating Committee. LWVUS' CEO is most similar to LWVNJ's Executive Director. It is beneficial to have LWVNJ's Executive Director participate on the Nominating Committee to share their knowledge and expertise, including regarding LWVNJ's members, committees, policies, and bylaws. However, the Governance Committee proposes to maintain the current voting structure and numbers, and thus, have the Executive Director be a non-voting member.</p> |
| <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article VII, Section 2 <p>Proposed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWVNJ Governance Committee | |
| <p>6) Add a New Section to Article XI Allowing the Board to Approve Editorial Changes to LWVNJ's Program (e.g., Position Statements and Explanatory Statements)</p> | <p>Under the current bylaws, the only permitted method to update LWVNJ's Study and Action, comprised of its current position statements and explanatory statements, is to conduct a new study or study update, which can be burdensome including financially, time-consuming, and/or unnecessary. There have been multiple instances over the years where LWVNJ desires to substantively maintain its current position statements and explanatory statements, but wants to update such statements to reflect evolving, more inclusive terminology as well as correct grammatical and typographical errors. Thus, based on feedback from local Leagues, the Governance Committee recommends the adoption of a way to make editorial changes to existing position statements and explanatory statements without a formal updated study.</p> |
| <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article XI, Section 4; • Article XI, Section 5; • Article XI, Section 6; and • Article XI, Section 7 <p>Proposed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWV-Fairlawn • LWV Teaneck; and • LWVNJ Governance Committee | <p>LWVUS has a similar approach on how to update Impact on Issues and refers to such updates as editorial changes, which language we have mirrored in this proposed amendment.</p> |
| <p>7) Allow the Board to Consent to Action Without a Meeting by Adding a New Section 11 to Article V</p> | <p>The current bylaws only allow the Board to take action at a regularly scheduled Board meeting or a special Board meeting. However, there have been several instances where special Board meetings had to occur so the Board could vote on only one discrete issue or an urgent issue. It can be very difficult to schedule special Board meetings and ensure quorum, especially due to work, holidays, vacations, family, or other responsibilities, or short notice. Therefore, amending the bylaws to allow the Board to take</p> |
| <p>Affected Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article V <p>Proposed by</p> | |

-
- LWVNJ Governance Committee action without holding a meeting would allow the Board to be even more productive, efficient, and flexible to take action swiftly, as needed.

The proposed bylaws amendment includes safeguards such as the entire Board must unanimously vote in writing in favor of the proposed action per state statute.

8) Replace References to Months and Weeks with Days

The Governance Committee proposes all deadlines referenced in the bylaws be changed from a set number of weeks or months to a set number of calendar days to avoid potential confusion in determining the deadlines' corresponding calendar dates, making it easier to calculate.

Affected Bylaws

- Article V, Section 6;
- Article V, Section 9;
- Article VII, Section 3;
- Article VII, Section 9;
- Article VIII, Section 3;
- Article IX, Section 1;
- Article X, Section 1;
- Article X, Section 2;
- Article XI, Section 4;
- Article XII, Section 5; and
- Article XV

In addition, there are already some references to deadlines using days so making these changes will ensure consistency throughout the bylaws.

We also proposed some minor edits to these sections for clarity and consistency.

Proposed by

- LWVNJ Governance Committee
-

N.B.: For reference, the current LWVNJ bylaws can be found [here](#):



Scan for current LWVNJ bylaws

N.B.: Two local Leagues had proposed a change to the bylaws based on the bylaws on LWVNJ's website, which were obsolete. Their requested change was already in the bylaws, i.e., that state program committees may recommend Program recommendations to the Board. The local Leagues were so informed and thanked for submitting their proposed change, allowing LWVNJ to update the website's

bylaws. The language in effect is as follows from Article XI – Principles and Program, Section 4(a): “*Local League boards and state program committees may make recommendations to the Board at least three months prior to the convention.*”

N.B.: A LWVNJ Board member submitted proposed bylaws changes to the LWVNJ Governance (Bylaws) Committee, which the Governance Committee reviewed and discussed at length. The Governance Committee decided that all proposals except one related to financial and operations issues and policies.

One proffered proposal that the Governance Committee pursued with *pro bono* outside counsel was whether the LWVNJ Board may take action without a meeting, which resulted in a proposed bylaws amendment drafted by the Governance Committee and *pro bono* outside counsel, which the Board revised and approved for the membership to vote in favor of at the convention. (See Proposal 7 above.)

N.B.: The Program Planning Committee brought a question to the Governance Committee regarding its ability to propose bylaws amendments. After reviewing the bylaws, the Governance Committee informed the Program Planning Committee that it would not be able to do so. Thus, the Governance Committee met to discuss the Program Planning Committee’s proposal and drafted a proposed bylaws amendment, which the Board approved. (See Proposal 6 above.)

N.B.: Warm thanks to the LWVNJ Governance Committee members who drafted and reviewed these proposed bylaws amendments:

- Deborah McComber, Governance Committee Co-Chair
- Jin Hwang, Governance Committee Co-Chair
- Kathleen Hofmann
- Susan Sferas
- Anne Torre

PROPOSED

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

Incorporated April 19, 1924

**(Marked up based on proposed bylaws amendments to be voted on at the June 10, 2023
Convention)**

LEGEND

- Proposed added language is in **bold**.
- Proposed deleted language is in [brackets] and ~~struck through~~.

Contents:

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Article I</u> : Name | <u>Article VIII</u> : Financial Administration |
| <u>Article II</u> : Purposes and Policy | <u>Article IX</u> : Convention |
| <u>Article III</u> : Membership | <u>Article X</u> : Nominations and Elections |
| <u>Article IV</u> : Recognition of Local Leagues & ILOs | <u>Article XI</u> : Principles and Program |
| <u>Article V</u> : Board of Directors | <u>Article XII</u> : Council |
| <u>Article VI</u> : Officers | <u>Article XIII</u> : National Convention/Council |
| <u>Article VII</u> : Committees | <u>Article XIV</u> : Miscellaneous Provisions |
| | <u>Article XV</u> : 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 (“LWVUS”).

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 – Policies.

- Political Policy. LWVNJ shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. 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.

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 p~~Persons at least **sixteen** (16) years of age who join ~~the League of Women Voters and live in New Jersey]~~**LWVNJ shall be voting members of local League(s), LWVNJ, and LWVUS.** ~~[They]~~**Voting members of LWVNJ** may be: **(1)** enrolled in recognized local Leagues; **(2)** members at large (“MALs”) who reside outside the area of, or are not enrolled in, any recognized local League (“unaffiliated MALs”); or **(3)** life members~~[-Life members are those residing in the state]~~ who have been members of ~~[the League of Women Voters of the United States]~~**LWVUS** for **fifty** (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 LWVNJ 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 LWVUS 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 LWVUS 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 LWVNJ 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 LWVNJ, 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 LWVNJ 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 LWVNJ. 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 LWVNJ unless that person is a voting member of LWVNJ.

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-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 4 - 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 5 - 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 6 - 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~~]**seven (7) days** before the date of the meeting.

Section 7 - 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 8 - 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 9 - 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~~]**such member** 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~~]**seven (7) days** prior to the meeting.

Section 10 - 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.

Section 11 - Action Without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting, provided, all the members of the Board consent in writing to such action, setting forth the action so taken. Such consent may be electronic. The written consents of all Board members shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

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. 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 be eligible for election for up to three consecutive terms as president, without regard to their 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 LWVNJ Executive Director shall serve as an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Nominating Committee.** 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~~ **one hundred eighty (180) days** after the 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 LWVNJ has positions. The Board shall review and approve: the 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 LWVNJ 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 LWFNJ 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 LWFNJ.

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 LWFNJ, or with respect to amendment of the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of LWFNJ. 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~~]**seven (7) days** 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~~]**seven (7) days** before the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Financial Administration

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

Section 2 - Financial Support. Financial responsibility for the work of the LWFNJ 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 LWFNJ 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 (2) 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]~~**forty-five (45) days** 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 **the** 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]~~**forty-five (45) days** 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 LWVNJ, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWVNJ 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 LWVNJ 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 LWVNJ.

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 LWVNJ shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that LWVNJ 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]~~**ninety (90) days** 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]~~**fourteen (14) days** 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 (30) days before **the** 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]~~**their** 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 (1) vote only at the convention even though the delegate may be attending in two (2) 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~~ **ninety (90) days**] before the convention. Any member may send suggestions to the chair of the Nominating Committee.

Section 2 - 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 (2) members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to local Leagues and ILOs [~~one month~~ **thirty (30) days**] 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, provided, [~~ing~~] the consent of the nominee shall have been obtained in advance.

Section 3 - 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 LWVNJ 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 LWVUS 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 LWVNJ 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 LWVUS and the positions adopted by the LWVNJ.
- 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 (*See* Section 4).
- Although the convention is the normal method for making program decisions, the Council can do so as well, under special circumstances (*See* Article XII).

Section 4 - Procedure for [p]Program [a]Approval by [e]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~~]**ninety (90) days** 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~~]**sixty (60) days** prior to the convention.
- c. Any recommendation for the program submitted to the Board at least [~~three months~~]**ninety (90) days** 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 (3) different local Leagues, and at least two (2) individuals must have committed to serving on the committee, one (1) 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 – Editorial Changes to Position Statements and Explanatory Statements. The Board may approve, by a two-thirds vote, editorial changes to LWVNJ’s then current position statements and explanatory statements. Editorial changes are defined for this purpose as those that do not affect the underlying intent of such statements.

Section [5]6 - Member Action. Members may act in the name of LWVNJ only when authorized to do so by the Board of LWVNJ.

Section [6]7 - Local League Action. Local Leagues may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized by the [b]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. The 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 LWVNJ, 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. **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.**

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~~]**sixty (60) days** 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 **the** council are similar to

those for **the** 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~~]**their** address as it appears on the records of LWFVNJ. Such notice shall be deemed to have been given when deposited in the mail or the delivery service.

Section 3 - Mandatory Indemnification. The LWFVNJ 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~~]**such person** is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of or volunteered services to the LWFVNJ; or is or was serving at the request of the LWFVNJ 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 LWFVNJ 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.

Section 4 – Deadlines. **All references to “days” within these bylaws shall be calendar days unless otherwise specifically noted.**

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~~]**sixty (60) days** 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~~]**forty-five (45) days** 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.

In May 2021, we amended the policies to mirror the policies in the LWVUS bylaws. We set term limits for officers, board members and committee chairs. We added a provision for co-officers. Groups eligible to propose new studies were expanded to include state program committees and the state Board itself. We broadened the reasons for calling a Council in the year between state conventions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Evelyn C. Murphy, PhD, Chair

The Nominating Committee is composed of five members: an elected off-board chair, two elected offboard members, and two appointed Board members.

The committee met regularly throughout the 2021-23 biennium to catalogue the attributes and skills of current Board members, review Board structure and operating practices, and identify needs for prospect recruitment. The committee chair attended all regular Board Meetings to observe working relationships and committee members conducted one-on-one interviews with all Board members.

Names of potential candidates were solicited from each current Board member, each local League, ILO and MAL unit through their leaders and members, the Advisory Council, and partner organizations.

Committee members conducted individual interviews with each prospect as they were identified and shared information about Board Member responsibilities, Board Committee descriptions, and the nonpartisan policy. Each prospect was encouraged to join LWVNJ (if they weren't already a member) and volunteer on a Board Committee to work with current Board Members and gain insight into LWVNJ's Board operations. Each qualified prospect interested in pursuing a nomination was interviewed by the full committee.

In conducting our work, nominating committee members sought to fulfill core organizational responsibilities, including:

- To make decisions in the best interest of LWVNJ, putting the interests of the organization before their personal and professional interests,
- To engage openly with committee members and candidates to ensure that bias is not having unintended negative impact on the process,
- To work collaboratively and across differences,
- To apply a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens in doing their work, and
- To create and present a diverse and high-functioning slate of candidates for LWVNJ Board, Budget Committee Chair, and Nominating Committee

We are very grateful for the many excellent recommendations received and we are pleased to present the attached Slate of Nominations.

Respectfully submitted, *Nominating Committee*

Evelyn C. Murphy, PhD – Elected Chair

Michelle Bobrow – Elected Member

Nancy Hedinger – Elected Member

Jessica Backofen – Appointed Board Member

Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell, JD, PhD – Appointed Board Member (January 2023-current)

Natalya Johnson, Esq. – Appointed Board Member (May 2021-January 2023)

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

Board of Directors

Officers:

President – Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH
First Vice President – Iveth P. Mosquera, MPA
Second Vice President – Deborah McComber
Treasurer – Janet Fisher-Hughes
Secretary – Mariel Mercado-Guevara, Esq

Directors:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jessica Backofen | Jason DeAlessi | Yvette J. Lincoln |
| Lucienne Beard | Deborah Y. Lee | Lauren F. Nance, CMP |
| Dr. Marlena Brown | Princess G. Hoagland, EdD, MBA | Henal Patel, Esq. |
| Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell, JD, PhD | Jin Y. Hwang, Esq. | Dr. Kelly A. Shea |

Member-Elected Committees

Budget Committee Chair:

Nancy Hedinger

Nominating Committee:

Chair – Evelyn C Murphy, PhD, LWV of Monmouth County
Committee Member – Sharon Suber, LWV of Burlington County
Committee Member – Donna Ward, LWV of The Montclair Area

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

OFFICERS

President

JENNIFER M. HOWARD



Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH is the President of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. 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.

First Vice President

IVETH P. MOSQUERA, MPA



Iveth joined the state board of the League of Women Voters of NJ (LWVNJ) in 2019, currently serves as second VP of Programs, and co-chairs the statewide Membership committee. Iveth works as Director of Communications and Public Relations at Matheny School and Hospital - an accredited nonprofit organization serving children & adults with medically complex disabilities.

Since 2008, Iveth has served on the board of LUPE Fund and is currently the President. LUPE is a non-profit organization dedicated to civic engagement, education, and leadership development for Latinas. She is a co-founder of the LUPE Latina Leadership Scholarship that has awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships since 2011.

Iveth was named in the Influencer: Women in Business list in March 2022 by ROI-NJ. That same year, Iveth was appointed to the advisory board of the Center for Hispanic Policy Research and Development and continues to serve in this capacity. In 2005, Iveth earned a Master's degree from the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration. Born and raised in Newark to Ecuadorian parents, she currently resides in Kearny NJ with her husband and two sons.

Second 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 in 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.

Treasurer
JANET FISHER-HUGHES



Elected to the Board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey in 2021, Janet Fisher-Hughes serves on the Finance, Budget, Communications, and Strategic Planning Committees. She has applied her professional skills and experience as a marketing research consultant to conduct interviews among current and former League members. The resulting insights from these interviews have been used to inform LWVNJ's Strategic Plan. Janet has been on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Camden County since 2018, serving as Treasurer since 2022. She has directed LWVCC's Running & Winning program and Vote411 efforts and very much enjoys moderating candidate forums and registering voters at naturalization ceremonies. Janet lives in Pennsauken with her husband, Bob and dog, Griff. She is Treasurer of the Pennsauken Historical Society and is a member of the Westmont Accordion Club. Janet holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania.

Secretary

MARIEL MERCADO-GUEVARA



Mariel Mercado-Guevara, Esq., has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Ridgewood since 2020 and now serves as a Board Member of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. She is a corporate defense attorney and civil litigator practicing in the areas of insurance law, intellectual property, and workers compensation defense and is licensed in both New York and New Jersey. Mariel frequently speaks and writes about voter suppression, insurance law, legal ethical issues, and diversity and inclusion matters. Before becoming a lawyer, Mariel was the New Jersey Hispanic Campaign Coordinator for Barack Obama’s first Presidential campaign. This inspired her to become a lawyer in order to expand her service to her community. She has served as a Panelist on Contract Law and a Coach for the Hispanic Entrepreneurship Training Program with the NJ Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She has also served as Past-Chair of the Minorities in Profession Section with the New Jersey State Bar Association, and is a longtime member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Mariel earned her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University Law School, Newark. She also graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors degree from Boston University in classical vocal music, and was a professional Opera Singer for several years before moving to the New Jersey/New York tristate area.

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



Lucy was the Alice Paul Institute's (www.alicepaul.org) Executive Director until 2021, where she established public visitation at Paulsdale, Alice Paul's birthplace in Mt. Laurel, and created the Alice Paul Leadership Programs for girls to inspire today's young women to pursue leadership into the future. Beard led efforts to raise awareness of Alice Paul's work for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Beard co-chaired New Jersey's statewide commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. She cochairs the board of directors of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites. 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 with her husband and the world's friendliest cat.

MARLENA BROWN



Dr. Marlena Brown is a Sr. Specialist in Quality Engineering E-Systems at Bristol Myers Squibb in the Cell Therapy Operations division. She is a graduate of New Jersey Institute of Technology where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and Masters in both Engineering Management and Pharmaceutical Engineering. In 2014 she earned her doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University where her research focused on the feasibility of the utilization of drop-on-demand technology in the fabrication of flexible dosing and novel multi-drug dosage forms.

Marlena has worked in bio-pharma space for over ten years. Her main area of focus has been in quality, compliance, and manufacturing for oral solid dose (OSD), topical, and CAR-T Therapy for cancer treatments.

Marlena is an active member of the Monmouth County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Originally born in Neptune and raised in Asbury Park, NJ, Marlena recognizes her responsibility to give back and volunteers her time and services to help others. Marlena is a volunteer member of the Medical Reserve Corps of Monmouth County and a recent volunteer member of the American Red Cross.

In her spare time, she enjoys comedy, reading, and spending time with her family.

EMAHUNN RAHEEM ALI CAMPBELL



Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell is currently the Marvin M. Karpatkin Legal Fellow with the Racial Justice Program at the national American Civil Liberties Union. Prior to joining the ACLU, Emahunn completed a year-long judicial clerkship with New Jersey Appellate Division Judge Thomas W. Sumners, Jr., and graduated from Rutgers Law School in 2021, where he won the Judge J. Skelly Wright Prize for the Greatest Contribution to Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and Human Affairs; the Pro Bono Service Award; along with the Kinoy-Stavis Public Interest Fellowship, the Judge Herbert H. Tate, Sr. Scholarship; and the Dean's Merit Scholarship. While at Rutgers Law, Emahunn was a fellow at the Eagleton Institute and interned with the NJ Division on Civil Rights, NAACP LDF, and the Center for Constitutional Rights, and worked in both the constitutional rights and civil justice clinics. He served as president of the Association of Black Law Students, as well as the attorney general for the Northeast Black Law Students Association. He is also a former high school teacher and professor with a PhD in Afro-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a BA from the University of Virginia.

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 public affairs and marketing firm on its projects with clients across the United States in the political and social justice arenas. Prior to starting his firm, he worked at NBC News on "Morning Joe". Jason studied political science and public health at Johns Hopkins University and Rutgers University and holds an MPH in Epidemiology. He previously served as President of his local board of education and in his spare time enjoys training for triathlons and officiating ice hockey.

DEBORAH Y. LEE



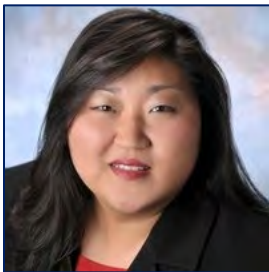
Deborah Lee joined the League of Women Voters in Ridgewood in 2020 and currently serves as a Director, as well as co-chair of the Ridgewood League's Education committee. She is also a co-chair of the NJ State Education committee. Deb is currently the Founder & CEO of Dancing Panda (www.dancingpanda.com), an education technology startup focused on family engagement. She has been in a variety of different roles in education - from a Chief of Staff consultant supporting senior education leaders to an operational school leader at an elementary school in East Harlem. She also was a founding team member of edtech startup Newsela, and led the talent development and antiracism work at an education non-profit in East Harlem. Deb has a Masters in Education Leadership from the Broad Center, an MBA from Babson College focused on Social Entrepreneurship, and a BA in Economics from Wellesley College.

PRINCESS G. HOAGLAND



Princess G. Hoagland, EdD, MBA, is an advocate and philanthropist who is committed to serving her community. Her focuses are socioeconomic, political, and racial justice and historic inclusion for our underserved population. Dr. Hoagland is a member of several nonprofit organizations including: Association for the Study of African American Life and History; League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; New Jersey Association of Black Educators; New Jersey Association of Museums; and Trent House Association (1719 William Trent House Museum). Dr. Hoagland has an AS in General Business from Mercer County Community College, and both a BS in Business Administration and an MBA with a concentration in Finance from Rider University. She has a EdD in Organizational Leadership from Stockton University. Dr. Hoagland is a life-long resident of Trenton, New Jersey, is married, has five adult children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

JIN Y. HWANG



Jin Y. Hwang is a stalwart champion of equity, inclusion, and belonging and seasoned attorney with management experience and expertise in several areas of law. For her latest venture, Jin is the founder and chief executive officer of Jinvesting Consulting LLC, providing financial education, JEDI consulting, and executive coaching services. Before that, Jin was Associate General Counsel with Verizon and an inaugural Steering Committee member of Verizon's Public Policy, Law & Security Diversity and Inclusion Council. Prior to her 16-plus years with Verizon, Jin was an attorney with France Télécom (now Orange). For many years, Jin has been leading change to increase equity, inclusion, and access. Jin was a board member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association for 7 years, including being privileged to serve as president. Jin is a Commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession as well as co-chair of the Grit Project and a project researching Native American women attorneys' experiences. Jin currently serves on the board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, including as Governance Committee co-chair, Finance Committee member, and Strategic Plan Committee member. Jin has served as a mentor to many law students and lawyers as well as a speaker for numerous organizations across the country. Jin has a B.A. with double majors in Psychology and French Studies with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law.

YVETTE J. LINCOLN



Yvette J. Lincoln, Executive Director of Business Process & Governance Excellence, Global Product Development & Supply, Bristol Myers Squibb. Yvette identifies and drives strategic initiatives for process and system improvements for global teams. Yvette believes that by combining diverse perspectives, cutting edge science and out-of-the-box thinking, that we can provide more lifesaving medications to patients around the world with life threatening illnesses every day.

Yvette holds an MBA and a MS in Finance from Drexel University and BS of Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry from Rutgers University. She is a Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSPC), Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) and is PMP certified.

In her free time Yvette enjoys serving the community with her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, playing golf with her daughters and is an avid jazz fan. She and her family reside in Southern New Jersey and are members of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated.

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 frequently leverages her community connections to help other people excel. As Chief Executive Officer of Nance Communications, LLC, and a Certified Meeting Professional, Lauren is an award-winning contributor to her profession. Her clients include nonprofits, entrepreneurs and creatives in a variety of industries. Nance's greatest body of work in service, civic engagement, and leadership engagement is done through Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She joined while attending Rutgers University in 1989. Zeta's global impact on social action, community service, and voter education

initiatives are well known. Nance has served in several leadership roles, including local chapter president and on the board of directors. Nance has also served on the board of directors of Meeting Professionals International, New Jersey Chapter, as its director of education. For nearly 30 years, Nance has shared her life and love with retired law enforcement officer, Bert Nance, Jr. They have one daughter who is studying to be a music therapist for children.

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.

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.

MEMBER-ELECTED COMMITTEES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair

NANCY HEDINGER



Nancy is a past president of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. Over the last biennium, she served as co-chair of the LWVNJ Development and Government Program Committees and as a member of the LWVNJ Nominating Committee. She is currently serving as the president of the League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area. Nancy was Budget Chair for LWVUS last year and looks forward to drawing on her experience in this corresponding role as LWVNJ Budget Chair for the 2023 - 2025 biennium.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair

EVELYN C. MURPHY



Evelyn C. Murphy, Ph.D. (she/her/hers) was elected to the LWVNJ Nominating Committee in 2019 and elected chair in 2021. She is CoPresident of the LWV of Monmouth County, an LWVNJ Certified Moderator, and a member of the LWVNJ Development Committee. At LWVUS, Evelyn was appointed to the League Structure Task force in 2021, charged with addressing organizational capacity, and now contributes to "Framing the Future" with the Business Modeling Working Group. She served as an LWVUS Delegate to the 65th Annual Session of the UN Committee on the Status of Women in March 2021. An economist by training, Evelyn began her career in the banking industry at the Federal Reserve Banks of

New York and Minneapolis before moving to the nonprofit sector. Today, she works with nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and government agencies as a management consultant. Evelyn holds a BA in Economics

from Manhattanville College and a PhD in Economics from Michigan State University with concentrations in industrial organization, banking, and finance.

Committee Member

SHARON SUBER



As a member of the Burlington County League, Sharon serves on the leadership team. Her responsibilities include VOTE411, the school voter program, former/currently incarcerated voter program, public relations, the website, social media platforms and tech support. At the state level she is a member of the membership and communication committees. She is currently a Moderator in Training. Sharon is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority currently serving the Gloucester County community as the men and women’s auxiliary sponsor, and the community service coordinator. At the state level she is the coordinator of all the Sorority’s March of Dimes Programs. She is the Public Policy Chair for the Greater Delaware Valley Branch of the NAACP; and the President and Public Policy chair of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Burlington County Branch. Currently at the state level she is AAUW’s Communications Vice President and in July will assume the position of State President. She retired last year as a Technology Coordinator in an elementary school and is the owner of S3MediaDesign, a business that designs online platforms for small businesses and organizations.

Committee Member

DONNA WARD



Donna Ward is President of the LWV of the Montclair Area, after previously serving as VicePresident and Chair of Voter Services. She is a trained League moderator and has presented numerous programs on “Why Voting Matters” in Essex County high schools. She retired after a 35 year career in global marketing working for major companies like Procter & Gamble Inc and Bayer AG. She is also a court appointed advocate for children in foster care and co-chair of the Northern NJ chapter of The Transition Network, a national organization of women over 50 going through life transitions like retirement. She is also on the board of People’s Prep, the only independent charter high school in Newark and on the grants review committee of Impact 100 Essex, a major charitable giving circle for local non-profits.

**Membership Count
As of Midnight
January 31, 2023**

| League Name | Member changes 2021-2023 | League Name | Member Changes 2021- 2023 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Atlantic County | 27 - 51 | Montville Area | 4 - 3 |
| Burlington County | 46 - 48 | Morristown Area | 79 - 86 |
| Camden County | 80 - 59 | Mountain Lakes | 26 - 26 |
| Cape May County | 30 - 1 | New Jersey (MAL) | 63 - 59 |
| East Windsor - Hightstown | 23 - 19 | Northern Valley | 72 - 66 |
| Fair Lawn | 29 - 31 | Nutley Area | 13 - 14 |
| Glen Rock | 26 - 36 | Paterson | 0 - 15 |
| Greater New Brunswick Area | 48 - 47 | Plainfield | 21 - 55 |
| Hillside | 18 - 19 | Pompton Lakes | 9 - 6 |
| Hopewell Valley | 20 - 12 | Princeton Area | 51 - 59 |
| Lawrence Township | 103 - 90 | Ridgewood | 96 - 102 |
| Livingston | 19 - 37 | Somerset and Hunterdon Counties | 32 - 38 |
| Maplewood- South Orange | 63 - 49 | Sussex Highlands | 33 - 34 |
| Monmouth | 201 - 251 | Teaneck | 40 - 51 |
| Monroe Township | 55 - 82 | Warren and West Morris Counties | 20 - 17 |
| Montclair Area | 125 - 150 | Wayne Township | 28 - 28 |
| Total: 1572 – 1641 | | | |

*Leagues in bold have increased or maintained membership since 2021.
Congratulations!*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY

STATEWIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Committee

Compiled by Rozella Clyde & Debbie Lee

The Education Program Committee has experienced a very productive biennial. Unfortunately, the passing of Patricia Lang's husband greatly restricted her league work and we sadly bid her farewell. Deborah Lee and Cordelia Golden agreed to form a tri-chair position in May 2022, but other commitments made it difficult for Goldie to continue as a co-leader. The committee has been co-chaired by Deb Lee and Rozella Clyde for the majority of the past two years.

Rozella Clyde has continued to represent the LWVNJ Education Committee at the monthly NJ Board of Education meetings, the Healthy Schools Now and Our Children / Our Schools networks and as part of the OC/OS Task Force which meets bi-monthly. For the past year the OC/OS Task Force has focused most heavily on securing full representation on the state Board of Education. There are thirteen state board members and by June 2023 all of their 6-year terms will have expired.. The Education Law Center which is also a part of this task force has pursued a court challenge to the segregated nature of New Jersey Schools. There is also great concern for the mental health of both students and staff as a result of the COVID related school closings. All of these meetings are held virtually.

Deb Lee has streamlined our Legislative Tracker and maintains the monthly updates that are discussed at each Committee meeting. Relevant bills and resolutions are forwarded to the state office when movement is noted. Most particularly we supported passage of the Laura Wooten law in 2022 which mandates a dedicated middle school semester of Civic Education.

We have worked with other program committees to bring a panel discussion on Healthy Students with the Women and Families Committee on March 13, 2023. A video of the program is available on the Morristown Area LWV website. As of April 2023, the video has been viewed 217 times. Deb Lee also represented the committee at the Livingston League on April 12, 2023 to share the committee's work and discuss our priorities. In January Linda Kinsley and Rozella presented a discussion on Local School Boards and the school funding formula for the Monroe Township League.

Issue interests: The education committee has authored two white papers and is launching a third. The purpose of these white papers has been to provide local leagues with the information they need on the topic to present an informed public fact, and to suggest ways local leagues may address questions presented to them. The first [White Paper on Civic Engagement](#) was stimulated by our support of the Laura Wooten Law requiring school districts to provide a stand-alone middle level Civics education course and identified the Center for Civic Education at Rutgers as a provider of professional development. Our second White Paper which focused on the powers and duties of Local School Boards, as well as why it's important for citizens to be civically engaged in the election of these Board of representatives. The paper was presented to Jesse Burns in the Fall of 2022, and we hope the final paper will be published soon and shared with Leagues across the state. The current White Paper will focus on Early Childhood Education. Each of these White Papers have been total team projects fully supported by the growing committee. We also continue to support the energetic work of Energizing Young Voters

and the national recognition Pat Supplee and her team of dedicated youth advisors bring to the importance of educating voters.

The Education Committee is composed of twenty members. Our gratitude to Assatta Mann and Melissa Marks who continue to scout for new members for us. We welcome a diversity of membership location, experience, and background. Our members include Arun Ayyagari, Margo Embree Fisher, Dr. Cordelia Golden, Michael Gottesmann, Beth Hyre, Devon, Jiang, Karen Kanter, Linda Kinsey, Nora Krieger, Francis MacCarrigan, Charlena McKeithen, Judi Ramos, Muriel Rand, Alexa Schianodicola, Patricia Supplee, Sally Taleb, Melissa Tomlinson, and Jeanette Williams. Jennifer Howard is “on leave” from our Committee while she serves as our president.

Over the next biennium we seek to continue the great work we have begun and continue to support civic education in all areas of endeavor. As noted in the 2021/2023 Study and Action, page 20, “State Role in Achieving Quality Education”, we expect to continue our focus of support for

- a State Board of Education that is current, representative of the geographic and cultural diversity of our state and committed to provide quality educational opportunities to every school age student in New Jersey
- a fully staffed Department of Education that is responsive to the academic, social, emotional, mental health and physical safety of every student PreK through B.S.
- a full complement of qualified and responsive educators and educational service providers for every educational setting
- well implemented student learning standards in each content area
- a full range of civic learning opportunities for every student who seeks them
- a civic environment supportive of learning opportunities for every interested resident

We encourage others to join our committee and advance the understanding of ways New Jersey can provide a thorough and effective education to every student in the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Rozella Clyde and Deb Lee

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Natural Resources Committee

Ellie Gruber co-chair and Nancy Griffeth co-chair

The LWVNJ Natural Resources Committee has had another busy two years since our last report (2019-2020)

We follow and review most of the environmental issues impacting New Jersey. We testify on proposed legislation, attend hearings and meetings, and engage in coalition building. We write letters not only as individuals but also with the help of 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. Such energy issues include energy from nuclear plants, hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and wind and solar sources. We will also study the proposed use of hydrogen for energy.

We advocate for clean energy, a carbon free environment and most importantly, for environmental justice for over-burdened communities. We also advocate for the Green Amendment to the NJ Constitution, stating the right of New Jerseyans to a clean and healthy environment. We oppose all new fossil fuel projects, especially the recent “resilience” projects proposed by PVSC, PSE&G, NJ Transit and CPV Woodbridge.

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 support the ban on single use plastics and Styrofoam containers.

The study of each issue is led by a 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 impacts, what the roles of government and business are, and what the alternatives are.

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

We meet by ZOOM approximately 4 times a 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 continuing concern during July 2020-April 2023 (and continuing during the next years):

- (1) Protection of drinking water. The New Jersey Highlands, the Pinelands and the Delaware River Basin are unique regions of our state are critical to our water supply, but they are under threat of development and degradation from pipelines, compressor stations and development projects. Most New Jersey residents depend on these areas for clean drinking water. We are proud that our member, Joann Held represents the LWVNJ on the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Critical Water Supply Area #1 for depleted aquifers in Monmouth and northern Ocean Counties is also an area of concern.
- (2) Climate Change: on February 3, 2023 we submitted comments supporting the Inland flood Protection Rules, to protect communities from damages from inland flooding. We support proposed off-shore wind development, and are in favor of green energy and opposed to efforts by fossil fuel companies to falsify information and cause harmful delays. We continue to oppose multiple pipelines, even though it seems like New Jersey has the dubious title of the Pipeline State. Among these are: the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) company’s proposed expansion of its pipelines across Northern New Jersey (Highlands area) and plans to increase the compression of gas in old pipelines; Transco’s REAE pipeline to flood unneeded gas into southern and center NJ; the New Jersey Natural Gas Company’s Southern Reliability Link pipeline across areas of the Pinelands, threatening a federally protected aquifer (in June 2019 we signed onto a motion from UU FaithAction NJ to the BPU to reconsider its approval of the pipeline); the Penn East pipeline to supply central and southern NJ; and Transco’s NESE pipeline. We also work with the Delaware Riverkeeper and LWV partners in PA DE, NY to protect the Delaware River Basin. Continued threats to the Basin include Liquefied Natural Gas terminals and transport of LNG by rail. We signed a letter

to Governor Murphy in January 2022, asking him to block the LNG terminal at Gibbstown, NJ, to prevent more damage to the Basin.

- (3) Environmental Justice: We supported the Environmental Justice Law and submitted comments supporting the rules in 2022. The rules address the addition of polluting facilities in overburdened communities, and we have also submitted comments opposing any such polluting facilities before the rules went into effect: The Keasbey Energy Center in Woodbridge, the PVSC Standby Power Plant, and the NJ Transit Resiliency Power Plant. We also support more access to clean energy for Low and Moderate Income households.
- (4) Falsely applying Mount Laurel rulings to place housing and sewage package plants in critical aquifer recharge areas and Category 1 streams. There is a clear direction in the ruling that no critical or environmental areas be used for any housing, but Monmouth County's main "in line" reservoir is under threat.
- (5) Decommissioning nuclear plants in New Jersey.
- (6) Other areas: hazardous waste disposal, treatment of toxic wastewater, snf permits for new and expanded oil and gas pipelines, along with the polluting compressor stations they require. Sadly, things are getting worse due to past years of Government deregulation and favors to industry. All of these proposals are harmful.

Some of our Successes:

New Jersey has had some remarkable successes, including: the amendment of the Municipal Land Use Law in 2021, which requires every Master Plan in NJ to ensure that its land use element recognizes impacts on climate change, updated Stormwater Regulations, and the Environmental

Justice Law. The EJ law requires NJDEP to identify every census block that meets one or more of the criteria for burdened communities and require a special process to take place when polluting facilities are proposed for those communities. We are proud that our members Nancy Griffeth and Joann Held are on the statewide committee to implement this 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 a proposed 1,200 megawatt natural gas fired power plant in North Bergen (The Meadowlands Power Plant)

Through the efforts of Louise Usechak we have coordinated with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) to continue to study, lobby and comment on the dangerous Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant proposal for Gibbstown, NJ, the transport of LNG by rail to Gibbstown. We lobbied hard for the Delaware River Basin Commission to adopt language in its new Rule to prevent hydrofracking in the Basin and limit associated activities (processing fracked waste water in the Basin). We successfully worked with a large coalition of environmental, civil and faith groups coordinated with Clean Ocean Action to ensure our Governors deny a permit needed by the Transco-Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) to extend a new pipeline across central NJ, under the Raritan Bay, and out into the ocean off the rockaways to deliver unneeded gas.

We joined with the Delaware Riverkeeper to support a Green Amendment for New Jersey, and we are lobbying our legislators as well as urging all municipalities to adopt resolutions in support.

Steve and Barbara Fiedler from the Pinelands region continue to be invaluable members of our committee and alert us to new proposals that cause harm. They introduced us to the Homegrown National Park projects, streambank remediations, as well as benefits of natural plants.

Under the guidance of Kathy Abbott, we created a power point presentation on climate change.

Arline Lowe continues to keep us current about TGP (see above 2) as well as continued cleanup of toxic waste in Pompton Lakes.

Marie Curtis keeps us informed about all environmental concerns in NJ through her membership of the important Environmental Summit.

Louise Haberman educated us about illegal open water reservoirs in New Jersey.

Louise Haberman and Louise Usechak have been appointed to the LWVUS CIG Water Team.

Ellie Gruber reports on diversions from Green Acres properties; proposed bans on gas powered lawn equipment, and is a member of the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition.

Finally, all of our efforts would be less effective without the advice and cooperation of the LWVNJ Board, Executive Directors Jesse Burns, President Jennifer Howard, and our senior organizers Assatta Mann and Melissa Marks.

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 and learn, because we know members are active in their communities. No expertise is required, only a belief that citizen involvement in issues can improve our communities and our State for the better. To join us or just ask a question email: mandegruber@gmail.com, or ndgriffeth@mac.com.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey 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 LWVUS 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.

Accomplishments and Advocacy

1) In August 2021 we created State action requests for the following 4 bills:

Bill A5301/S2656

Requires access to law enforcement disciplinary records as government records;
requires such records to be retained for certain period of time.

Bill A4656/S2963

Authorizes creation of local civilian review boards to review police operations and conduct; appropriates \$800,000

Bill A4284

Establishes crime of strangulation chokehold.
Community Development and Affairs
Related to A4526/S3825
Established requirements for use of deadly force.

Bill A711/S322

Establishes "New Jersey Reparations Task Force."
Last Session Bill Number: A5968/S4261

2) October 2021, we formed 2 subcommittees to join as LWVNJ representatives for the Police Reform (NJCAP) and the Reparations Task Force campaigns (NJISJ) and began attending meetings with other coalition members.

3) December 2022, Dr. Rev Petra (NJISJ) and Ilene Kahn (LWVNJ SJC) met with District 38 Assemblywoman Lisa Swain (also chair of Appropriations committee) to discuss and advocate for the passing of the Reparations Task Force bill

4) Jan 2022, we joined with the Education Committee to request State action against Bill S4500/4166 which sought to prohibit the teaching of critical race theory in public schools and to prohibit public school teachers from engaging in political, ideological, or religious advocacy in the classroom.

5) June 2022, we sponsored the second of our webinar series, The Informed Voter with a panel discussion on Fair Housing featuring:

James Williams – Director of Racial Justice Policy of the Fair Share Housing Center

Staci Berger – President and CEO of the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey.

Peter Kasabach – Executive Director of New Jersey Future

and covering topics including:

zoning, transportation, community, health, economics, legislation and politics

6) In January 2023 we joined forces with the Voter Services Coalition FAQ action group to create a one-page flyer for Annette Scott to use to promote voter registration at Parolee Centers

What we foresee...

In July 2021 we created a survey for our members (which we will issue again for new and returning members).

The goal of the survey was to make our committee stronger with more targeted goals that maximize the strengths and talents of our members.

Ideally, we would like to create action groups to continue our work in specific areas as needed.

We continue to 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.

- Look for opportunities to advocate based on the new Criminal Justice position
- Using our newly created info flyer, continue to Educate people on parole and on probation about their right to vote - Annette Scott
- Continue to support and advocate for the lame duck reparations task force bill
- Continued review of the marijuana reform laws.
- Continue review of Fair Housing issues.
- Track State and/or Federal bills with social justice impact.
- Fighting voter disenfranchisement and voter suppression.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Government Committee

The Government Committee reorganized in January 2022. Earlier in the biennium the focus for government policy issues was redistricting (FairDistrictsNJ), under the leadership of Philip Hensley, LWVNJ Democracy Policy Analyst. Upon committee reorganization, we followed legislation in four general areas—elections/voting, campaign finance, gun safety and ethics. We also educated ourselves on election systems with the goal of providing member education with a webinar in the next biennium.

We analyzed and provided input to prepare for testimony before the State legislature on many bills which made changes to existing voting laws. In most cases we were seeking amendments to the originally submitted bills. Those with chapter law references passed both houses and were signed into law. Other bills are waiting for votes in one or both houses of the legislature.

- Raise poll worker pay to \$300/day (P.L. 2022 c.5)
- Changes to early voting and mail-in voting procedures (P.L. 2022 c.67)
- Basis removing a voter from permanent vote-by-mail status (P.L. 2022 c.68)

- Requirements for unaffiliated voter to request mail-in ballot for primary (P.L. 2022 c.68)
- Require format for canvassing of ballots statewide; allows counties to establish pick-up schedule from ballot drop boxes (P.L. 2022 c.70). Note: “Canvassing” refers to all that goes into aggregating and counting ballots that have been cast.
- Provides additional processes to maintain voter rolls, permits remote training for poll workers (P.L. 2002 c.71)
- Requiring mail-in ballot applications to include prepaid postage (A.4948/S3365)
- Requiring outer envelope for mailing of voted ballot to include prepaid postage (A,4948/S.1235)
- Requires the accessibility of mail-in ballots for voters with disabilities (A.4746/S,3302)

The League’s two priority bills, Same Day Registration (A.966/S.247) and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act of New Jersey (A.4554/S.2997), have not had any hearings since introduced, despite many efforts by the League staff and members. These bills will be the committee’s focus for the 2023 lame duck legislative session (mid November-December).

The committee prepared and delivered testimony in support of gun safety requirements developed in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the NY Rifle and Pistol Assoc. v. Bruen. The bill made various revisions to requirements to purchase a firearm, obtain a permit to carry a handgun and codified sensitive places in which firearms are prohibited. (P.L.2022 c.131). The law is now being challenged in court.

There were major changes to New Jersey’s campaign finance laws, the majority of which we opposed in the Election Transparency Act which was signed into law in April (P. L. 2023 c.30). We will be looking at how to correct a very flawed law as we enter a new biennium.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Immigration Committee

submitted by Deborah Macmillan

The LWVNJ Immigration Committee was reinvigorated after some years of inactivity toward the end of 2021. Our goals include:

- Educating, ourselves, League members generally, and the general public about immigration and related issues,
- Advocacy on these issues in New Jersey at national, state, and local levels, and
- Alerting both League members and the general public regarding volunteer possibilities related to these issues.

Activities in the past year and a half include:

- Developing a webinar jointly with members of the Brookdale College community and NJ Spotlight concerning federal immigration legislation and also the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and Asian-American immigrant experience:



Scan here to view the recording

- Lobbying unsuccessfully at the national level for US legislation to replace and extend the Obama-era directive that created DACA and which is at risk because of elimination through judicial action,
- Tracking and lobbying NJ legislation for the Values Act, to supplement or replace the NJ Attorney General 's directive strengthening trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities, and
- Tracking and lobbying NJ legislation concerning professional and occupational licenses regardless of immigration status to assist all residents who face barriers to employment in corporations.

We are in the process of clarifying immigrations issues, decentralizing responsibilities of committee members, and making it more convenient to access our collection of resources.

We are developing a rough schedule of further webinars to take place over the next two years, and hope to have this available to post and distribute at convention itself.

We invite the participation of more League members on this committee. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Deborah Macmillan at [609-443-5879](tel:609-443-5879)/dmacm2@outlook.com.

Our members include:

Terry Thompson, co-chair, LWV Somerset-Hunterdon

Deborah Macmillan, co-chair, LWV East Windsor-Hightstown Area

Nike Bach, LWV Northern Valley

Fadia Hindi, LWV Warren and West Morris Counties

Lenore Isleib, LWV East Windsor-Hightstown Area

Stefanie Mandelbaum, East Windsor-Hightstown Area LWV

Terry Stimpfel, LWV East Windsor-Hightstown Area

Sherri West, LWV Monmouth County

Additional individuals from these and other Leagues have remained current with the activities of the committee through our roughly monthly mailings.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Women and Family Issues Committee

Submitted by MJ O'Leary

The LWVNJ Women and Family Issues Committee is dedicated to addressing issues that impact families across the state of New Jersey. We research critical policy issues, propose women and family-centered action to the LWVNJ Board, and develop effective awareness and advocacy strategies for women and families.

A primary focus over the past few years has been on advocating for policies and practices that address the maternal mortality crisis in the state (NJ ranks 4th in maternal deaths in the country). WFI advocates for legislation, education, and awareness regarding health outcomes for new and expectant mothers by serving on panels, accepting speaking engagements, and participating in events in support of maternal health equity. In 2019 Governor Murphy signed into law LWVNJ supported bills that established a NJ Maternal Mortality Review Committee to annually review Maternal Mortality data and recommend improvements, set up a report card system whereby individual hospital maternity units are compared against state averages in key areas that affect Maternal and infant mortality, blocked insurance coverage for cesarean sections that are done prematurely or unnecessarily, and expanded Medicaid coverage to cover the services of a doula. The committee is not actively engaged in advocacy at this time; however, we continue to monitor the great work of First Lady Tammy Murphy's initiative, Nurture NJ, a multi-pronged, multi-agency initiative that aims to make New Jersey the safest and most equitable place in the nation to deliver and raise a baby. Going forward we will seek opportunities to influence more support for maternal mental well-being, post-partum depression, and workplace protections for pregnant moms.

We continued our work with THRIVE Coalition's Sex Ed Subcommittee in their efforts to address the need for comprehensive sex education programs. Our participation in the development of comprehensive sex education standards led to a new state curriculum, adopted in 2020, which removed stigmatizing and shaming language as well as language related to prioritizing abstinence above other prevention methods, reintegrated standards around pregnancy and pregnancy options, eliminated the reliance on the gender binary, ensured that all references to accessing health care include sexual health care. These standards were designed to address the needs of each student to gain knowledge and skills in caring for themselves, interacting effectively, respectfully and safely with others, and analyzing the impact of health choices. Implementation of the new standards was mandated by the NJ State BOE for the 2022-23 academic year. Working with THRIVE, the WFI committee tracked resistance at the district level designed to prevent the implementation of the new standards. In March, we assembled an expert panel to help members and the community at large better understand the curriculum changes. We followed this event with a package of materials delivered to local league leaders so they can raise community awareness and engage with their local Boards of Education, should they choose to. In April, LWVNJ sent a letter to Governor Murphy urging the administration to maintain the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

We also engage with the THRIVE coalition on Reproductive Justice legislation, with WFI members participating in weekly meetings. THRIVE continues to work for improved access and affordability for abortion care and supports the OAG's efforts to warn consumers of deceptive advertising by crisis

pregnancy centers. In September we held a Reproductive Equity session for all interested league members on the status of abortion legislation in NJ with special emphasis on recent legislation (The Freedom of Reproductive Choice). The event was taped for use by local Leagues at any time. Additionally, we participated in several THRIVE rallies in Trenton.

Our focus in 2023 will include supporting legislation and initiatives to improve access, affordability, and quality of childcare throughout the state of New Jersey. We have partnered with Advocates for the Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) in its child advocacy efforts, are engaged with their Reimagine Childcare campaign, and are supporting their efforts to help eligible districts secure state funding for preschool programs. The committee submitted testimony in support of Senator Ruiz's child care bill package and will continue to monitor its progress through the legislation. The committee submitted testimony supporting specific funding lines in Governor Murphy's proposed budget for the upcoming year.

Committee Members:

MJ O'Leary*, *Morris County*

Lisa Culhane, *Essex County*

Metta Cahill, *Mercer County*

Karen Doswell, *Essex County*

Lanisha Ridley-Mackle, *Morris County*

Merrill Mezzacappa, *Hunterdon County*

Mary Alosio, *Morris County*

Robyn Bennett, *Essex County*

Jani Vinick, *Morris County*

Eileen Michaels, *Monmouth County*

*chair

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

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 |

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

Jennifer M. Howard

We would like to thank and acknowledge the outgoing board members, Susan Sferas and Anne Torre. Both have served in numerous roles and capacities as thoughtful leaders, considerate colleagues and offered tremendous insight and experience to our board. 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 Convention a success. A special note of appreciation to the 2023 Convention Planning Committee of Susan Sferas, Beth Hyre, Iveth Mosquera and Jesse Burns. We are grateful for their thoughtful planning, creativity, and time commitment. Returning to an in-person event, the convention planning committee has been mindful of lessons learned during the pandemic. The Convention could not be done without those who have created, reviewed and planned required agenda items such as Budget preparation, Program Planning and Bylaws review. Ed Gracely, thanks, again, for your work and guidance on the Budget. Iveth Mosquera chaired Program Planning but had a great team of Ed Gracely, Nancy Hedinger and Sandy Masten –thanks to them all. Jin Hwang and Deborah McComber served as co-chairs of the Bylaws review committee. We extend our gratitude to them along with the entire Bylaws review team of Susan Sferas, Anne Torre, and Kathleen Hofmann. As mentioned above, we are excited to work with the upcoming board and must give thanks to the Nominating Committee (chair Evelyn Murphy). Our Parliamentarian, Rosemary Seghatoleslami, has been extremely helpful to us. To all the members who helped create and present the workshops, panels and caucuses leading up to the 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 Civic Community Coalitions & Voter Services, Communications, Membership Engagement and Organizing for Powerful Advocacy workshops left with new ideas to share with your own Leagues. A final thanks to our luncheon panelists for partnering with us to discuss the state of democracy in NJ and how we can build people power.

This Convention and the week leading up to it is made possible only through the tireless efforts of our team of Jesse Burns, Assatta Mann, Melissa Marks, Philip Hensley and Elissa Kapp. 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 65th 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 seven 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.



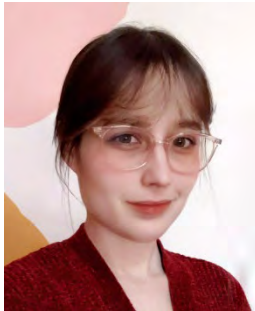
Philip Hensley, Democracy Policy Analyst: Philip uses his campaign experience, policy chops and redistricting expertise to support the League of Women Voters of New Jersey’s advocacy campaigns. Prior to joining LWVNJ, he managed campaigns for Congress and local and state offices, and helped lead student 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.



Elissa Kapp, Operations Coordinator: Elissa joined the League of Women Voters of New Jersey as Operations Coordinator in 2023 to support the organization's office administration and day-to-day operations. She is excited to remake and refresh the processes and tools that help the League do its timely work. Prior to her work with the League, Elissa worked for over five years as Project Coordinator at a regional nonprofit that supports the state's autism community. Her contributions to the organization's projects and data-based initiatives highlight a passion for utilizing technology to maximize organizational efficiency.

To the outgoing and incoming State Board Members:

THANK YOU & WELCOME

It has been an absolute honor to serve alongside you for the past 7 years. Your unwavering dedication, invaluable insights, and remarkable teamwork have made our collective efforts truly impactful. It has been an honor to be a part of this wonderful team.

Farewell, and to the incoming Board, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a fruitful and inspiring tenure as you embark on this new chapter of leadership.



Susan Sferas
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
State Board (2016-2023)

The League of Women Voters of Monroe Township



HONORS

Pat Thompson

*for her years of service and all
her help to LWVMT*

& WELCOMES

Elissa Kapp



Honorary Lifetime Members

This page honors members who have been part of the League for 50+ years. We congratulate and express our deepest gratitude to all of these distinguished members for their unwavering dedication and commitment.

We also recognize and celebrate newly added honorees:

*** New since 2019**

◆ New since 2021

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Enid Alpern * | Barbara Hallows | Nancy MacNeill | Lois Riskin |
| Mary Appel | Rose Harris | Reba Martin | Janice Robins * |
| Diane Armington | Joan Hecht* | Millicent McBride | Alexander Schapira◆ |
| Judith Arnold ◆ | Lucy Heller | Rita Merendino ◆ | Doris Schapira◆ |
| Peg Baker | Ellen Hock* | Joyce Michaelson ◆ | Chrystal Schivell ◆ |
| Ruth Banks | Deborah Irwin ◆ | Myrna Miller * | Carolyn Schnur ◆ |
| Earlene Baumunk Cancilla | Kay Jannarone ◆ | Alice Moskowitz * | Patricia Sebold |
| Bernice Berger | Mary Lee Jones | Edith Neimark * | Shirley Shapiro |
| Carol Slote Bernstein | Marcia Kastan | Joan Noakes | Grace Sinden |
| Michelle Bobrow ◆ | Lois Kiely ◆ | Barbara Novick ◆ | Willa Spicer |
| Chantal Cannon ◆ | Jean Klerman | Adriana O'Toole ◆ | Barbara Starr |
| Shirley Cobert | Carol Kurtz | Edith Oxfeld | Rita Strmensky ◆ |
| Lenore Danielson | Carolyn Lack | Louise Palagano ◆ | Camille Terracciano |
| Fran Davis | Marian Leibowitz | Michelle Perkinson ◆ | Jane Thompson |
| Margaret Dellinger ◆ | Marjorie Levy | Estelle Perry | Barbara Trought |
| Jane Diepeveen | Selma | Wilma Pfeffer ◆ | Joyce Usiskin |
| Betty Frank ◆ | Lichtenberg | Veronica Pickering ◆ | Jeanne Van Steen |
| Judith Friedman ◆ | Marilyn Linder | Sandra Rabinowitz | Linda Wanat ◆ |
| Sally Goodson * | Ruth Lipman ◆ | Ingrid Reed | Shari Weiner ◆ |
| Dallas Grove ◆ | Alice Logie | Mattie Reed | Diana Wing |
| Ellie Gruber * | Eleanor Lubin | | |

