



RESOLUTION

RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR

SUBMITTED BY

LWVMO, LWVAZ, LWVCA, LWVDE, LWVMA, LWVMN, LWVNM, LWVNY, LWVAL, LWVCT, LWVIA, LWVKS, LWVMD, LWVNJ, LWVOH, LWVSC, LWVTN, LWVUT, LWVOR, LWVFL

1. Whereas, the killings of George Floyd¹ and countless other Black people have focused our nation's attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism in law enforcement and the justice system; and,
2. Whereas, Black people and all historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement²; and,
3. Whereas, delegates to the 2020 League of Women Voters (League) Convention are outraged by these injustices in law enforcement that unfairly target Black people and all people of color; and,
4. Whereas, the current crisis is a result of racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and all people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and,
5. Whereas, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism.³ We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge⁴ to be; and,
6. Whereas, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. We

¹ May 29, 2020 LWVUS Response to Police Killing of George Floyd, <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/pressreleases/lwvus-responds-police-killing-george-floyd>

² <https://www.vox.com/identities/2016/8/13/17938186/police-shootings-killings-racism-racialdisparities>; <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/11-15-Police-Force.pdf>

³ The Constitution of the United States of America, Article I, Section 2(2)

⁴ Pledge of Allegiance, <https://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm?vm=r>

have openly acknowledged that our past has been marred by racism⁵ and we will continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI)⁶; and

7. Whereas, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights;⁷ therefore,

8. Motion #136 - We Resolve First, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and,

9. Motion #139 - We Resolve Second, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC)^{viii} deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”⁸

⁵ “Facing Hard Truths About the League’s Origin,” August 8, 2018, <https://www.lwv.org/blog/facing-hard-truthsabout-leagues-origin>

⁶ See Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policiesguidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

⁷ See LWVUS Position on Equality of Opportunity, Pgs 8 & 10, Impact on Issues 2018-2020/Equality of Opportunity, <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

⁸ Pledge of Allegiance, <https://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm?vm=r>; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policiesguidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>