

The logo for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. It features the letters 'LWV' in a large, bold, blue font with a red swoosh underneath. To the right, the words 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' and 'OF MASSACHUSETTS' are stacked in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Expanding the Table: Making
Democracy Work for Everyone*

CONVENTION

June 26, 2021



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from LWVMA Co-Presidents | 4 |
| <i>Schedule and Program</i> | 5 |
| Convention 2021 at a Glance | 6 |
| Order of Business..... | 7 |
| <i>Biennium in Review</i> | 8 |
| Biennial Report—Executive Director | 9 |
| Biennial Report—Finance..... | 12 |
| Biennial Report—Development..... | 13 |
| Biennial Report—Human Resources | 14 |
| Biennial Report—Membership | 15 |
| Biennial Report—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion..... | 17 |
| Biennial Report—The Field Service Program | 19 |
| Biennial Report—Legislative Action Committee..... | 20 |
| Biennial Report—Voter Engagement | 22 |
| Biennial Report—Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant | 24 |
| Biennial Report—100 th Anniversary..... | 26 |
| <i>Workbook</i> | 27 |
| General Information for Delegates | 28 |
| Procedural Notes..... | 29 |
| Proposed Rules of Convention..... | 31 |
| Parliamentary Motions Guide | 33 |
| Recommended Program for 2022 - 2023 | 35 |
| Non-Recommended Program and Action..... | 38 |
| Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Budget Overview | 40 |
| LWVMA/LESF Combined Statements of Financial Position FY17-FY20 | 41 |
| LWVMA Board-Approved Budget Committee Recommendation FY22 and FY23..... | 42 |
| LESF Approved Budget FY22 and FY23 | 46 |
| LWVMA Strategic Plan | 49 |
| LWVMA Proposed Bylaws Amendments | 52 |
| LWVMA Bylaws with Proposed Amendments..... | 53 |
| Current LWVMA Bylaws | 62 |
| Report of the Nominating Committee..... | 71 |
| Past Presidents of LWVMA..... | 78 |

Message from LWVMA Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

Welcome to Convention 2021: *Expanding the Table: Making Democracy Work for Everyone*. While we need to hold this convention remotely, it will still be interactive and interesting. Over the last year we have experienced unprecedented times, been challenged on many levels, personal, professional, local and national and learned we are resilient, resourceful and creative. We hope you will be able to gather with fellow League members from around the state on June 26th to learn more about what we can do to meet the challenges of the next two years to continue the great work of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and expand our table by looking at all of our programs, positions and initiatives through a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens.

What is Convention? Convention is a gathering together of League members from around our state. We will have opportunities to celebrate our accomplishments from the last 2 years, network, learn from each other, and conduct the business of the organization. For LWVMA, this means we will decide on our priorities for the next two years, agree to a two-year budget to strengthen the state League, elect the Board directors and officers who will lead the organization, and make sure that our advocacy and governance documents are up-to-date. You will also hear about the LWVMA Strategic Plan and Strategic Fundraising Plan, two exciting initiatives that provide the roadmap to the League's vibrant future. This year the business (or "plenary") sessions will be held on Saturday morning and afternoon.

Convention is also an opportunity to learn from our guest speaker about racial justice in Massachusetts. We will also hear from LWVUS CEO Virginia Case, Deborah Turner, MD, JD, 20th President of LWVUS and our own Executive Director Pattye Comfort. We will have a video celebrating the great work done by local Leagues over the last two years. While our Convention is virtual, we will still have opportunities to meet up with old friends and meet new members.

Who Should Attend Convention? YOU should attend Convention. For seasoned members or new members, Convention is a great opportunity to learn about the League and to find people with shared interests. All League members are invited, and we will have pre-meetings leading up to Convention on a variety of topics. Only delegates can vote, but all LWV members can participate and observe. It's guaranteed you'll learn some new things and meet plenty of people.

We have many things to accomplish so we can continue to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We look forward to seeing you on June 26th to learn about and engage in our collective work. We all know, *Democracy is not a Spectator Sport*.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom. Stay well, stay safe.

In League,

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan & Judy Zaunbrecher

Schedule and Program

Convention 2021 at a Glance

June 26, 2021, 8:30 am to 2 pm

Expanding the Table: Making Democracy Work for Everyone

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 8:30 to 9 am | Local League Showcase videos | |
| 9 to 9:15 am | Welcome/Dr. Deborah Turner (President, LWVUS) video | Judy Zaunbrecher |
| 9:15 to 9:45 am | Plenary Session #1 | Judy Zaunbrecher |
| 9:45 to 11 am | LWVMA Review Looking Ahead: Diversity Equity & Inclusion; Strategic Plan and Strategic Fundraising Plan | Judy Zaunbrecher, Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Vedna Lacombe- Heywood, Mary Ann Ashton, Pattye Comfort |
| 11 to 11:45 am | Break Local League Showcase videos Zoom conference break-out rooms for people to meet | |
| 11:45 to 12 pm | Welcome back/Virginia Kase (CEO, LWVUS) video | Elizabeth Foster-Nolan |
| 12 to 12:45 pm | Keynote Speaker - Representative Liz Miranda | Introduction by Tracy Brown |
| 12:45 to 2 pm | Plenary Session #2 | Elizabeth Foster-Nolan |

Plenary Preparation Sessions Via Zoom Meeting Week of June 21

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| June 22, 7 to 8 pm | Resolution Committee Meeting to consider any resolutions from local Leagues or MAL's | Resolution Committee |
| June 23, 7 to 8:30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A on Budget, Program Plan Proposal, and Bylaws Amendment Proposals (7 to 8 pm) • Candidate Meet & Greet (8 to 8:30 pm) | Board/Committee Chairs/Pattye Candidates |
| Week of June 21 (except June 22, 7 to 8 pm, and June 23, 7 to 8:30 pm) | Any other caucuses requested by League members. They determine time. Convention Committee will post on website. Requestor is responsible for promoting session with membership | |
| Screenshot Instructions for how Zoom Convention will work | Series of screen shot instructions on how to participate in Convention (how to vote, how to submit questions, etc.) | Posted on Convention webpage |

Order of Business

Plenary Session 1

9:15 to 9:45 am

Presiding: Judy Zaunbrecher, LWVMA Co-President

- Call to order
- Introductions: Parliamentarian, Secretary, Convention Page, and Timekeeper
- Report of Credentials Committee
- Appointment of Minutes Reading Committee
- Adoption of Rules of Convention
- Adoption of Order of Business
- Introduction of Elections Committee
- Introduction of Resolutions Committee
- Approved Resolutions Presented
- Report of Nominating Committee
- Introduction of Program Planning Co-Chairs
- Presentation of Non-recommended Program Items
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Plenary Session 2

12:45 to 2 pm

Presiding: Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, LWVMA Co-President

- Call to Order
- Report of Credentials Committee
- Finance Report
- Scharfman Fund Report
- Budget Report and Action on Budget
- Bylaws Amendments Report and Action
- Adoption of Program for 2022-2023
- Discussion and Vote on Resolutions (if needed)
- Election of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee
- Direction to LWVMA Board (ask for Delegates to add in chat)
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Biennium in Review

Biennial Report—Executive Director

Our collective work over the past two years – at the state and local level – is nothing short of impressive. Even in the face of the pandemic (which began 4 months into my tenure as Executive Director and just as our 100th anniversary gala planning was at its peak) we persevered and made a significant impact. During this time, I have worked with our deeply committed Board members and committees to lay the groundwork for diversifying and increasing fundraising, expanding our educational and voting-related activities, improving our communications/visibility, better serving our members, improving our processes and planning for the future. I want to give special recognition to the LWVMA staff: Brynne Gorman who moved to full-time as LWVMA’s Membership and Community Engagement Manager, for her outstanding work supporting our members and organizing events. Taylor Grenga, for her outstanding member support work, coordinating our communications and improving administrative processes. Martha Maguire, our longtime bookkeeper, who recently earned the new title of Business Manager. Brynne, Taylor and Martha play critical roles in keeping our office running smoothly. And finally, a special note of thanks to Maribeth Canning and Alexa Williamson of Maribeth Canning Consulting for their outstanding work on LWVMA’s strategic fundraising plan.

Key accomplishments over the last biennium include:

- **Fundraising/Development:** In November, 2020 we hired Maribeth Canning Consulting (MCC) to build a strategic fundraising plan. Our current engagement with MCC will end in November, 2021 and the deliverables from the engagement, will give LWVMA the blueprint for executing on its desire to diversify and broaden our income streams, with the result of increasing our overall revenue. Integral to the fundraising strategic plan is Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), data collection and measurement as well as capacity building. Putting the focus on these elements will enable LWVMA to execute on the goals and objectives contained in the LWVMA Strategic Plan (see “Strategic Plan”, below).
 - **Fall Appeal & Phonathon:** With generous support from hundreds of LWVMA members and friends, these two fundraisers, combined, are a significant source of revenue for the League of Women Voters (LWVMA) and the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund (LESF). FY20 Fall Appeal and Phonathon raised approximately \$78,000 exceeding the target by \$18,000. In FY21, the Fall Appeal and Phonathon has raised approximately \$82,000 (as of April, 2021). I am happy to report that LWVMA returned \$8,300 to local Leagues through our revenue-sharing program in FY20. The “to date” number for FY21 is \$8,100. Thank you to our members who contributed to these campaigns, and to the local Leagues who made phone calls to their own and other Leagues’ members. Special thanks to Sharyn Roberts of the Newton League, who made hundreds of calls to members across the state.
 - **Grants:** In FY20, we received a \$10,000 grant from the Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation to support our MOVE 2020 voter education and engagement initiative. Additionally, the Salem Five Charitable Foundation supported our student video contest in FY20. We also received a \$12,500 grant from the Donald and Nehamah Quimby Charitable Foundation in both FY20 and FY21. Finally, in both FY20 and FY21, we received several grants from LWVUS, totaling \$5,000 (People Powered Fair Maps Campaign and a general, unrestricted grant) as well as a total of \$10,000 in grant money from T4MA – special thanks to Judy Zaunbrecher and Tanya Roy, respectively, for their work in securing these grants.
 - **Events:** Our 100th anniversary gala had to be postponed and re-imagined as a virtual event and we finally celebrated on December 13, 2020. Dr. Danielle Allen was our featured speaker who inspired all of us. Our attendance for the event was 219 and we met our ambitious fundraising

goal of \$100,000. (for more detail, please see the separate 100th Anniversary Committee Report in the Convention Workbook)

- **Voter Service and Citizen Education Activities:**
 - Vote411: We reached 80,000 people through our online voters' guide during the election cycle of 2020. The guide covered every race from the U.S. Presidential race down through contested county races in MA, and included the races for Governor's Council, non-partisan information on the 2 ballot questions, 350 candidate answers to the respective questionnaires that we sent out, recordings of a dozen candidate forums from races around the state and all of the emergency election reforms that were put into place because of the pandemic. Vote411 was truly a "one stop shop" for everything related to the 2020 elections.
 - Census/Voter Reg/Get out the Vote: LWVMA was a key partner in the MassCounts coalition – ensuring that EVERYONE in Massachusetts, especially "hard to count" communities (low-income, communities of color; disabled individuals and students) were counted for the decennial census. Once the census ended, this coalition turned to voter registration and finally a get out the vote effort. Due to the pandemic, these efforts were nearly all by phone & text banking. All told, coalition volunteers made 580,957 calls, sent 315,047 texts, and knocked 11,855 doors. *League volunteers, from around the state, made 11,000 of these phone calls.* Thank you to all who participated!
 - Public Education on the Emergency Pandemic Election Reform law: As part of the Election Modernization Coalition, LWVMA played a key role in advocating for the pandemic election reforms that were passed into law on July 6, 2020. From then, we had exactly 8 weeks to educate the public about these widespread election reforms. LWVMA partnered with many organizations to educate the public on the new law – we hosted or co-hosted 14 educational webinars in this 8-week time period – drawing a total audience of approximately 1,000. These are the partners we worked with on these webinars: Brockton Area chapter of the NAACP, Lambda Kappa Sigma chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, the Women's Bar Association of MA, American Issues Initiative, Amplify Latinx, ACLU of MA, Mass Advocates Standing Strong, Revolutionary Spaces, MassPIRG, MassPIRG Students, MassVOTE, Project Citizenship, The Philanthropy Connection, Wellesley Centers for Women, LWV Newton, MA Women of Color Coalition, Women's Pipeline for Change, American Constitution Society, Congressional Management Foundation, The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, LWV Maine, LWV Alaska and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.
 - Student Video Contest: Despite the pandemic, which hit just 2 weeks after we had launched our FY20 student video contest, 25 intrepid souls submitted videos on the theme "Teen Voting Challenge: Should 16-year-olds have the right to vote?" In FY21, we received a record number of 125 video submissions for our "Democracy Challenge" contest, asking high school students to demonstrate what they learned about our democracy in 2020. We had to forego the awards ceremony in FY20, but we held a virtual awards ceremony in FY21 for the winners with participation from legislators and legislative staff from each of the winners' districts. Special thanks to our judges for their time and effort in choosing the winners: Kristina Pryor, Kate Boland, Erry Johnson, Barbara Pearson, Mary Ann Ashton, Lois Hutchings, Jean Cherdack, Tanya Roy, Nancy Brumback, Caitlin Shea, Mary Jenkins, Jacqui Goodman, Joanne Treistman, Eve Coffey and Laura MacLeod
- **Communications and Visibility**: During this biennium, the staff worked with the Communications Committee to update the LWVMA Communications Plan. This included creating best practice guides

for our social media platforms, setting up an Instagram account, re-designing the website and streamlining our newsletters by discontinuing the monthly League Leader Update and replacing it with 2 “What You Need to Know Now” website columns (one for members and one for League Leaders). We also implemented weekly social media calendar meetings. Special thanks to Amy Smith who was part of the staff calendaring team for the past year and a half and I am delighted that Jen Muroff has recently taken over Amy’s spot. We have considerably expanded our reach on our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & LinkedIn) with over 5,000 followers and our website receives 3,000 views monthly. We continue to send a quarterly e-newsletter to non-member supporters and interested members of the general public, publish an Annual Report highlighting state League and local League achievements, send the monthly Action Newsletter and issue press releases and LWVMA statements for important news.

- 100th Anniversary Webinar Series

Since we had to postpone the gala, we created a 4-part webinar series which we ran in the spring (to coincide with the actual anniversary date). We had a live performance (“I now pronounce you Lucy Stone”); 2 author talks (Dr. Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins (“The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters”) and Barbara Berenson (“From Suffrage through the ERA”) and Nancy Thomas from the Tisch School at Tufts University whose presentation was about raising civic engagement among young people. The total audience we had for the webinar series was approximately 500.

- **Support of Boards, Committees, Local Leagues, and Members:** In FY20 and FY21, the staff has worked closely with the Membership Committee to organize successful membership events, including League Leader events, State Convention, and Council. We have also worked with the Legislative Action Committee to organize Day on the Hill and other education and advocacy events. On a daily basis, Brynne and Taylor play a critical role responding to member inquiries and providing timely information and support to local Leagues. The pandemic brought a set of new technology challenges for all – Brynne and Taylor were immensely helpful to local Leagues in assisting with zoom and other virtual technology.
- **Strategic Planning:** In November, 2020 we embarked on a strategic planning process using an online platform, *Essential Worth*. Over the course of 8 months, our 9-member planning team met monthly, guided by webinars and facilitated brainstorming/discussion sessions with the end goal of creating a one page, doubled sided *Essential Strategic Plan*. Part of the process included reaching out to stakeholders for their input: we sent a survey to local League leaders, LWVMA Board Members, LESF Trustees, Legislative Action Specialists and Members-at-Large. We conducted a town hall, open to all members, in March and had one-on-one conversations with 5 legislators and 5 leaders of partner organizations. This was an enormously important undertaking and required dedication and commitment by our planning team. I would like to thank LWVMA board members Judy Zaunbrecher, Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Hartell Johnson, Jo-Ann Berry and Judith Reilly, former board member Brenda Safford as well as Mary Ann Ashton (immediate past president of LWVMA) and Sarah Edwards of the Cambridge Unit for their time, energy and commitment to this process. The draft *Essential Strategic Plan* is in the Convention Workbook and we look forward to members’ input during the Convention.

Despite the challenges brought on by Covid, this has been a successful biennium, and I look forward to working with all of you as we begin our 2nd century of work!

Submitted by Pattye Comfort

Biennial Report—Finance

The financial health of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is very good. Our efficient operations support a full-time Executive Director and two full-time professional staff as well as a part-time bookkeeper. The organization continues to maintain a strong working capital position and remains debt-free.

The Finance Committee's role is to advise the Board on financial matters, policies and procedures as requested by the Board. With the Executive Director, co-presidents and treasurer, the Board also reviews appropriate expenditures and has overall fiscal oversight of the funds of the LWVMA/LESF.

Outside accountants performed their annual review of the LWVMA and LESF financials in each of 2019 and 2020. The Finance Committee reviewed the complete sets of financials before bringing them to the Board/Trustees. There continue to be regular, timely transfers of funds from LESF to LWVMA to cover shared expenses.

The just-completed budget process covering the next two fiscal years (FY22 & FY23) went smoothly with active participation from relevant individuals leading to ultimate board approval.

The focus over the next biennium will be on executing on a new strategic plan, diversity outreach, and more robust development efforts in order to expand programming and support local Leagues.

We commend and recognize the LWVMA staff and board members for executing their fiduciary duties so diligently.

Finance Committee members:

Judy Zaunbrecher

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan

Kathy Leonardson

Tanya Roy

Respectfully submitted by Tanya Roy, Treasurer

Biennial Report—Development

During FY20 and the first half of FY21, the 100th Anniversary Committee’s Fundraising Working Group took the lead on the Development work. The Working Group met bi-weekly for the 4 months leading up to the December gala and weekly for the 2 months leading up to the gala. The fundraising strategy consisted of securing corporate sponsors for the gala, securing leadership gifts from 72 individual “major” donors and developing the fall appeal’s message (our 100th year) which secured donations from our generous members and supporters. Our FY20 goal for the gala was to raise \$100,000 and we met that goal. A special thank you to the 100th Anniversary Committee’s Fundraising Working Group: Mary Ann Ashton, Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Florence Seldin and Judy Zaunbrecher, and to the entire LWVMA board of directors who made personal phone calls and emails during the major donor campaign for the gala.

In November 2020, LWVMA engaged Maribeth Canning Consulting (MCC) to work with us to develop a fundraising strategic plan which would correlate with the overall strategic planning initiative LWVMA embarked on at about this same time. The strategic fundraising plan will provide the blueprint for LWVMA’s Development efforts over the next 3 to 5 years with an emphasis on broadening and diversifying our sources of revenue. Integral to the fundraising strategic plan is DEI, data collection and measurement as well as capacity building. A Development Committee is being formed now to work with the board and staff to implement the fundraising strategic plan. Our engagement with MCC will conclude in November, 2021.

Fall Appeal and Phonathon

With generous support from hundreds of LWVMA members and friends, these two fundraisers, combined, are a significant source of revenue for the League of Women Voters (LWVMA) and the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund (LESF). FY20 Fall Appeal and Phonathon raised approximately \$78,000 exceeding the target by \$18,000. In FY21, the Fall Appeal and Phonathon has raised approximately \$82,000 (as of April, 2021). The FY21 budgeted amount is \$100,000. Thank you to our members who contributed to these campaigns, and to the local Leagues who made phone calls to their own and other Leagues’ members. Special thank you to Sharyn Roberts of the Newton League, who made hundreds of calls to members across the state.

Spring Appeal

The FY20 spring appeal fell far short of the budgeted target (approximately \$6,000 raised toward the budgeted amount of \$49,250). The FY21 spring appeal also fell far short of the budgeted target (approximately \$13,000 toward the budgeted amount of \$61,000). Since much of the fundraising for our 100th Anniversary gala was pushed from FY20 into FY21 (due to the pandemic, we had to postpone our gala) our typical spring appeal cycle was significantly impacted.

Grants

A grant of \$10,000 from the Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation in 2020 supported our MOVE2020 campaign of voter education and engagement. In each of the last two fiscal years, we received \$12,500 from the Donald and Nehamah Quimby Trust, as well as grants from Salem Five Charitable Foundation to sponsor our student video contest.

Submitted by Pattye Comfort

Biennial Report—Human Resources

The biennium began with a search for an Executive Director for the LWVMA and LESF. Judy Zaunbrecher and Andrea Kozinetz co-chaired a rigorous process with a number of Board members assisting with the screening, selection and interview committee. From a pool of 80 candidates, we selected 18 to submit written responses to three questions.

From these responses we interviewed nine candidates first through a phone screening and then an in-person interview. We hired Patricia Comfort in November 2019, and she quickly got up to speed with our 100th Anniversary celebration and many other endeavors.

In November of 2020 we hired Maribeth Canning as the Interim Director of Strategic Initiatives and Philanthropy (paid for through a directed donation). Maribeth is working with the Executive Director, Staff and Board on the development and implementation of a Strategic Fundraising plan.

The Human Resources Committee managed Executive Director Pattye Comfort's annual review and goal setting with input from the Board, Trustees and certain members in January of 2021.

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Judy Zaunbrecher and Mary Ann Ashton

Biennial Report—Membership

LWVMA has had double-digit membership growth in the past couple of years: 11% in FY2018-19 and 10.4% in FY2019-20. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, preliminary numbers for FY2021 show membership numbers holding steady.

The Central Berkshire County unit was formally recognized by LWVMA and LWVUS as a League in 2020.

Membership Steering Committee

During the past two years, the committee has continued to focus on how to best support all members and ensure that the League remains strong and productive. Focus areas included attracting younger members, and keeping League membership affordable in adverse conditions (pandemic, unemployment, a pandemic, when many are under- or unemployed).

The Committee also gave feedback to the Communications Committee on member newsletters and emails, resulting in more streamlined communications for members.

Membership Events

We offered a webinar on Effective Ways to Raise Civic Engagement Among Younger People in May 2020, with Nancy Thomas, Director of The Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE), part of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. The goal of the webinar was to highlight ways that the League of Women Voters can direct its efforts to engage younger people in civic life.

League Leader Lunches (LLL): Each year, local League leaders from across the Commonwealth gather in the fall to learn, share, network, and socialize.

- The 2019 LLL was held in Worcester and had 75 attendees. It was the first state League event to try out the Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee guidelines for sustainable events. Panels included:
 - Civic Engagement Opportunities for Local Leagues
 - Mobilizing in Your Community
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- The October 2020 LLL was not a luncheon. It was the first time that this event was held online, and instead of lunch, participants received a “VOTE 411” face mask, in the spirit of the times. We had 127 registrants, most likely because people didn’t have to travel to attend. The keynote talk, “Will the 2020 Election Be Safe?”, was given by Charles Stewart, who is the director of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science. Participants were able to participate in one of three breakout rooms/sessions:
 - Assessing Diversity
 - Retaining and Recruiting Members
 - Fundraising

Membership Steering Committee 2021

Kate Boland
Pattye Comfort
Elizabeth Foster-Nolan
Marie Gauthier
Lora Goldenberg
Brynne Gorman
Lois Hartman
Susan Millinger
Karen Price

Amy Smith
Judy Zaunbrecher

Biennial Report—Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

This committee was re-established in 2018 and Kate Boland kindly continued as chair of the DEI Committee through the summer of 2019. Elizabeth Foster-Nolan joined the committee and became chair in the fall, continuing a pattern of monthly meetings. A DEI review of the Local League Toolkit for the 100th Anniversary was completed during this period and the LWVMA DEI Resource List was reviewed and published before the end of the year on LWVMA.org (scroll down to the items at the bottom of the page.) This includes the following statement and dedicated email address:

“This is a “living document,” meaning we will be adding items as we become aware of them. If you have something to recommend, or you have questions or comments, please email us at: Diversitycommittee@lwvma.org”

In January, 2020, we welcomed Patricia Comfort, the new Executive Director of LWVMA, as a standing member of the Committee, and focused on our goals for the coming year. By the spring we had a new co-chair in Vedna Lacombe-Heywood and meetings became more focused on exploring current DEI issues. For example, in April, we discussed the questions: “How diversity and our basic civil liberties had been marginalized or threatened by the advent of Covid 19, and what we could do about it going forward.”

Also, in 2020 we expanded upon our partnerships with organizations dedicated to serving diverse communities. Culminating in a 2 year long participation in various initiatives and programs geared towards building mutually inclusive and beneficial relationships. A current list of collaborations between leagues in MA and other community organizations was also developed, based on what DEI Committee Members were aware of at the time. Some of the examples include but aren't limited to; ACLU of MA, Amplify Latinx, MA Women of Color Coalition, YW Boston, Lawyers Committee for Civil rights, and the Lambda Kappa Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho.

Other topics that were discussed that spring included programming and action goals, continuing voting inequities despite expanding voting options, and how we could learn more about what local leagues in MA are practicing DEI. The idea for a statewide LWVMA Peer Discussion Group was suggested and Patty Shepard and Amy Cooper set about making that happen. The first pilot meeting took place in late August and they have continued to meet on a quarterly basis on zoom. The group now has about 40 members and any member of a local league in MA is welcome to join their google group any time. Just let us know if you are interested.

In subsequent meetings the focus shifted some in response to current events. Vedna reviewed in detail the “URGENT RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC),” which she helped to develop. It was submitted to/passed by the LWVUS Convention and signed by almost 30 leagues. We also started to look at:

- the league wide database issues (lack of information about how diverse the membership really is or isn't.)
- the need for more voter registration and education in marginalized communities.
- our own need for more DEI Education and to grow our comfort level with having “difficult” conversations.

After she became the new Co-President of the LWVMA board, Elizabeth Foster-Nolan transitioned out as co-chair of the DEI Committee and Vedna Lacombe-Heywood asked Patty Shepard to help out as a new co-chair. As of late August 2020, a part of the regular monthly meetings included thought provoking conversation, often stimulated by a shared relevant video or article on some aspect of DEI work. In addition we continued to discuss inequities in voting access and the ongoing census process.

We celebrated our first look at the new [Racial Justice Resources List](#), compiled by Kathy Leonardson of the Racial Justice Subcommittee of LWVMA's Legislative Action Committee. Vedna and Patty were invited to the

Cape Cod LWV to help them introduce the LWVUS “DEI lens” materials to their members. They also led a breakout room during the League Leaders Lunch: “Conducting a DEI Assessment for Your League: Asking and discussing the important questions.” They were also invited to Boston to start some foundational work with respect to their understanding of DEI.

Before the year was out, our monthly DEI discussions had deepened considerably, as had our understanding that DEI has to be an integral part of everything we do in the League. We as a committee began to do some personal work and engaged in difficult conversations with meaningful outcomes. Last but not least, the groundwork was laid for both a DEI survey of all LWVMA members and the development of a “CO-Design DEI education/buildout” to be in place by the June Convention.

You may remember receiving the “LWVMA Membership Demographics & Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Assessment Survey” in May and [here](#) is a link to the current version of the “CO-Design DEI education/buildout”. This document is intended to provide on-going guidance to local Leagues in MA for expanding their application of DEI principals in all of their work. Again, it is a living document. If you have something to recommend, or you have questions or comments relevant to DEI, please email us at: Diversitycommittee@lwmva.org.

Our current committee members are: Jo-Ann Berry, Kate Boland, Pattye Comfort, Amy Cooper, Kathleen Dunn, Brynne Gorman, Taylor Grenga, Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Meghan Hanawalt, Hartell Johnson, Vedna Lacombe-Heywood , Kathy Leonardson, Susan Millinger, Courtney Rau Rogers, Brenda Safford, Patty Shepard, Shelly Stuler, Yaxsarie Velázquez and Judy Zaunbrecher.

Biennial Report—The Field Service Program

The Field Service program provides an opportunity for Local League and MAL unit leaders to meet with their counterparts in their area of the state to receive information and training from LWVMA and discuss possible collaboration.

The goal of the program is to support local League leaders, strengthen local Leagues, and encourage regional collaboration. It is an important piece of the connection that local Leagues have with LWVMA, both receiving information and passing on their priorities and concerns.

In the past two years, the schedule for local League leaders included a statewide League leader event in the fall and regional Field Service meetings in winter and spring sessions. Region Representatives have the discretion to schedule their meetings as their leaders in their region prefer. For example, spring meetings can be postponed to the summer or early fall.

Each Field Service Representative convenes the two meetings among the League leaders in her region and works with the LWVMA the Field Service Director on agenda items and handouts. The Director provides a packet of materials to all attendees. Handouts are selected in collaboration with LWVMA Board members, Specialists and Staff. Agendas include LWVMA/LWVUS news, timely topics, sharing successes and challenges, and regional collaborations.

The 6 regions are listed below with the Field Service Representatives. Each region also has LWVMA board member liaisons. For a list of Leagues in the region and other information about the Field Service program visit <https://lwwma.org/member-resources/field-service/>.

- West (6 LLS and units) Nancy Polan
- Metro Northwest/Central (14 LLs and units) Lora Goldenberg
- Merrimack Valley/North Shore (8 LLs) Amy Smith until January 2021
- Metro/South (6 LLs and units) Karen Price and Kate Boland
- Metro West (9 LLs) Sharyn Roberts and Bonnie Carter
- South Shore/Cape & Martha's Vineyard (5 LLs) Scotti Finnegan until May 2021

During the past biennium, there have been three full sessions of Field Service Meetings and the fourth session is in progress, summarized below.

| Session | LLs and Units Attending | % Leagues Represented |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Winter 2020 | 36 | 75% |
| Spring 2020 | 37 | 77% |
| Winter 2021 | 38 | 79% |
| Spring 2021* | 13 | 68% |

* Two regions have met as of 6/1/21. The others are scheduled.

Prepared by Field Service Director Lora Goldenberg, June 1, 2021

Biennial Report—Legislative Action Committee

Our League advocacy reflects the LWVMA program developed and approved at 2019 Convention, which chose the following five priority areas: Improving Elections; Informed Voters and Civics Education; Government for the Common Good; Climate Change and the Environment; Equality and Justice.

The League Legislative Action Committee activities encompass action on legislation and other advocacy, all based on the positions adopted by the League at both the state and national levels. LAC activity also includes educational opportunities on topics ranging from how the legislature works to police reform to regional transportation initiatives.

Our League legislative work is carried out primarily by the LAC volunteer specialists who review bills submitted during each two-year legislative session. Specialists choose bills to recommend for LWVMA support or opposition. They submit written testimony, testify at hearings, work with coalition partners, work with legislators, and alert League members when action needs to be taken. The LAC also reviews referenda on state ballots for League support or opposition.

In 2019-2020, the LAC developed a Legislative Envoy program to help League members learn about the legislative process and how to be successful advocates, and to lobby legislators who represent their Leagues. We are currently planning a follow-up series of webinars open to all League members to learn about League-supported legislation. Specialists contact League Envoys when advocacy is needed.

Several League interest groups exist, including Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee, formed in 2017. That committee keeps members informed of legislation and other initiatives, participates in lobby days and conferences, and has coordinated a series of forums, events and webinars. Criminal Justice specialists are in the process of forming their own group. Programs on Transportation have been implemented/facilitated by our LAC specialist this past year, in collaboration with her coalition partners.

2019-2020 Legislative Session Highlights

In total, our Legislative Action Committee of 23 legislative specialists followed more than 160 bills during the 2019-2020 legislative session, which was extended through January 5, 2021 due to Covid-19 delays. You can see a list of the 2019-2020 legislation and our written testimony [here](#).

Highlights of LWVMA-supported bills that became law include: The Student Opportunity Act bringing much-needed change to the foundation funding formula used to allocate educational funds in the state passed, November 2019; ROE Act provisions, to codify and extend access to abortion rights in the state passed as part of the budget, December 2020; and strong climate change roadmap for progress by 2050 legislation, passed but vetoed by Governor Baker, and passed in the current session, March 2021. The League supported pandemic election reforms passed in July 2020 that expanded access to mail voting, expanded in-person early voting hours, and eased the way for election officials to process mailed ballots early and recruit election workers from a broader pool of citizens.

After the George Floyd murder in May 2020, the LAC added a new specialist area, Racial Justice, to monitor a flurry of bill activity. The League partnered with Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and others to pass legislation in December 2020 on police reforms and accountability in Massachusetts, as a start to addressing systemic racism.

A report on LWVMA-supported bills in the 2019-20 session which became law can be viewed [here](#).

2021-2022 Current Legislative Session

The new legislative session began January 6. Our legislative specialists, currently numbering 24, are looking at the bills which we supported but that were not enacted if they are refiled in this session, as well as new bills. In the area of elections we are seeking to make pandemic election reforms permanent and also implement same day voter registration. You can see a list of 2021-22 League supported legislation and our written testimony [here](#); be sure to check back as this list grows. Testimony is added as hearings are held.

The LAC added a new section on equity to our bill analysis for the 192nd session, to insure all proposed legislation is examined through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens.

To mobilize League members across the state to contact their own legislators in support of these bills, LWVMA sends out monthly Mass. League Action newsletters and separate Action Alerts when needed. We organized a lobby day with partners in support of the Votes Act and participated in lobby days organized by other coalitions. We will have our own Day on the Hill lobby day this fall.

The current Legislative Action Committee legislative specialists are Kathy Leonardson, LAC chair and Nancy Brumback, LAC Vice-chair; Louise Haldeman, Pat Costello, Linda Freedman, Janice Goodell, Clare Gordon, Carolyn Lee, Lois Levin, Palma McLaughlin, June Michaels, Launa Zimmaro, Mary Frantz, Susan Loffredo, Karen Mazza, Sue McCalley, Jennifer Muroff, Tanya Roy, Valentina Pasquantonio, Vedna Heywood, Lori Stewart, Lucy Garnet Costa, Nancy Bettinger. We wish to thank LAC members Colleen Kirby, Tracy Brown, and Loring Schwarz who stepped down at the conclusion of the 191st session.

Submitted by Kathy Leonardson and Nancy Brumback, Chair and Vice-Chair of the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee (2019-2021)

Biennial Report—Voter Engagement

During the first year of the biennium, the Voter Engagement Committee (VEC) was focused on preparing for the big election year of 2020, sharing resources with local Leagues on GOTV efforts, conducting candidate forums and hosting two moderator training sessions. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, we shifted gears and provided information to local Leagues on how to navigate virtually in conducting candidate forums on Zoom, how to conduct GOTV efforts and voter registration virtually, and supporting local Leagues' plans for VOTE411. VEC also stressed the importance of staying connected to local election officials and community partners in order to generate and execute on GOTV tactics during the pandemic. Considerable time and energy was spent on getting the online voter guide VOTE411 up and running statewide, including populating the guide with questions for the candidates, info on ballot initiatives, local election info and links, new voting rules during the pandemic, and ultimately promoting VOTE411 for the fall 2020 primaries and elections. The VEC would like to commend LWVMA staff for their herculean efforts on VOTE411. It was a widely used and very helpful election tool for voters across the Commonwealth.

Other activities included holding a focus group to assess LWVMA voter service materials (physical copies) and a revamping of the online Voter Service Toolkit on LWVMA website. This made the toolkit easier to access, provided updated information, and expanded the resources available. LWVMA also hosted a live table at the MA Conference for Women just before the pandemic hit.

The (VEC) established and staffed the votehelp2020@lwmvma.org email address to give local League members an opportunity to ask questions about the November 2020 election and have them answered in a timely fashion. While this was not widely used for the 2020 election, we hope to establish this in the future as a regular election resource.

Because of the pandemic, naturalization ceremonies were not being held and League members could not register new citizens to vote. Instead, it was arranged for 1000 voter registration forms per month to be sent to the Lawrence office of US Citizenship and Immigration Services to be included in the materials handed out to naturalization candidates.

In August, the VEC send out a survey to all Massachusetts Leagues, asking the person(s) most knowledgeable about voter service activities to respond. We used the results and suggestions to plan how best to support local Leagues during the 2020 election season and beyond.

In September, the VEC organized two Zoom meetings. The first featured presentations by Karen Price and Jo-Ann Berry, both experienced moderators, discussing how to use Zoom for voter service events like candidates' forums. Over 40 League members participated, and the event was recorded and posted on LWVMA's website as a resource.

The second Zoom meeting in September was for League members from around the state who plan and conduct voter engagement activities. About 15 participants came together to share ideas, ask questions, and discuss how best to reach out to voters during the pandemic.

LWVMA was a sponsor of the Boston Book Festival, held online October 16 to 23, 2020.

In February, 2021, the VEC held a moderator training session via Zoom with more than 50 participants, and featuring Karen Price, Jo-Ann Berry, and Sue Flicop. They reviewed the role of the moderator, the basics of moderating on Zoom and how best to prepare for online forums and difficult situations.

In April, 2021, a small group of League members joined Jo-Ann Berry and Sue Flicop for moderator training that featured role-playing to give participants experience moderating in a low-key, practice environment. This was a highly interactive and fun session that we hope to offer again in person in the future.

The Voter Engagement Committee also established a new listserv for Voter Service leaders (voterengagementvolunteers@lwwma.org). To date this has not been used very much, but it is available to share creative ideas and ask questions of Voter Service leaders throughout the state.

Respectfully submitted by Tanya Roy and Sue Flicop, VEC co-chairs

Biennial Report—Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant

During the last biennium, the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Committee recommended the following local League grants to support citizen education and voter service activities, all of which were approved by the trustees of the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund.

| June 2019 | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Hamilton-Wenham | 100 Reasons Why: Photographic Portraits of Past and Present Members of the Hamilton Wenham League of Women Voters | \$250 |
| Northampton/Springfield Area | “Who’s Policing the Police?” – Police Accountability in Springfield, an exploration of possible models of civilian police oversight | \$250 |
| Sudbury and Wayland | Civics Bee | \$250 |
| Worcester Area | Voter Registration for New Citizens | \$250 |
| | | |
| October 2019 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Bedford | Print copy of candidates’ guide | \$300 |
| LWV of Cape Ann | Gun Forum at Gloucester HS | \$300 |
| LWV of Cape Cod Area | Pocket Constitutions | \$295 |
| Greater Haverhill | Naturalization Ceremony Supplies | \$300 |
| Melrose | Voter Education Forum | \$225 |
| Norwood | Voter service/Voter registration projects | \$300 |
| Plymouth | Civics Bee Competition | \$203 |
| Westford | “After Suffrage: A 20/20 Perspective on Women’s Rights, 1920-2020” including a roundtable discussion “Women in Politics in Westford” | \$250 |
| Winchester | “We Did it For You” | \$300 |
| | | |
| January 2020 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Arlington | Candidates’ Night | \$300 |
| Concord/Carlisle | Yellow Rose bookmarks | \$300 |
| Franklin County | Legislative Coffee | \$243 |
| Hamilton-Wenham | Civics Bee | \$300 |
| Northampton | Why We Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote | \$300 |
| Waltham | Know Your City Forums | \$300 |
| Worcester Area | Educational Forums | \$300 |
| | NOTE: COVID forced some programs to be cancelled and others to be rescheduled. Scharfman funds that had not already been spent (publicity, printing etc.) were returned for cancelled programs. | |
| | | |
| April 2020 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| Brookline | Voting Rights, Elections and Democracy: Books for Young People | \$300 |
| Needham | Girl Scouts Present! The Woman's Suffrage Movement | \$300 |
| Sharon/Stoughton | Kids Voting in Sharon NOTE: program cancelled because of COVID, funds returned | \$300 |
| Wellesley | Publications Related to Civic Education for Wellesley Residents | \$300 |
| | | |
| June 2020 | | |
| There were no grants submitted in June, 2020 | | |
| October 2020 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Greater Haverhill | Naturalization Ceremony Supplies | \$300 |
| Northampton/Franklin County | She Shapes History: traveling show museum exhibit | \$600 |
| Westford | A Guide to Town Meeting in Westford | \$300 |
| Worcester | LWVWA Educational Program Series... Zoom & Constant Contact Accounts | \$300 |
| | | |
| January 2021 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Falmouth | Be A Voter Art Campaign | \$300 |
| | | |
| April 2021 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Boston | Project Vote411 Spring into Fall | \$200 |
| Framingham | City Wide Election Forums | \$300 |
| Hingham | Citizen's Guides to Open Town Meeting for Cohasset and Hingham | \$300 |
| Wellesley | LWVW Postcard Mailing to All Wellesley Households Regarding March 2, 2021 Town Election | \$300 |
| | | |
| June 2021 | | |
| League | Grant | Amount |
| Melrose | VOTE411 | \$300 |
| Scharfman Grant Committee: Sue Abrams, Karen Callanan, Jean Cherdack, Amy Harris, Kiley Birch Johnson, Rae Scharfman | | |

Biennial Report—100th Anniversary

The LWVMA established the 100th Anniversary Committee in December 2018 to work with the Board to develop a set of priorities and activities to guide the celebration of the League of Women Voters founding and passage of the 19th Amendment.

The Committee planned and carried out a program to celebrate the League's 100th Anniversary, acknowledge our past, and look forward to what we can accomplish. The 100th Anniversary events and resources included:

- **LWVMA Says Cheers to 100 Years** gala event featuring Danielle Allen
- 100th Anniversary Webinar Series that included Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins ([The Untold History of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters](#)), Barbara Berenson ([After Suffrage: The Campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment, 1920-2020](#)), and “I pronounce you Lucy Stone” performance.
- LWVMA 100 Year Timeline based on research of LWVMA’s archive at the Schlesinger Library.
- 100th Anniversary Local League Toolkit
- The Suffrage Movement “Then and Now” Civics Education Toolkit
- 100 Reasons to Join the League of Women Voters videos

LWVMA Says Cheers to 100 Years was the capstone event for in our celebration year and was also the culmination of the 100th anniversary fundraising. We met our goal of raising \$100,000.

These resources and webinars can be viewed on the LWVMA website in the “About LWVMA” tab.

These events and resources were made possible by many volunteers and LWVMA staff. Thank you.

Committee members: Donna Hooper, Karen Price, Florence Seldin, Courtney Rau Rogers, Hartell Johnson, Robin Chen, Mary Ann Ashton, Scotti Finnegan, Judy Zaunbrecher, Pattye Comfort, Brynne Gorman, Taylor Grenga

Workbook

General Information for Delegates

The sovereign body of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is the state Convention, which is composed of delegates from each local League and Unit, member-at-large delegates, and members of the state board. At Convention, delegates vote on bylaw amendments and the budget, decide the League's program and priorities, and elect officers and directors. Even in this year's virtual format, we'll also celebrate the accomplishments of both LWVMA and local Leagues, hear from a distinguished speaker, meet and learn from fellow League members, and have fun!

Delegate Selection

The LWVMA bylaws govern the number of delegates that can represent each local League and Unit at Convention, as well as allowing for delegates of members-at-large and the state board. A table [here](#) details how many voting delegates will participate for each League in 2021. There is no limit to the number of non-voting observers who can attend, though they have to be League members.

The bylaws also require that each delegate must be a voting member of LWVMA.

Local Leagues and Units designate delegates by submitting the [Delegate Form](#). In addition to each League submitting its Delegate Form, all delegates and observers to Convention must register for Convention on [Zoom](#).

A local League or Unit may obtain additional delegate slots from another League(s) or Unit. It is the responsibility of the League/Unit requesting slot(s) to obtain the consent of the donor League/Unit and inform LWVMA. The delegate should send an email to the Credentials Committee, via Taylor Grenga, cc'ing a representative from both the donor League and the receiving League. Please contact Taylor Grenga (tgrenga@lwwma.org) if your League is interested in obtaining or releasing delegate slots.

In the event a registered delegate cannot attend, a substitute delegate must submit an emailed authorization from the local League president or primary contact to the Credentials Committee, via Taylor Grenga (tgrenga@lwwma.org).

Preparing for Convention

Prior to Convention, READ the [Pre-Convention materials](#) and the Convention Workbook. All members registered for Convention will receive an electronic copy of the Convention Workbook by email on or before June 24th.

Review the proposed Rules of Convention included in the Pre-Convention Materials, which set Convention procedures not covered in the bylaws. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* will control the general conduct of the meeting. See the *Parliamentary Motions Guide* in the Convention Workbook.

A delegate should come to Convention informed about the issues to be considered and be aware of the opinions of League constituents in regard to them. The delegate is free to form independent judgments as a result of knowledge gained from Convention deliberations. In other words, a delegate comes to Convention "informed but not instructed." The delegate chosen to attend Convention must be prepared to interpret Convention decisions to the membership over the next two years. It is the delegates' responsibility to report to their local League or Unit not only the official actions of the Convention but also the "flavor" of the Convention.

During Convention

Please log in on time. The first plenary session will start on Saturday morning, June 26, at 9:15 a.m. The second plenary session will begin Saturday afternoon, June 26, at 12:45 p.m.

It is important that delegates stay until Convention is adjourned!

Procedural Notes

Parliamentary Procedure

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, controls the general conduct of Convention plenary sessions. The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to expedite, not impede, the conduct of business. It ensures that a minority has a fair chance to be heard and to influence the Convention. Any matter to be brought before Convention for its decision, or to the chair for information or a ruling, is done so by a "motion." Once an issue has been raised by a motion, it must be resolved before the Convention is over. It need not be resolved immediately or in the form originally proposed, but it cannot be forgotten. A great deal of time may be taken up by various parliamentary procedures. Therefore, it is important that delegates use their common sense and a "feel" for the temper of the meeting not to waste Convention time by unsuitable motions, by prolonged debate, or by needless points of order or information. The aim is to arrive effectively and democratically at conclusions that are acceptable to the total body.

A working knowledge of basic parliamentary procedure will greatly enhance the effectiveness of delegates. Consult the *Parliamentary Motions Guide* included in the Convention Workbook, which lists the motions that you may make to accomplish what you wish to do.

The Convention parliamentarian will assist any delegate. During Convention, use the private chat feature to contact the parliamentarian.

Motions and Microphones

A delegate wishing to address the Convention should use the raised hand function on Zoom and wait to be called on by the chair.

A long motion must be written in Word and sent to Taylor Grenga at lwwma@lwwma.org. Please private chat to Taylor that you have sent a motion via email. It is essential that the mover's name and League, if applicable, be included. You may have Taylor send the motion to the chair at any time before or immediately after you make the motion.

Proposing Non-recommended Items

Program items that have not been recommended by the LWVMA board must be proposed and voted for consideration at the first plenary session of Convention, which will convene at 9:15 am on Saturday. As required by the LWVMA bylaws, only items that have been submitted to the state board three months prior to Convention may be proposed at Convention.

Voting

Most votes in plenary sessions will be Zoom polls. If the vote is in doubt, the chair will call for a counted vote. Any delegate may make a motion to request a counted vote as well. Delegates will cast their votes by raising their hand using Zoom when directed for a "Yes" or "No" vote. No one may enter or leave the Zoom meeting while a vote is taken. Only registered delegates may vote.

Nominations and Election

The Nominating Committee will present its slate of officers, directors and members of the Nominating Committee at the first plenary session, which will begin at 9:15 am on Saturday. Nominations from the floor can also be made at this time if the prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.

The election of officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee will take place on Saturday afternoon at the plenary that will begin at 12:45 p.m. If any positions are contested and balloting is necessary, the vote will take place via Zoom poll during the afternoon plenary as indicated in the Order of Business.

Announcements and Communications to Board Members

During plenary sessions, only announcements relating directly to the program or the welfare of delegates will be made by the chair or shown on screen. Matters requiring the attention of state board members should be sent (in writing) via a page. You can contact the page via a private chat message in Zoom.

Caucuses and Other Ways to Support Non-recommended Items

League members who wish to work for a non-recommended item should consult with their board, note the other Leagues on the list of non-recommended items and formulate a strategy. Members might contact other interested Leagues and plan a virtual caucus before Convention starts and notify all Leagues of the caucus.

Delegates are encouraged to lobby other Leagues and members using email and other virtual ways at their disposal. Delegates can contact the LWVMA office to request the use of the state Zoom account for a caucus.

If a member feels strongly about an item, the member should prepare an effective strategy for getting it adopted. A caucus is a place to promote interest in an item, to clarify its scope, and to plan a presentation. A caucus may also be used to promote any other business properly before the Convention. The goal of the caucus is to put the expressions of attitudes, interests, and aims into a broadly persuasive form that will appeal to the Convention. Here is where an enthusiastic speaker who projects well is selected to present the item.

Some tips for running a good caucus:

1. Have a well-structured proposal for item focus and scope.
2. Be prepared to discuss modifications.
3. Use only about half your caucus time developing a consensus around it, then develop a list of strong and weak points and answers to possible objections. Decide who should speak to these different points.
4. Strive for balance, coverage, and brevity.
5. Have speakers meet again on Saturday before the plenary session to make sure all is in place.
Other suggestions are to talk up the item informally whenever the occasion arises and to assign someone to write and distribute a fact sheet.

Proposed Rules of Convention

The rules customarily used by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) have been adapted to the virtual meeting format. These rules will be presented for adoption at the opening plenary. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote to adopt. The rules, as proposed or amended, require a two-thirds vote for adoption. To suspend a rule at a later time requires a two-thirds vote.

1. Admission to the Convention shall be limited to local League delegates, member-at-large delegates, state board delegates, and observers.
2. Only accredited delegates may vote.
3. Accredited delegates shall sign into the Zoom webinar to access all controls needed for debate and voting and maintain Internet access throughout the plenary when present; delegates must sign out upon any departure prior to adjournment.
4. Each delegate is responsible for their connection to the Internet. The loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection preventing participation in the plenary shall not impact the consideration of an issue or outcome of an action.
5. Only delegates and those authorized by the chair may address the Convention.
6. Delegates must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Each speaker shall announce the name and local League, when addressing the Convention. Instructions on how to participate in the proceedings will be provided by LWVMA.
7. In debate, no person shall speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion; debate shall be limited to two minutes per speaker. The chair will announce the total time allocated to each main motion and associated discussion.
8. Microphones will be muted unless a member is recognized to speak. The chair or their designee will unmute the speaker, and may mute or disconnect the member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the plenary.
9. In the event of major technical disruption in the plenary that affects quorum, the chair will have the option to recess, or to fix a time to adjourn and reconvene, for members to again login to continue the plenary.
10. A quorum shall be established by the presence of sufficient delegates on the Zoom list of participants. The list will be copied for the minutes.
11. A member intending to make a main motion or offer an amendment to a motion of substantial length or, if requested by the chair, shall submit it in writing prior to the start of plenary via the method provided by LWVMA.
12. The method of voting shall be announced by the chair. Voice votes shall be taken by means of the "raise hand" icon and shall be deemed a Division. In the event of electronic voting (using the "polling" function), the chair's announcement of the result shall include the number of members voting on each side.
13. Any candidate who is nominated from the floor shall give consent and be allowed to address the delegates for two minutes immediately after their name is placed in nomination.

14. Given the constraints of a one-day, virtual Convention, the resolutions process is different this year. The Resolutions Committee sent an email to all members outlining the Resolutions process, submission form, and guidelines for this Convention. Local Leagues, units, and members-at-large could submit resolutions expressing the will of the Convention for a vote at the LWVMA Convention. Those wishing to submit a resolution sent it to the Resolutions Committee in advance, no later than 5 p.m. Monday, June 21. The Resolutions Committee met on Tuesday, June 22, at 7 p.m. by Zoom to review the submitted resolutions. Those proposing resolutions were encouraged to attend, and any League member was welcome. The Resolutions Committee posted a report with the approved resolutions on the Convention website on Wednesday, June 23. That report included any proposed resolutions that the committee did not approve. Resolution sponsors of approved resolutions will present their resolutions during the first Plenary session. These will be voted on by Convention delegates during the second Plenary session. Approved resolutions require a majority vote. Sponsors of nonapproved resolutions can present their resolutions at the afternoon plenary session and will require a two-thirds vote to be adopted.

15. No announcements from the floor shall be made that do not relate to the business of Convention or the welfare of the members.

16. Substitution of a delegate shall be approved by the Credentials Committee only upon receipt of written authorization from the local League/Unit president or contact person.

17. The minutes of the Convention shall be approved by a committee appointed by the board to review and correct the minutes.

Parliamentary Motions Guide

| PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS GUIDE | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Adapted from Town Meeting Time | | | | | | |
| The motions are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. | | | | | | |
| YOU WANT TO: | YOU SAY: | MAY INTERRUPT? | SECOND REQUIRED? | DEBATABLE? | AMENDABLE? | VOTE? |
| Privileged motions | | | | | | |
| End the meeting | I move to adjourn | No | Yes | No | No | Majority |
| Adjourn to another time | I move to adjourn to... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Find out if there's a quorum | I rise to a point of no quorum | No | No | No | No | None |
| Set the time to/at which to adjourn | I move to adjourn to/at... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Register complaint | I rise to a question of privilege | Yes | No | No | No | None |
| Subsidiary motions | | | | | | |
| Lay motion aside temporarily | I move that this be laid on the table | No | Yes | No | No | 2/3 |
| Close debate | I move the previous question | No | Yes | No | No | 2/3 |
| Limit or extend debate | I move that debate be limited to... | No | Yes | No | No | 2/3 |
| Postpone motion to a certain time | I move to postpone the motion to ... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Refer motion to committee | I move to refer the motion to... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Modify wording of a motion | I move to amend (or substitute)... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Kill main motion | I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely | No | Yes | Yes | No | Majority |

| YOU WANT TO: | YOU SAY: | MAY INTERRUPT? | 2 ND REQUIRED? | DEBATABLE? | AMENDABLE? | VOTE? |
|--|--|----------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Incidental motions – same rank as motion out of which they arise. | | | | | | |
| Enforce rules | I rise to a point of order | Yes | No | No | No | None |
| Submit matter to the meeting | I appeal from the ruling of the chair | No | Yes | Yes | No | Majority |
| Divide the motion | I move to divide the question | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Separate consideration | I move for separate consideration... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Fix the method of voting | I move to vote on this motion by... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| Nominate someone to a committee | I nominate... | No | No | No | No | Plurality |
| Withdraw or modify a your own motion | I move to withdraw/ modify my motion... | No | No | No | No | Majority |
| Suspend rules | I move to suspend the rules to ... | No | Yes | No | No | 2/3* |
| Main motions – no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending. | | | | | | |
| Make a main motion | I move... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Various |
| Reconsider or rescind a motion** | I move to reconsider/ rescind the vote ... | No | Yes | ** | No | Majority |
| Take matter from the table | I move to take from the table ... | No | Yes | No | No | Majority |
| Advance an article | I move to advance article ... | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |

* Unanimous if rule protects minorities; out of order if rule protects absentees.

** Same rank and debatable to same extent as motion being reconsidered.

Recommended Program for 2022 - 2023

At its April 28, 2021, meeting, the Board of Directors of LWVMA approved a program plan to recommend to the membership at Convention 2021. Per by-laws, this plan must be distributed to local League presidents at least six weeks prior to Convention. The plan that is approved at Convention will guide LWVMA for the next two years. In developing its recommended plan, the Board considered the Program Planning reports from 22 local Leagues, likelihood of success and relevance of different proposals, and available leadership to carry out the program.

LWVMA Board Recommendations for Studies

Recommendation 1: The Board recommends no new study.

Recommendation 2: The Board recommends no reviews or updates of current LWVMA positions.

Recommendation 3: The Board recommends no concurrence.

LWVMA Board Recommendations for Action Priorities and Goals

LWVMA Board Preamble to Action Priorities and Goals:

The recommendations for Action Priorities and Goals were introduced by the following passage, approved by the Board at its December 14, 2020 meeting.

First and foremost, we will develop an Action Plan to encourage understanding of racial justice issues by Massachusetts Leagues. We will

- *Encourage the continued education of our local League members on fundamental aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion*
- *Utilize and implement tools provided by the LWVUS DEI training modules and other applicable resources to ensure members understand and are committed to achieving racial equity*
- *Assess our individual local League programming, with Black people, Indigenous people, and all people of color (BIPOC), and other marginalized representatives in mind, to ensure diversity that represents the inclusion of all of our community and further advances racial equity*
- *Work to create opportunities to meaningfully partner with BIPOC and underrepresented members of our communities through inclusive engagement and community capacity-building*

As we advocate for the action priorities and goals accepted at Convention or added as circumstances demand, we will always use the lens of DEI.

LWVMA Board Recommendations for Action Priorities and Goals

By selecting these five areas for action priority, and these eleven action goals, LWVMA and its local Leagues will seek opportunities to participate in action that addresses issues under these headings. Opportunities may include, but are not limited to, support of or opposition to legislation at all levels of government, participating in approved coalitions, conducting issue forums, encouraging attendance at events and rallies, and lobbying officials. LWVMA will provide members and local Leagues with communication tools and materials to focus on the Action Priorities and Goals. The Action Priorities and Goals will appear on the LWVMA website home page. Legislative specialists will continue to follow legislation in all their areas of expertise; those areas fall under one of the broad Priority categories. Action Priorities and Goals will only change by a vote of the membership.

Recommendation 4: Board recommendations for LWVMA Action Priorities 2021-2023

Improving Elections
Empowering Voters and Fostering Civic Engagement
Advocating for Justice and Equality
Addressing the Climate Emergency
Advocating for Equitable Access to Basic Human Services

Recommendation 5: Board recommendations for Action Goals Chosen by local League Members for LWVMA Focus 2021-2023

With the approval of the Board, in the program planning materials LWVMA provided a list of thirty action goals, sent as a separate list to the whole membership, and included in the *Guide to Program Planning* sent to local League leaders. The Leagues and members at large were asked to choose ten goals that each thought LWVMA should focus on in 2021-2023.

The local Leagues made a number of suggestions about the goals. Some suggestions offered improved wording; these tended to be proposed for adoption by the program co-chairs because of their usefulness. Other proposed additional components for individual goals, either expanding what a goal would involve, or making more specific goals considered too general. Others merged two or three goals together. A number of Leagues proposed additional goals.

What follows are the ten goals most chosen by the Leagues, and one goal added from the additional goals proposed by local Leagues.

Improving Voting

Advocate for election reforms including same-day voter registration and making permanent vote-by-mail and other early voting measures which have been identified.

Empowering Voters and Fostering Civic Engagement

Support civic education in schools, supporting successful school implementation of S2631 “An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement” with continued advocacy for its annual funding and resource support for schools. Continue to encourage informed and active participation in government and understanding major public policy issues. On-going actions include: Online voters’ guide; Lotte E. Scharfman citizen education grants to local Leagues; candidate forums; student video contest; civic trivia events.

Examine the operation of Senate and House rules, selection of president and speaker, and assignment of chairmanships and stipends in order to promote more transparency and to ensure public accountability.

Advocating for Justice and Equality

Racial Justice: Take action to identify, educate, and advocate to eradicate systemic racism in the state of Massachusetts as it exists in education, housing, employment, healthcare, and every aspect of American life, since such racism and socio-economic inequalities have marginalized, discriminated against, and harmed Black people, Indigenous people, and all people of color (BIPOC).

Gender Equity: Advocate for strengthened and extended rights for all LGBTQ residents of Massachusetts to ensure that the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion are applied to all historically disadvantaged groups.

Criminal Justice: Support legislation to reform sentencing, probation and parole policies; support rehabilitative and re-entry services; promote alternatives to incarceration, including enhanced mental health care.

Addressing the Climate Emergency

Advocate for passage and tracking of comprehensive climate legislation that addresses the scope, scale, and urgency of the climate crisis; advocate for increased use of renewable energy, especially related to transportation; advocate for improved public transportation funding that includes transitioning towards electrification and expanding availability of options, especially in our Environmental Justice Communities.

Advocating for Equitable Access to Basic Human Services

Advocate for single-payer universal healthcare coverage legislation for all residents of Massachusetts.

Develop and advocate for strategies to improve educational access and learning experiences for historically disadvantaged communities.

Advocate for affordable housing for all as a matter of equity by seeking to expand the rights of tenants, promoting the establishment of affordable housing, preserving existing affordable housing, and promoting tenancy preservation.

Non-Recommended Program and Action Proposed by Local Leagues

Program planning recommendation forms were received from 22 local Leagues but no Members-at-Large.

The following suggestions, with a number indicating how many Leagues suggested each item, were not recommended by the board. According to LWVMA by-laws, “Any recommendations for the state program sent to the state board at least three months before the convention, but not recommended by the state board, may be adopted by the convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and at a subsequent session the proposal for adoption receives a two-thirds vote.”

Any League may propose consideration of a non-recommended item at the convention’s Saturday morning session. If it receives a majority vote, it will be voted on at the Saturday afternoon session, where it will need a two-thirds vote [unless the bylaw change to a majority vote has been passed.]

New Study Recommendations:

The use of Ranked Choice Voting in local elections where there are multi-winners, e.g. voting for 2 out of 3 candidates. 1 local League

16- and 17-year-olds being able to vote in state-wide, e.g. constitutional and legislative, elections. 1 local League; a second local League mentioned the issue, but did not suggest a study on it.

The impact on voter participation by moving to a ward-based city council and school committee system 1 local League

An individual’s right to a “death with dignity,” focusing on the rights of those involved, the medical choices that can be made and the physician’s role in those choices. 1 local League

Restudy recommendations:

None

Concurrence:

None

Action Priorities:

The names of several Priorities have been changed at the suggestion of one local League, but the focus of the Priorities has not been changed.

Action Goals: All proposed by one local League unless otherwise stated.

Improving Elections

- Advocate for local option Ranked Choice Voting Act (SD 241/HD 652).
- Support legislative measures that promote interstate collaboration for election improvement by encouraging MA to join ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center.
- Advocate for the lowering of the voting age to 16 or 17 in municipal /town elections, e.g. the Empower Act. 2 local Leagues.
- Reach out to encourage the marginalized, elderly, young and women to become regular voters.
- Advocate for media outlets and public officials to take a firm approach to reduce/eliminate disinformation.
- Focus public attention on the legislative history of League-supported bills; use the progress of bills to promote understanding of the need to improve the legislative process in Massachusetts.

Climate Emergency

- Advocate accelerating the timetables for implementation of climate legislation.
- Encourage local Leagues to work with local governments to develop climate action plans and other local initiatives.
- Advocate for recognition of a healthy and sustainable environment as a basic human right.
- Environmental education should be stressed at all levels.
- Advocate for laws that shift the costs of recycling and disposal from taxpayers and municipal governments to the producers that sell them. 3 local Leagues; a 4th includes similar ideas in a more general statement

Government for All the People: Healthcare:

- Advocate for health equity which is defined as the absence of unfair and avoidable or remediable differences in health among population groups defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically
- Advocate for legislation to reduce discrimination in the disparity of access and in the provision of healthcare for all people.
- Expansion of public health infrastructure to build state and local resilience.

Government for All the People: Education

- Advocate for universal pre-K. 2 local Leagues

Government for All the People: Basic Human Needs

- Advocate for passage of a law to create a Rural Task Force to secure funding and resources for improved access to jobs, food, medical services, environmental protection, and universal internet connectivity.
- Take active steps by working with non-profits, for-profit companies, and government to end/mitigate food insecurities.
- Advocate for the reaffirmation of water as a basic human right.
- Gun Violence Prevention: Advocate for a holistic approach to prevent gun violence that addresses root causes and anti-racist system change.

Pandemic Recovery

- Advocate for the establishment of safe in-person education that addresses academic, social and emotional needs of students of all ages.

Justice: Gender Equity

- Advocate for legislation for equal pay, parity on boards, and to address sexual harassment in the workplace. 1 local League, but a second focuses on a part of this: Advocate for passage of SD521, “An Act to Ensure Gender Parity on Public Boards.
- Work to provide family-friendly social-economic policies for working mothers of all income levels.

Criminal Justice

- Advocate for the decriminalizing of asylum-seeking and immigration.

Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Budget Overview

It is important to know that the accounting firm that reviewed the LWVMA and the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund for FY-2020 reported that the combined entities have a strong cash position and beneficial interest in significant financial assets. LWVMA ended fiscal 2020 in a strong financial position. That was important for the unanticipated pandemic in FY-21. Total revenues dropped by 45%, mainly because of a 50% drop in annual fundraising. On the expense side, lack of public events has resulted in reduction of expenses to offset the loss of revenue.

During 2021, the LWVMA has been actively engaged in a thoughtful strategic planning process to build capacity and to increase outreach to a diverse community. The proposed FY 22 & FY 23 Budgets reflect a development strategy designed to meet those goals.

The proposed biennial budgets reflect a set of assumptions:

- Membership will be stable and increase 5% each year
- Direct fundraising activities such as the annual phonathon will be reduced
- Development effort will be focused on grants and major donors
- Development staff will be increased to reach goals, increasing personnel cost
- Expanding outreach will include diversity training • Increases in communications spending are to support outreach
- Funds for an in-person LWVMA Convention are budgeted for FY-23
- LWVMA and LESF, two sister organizations, share the costs 50-50 for occupancy, payroll and certain other shared expenses.

The goal for FY 22 is to implement strategic outreach & development components, which will result in a modest deficit overall of about \$12,000.

The goal for FY 23 is to identify and confirm grants and major gifts to support increased outreach and community engagement to develop voter education with a more diverse population. The increase in budgeted income for FY-23 is hoped to allow for a surplus over expenses of nearly \$20,000.

The Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund (LESF) reflects comparable operating changes. There is a projected deficit in FY-22 of about \$8,500 and a surplus in FY-23 of \$23,300.

Submitted by Budget Committee Betsy DeWitt, Chair Tanya Roy, LWVMA Treasurer Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, LWVMA Co-President Judy Zaunbrecher, LWVMA Co-President Pattye Comfort, LWVMA Executive Director

LWVMA/LESF Combined Statements of Financial Position FY17-FY20

LWVMA/LESF COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION FY17-20

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | | | |
| Cash | 329,551 | 346,941 | 341,575 | 415,188 |
| Accounts Receivable | 117 | 69 | 1,963 | 1,018 |
| Total Current Assets | 329,668 | 347,010 | 343,538 | 416,206 |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: | | | | |
| Computer and Office Equipment | 59,030 | 59,030 | 59,264 | 59,508 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (58,279) | (58,496) | (58,543) | (58,638) |
| Net Property and Equipment | 751 | 534 | 721 | 870 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS: | | | | |
| Security Deposit | 3,696 | 8,921 | 3,964 | 3,964 |
| Endowment Investments | 78,157 | 82,264 | 83,315 | 87,483 |
| Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust | 903,322 | 939,347 | 977,190 | 966,207 |
| Total Other Assets | 985,175 | 1,030,532 | 1,064,469 | 1,057,654 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,315,594 | 1,378,076 | 1,408,728 | 1,474,730 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 4,024 | 4,877 | 3,269 | 5,344 |
| Deferred Revenue | 117 | 69 | 1,963 | 1,018 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 4,141 | 4,946 | 5,232 | 6,362 |
| NET ASSETS: | | | | |
| Without Donor Restrictions | 316,199 | 339,342 | 332,598 | 400,524 |
| With Donor Restrictions | 995,254 | 1033,788 | 1,070,898 | 1,067,844 |
| Total Net Assets | 1,311,453 | 1,373,130 | 1,403,496 | 1,468,368 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | 1,315,594 | 1,378,076 | 1,408,728 | 1,474,730 |

LWVMA Board-Approved Budget Committee Recommendation FY22 and FY23

| LWVMA | FY21 Budget | FY 21 Actuals | FY 22 Budget | FY 23 Budget | Notes |
|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| INCOME | | (thru 3.21) | (Proposed) | (Proposed) | |
| 4000-0 · Dues | | | | | |
| 4000-1 · Assessments (pmp) | 59,820 | 52,808 | 59,850 | 62,842 | 1 |
| 4010-1 · Members-at-Large | 6,000 | 2,075 | 3,000 | 4,500 | |
| 4020.1 · League Disbandments | | - | | - | |
| Total 4000-0 · Dues | 65,820 | 54,883 | 62,850 | 67,342 | |
| 4100-0 · Member Meetings/ Events | | | | | |
| 4150-1 · League Leader Lunches | | | - | - | |
| 4100-1 · LWVMA Convention | 23,000 | - | 0 | 23,000 | |
| 4110-1 · LWVMA Council | | - | 5,000 | 0 | |
| Total 4100-0 · Member Meetings/ Events | 23,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 23,000 | |
| 4200-0 · Contribution and Dev. Income | | | | | |
| 4200-1 · Phonathon - Fall Appeal | 50,000 | 28,115 | 22,000 | 28,000 | |
| 4210-1 · Local League Gifts | 5,000 | 1,150 | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| 4235-1 · Spring Appeal | 32,525 | 6,715 | 10,000 | 16,000 | |
| 4240-1 · In Honor/Memory of | 0 | 125 | 4,000 | 7,000 | |
| 4260-1 · General Contributions | 1,000 | 925 | 75,000 | 100,000 | 2 |
| 4280-1 · General Grants | | 6,750 | 9,250 | 14,250 | 3 |
| Total 4200-0 · Contribution and Dev. Income | 88,525 | 43,780 | 125,250 | 170,250 | |
| 4300.0 · Communications, Pubs, Products | | | | | |
| 4300-1 · Taxable Promotional Items | 2,000 | 90 | | | |
| 4310-1 · Non Taxable Promo Items | 400 | | | | |
| 4315-1 · Café Press Royalties | 150 | - | | | |
| Total 4300.0 · Communications, Pubs, Products | 2,550 | 90 | 0 | 0 | |
| 4330-00 · Promos-Postage/Vendor Rebates | 50 | 0 | | | |
| 4350-1 · Misc Income (eg Vendor rebate) | 0 | 518 | 100 | 100 | |
| 4330-1 · Postage | 50 | 0 | | | |
| Total 4330-00 · Promos-Postage/Vendor Rebates | 100 | 518 | 100 | 100 | |
| 4400-0 · Interest Income | | | | | |
| 4400-1 · General- Interest Income | 250 | 23 | 50 | 50 | |
| Total 4400-0 · Interest Income | 250 | 23 | 50 | 50 | |
| Total Income | 180,245 | 99,294 | 193,250 | 260,742 | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| EXPENSE | 5010-0 · Services to Local Leagues | | | | |
| | 5025-10 · Membership Initiatives | | | | |
| | Total 5025-10 · Membership Initiatives | 2,000 | 33 | 3,000 | 4,000 |
| | 5025-1 · Members at Large Support | 500 | 4,274 | | |
| | 5030-1 · Workshops/Training | 250 | 0 | 2,500 | 5,000 |
| | 5045-1 · Field Service Representatives | 500 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| | Total 5010-0 · Services to Local Leagues | 3,250 | 4,308 | 6,000 | 9,500 |
| | 5100-0 · Member Meetings Events | | | | |
| | 5110-0 · Board Committees | 250 | 0 | 250 | 250 |
| | 5100-1 · Delegates to LWVUS Council | 1,100 | 0 | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| | 5115-1 · Delegates to LWVUS Convention | 0 | 0 | 3,000 | 0 |
| | 5115-2 · LWVUS Convention - Reception/Caucus | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 0 |
| | 5123-1 · LWVMA-Convention | 23,000 | 0 | 0 | 23,000 |
| | 5125-1 · LWVMA-Council | 0 | 0 | 5,000 | 0 |
| | 5120-1 · Day on the Hill | 500 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| | 5130-1 · League Leader Lunches | 2,000 | 986 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | 5135-2 · Special Events | 250 | 0 | 250 | 250 |
| | Total 5100-0 · Member Meetings Events | 27,100 | 986 | 14,100 | 27,100 |
| | 5150-0 · Advocacy | | | | |
| | 5160-0 · Legislation | | | | |
| | 5160-10 Instatrac subscription | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | Total 5160-0 · Legislation | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | 5165-10 · Lobbying filing fees | 250 | 220 | 250 | 250 |
| | 5170-10 · Leg Action Committee | 300 | | 300 | 300 |
| | 5180-10 · Special Campaigns | 500 | 100 | 500 | 500 |
| | Total 5150-0 · Advocacy | 3,050 | 2,320 | 3,050 | 3,050 |
| | 5210-0 · Contributions and Dev. Expenses | | | | |
| | 5210-1 · General Development | 250 | 280 | 400 | 500 |
| | 5215-1 · Spring Appeal | 1,000 | 310 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | 4510-2 · LESF- Reimb--Spring Appeal | -200 | | -300 | -300 |
| | 5210-10 · Phonathon - Fall Appeal | | | | |
| | 5215-10 · Local League Revenue Sharing | 7,500 | | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| | 5210-10 · Phonathon - Fall Appeal - Other | 2,500 | 1,538 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| | Total 5210-10 · Phonathon - Fall Appeal | 10,000 | 1,538 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| | 4520-1 · LESF- Reimb--Phonathon | -4,300 | - | -4,300 | -4,300 |

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| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|
| Total 5210-0 · Contributions and Dev. Expenses | 6,750 | 1,964 | 6,800 | 6,900 | |
| 5230-1 · Comm, Pubs and Products | | | | | |
| 5240-1 · Promotional items | 2,000 | 0 | | | |
| 5250-1 · Voter printing | 600 | 0 | | | |
| Total 5230-1 · Comm, Pubs and Products | 2,600 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 5200-0 · Dues and Affiliations | | | | | |
| 5255-1 · Per member pmts to LWVUS | 4,500 | 2,224 | 4,725 | 4,961 | 6 |
| Total 5200-0 · Dues and Affiliations | 4,500 | 2,224 | 4,725 | 4,961 | |
| 5300-0 · Administration | | | | | |
| 5300-1 · President and Board | 0 | 2,495 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 5306-1 · Acknowledgement Gifts | 300 | 0 | 300 | 300 | |
| 5310-1 · Comp. Backup and Support | 1,000 | 578 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| 5320-1 · Email Service | 1,600 | 1,666 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 8 |
| 5330-1 · Contact Management | 3,600 | 2,640 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 9 |
| 5335-1 · Videoconferencing and webinar | 0 | 1,341 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 10 |
| 5340-1 · Merchant -Credit Card Serv Fees | 1,800 | 1,161 | 1,800 | 1,800 | |
| 5350-1 · Website | 1,000 | 1,748 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 11 |
| 5360-1 · Audit/Review | 5,500 | 3,050 | 5,500 | 5,500 | |
| 5380-1 · Filing Fees | 120 | 89 | 120 | 120 | |
| 5390-1 · General Expense | 3,350 | 0 | 3,350 | 3,350 | |
| 5400-1 · Board Insurance | 1,200 | 1,251 | 1,400 | 1,400 | |
| 5410-1 · Postage | 2,000 | 590 | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| 5425-1 · Printing | 1,000 | 383 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| 5420-1 · Supplies | 1,800 | 967 | 1,800 | 1,800 | |
| 4515-1 · Reimb -Administration Costs | -8,000 | -5,583 | -13,685 | -13,685 | |
| Total 5300-0 · Administration | 16,270 | 12,375 | 13,685 | 13,685 | |
| 5500.0 · Payroll and Related Costs | | | | | |
| 5500.1 · Payroll and Occupancy | | | | | |
| 5521-1 · Office Salaries and Wages | 187,741 | 145,970 | 248,251 | 281,169 | |
| 5523-1 · Payroll Taxes | 16,209 | 15,249 | 26,136 | 30,034 | |
| 5524-1 · Staff Benefits | 7,560 | 292 | 13,560 | 17,505 | 12 |
| 5525-1 · Payroll Services | 1,900 | 1,529 | 1,900 | 1,900 | |
| 5530-3 · Insurance - WC | 350 | 697 | 700 | 800 | |
| 5540-3 · Hiring Costs | 250 | 0 | 250 | 250 | |
| 5545-3 · Temporary Labor/Intern | 1,000 | 0 | 1,650 | 1,650 | |
| 4500-1 · LESF Reimb -PR and Related Costs | -107,505 | -90,402 | -146,223 | -166,654 | |
| Total 5500.1 · Payroll and Related Costs | 107,505 | 73,335 | 146,224 | 166,654 | |
| 5510-1 · Occupancy | | | | | |
| 5511-1 · Rent | 26,000 | 18,373 | 24,300 | 24,660 | |
| 5520-1 · Insurance - Business | 720 | 749 | 800 | 820 | |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5530-1 · Telephone & Internet | 120 | 127 | 588 | 588 |
| 5540-1 · Amenities | 720 | 405 | 0 | 0 |
| 4510-1 · LESF Reimb -Rent and utilities | -13,770 | -9,827 | -12,844 | -13,034 |
| Total 5510-1 · Occupancy | 13,790 | 9,827 | 12,844 | 13,034 |
| Total 5500.0 · Payroll and Occupancy | 121,295 | 83,162 | 159,068 | 179,688 |
| Total Expense | 184,815 | 107,339 | 207,428 | 244,884 |
| Net Income | -4,571 | -8,045 | -14,178 | 15,858 |

Notes:

1. 5% increase for each year (FY22 = 5% increase over FY21 projected actual of \$57,000)
2. (major donor/s gift/s)
3. FY21 = PPFM grant (\$1,750)& transportation grant (\$5,000)
4. This number represents withdrawals by MAL Units from their accounts; does not include corresponding income line (for the FY21 actual column)
5. (see funding priorities spreadsheet for "real" costs)
6. (5% increase to match dues)
7. FY21 expense was strat planning
8. (constant contact & later)
9. Neon
10. Zoom accounts
11. FY21 expense includes re-design
12. FY 22 & 23 include prof dev

LESF Approved Budget FY22 and FY23

| INCOME | LESF | FY21 Budget | FY21 Actuals (thru 3.21) | FY 22 Budget (Proposed) | FY 23 Budget (Proposed) | Notes |
|---|---|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 4000.0 · Contributions and Development | | | | | | |
| 4000.1 · Annual Appeals | | | | | | |
| | 4000-1 · Phonathon / Fall Appeal | 50,000 | 52,371 | 33,000 | 38,000 | |
| | 4100-1 · End-of-Year Appeal | 10,000 | 7,503 | 10,000 | 10,000 | |
| | 4200-2 · Spring Appeal | 28,525 | 6,200 | 15,000 | 20,000 | |
| | Total 4000.1 · Annual Appeals | 88,525 | 66,074 | 58,000 | 68,000 | |
| 4020.10 · Special Fundraising events | | | | | | |
| | 4050-1 · Member Event I - Annual | 10,000 | 0 | | | |
| | 4050-3 · Member Event II - Annual | 10,000 | 0 | | | |
| | 4020.10 · Special Fundraising events -100th | | 23,520 | | | |
| | Total 4020.10 · Special Fundraising events | 20,000 | 23,520 | 0 | 0 | |
| 4300.1 · Other Gifts | | | | | | |
| | 4310-1 · Unspecified Gifts | | | - | - | |
| | 4320-1 · Local League Gifts | 350 | 2,340 | 2,000 | 2,000 | |
| | 4305-1 · Forums and Conferences | | | - | - | |
| | 4300-1 · In Honor/In Memory of Gifts | | | 2,500 | 2,500 | |
| | 4300-2 · Special Programs/Gen Dev/Other | | 1,750 | 75,000 | 100,000 | 1 |
| | 4315-1 · Corporate Matching Gifts | 250 | | 250 | 250 | |
| | Total 4300.1 · Other Gifts | 600 | 4,090 | 79,750 | 104,750 | |
| 4010.0 · Grants | | | | | | |
| | 4010.1 · Corporations/Foundations/Other | 22,500 | 12,500 | 25,000 | 35,000 | |
| | 4010-2 · Forums and Conferences | | | - | - | |
| | 4020.1 · Student Essay/Video contest | 1,500 | | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| | 4010.0 · Grants - Other | | | - | - | |
| | Total 4010.0 · Grants | 24,000 | 12,500 | 26,500 | 36,500 | |
| Unrelated Income | | | | | | |
| | 4350.1 · Misc Income (eg Vendor rebate) | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total 4000.0 · Contributions and Development | | 133,125 | 106,229 | 164,250 | 209,250 | |
| 4400 · Interest and Dividends | | | | | | |
| | 4410.1 · Fidelity - Net Assets Released | 4,300 | | 4,300 | 4,300 | |
| | 4400-1 · N & T Jones Charitable Trust | 30,000 | 26,500 | 30,000 | 30,000 | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 4420-1 · Interest and Dividends - General | 250 | 45 | 50 | 50 | |
| Total 4400 · Interest and Dividends | 34,550 | 26,545 | 34,350 | 34,350 | |
| 4500 · Reimbursements and Other Income | | | | | |
| 4510-1 · Miscellaneous Income | 50 | | 50 | 50 | |
| Total 4500 · Reimbursements and Other Income | 50 | 0 | 50 | 50 | |
| | 167,725 | 132,774 | 198,650 | 243,650 | |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| 5000-2 · Meetings and Events | | | | | |
| 5025-10 · Member Event I - Annual | 500 | | 500 | 500 | |
| 5025-10 · Member Event II - Annual | 500 | | - | | |
| Special Fundraisnig Event -- 100th | | 16,615 | | | |
| 5015-1 · Forums and Conferences | | 175 | - | - | |
| 5020-10 · Student Contest Award Ceremony | 250 | | 250 | 250 | |
| Total 5000-2 · Meetings and Events | 1,250 | 16,790 | 750 | 750 | |
| 5100-10 · Project and Voter Outreach | | | | | |
| 5125-2 - Essay/Video Contest | 2,500 | 805 | 2,500 | 2,500 | |
| 5135-1 · Online Voters Guide | | | 8,000 | - | |
| 5100-1 · Moderators Training | | | 500 | 500 | |
| 5165-1 · Candidates Forum | | | 1,000 | | |
| 5115-1 · Citizens Education Projects | | 50 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| 5155-1 · League Studies | | | - | - | |
| 5160-1 · Intern | 500 | 500 | 850 | 850 | |
| Total 5100-10 · Project and Voter Outreach | 3,000 | 1,355 | 13,850 | 4,850 | |
| 5200-10 · Citizen Ed Fund Grant Program | 6,000 | 1,800 | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| 5250.1 · Contributions and Devl Expense | | | | | |
| 5250-10 · General Development | 1,000 | 30,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2 |
| 5260-10 · Direct Mail Fundraising | | | | | |
| 5250.1 - Contribution and Devl Expense - Other | 0 | 365 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total 5250.1 · Contributions and Devl Expense | 1,000 | 30,365 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| 5400.10 · Administration | | | | | |
| 5410-10 · Chair and Trustees | | | | | |
| 5435-10 · General Volunteer Expenses | | | | | |
| 5400-1 · Website Design | 500 | 250 | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| 5410-1 · Contact Managemt Software Alloc. | | | | | 3 |
| 5415-1 · Email Services Allocation | | | | | 3 |
| 5420-1 · Merchant -Credit Card Serv Fees | 1,600 | 1,087 | 1,600 | 1,600 | |
| 5425-1 · Comp. Networking and Support Alloc. | | | | | 3 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| | 5430-1 · Audit/Review | 5,000 | 5,625 | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| | 5440-1 · Filing Fees | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | |
| | 5450-1 · Postage | | | | | 3 |
| | 5445-1 · Supplies/Stationery | | 350 | 500 | 500 | 3 |
| | 5475-1 · Equipment Maintenance | | | | | |
| | 5460-1 · Depreciation | 100 | | 100 | 100 | |
| | 5470-1 · Capital Expenditures | 500 | 2,620 | 500 | 500 | 4 |
| Total 5400.10 · Administration | | 7,770 | 10,002 | 10,270 | 10,270 | |
| 5410.1 · Reimbts and Other Expenses | | | | | | |
| | 5480-1 · Phonathon Reimburse'm't to LWVMA | 4,300 | | 4,300 | 4,300 | |
| | 5480-2 · Spring Appeal Reimburse'm't to LWVMA | 200 | | 200 | 200 | |
| | 5500.1 · Overhead to LWVMA-Clearing | | | | | |
| | 5500-1 · Overhead to LWVMA - PR | 107,505 | 90,402 | 146,223 | 166,654 | |
| | 5510-1 · Overhead to LWVMA - Rent/Util | 13,770 | 9,827 | 12,844 | 13,034 | |
| | 5515-1 · Overhead to LWVMA - Admin | 8,000 | 5,583 | 13,685 | 13,685 | |
| | Total 5500.1 · Overhead to LWVMA-Clearing | 129,275 | 105,812 | 172,752 | 193,373 | |
| Total 5410.1 · Reimbts and Other Expenses | | 133,775 | 105,812 | 177,252 | 197,873 | |
| Total Expense | | 152,795 | 166,123 | 209,122 | 220,743 | |
| Net Income | | 14,930 | -33,349 | -10,472 | 22,907 | |

Notes:

1. major donor/s gift/s
2. FY21 actual = MCC \$30k
3. appears in reimbursement line
4. FY21 actual = new computers

LWVMA Strategic Plan

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Organization Name | League of Women Voters of Massachusetts |
| Address | 90 Canal Street, Suite 414, Boston, MA 02114 |
| Website | www.lwvma.org |
| Phone/Email | lwvma@lwvma.org (857) 452.1715 |

I. GUIDING IDEAS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| MISSION | Empower voters and strengthen democracy for all in Massachusetts |
| VISION | LWVMA will develop a strong, diverse membership and be recognized as the champion of democracy and voting rights. LWVMA will develop a strategic learning culture (measuring, evaluating and reporting to stakeholders) enabling members to develop and share their experiences and expertise in an inclusive learning environment. |
| VALUES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community/Diversity, Equity & Inclusion ● Commitment (shared responsibility for ensuring resources for achieving mission) ● Collaboration (value expertise & perspectives of partners & stakeholders) ● Education (public, voter and membership) ● Non-partisanship ● Action oriented at all levels (local, state, and national) |

II. ASSESSMENT

STRENGTHS (Top 1 of 5 strengths first)

| |
|--|
| <u>Strong reputation</u> as a respected, nonpartisan voice for 100 years (for the community & legislators) |
| <u>Expertise</u> based on development of issue positions, willingness of members to build and share skills, and capacity to educate voters/public on candidates and issues |
| <u>Model of collaboration and partnership</u> through 3-tiered organization; builder of coalitions for effective action |
| <u>Strong organization</u> (dedicated volunteers and skilled staff) |

WEAKNESSES (Top 1 of 5 weaknesses first)

| |
|--|
| <u>Lack of diversity</u> (pace of addressing the issue is a problem) |
| <u>Slow to overcome “the ways we’ve always done things”</u> |
| <u>Lack of robust membership and leadership development</u> |
| <u>Difficult to articulate a case for support</u> |
| <u>Barriers to grow fundraising</u> |

OPPORTUNITIES (Top 1 of 5 opportunities first)

| |
|--|
| <u>Leverage current interest in voter education, engagement and participation</u> ; League offers opportunity to DO something |
| <u>Perfect moment for coalitions based on intersectionality.</u> |
| <u>Capitalize on new ways of doing our work learned from the pandemic</u> |
| <u>Hunger for civic participation by the public</u> offers opportunity for fundraising and new partners (e.g., local universities) |
| <u>New civics education requirements</u> provide opportunity to work with schools and students on civics projects |

THREATS (Top 1 of 5 threats first)

| |
|---|
| <u>Societal currents</u> of racism, xenophobia, lack of respect for various life-styles & ideas |
| A rise in voter suppression, a surge in disinformation and an apathy among the public about democratic norms <u>all threaten democracy itself</u> |

| |
|--|
| <u>Challenge to distinguish the League from other non-partisan organizations</u> |
| <u>Inaccurate perception of who the League is and who can join</u> |
| <u>Burnout of members, volunteers, staff, the public and donors after the last four year and <u>lack of resources</u> (funding, staff) to implement membership succession plan focused on diversity.</u> |
| CRITICAL STRATEGIC ISSUES (Top 1 of 5 issues first) |
| Top Issue: Define a new League Culture |
| 2. Improve how we tell our story |
| 3. Accelerate progress on DEI at the state level |
| 4. Increase who participates in democracy in MA |
| 5. Change how we conduct business |
| 6. Ensure that we have sustainable cash flow, adequate staff, and strong reserves |

III. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

| GOAL 1 | | SUCCESS METRICS (Top 2) |
|---------------|---|---|
| Obj 1 | Diversify the membership within 3 years by 10% by attending to the DEI policy and actively recruiting members from the groups identified therein. | 1. Connect with small groups in 4-6 gateway cities who want to start a new League. 2. In 3 years, 10% of local League leadership & LWVMA leadership is new and diverse. |
| Obj 2 | Establish the DEI education/awareness build-out (year 1) | |
| Obj 3 | Form local Leagues in 4 to 6 gateway communities in MA (within 3 years) | |
| GOAL 2 | Growing the League | SUCCESS METRICS (Top 2) |
| Obj 1 | Recruit 320 new members within 3 years (10% increase) | 1. Routinely count/measure/evaluate 2. Survey the membership to find out what kind of skills/experiences/programs they are interested in. Then create these opportunities. |
| Obj 2 | Provide and facilitate opportunities & programming around models of skill development and leadership development - develop a mechanism to share across leagues. | |
| Obj 3 | Increase local League presence and geographic coverage (see Goal 1, Obj. 3) | |
| GOAL 3 | Cultural Change | SUCCESS METRICS (Top 2) |
| Obj 1 | Collect demographic and other data on members as well as evaluate programs and events as a matter of routine | 1. Create a tool for local Leagues to use for collecting and reporting data to LWVMA. Local Leagues can use this data to evaluate programs & events and make adjustments where necessary. |
| Obj 2 | Provide guidance to LLs to continually examine how they do things and adapt. LWVMA lead by example by sharing best practices | |
| Obj 3 | Define and pilot one non-voting related area of engaging citizens/members. | |

| GOAL 4 | Fundraising | SUCCESS METRICS |
|---------------|--|--|
| Obj 1 | Fundraising to increase LWVMA’s social and collective impact. Ensure LWVMA has the resources critical to achieve its mission (people: staff, volunteers & board; space & technology) | 1. 100% of members donate and individual donation levels increase by 20% over 3 years. |
| Obj 2 | Secure consistent, sustainable funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership expansion ● Scholarship for low-income members program ● Annual programming (civic and community education; voter empowerment; public policy & advocacy) | 2. Planned giving program is established 3. Increase overall revenue, year over year, by 20% |
| GOAL 5 | Education & Advocacy | SUCCESS METRICS |
| Obj 1 | Provide community-wide civics ed resources easily accessible to all across the Commonwealth, including underserved communities (such as people with different abilities, cognitive skills, or language proficiencies, for example). | 1. Create tool for local Leagues to use for determining whether the DEI objectives around programming are being met. |
| Obj 2 | Evolve as a sought-after coalition partner among organizations based in communities of color as well as focused on a diverse set of issues that reflect our program priorities | 2. Survey our key partners as to what value the League brings to coalition work. |
| Obj 3 | Devise programming* to educate members and the public about MA policies related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Voting, equitable access to the ballot ● Housing, zoning laws ● open and transparent gov’t at the state level <p>* look at it from a point of view of addressing systemic racism</p> | |

IV. BUSINESS MODEL

We will expand our geographic presence and grow our membership of community-based volunteers to fulfill our mission of making democracy accessible to all in Massachusetts. Supporting this growth will require diversifying our revenue, which will include contributions from local Leagues, members, individual friends and supporters and foundations.

LWVMA Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Presented by the Governance Committee: Jo-Ann Berry, Chair, Director LWVMA and Acton Area; Marilyn Peterson, Acton Area; and Lynn Cohen, Westford.

Note:

- Strikethrough – and bolding denote words to be deleted.
- Underlining __ and bolding denote words to be added.
- All articles and sections are included here. The current bylaws follow this report.
- The rationale for the amendments has been provided by the group that proposed the amendment.
- The LWVMA Board's recommendation is provided for each proposal.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments:

- *Enumeration of Board of Directors: Increase from nine to twelve elected directors*
Rationale: *Increased size of board will enable better management of the workload*
Recommendation: *The LWVMA Board voted to support this amendment*
- *Institute Staggered Terms for board members updated to include additional members*
Rationale: *Provides continuity; assures that priorities and policies will stay in place; and provides on the job leadership training for rising leaders*
Recommendation: *The LWVMA Board voted to support these amendments*
- *Nominations and Elections*
Rationale Sec 1: *Update to reflect institution of staggered terms for the nominating committee voted at the previous Convention.*
Rationale Sec 5: *Update language to make it less confusing*
Recommendation: *The LWVMA Board voted to support these amendments*
- *Change the vote required to adopt non recommended program items to majority from two-thirds*
Rationale: *The lower threshold removes a barrier and reflects a more democratic organization*
Recommendation: *The LWVMA Board voted to support this amendment*

LWVMA Bylaws with Proposed Amendments

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Bylaws (with Proposed Amendments)

As adopted May 13, 1947 and amended May 11, 1950; May 18, 1954; May 14 and 15, 1957; May 12, 1959; May 14, 1963; May 16, 1967; May 10, 1971; May 23, 1973; May 14, 1975; May 17, 1977; May 23, 1979; June 3, 1981; June 6, 1987; May 15, 1993; June 17, 1997; June 5, 1999; May 30, 2009; May 21, 2011; May 18, 2013; May 16, 2015; April 29, 2017; June 8, 2019; June 27, 2020.
Editorial revisions 1983; 1985; May 12, 1992; May 15, 1993; May 13, 1995; June 14, 1997; June 5, 1999; May 19, 2001; May 17, 2003; June 2, 2007; May 30, 2009; and September 9, 2016.

ARTICLE I – Name

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVMA. LWVMA is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

ARTICLE II – Purposes and Policies

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

Sec. 2. Policies. The Policies of LWVMA are

1. **Political Policy.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters of the United States shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

- a. **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from payment of dues; (4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.
- b. **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV – Officers and Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Enumeration of Officers. The officers of LWVMA shall be a president, no more than two vice-presidents who shall be ranked numerically, a secretary and a treasurer. Throughout these bylaws, the term “president” shall also mean co-presidents.

Sec. 2. Enumeration of Board of Directors. The LWVMA board shall consist of the officers of the League, ~~nine~~ twelve elected directors and not more than three appointed directors as the board deems necessary to carry on the work of the League. These appointed directors shall be in addition to any directors voted by the board to fill vacancies as specified in Article IV, Section 13(c). The term for the appointed directors not filling vacancies shall be until the next election of directors.

Sec. 3. Election of Officers and Board of Directors

- ~~a. At the convention at which this amendment is adopted, officers and directors shall be elected as follows:~~

~~The president or one co-president, first vice-president, secretary and five directors shall be elected and shall serve two years.~~

~~One co-president, if there are co-presidents, second vice-president, treasurer and four directors shall be elected and shall serve one year.~~

~~They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been qualified and elected.~~

a. At the convention at which this amendment is adopted, directors shall be elected as follows: Six directors shall be elected to serve for two years They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been qualified and elected.

One director shall be elected to serve for one year. They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve for one year or until their successor has been qualified and elected.

b. ~~Thereafter~~Except for the election of directors specified in Art. IV, Sec. 3.a, officers and directors shall be elected as follows:

At conventions, the president or one co-president, first vice-president, secretary and ~~five~~six directors shall be elected.

At councils, one co-president, if there are co-presidents, second vice-president, treasurer and ~~four~~six directors shall be elected.

They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been qualified and elected.

Sec. 4. The President. The president shall preside at meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors of LWVMA, hereinafter referred to as the state board, except in the event of a potential conflict of interest. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; shall sign all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the state board; shall be an ex-officio member of all LWVMA committees with full voting rights except the Nominating Committee; shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the state board.

Sec. 5. The Vice-Presidents. In the event of absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of the president, the vice-presidents will possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office as provided in Sec. 13 of this Article. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the state board may designate.

Sec. 6. The Secretary. The secretary or secretary pro tem shall ensure that minutes are taken of all conventions and councils of the League, and of all meetings of the state board; shall notify all officers and directors of their election or removal; shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the state board, and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec.7. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and receipt of all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, and shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the state board. The treasurer shall present periodic financial reports to the state board at its regular meetings and a report to the convention and council.

Sec. 8. Qualifications. Only a voting member of a local League, a Unit of LWVMA, or LWVMA shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization.

Sec. 9. Powers and Duties. The state board shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the convention and council. The state board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the convention and council and it shall develop legislative priorities based on LWVMA and LWVUS positions.

It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA, for the carrying out of program and for promotion in the local Leagues and Units of LWVMA of finance programs requisite to further the work of the League as a whole, and the support of an adequate state and national budget. The state board shall create

and designate such standing and ad hoc committees as it may deem necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Sec. 10. Specific Policies. The state board shall establish policies relating to its members' nonpartisanship activities and potential conflicts of interest as well as other areas of concern.

Sec. 11. Regular Meetings. There shall be no fewer than four regular meetings of the state board during the fiscal year. The president shall send notice of all regular meetings to each member of the state board and all local League and Unit of LWVMA presidents or other contacts designated by the local League or Unit of LWVMA ("primary contact") at least seven days before any such meeting, notice thereof giving the date, time and place of the meeting, and the method by which the meeting will be held. Throughout these bylaws, the term "send" shall mean to transmit electronically or otherwise in writing. No action taken at any regular state board meeting attended by a majority of the members of the state board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the state board to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received. Any League member may attend any regular state board meeting as an auditor. Any local League or Unit of LWVMA, upon the request of its board sent to the president of the state League, shall be given a hearing at a subsequent meeting of the state board.

Sec. 12. Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the state board, and shall call a special meeting upon the request sent by at least one-third of the members of the state board. Members of the state board shall be sent notice of the date, time and place of special meetings and the method by which the meeting will be held at least three days prior to the meeting. During a convention or council the president may, or upon the request of at least one-third of the members of the board shall, call a special meeting of the state board by giving personal notice to each member of the state board.

Sec. 13. Vacancies.

a. **Sole President.** In the event of absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of a sole president, the vice-presidents, in order of their rank, shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that no vice-president is able to serve as president, the state board shall elect one of their members to fill the vacancy.

b. **Co-president.** In the event of absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of a co-president, the state board shall decide by a majority vote whether the remaining co-president will serve as sole president or if the co-president vacancy will be filled by the vice-presidents, in order of their rank. In the event that no vice-president is able to serve as co-president, the state board may elect one of their members to fill the vacancy.

c. **Other Officers and Directors.** Any vacancy, other than in the presidency, occurring in the state board by reason of the absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of an officer or director shall be filled, for the remainder of the vacated position's term, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the state board.

Sec. 14. Resignation and Removal of Officers and Members of the State Board. Three absences from a state board meeting by any officer or director during a fiscal year without valid reason, as determined by the state board, shall constitute a resignation. Any officer or director may be removed for cause as determined by a vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the board not including the officer or director sought to be removed, who shall have no right to vote with respect to any such action.

Sec. 15. Quorum. A majority of the members of the state board shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 16. Executive Committee. The elected officers shall constitute an executive committee to act in emergencies between meetings of the state board. Any action of the executive committee shall be submitted to the state board for approval at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE V – Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA

Sec. 1. Local Leagues.

a. **Definition.** Local Leagues are those Leagues which have been so recognized by LWVUS.

b. **Recognition.** Members shall be organized into local Leagues in order to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on local governmental matters. When there is, in any community in the state, a group of members which meets the recognition standards for local

Leagues as adopted by the state board and at the national convention, the state board shall recommend to the national board that recognition be granted. When such recognition is granted, the local League shall become an integral part of LWVUS and LWVMA.

c. Requirements set by LWVMA. Pursuant to the LWVUS delegation of responsibility to LWVMA for the organization and development of local Leagues, LWVMA may set requirements, including standards, policies, rules, procedures and other provisions, relating to local Leagues. The state board may take appropriate action to enforce such requirements and to ensure the compliance of local Leagues with all applicable laws.

d. Withdrawal of Recognition. When a local League recurrently fails to live up to the recognition standards, the state board shall recommend to the national board that recognition be withdrawn. Final action rests with the national board. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to LWVMA.

Sec. 2. Units of LWVMA

a. Units of LWVMA may be formed by the state board in areas where circumstances dictate such organization. Members of Units of LWVMA shall be state members-at-large. Rules and procedures for the formation and operation of such Units shall be the responsibility of the state board and shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS.

b. When a Unit of LWVMA recurrently fails to live up to the rules and procedures set by the state board, the state board may withdraw approval of the Unit. All funds held by a Unit of LWVMA from which approval has been withdrawn shall be paid to and disbursed by the state board.

ARTICLE VI – Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of LWVMA shall commence on the first of July of each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support.

a. Local Leagues shall assume responsibility for the financial support of LWVMA annually in such manner as shall be determined by convention or council of the state League.

b. Members-at-large shall pay annual dues to the state League in such amount as shall be determined by the state board.

Sec. 3. Budget. The state board shall send a proposed biennial budget to the convention for adoption. This budget shall provide for the support of the state League. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each local League and Unit of LWVMA president/primary contact at least six weeks in advance of the convention.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The state board shall appoint a budget committee of at least three members, in addition to the treasurer. The budget committee shall be appointed for a two-year term at least six months before the convention. The chair of the budget committee shall not be a member of the state board. The budget committee shall prepare the biennial budget for review by the board at least two months before the convention and may provide budgetary guidance to the board during the biennium.

Sec. 5. Audit. The books of the treasurer shall be audited or reviewed annually by a public accountant and shall be available in the files of LWVMA along with the audit reports.

Sec. 6. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution for any cause of LWVMA, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWVMA shall be paid to LWVUS after the state board has paid or made provision for the payment of all the liabilities of LWVMA. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWVMA, 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 state board; the designation of person, organization or corporation and of use and purpose to be at the absolute discretion of said board.

ARTICLE VII – Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date, Call, and Notification. A convention of LWVMA shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the state board. The president shall send a first call for the convention to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large not less than three months prior to the opening date of the convention fixed on said call. Thereafter the state board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention not more than two weeks from the date fixed in the first call. A final call for the convention shall be sent by the president to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large at least six weeks before convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of the delegates of the local Leagues, delegates of Units of LWVMA, delegates of the members-at-large, and the members of the state board. The local League and Unit of LWVMA delegates shall be chosen by the local League and Unit of LWVMA boards according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of the general membership's suggestions. Members-at-large delegates shall be chosen by the state board according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of suggestions of the members-at-large.

Sec. 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate must be a voting member of LWVMA. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation.

- a. Each local League and Unit of LWVMA shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA having more than 50 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or fraction thereof. The number of voting members of local Leagues shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by the local League in January of the convention year. The number of voting members of Units of LWVMA shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by LWVMA to LWVUS in January of the convention year.
- b. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA that have met their per member payment responsibilities to LWVMA shall be entitled to be represented by delegates at convention. The state board may make an exception in the case of hardship.
- c. Members-at-large shall be entitled to at least two delegates. If there are more than 50 members-at-large, members-at-large are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 members-at-large or fraction thereof. The number of members-at-large shall be determined by the number indicated in the official January LWVUS membership count report submitted by LWVMA in January of the convention year, but the determination of the number of members-at-large shall not include those who are members of Units of LWVMA.

Sec. 5. Authorization for Action. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program, shall elect officers and directors as provided in Art. IV, Sec. 3 and members of the Nominating Committee as provided in Art. IX, Sec. 1, shall adopt a biennial budget, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates, not including the state board, registered for the convention provided that not fewer than one-third of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA are represented.

Sec. 7. Observers. Members of LWVMA may attend the convention as non-voting observers.

ARTICLE VIII – Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date, Call, and Notification. A council of LWVMA shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the state board. The president shall send a first call for the council to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large not less than three months prior to the opening date of the council fixed on said call. Thereafter the state board may

advance or postpone the opening date of the council not more than two weeks from the date fixed in the first call. A final call for the council shall be sent by the president to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large at least six weeks before council.

Sec. 2. Composition. The council shall consist of the delegates of the local Leagues, delegates of Units of LWVMA, delegates of the members-at-large, and the members of the state board. The local League and Unit of LWVMA delegates shall be chosen by the local League and Unit of LWVMA boards according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of the general membership's suggestions. Members-at-large delegates shall be chosen by the state board according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of suggestions of the members-at-large.

Sec. 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate must be a voting member of LWVMA. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the council even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation.

Each local League and Unit of LWVMA shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA having more than 50 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or fraction thereof. The number of voting members of local Leagues shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by the local League in January of the council year. The number of voting members of Units of LWVMA shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by LWVMA to LWVUS in January of the convention year.

a. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA that have met their per member payment responsibilities to LWVMA shall be entitled to be represented by delegates at council. The state board may make an exception in the case of hardship.

b. Members-at-large shall be entitled to at least two delegates. If there are more than 50 members-at-large, members-at-large are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 members-at-large or fraction thereof. The number of members-at-large shall be determined by the number indicated in the official January LWVUS membership count report submitted by LWVMA in January of the council year, but the determination of the number of members-at-large shall not include those who are members of Units of LWVMA.

Sec. 5. Procedures and Authorization for Action. The council shall elect officers and directors as provided in Art. IV, Sec. 3 and members of the Nominating Committee as provided in Art. IX, Sec. 1, consider changing the program and budget on recommendation of the state board or a local League or Unit of LWVMA board using the following procedures:

a. At least four weeks before the meeting, any local League or Unit of LWVMA board proposing a change shall send it to the state board.

b. At least two weeks before the meeting, the state board shall send notice of all proposed changes to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large.

c. Any change proposed by a local League or Unit of LWVMA and not recommended by the state board shall first require a majority vote of the council for consideration.

d. A two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt any change.

The council is authorized to change the program and budget only in the event of an emergency. The council shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the state board.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates, not including the state board, registered for the council, provided that one-third of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA are represented.

Sec. 7. Observers. Members of LWVMA may attend the council as non-voting observers.

ARTICLE IX – Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.

a. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the state board.

~~b. At the convention at which this amendment is adopted, members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected as follows:~~

~~The chair and one member, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected and shall serve two years.~~

~~One member, who shall not be a member of the state board, shall be elected and shall serve one year.~~

~~They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been qualified and elected.~~

b. ~~Thereafter, m~~Members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected as follows:

At conventions, the chair and one member, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected.

At councils, one member, who shall not be a member of the state board, shall be elected.

They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been qualified and elected.

c. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the state board following the convention.

Vacancies occurring in the nominating committee by reason of death, resignation or disqualification shall be filled by the state board.

Sec. 2. Suggestions to Nominating Committee. The president of LWVMA shall send the name and contact information of the chair of the nominating committee to the president/primary contact of each local League and Unit of LWVMA and members-at-large. It shall be the duty of the chair of the nominating committee to request through the president/primary contact of each local League and Unit of LWVMA suggestions for nominations for the offices to be filled. These suggestions for nominations shall be sent by the president/primary contact or secretary of each local League or Unit of LWVMA to the chair of the nominating committee at least three months before the convention or council. Any member may send suggestions to the chair of the nominating committee.

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee, as provided in Art. IV, Sec. 3 and Art. IX, Sec. 1, shall be sent to the local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and members-at-large six weeks before the date of the convention or council. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention or council. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the convention or council provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 4. Election Committee. The state board shall appoint an election committee at least six weeks before the date of the convention or council. The election committee shall consist of at least three members, and no member shall be a member of the state board or a nominee for officer, director or member of the nominating committee.

Sec. 5. Election. The election ~~committee~~ shall be in ~~the~~ charge of the election ~~committee~~. The election shall be by ballot, except that if there is only one nominee for each office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X – Program

Sec. 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 program.

Sec. 2. Definition of Program. The program of LWVMA shall consist of those state governmental issues chosen by the convention for concerted study and action or concurrence. All action shall reflect and uphold the Principles of the organization.

- Sec. 3. Adoption of Program.** The convention shall adopt the program, using the following procedures:
- a. Local League and Unit of LWVMA boards and members-at-large may send their suggestions for state program to the state board at least three months prior to the opening date of the convention.
 - b. The state board shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed recommended program from these recommendations which shall be sent to the local League and Units of LWVMA presidents/primary contacts and members-at-large at least six weeks prior to the opening date of convention.
 - c. A majority vote shall be required for the adoption of the proposed program recommended by the state board.
 - d. Any recommendations for the state program sent to the state board at least three months before the convention, but not recommended by the state board, may be adopted by the convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and the proposal for adoption receives a ~~two-thirds~~majority vote.
 - e. Recommendations for changes in the proposed program sent by local League and Units of LWVMA boards and received by the state board at least three weeks before the opening of the convention shall be considered by the state board prior to the convention at which time the state board may modify the proposed recommended state program.

Sec. 4. Adoption of New Positions by Consensus.

- a. A proposed position or amendment to a current position based on member study and consensus shall be presented to the state board.
- b. The state board shall consider the proposal and, if recommended for a vote at convention, will send the recommended position to local League and Unit of LWVMA presidents/primary contacts and to members-at-large at least six weeks prior to the opening date of convention.
- c. A majority vote of delegates present at convention is required to adopt new positions based on member study.

Sec. 5. Adoption of New Position by Concurrence.

- a. A local League, a Unit of LWVMA or the state board may propose the adoption or amendment of a new position by concurrence on the floor of the convention.
- b. The proposed position, along with pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement, must be sent to the state board no less than three months prior to the opening date of convention.
- c. The state board shall consider the proposal and, if recommended for a vote at convention, will send all material to local League and Unit of LWVMA presidents/primary contacts and to members-at-large at least six weeks prior to the opening date of convention.
- d. A two-thirds vote of delegates present is required to amend or adopt a position by concurrence on the floor of the convention.

Sec. 6. Council Action. The council may change the program as provided in Article VIII, Sec. 5.

Sec. 7. Member Action. Members may act in the name of LWVMA only when authorized to do so by the state board.

Sec. 8. Local League Action. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the state board. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by LWVMA and/or LWVUS.

ARTICLE XI – National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National Convention. The state board shall elect delegates to the national convention in the number specified by LWVUS bylaws. The delegates shall include the president or a duly authorized representative, and all delegates must be voting members of the League.

Sec. 2. National Council. The state board shall elect delegates to the national council in the number specified by LWVUS bylaws. The delegates shall include the president or a duly authorized representative, and all delegates must be voting members of the League.

ARTICLE XII – Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII – Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was sent to the state board at least three months prior to a convention. All such proposed amendments shall be sent by the state board to the presidents/primary contacts of all local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large at least six weeks prior to a convention together with the recommendations of the state board. The presidents/primary contacts of all local Leagues and Units of LWVMA shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. The failure of a local League or Unit of LWVMA president/primary contact to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the bylaws.

Current LWVMA Bylaws

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Bylaws

As adopted May 13, 1947 and amended May 11, 1950; May 18, 1954; May 14 and 15, 1957; May 12, 1959; May 14, 1963; May 16, 1967; May 10, 1971; May 23, 1973; May 14, 1975; May 17, 1977; May 23, 1979; June 3, 1981; June 6, 1987; May 15, 1993; June 17, 1997; June 5, 1999; May 30, 2009; May 21, 2011; May 18, 2013; May 16, 2015; April 29, 2017; June 8, 2019; June 27, 2020.

Editorial revisions 1983; 1985; May 12, 1992; May 15, 1993; May 13, 1995; June 14, 1997; June 5, 1999; May 19, 2001; May 17, 2003; June 2, 2007; May 30, 2009; and September 9, 2016.

ARTICLE I – Name

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVMA. LWVMA is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

ARTICLE II – Purposes and Policies

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

Sec. 2. Policies. The Policies of LWVMA are

- 1. Political Policy.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- 2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters of the United States shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from payment of dues; (4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.
- b. Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV – Officers and Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Enumeration of Officers. The officers of LWVMA shall be a president, no more than two vice-presidents who shall be ranked numerically, a secretary and a treasurer. Throughout these bylaws, the term “president” shall also mean co-presidents.

Sec. 2. Enumeration of Board of Directors. The LWVMA board shall consist of the officers of the League, nine elected directors and not more than three appointed directors as the board deems necessary to carry on the work of the League. These appointed directors shall be in addition to any directors voted by the board to fill vacancies as specified in Article IV, Section 13(c).

Sec. 3. Election of Officers and Board of Directors

- a.** At the convention at which this amendment is adopted, officers and directors shall be elected as follows:
The president or one co-president, first vice-president, secretary and five directors shall be elected and shall serve two years.

One co-president, if there are co-presidents, second vice-president, treasurer and four directors shall be elected and shall serve one year.

They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been qualified and elected.

b. Thereafter, officers and directors shall be elected as follows:

At conventions, the president or one co-president, first vice-president, secretary and five directors shall be elected.

At councils, one co-president, if there are co-presidents, second vice-president, treasurer and four directors shall be elected.

They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been qualified and elected.

Sec. 4. The President. The president shall preside at meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors of LWVMA, hereinafter referred to as the state board, except in the event of a potential conflict of interest. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; shall sign all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the state board; shall be an ex-officio member of all LWVMA committees with full voting rights except the Nominating Committee; shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the state board.

Sec. 5. The Vice-Presidents. In the event of absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of the president, the vice-presidents will possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office as provided in Sec. 13 of this Article. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the state board may designate.

Sec. 6. The Secretary. The secretary or secretary pro tem shall ensure that minutes are taken of all conventions and councils of the League, and of all meetings of the state board; shall notify all officers and directors of their election or removal; shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the state board, and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec. 7. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and receipt of all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, and shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the state board. The treasurer shall present periodic financial reports to the state board at its regular meetings and a report to the convention and council.

Sec. 8. Qualifications. Only a voting member of a local League, a Unit of LWVMA, or LWVMA shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization.

Sec. 9. Powers and Duties. The state board shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the convention and council. The state board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the convention and council and it shall develop legislative priorities based on LWVMA and LWVUS positions.

It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA, for the carrying out of program and for promotion in the local Leagues and Units of LWVMA of finance programs requisite to further the work of the League as a whole, and the support of an adequate state and national budget. The state board shall create and designate such standing and ad hoc committees as it may deem necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Sec. 10. Specific Policies. The state board shall establish policies relating to its members' nonpartisanship activities and potential conflicts of interest as well as other areas of concern.

Sec. 11. Regular Meetings. There shall be no fewer than four regular meetings of the state board during the fiscal year. The president shall send notice of all regular meetings to each member of the state board and all local League and Unit of LWVMA presidents or other contacts designated by the local League or Unit of LWVMA ("primary contact") at least seven days before any such meeting, notice thereof giving the date, time and place of the meeting, and the method by which the meeting will be held. Throughout these bylaws, the term "send" shall mean to transmit electronically or otherwise in writing. No action taken at any regular

state board meeting attended by a majority of the members of the state board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the state board to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received. Any League member may attend any regular state board meeting as an auditor. Any local League or Unit of LWVMA, upon the request of its board sent to the president of the state League, shall be given a hearing at a subsequent meeting of the state board.

Sec. 12. Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the state board, and shall call a special meeting upon the request sent by at least one-third of the members of the state board. Members of the state board shall be sent notice of the date, time and place of special meetings and the method by which the meeting will be held at least three days prior to the meeting. During a convention or council the president may, or upon the request of at least one-third of the members of the board shall, call a special meeting of the state board by giving personal notice to each member of the state board.

Sec. 13. Vacancies.

- a. **Sole President.** In the event of absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of a sole president, the vice-presidents, in order of their rank, shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that no vice-president is able to serve as president, the state board shall elect one of their members to fill the vacancy.
- b. **Co-president.** In the event of absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of a co-president, the state board shall decide by a majority vote whether the remaining co-president will serve as sole president or if the co-president vacancy will be filled by the vice-presidents, in order of their rank. In the event that no vice-president is able to serve as co president, the state board may elect one of their members to fill the vacancy.
- c. **Other Officers and Directors.** Any vacancy, other than in the presidency, occurring in the state board by reason of the absence, resignation, removal, disqualification, disability or death of an officer or director shall be filled, for the remainder of the vacated position's term, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the state board.

Sec. 14. Resignation and Removal of Officers and Members of the State Board. Three absences from a state board meeting by any officer or director during a fiscal year without valid reason, as determined by the state board, shall constitute a resignation. Any officer or director may be removed for cause as determined by a vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the board not including the officer or director sought to be removed, who shall have no right to vote with respect to any such action.

Sec. 15. Quorum. A majority of the members of the state board shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 16. Executive Committee. The elected officers shall constitute an executive committee to act in emergencies between meetings of the state board. Any action of the executive committee shall be submitted to the state board for approval at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE V – Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA

Sec. 1. Local Leagues.

- a. **Definition.** Local Leagues are those Leagues which have been so recognized by LWVUS.
- b. **Recognition.** Members shall be organized into local Leagues in order to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on local governmental matters. When there is, in any community in the state, a group of members which meets the recognition standards for local Leagues as adopted by the state board and at the national convention, the state board shall recommend to the national board that recognition be granted. When such recognition is granted, the local League shall become an integral part of LWVUS and LWVMA.
- c. **Requirements set by LWVMA.** Pursuant to the LWVUS delegation of responsibility to LWVMA for the organization and development of local Leagues, LWVMA may set requirements, including standards, policies, rules, procedures and other provisions, relating to local Leagues. The state board may take appropriate action to enforce such requirements and to ensure the compliance of local Leagues with all applicable laws.
- d. **Withdrawal of Recognition.** When a local League recurrently fails to live up to the recognition standards, the state board shall recommend to the national board that recognition be withdrawn.

Final action rests with the national board. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to LWVMA.

Sec. 2. Units of LWVMA

- a. Units of LWVMA may be formed by the state board in areas where circumstances dictate such organization. Members of Units of LWVMA shall be state members-at-large. Rules and procedures for the formation and operation of such Units shall be the responsibility of the state board and shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS.
- b. When a Unit of LWVMA recurrently fails to live up to the rules and procedures set by the state board, the state board may withdraw approval of the Unit. All funds held by a Unit of LWVMA from which approval has been withdrawn shall be paid to and disbursed by the state board.

ARTICLE VI – Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of LWVMA shall commence on the first of July of each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support.

- a. Local Leagues shall assume responsibility for the financial support of LWVMA annually in such manner as shall be determined by convention or council of the state League.
- b. Members-at-large shall pay annual dues to the state League in such amount as shall be determined by the state board.

Sec. 3. Budget. The state board shall send a proposed biennial budget to the convention for adoption. This budget shall provide for the support of the state League. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each local League and Unit of LWVMA president/primary contact at least six weeks in advance of the convention.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The state board shall appoint a budget committee of at least three members, in addition to the treasurer. The budget committee shall be appointed for a two-year term at least six months before the convention. The chair of the budget committee shall not be a member of the state board. The budget committee shall prepare the biennial budget for review by the board at least two months before the convention and may provide budgetary guidance to the board during the biennium.

Sec. 5. Audit. The books of the treasurer shall be audited or reviewed annually by a public accountant and shall be available in the files of LWVMA along with the audit reports.

Sec. 6. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution for any cause of LWVMA, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWVMA shall be paid to LWVUS after the state board has paid or made provision for the payment of all the liabilities of LWVMA. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWVMA, 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 state board; the designation of person, organization or corporation and of use and purpose to be at the absolute discretion of said board.

ARTICLE VII – Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date, Call, and Notification. A convention of LWVMA shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the state board. The president shall send a first call for the convention to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large not less than three months prior to the opening date of the convention fixed on said call. Thereafter the state board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention not more than two weeks from the date fixed in the first call. A final call for the convention shall be sent by the president to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large at least six weeks before convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of the delegates of the local Leagues, delegates of Units of LWVMA, delegates of the members-at-large, and the members of the state board. The local League and Unit of LWVMA delegates shall be chosen by the local League and Unit of LWVMA boards according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of the general

membership's suggestions. Members-at-large delegates shall be chosen by the state board according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of suggestions of the members-at-large.

Sec. 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate must be a voting member of LWVMA. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation.

- a. Each local League and Unit of LWVMA shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA having more than 50 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or fraction thereof. The number of voting members of local Leagues shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by the local League in January of the convention year. The number of voting members of Units of LWVMA shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by LWVMA to LWVUS in January of the convention year.
- b. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA that have met their per member payment responsibilities to LWVMA shall be entitled to be represented by delegates at convention. The state board may make an exception in the case of hardship.
- c. Members-at-large shall be entitled to at least two delegates. If there are more than 50 members-at-large, members-at-large are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 members-at-large or fraction thereof. The number of members-at-large shall be determined by the number indicated in the official January LWVUS membership count report submitted by LWVMA in January of the convention year, but the determination of the number of members-at-large shall not include those who are members of Units of LWVMA.

Sec. 5. Authorization for Action. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program, shall elect officers and directors as provided in Art. IV, Sec. 3 and members of the Nominating Committee as provided in Art. IX, Sec. 1, shall adopt a biennial budget, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates, not including the state board, registered for the convention provided that not fewer than one-third of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA are represented.

Sec. 7. Observers. Members of LWVMA may attend the convention as non-voting observers.

ARTICLE VIII – Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date, Call, and Notification. A council of LWVMA shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the state board. The president shall send a first call for the council to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large not less than three months prior to the opening date of the council fixed on said call. Thereafter the state board may advance or postpone the opening date of the council not more than two weeks from the date fixed in the first call. A final call for the council shall be sent by the president to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large at least six weeks before council.

Sec. 2. Composition. The council shall consist of the delegates of the local Leagues, delegates of Units of LWVMA, delegates of the members-at-large, and the members of the state board. The local League and Unit of LWVMA delegates shall be chosen by the local League and Unit of LWVMA boards according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of the general membership's suggestions. Members-at-large delegates shall be chosen by the state board according to the representation formula as provided in Sec. 4 of this Article with consideration of suggestions of the members-at-large.

Sec. 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate must be a voting member of LWVMA. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the council even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The council shall

be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation.

- a. Each local League and Unit of LWVMA shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA having more than 50 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or fraction thereof. The number of voting members of local Leagues shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by the local League in January of the council year. The number of voting members of Units of LWVMA shall be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVMA membership count report submitted by LWVMA to LWVUS in January of the convention year.
- b. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA that have met their per member payment responsibilities to LWVMA shall be entitled to be represented by delegates at council. The state board may make an exception in the case of hardship.
- c. Members-at-large shall be entitled to at least two delegates. If there are more than 50 members-at-large, members-at-large are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 members-at-large or fraction thereof. The number of members-at-large shall be determined by the number indicated in the official January LWVUS membership count report submitted by LWVMA in January of the council year, but the determination of the number of members-at-large shall not include those who are members of Units of LWVMA.

Sec. 5. Procedures and Authorization for Action. The council shall elect officers and directors as provided in Art. IV, Sec. 3 and members of the Nominating Committee as provided in Art. IX, Sec. 1, consider changing the program and budget on recommendation of the state board or a local League or Unit of LWVMA board using the following procedures:

- a. At least four weeks before the meeting, any local League or Unit of LWVMA board proposing a change shall send it to the state board.
- b. At least two weeks before the meeting, the state board shall send notice of all proposed changes to the presidents/primary contacts of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large.
- c. Any change proposed by a local League or Unit of LWVMA and not recommended by the state board shall first require a majority vote of the council for consideration.
- d. A two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt any change.

The council is authorized to change the program and budget only in the event of an emergency. The council shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the state board.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates, not including the state board, registered for the council, provided that one-third of local Leagues and Units of LWVMA are represented.

Sec. 7. Observers. Members of LWVMA may attend the council as non-voting observers.

ARTICLE IX – Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.

- a. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the state board.
- b. At the convention at which this amendment is adopted, members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected as follows:
 - The chair and one member, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected and shall serve two years.
 - One member, who shall not be a member of the state board, shall be elected and shall serve one year.
 - They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been qualified and elected.
- c. Thereafter, members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected as follows:
 - At conventions, the chair and one member, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected.

At councils, one member, who shall not be a member of the state board, shall be elected.

They shall take office on July 1 of the year in which they are elected and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been qualified and elected.

d. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the state board following the convention.

Vacancies occurring in the nominating committee by reason of death, resignation or disqualification shall be filled by the state board.

Sec. 2. Suggestions to Nominating Committee. The president of LWVMA shall send the name and contact information of the chair of the nominating committee to the president/primary contact of each local League and Unit of LWVMA and members-at-large. It shall be the duty of the chair of the nominating committee to request through the president/primary contact of each local League and Unit of LWVMA suggestions for nominations for the offices to be filled. These suggestions for nominations shall be sent by the president/primary contact or secretary of each local League or Unit of LWVMA to the chair of the nominating committee at least three months before the convention or council. Any member may send suggestions to the chair of the nominating committee.

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee, as provided in Art. IV, Sec. 3 and Art. IX, Sec. 1, shall be sent to the local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and members-at-large six weeks before the date of the convention or council. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention or council. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the convention or council provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 4. Election Committee. The state board shall appoint an election committee at least six weeks before the date of the convention or council. The election committee shall consist of at least three members, and no member shall be a member of the state board or a nominee for officer, director or member of the nominating committee.

Sec. 5. Election. The election shall be in the charge of the election committee. The election shall be by ballot, except that if there is only one nominee for each office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X – Program

Sec. 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 program.

Sec. 2. Definition of Program. The program of LWVMA shall consist of those state governmental issues chosen by the convention for concerted study and action or concurrence. All action shall reflect and uphold the Principles of the organization.

Sec. 3. Adoption of Program. The convention shall adopt the program, using the following procedures:

- a. Local League and Unit of LWVMA boards and members-at-large may send their suggestions for state program to the state board at least three months prior to the opening date of the convention.
- b. The state board shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed recommended program from these recommendations which shall be sent to the local League and Units of LWVMA presidents/primary contacts and members-at-large at least six weeks prior to the opening date of convention.
- c. A majority vote shall be required for the adoption of the proposed program recommended by the state board.
- d. Any recommendations for the state program sent to the state board at least three months before the convention, but not recommended by the state board, may be adopted by the convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and the proposal for adoption receives a two-thirds vote.
- e. Recommendations for changes in the proposed program sent by local League and Units of LWVMA

boards and received by the state board at least three weeks before the opening of the convention shall be considered by the state board prior to the convention at which time the state board may modify the proposed recommended state program.

Sec. 4. Adoption of New Positions by Consensus.

- a. A proposed position or amendment to a current position based on member study and consensus shall be presented to the state board.
- b. The state board shall consider the proposal and, if recommended for a vote at convention, will send the recommended position to local League and Unit of LWVMA presidents/primary contacts and to members-at-large at least six weeks prior to the opening date of convention.
- c. A majority vote of delegates present at convention is required to adopt new positions based on member study.

Sec. 5. Adoption of New Position by Concurrence.

- a. A local League, a Unit of LWVMA or the state board may propose the adoption or amendment of a new position by concurrence on the floor of the convention.
- b. The proposed position, along with pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement, must be sent to the state board no less than three months prior to the opening date of convention.
- c. The state board shall consider the proposal and, if recommended for a vote at convention, will send all material to local League and Unit of LWVMA presidents/primary contacts and to members-at-large at least six weeks prior to the opening date of convention.
- d. A two-thirds vote of delegates present is required to amend or adopt a position by concurrence on the floor of the convention.

Sec. 6. Council Action. The council may change the program as provided in Article VIII, Sec. 5.

Sec. 7. Member Action. Members may act in the name of LWVMA only when authorized to do so by the state board.

Sec. 8. Local League Action. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the state board. Local Leagues and Units of LWVMA may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by LWVMA and/or LWVUS.

ARTICLE XI – National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National Convention. The state board shall elect delegates to the national convention in the number specified by LWVUS bylaws. The delegates shall include the president or a duly authorized representative, and all delegates must be voting members of the League.

Sec. 2. National Council. The state board shall elect delegates to the national council in the number specified by LWVUS bylaws. The delegates shall include the president or a duly authorized representative, and all delegates must be voting members of the League.

ARTICLE XII – Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII – Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was sent to the state board at least three months prior to a convention. All such proposed amendments shall be sent by the state board to the presidents/primary contacts of all local Leagues and Units of LWVMA and to members-at-large at least six weeks prior to a convention together with the recommendations of the state board. The presidents/primary contacts of all local Leagues and Units of LWVMA shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. The

failure of a local League or Unit of LWVMA president/primary contact to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the bylaws.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The charge to this year’s Nominating Committee was to present to the LWVMA Convention a slate of officers, directors, and off-board Nominating Committee members for the 2021-2023 biennium. The Nominating Committee solicited nominations and suggestions from League members through League communications and attendance at Field Service and other meetings. The Nominating Committee recognizes the commitment of our local Leagues and is appreciative of their participation in the nomination process. We are grateful for the dedicated leadership of the current board of directors and acknowledge their assistance.

Currently, the LWVMA bylaws call for a board with five or six officers (one president or two co-presidents, two vice-presidents, the treasurer, and the secretary), nine elected directors, and not more than three appointed directors as the board deems necessary to carry on the work of the League. Now that the LWVMA has adopted staggered terms for board participation, each year we elect certain officer and director positions. The Nominating Committee consists of two board members appointed by the board and three elected off-board members with staggered terms.

The following directors, officers, and off-board Nominating Committee members have another year to serve in their current terms, which are for the two years ending June 30, 2022:

- President Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Member at Large
- 2nd Vice President Amy E. Smith, Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton League
- Treasurer Tanya M. Roy, Wellesley League
- Director Marie Gauthier, Franklin County League
- Director Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Plymouth Area League
- Director Ginger Navickas, Worcester Area League (appointed to fill the remaining term of Brenda K. Safford)
- Nominating Committee Off-board Member Sharyn L. Roberts, Newton League

As explained elsewhere in your Convention materials, the board is proposing an amendment to the LWVMA bylaws that would increase the number of elected directors to 12, with 6 elected in Convention years and 6 in Council years. The Nominating Committee endorses this amendment and proposes to the 2021 Convention the following slate of officers, directors, and off-board nominating committee members for the 2021-2023 biennium, with terms of two years ending June 30, 2023, except as noted.

| Committee | Position | Nominee | Local League |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Board | 1st Vice President | Susan P. Millinger | Amherst |
| Board | Secretary | Courtney Rau Rogers | Norwood |
| Board | Director | Jo-Ann M. Berry | Acton Area |
| Board | Director | Jen Goldman | North Andover |
| Board | Director | Lois Hartman | Greater Haverhill |
| Board | Director | Lucy Kennedy | Central Berkshires |
| Board | Director | Hannah Kimberley | Cape Ann |
| Board | Director | Jeanne Morrison | Cape Cod |
| Board | Director* | Judith Reilly | Salem |
| Nominating | Off-board Member | Gillian Hinkson | Springfield |
| Nominating | Off-board Member | Josiah Morrow | Greater Haverhill |

*The Nominating Committee’s goal is to have an equal number of board members elected each year. To achieve this, Judith Reilly is nominated for a one-year term ending June 30, 2022.

Please take the opportunity to read the following biographical statements of the nominees and those currently serving.

LWVMA Board

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Nominee for President (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Elizabeth Foster-Nolan is completing her first year as a LWVMA Director. She joined the Weymouth LWV in 2010 and became a Member-at-Large when Weymouth disbanded. She is an experienced moderator for local and Congressional candidate nights and this past year, she chaired the LWVMA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, was a member of the Voter Engagement Committee, and chaired the Moderator Training and Mentoring Sub-Committee. A social worker for many years, Elizabeth earned her JD in 1990 from Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, PA. She combined her legal and social work skills to become the Director of Professional Development for a 200-member Boston law firm, where she mentored and coached associates and developed training curricula for the firm's 11 practice areas. She was elected to a national committee tasked with creating a competency model for Professional Development Specialists and was also a member of her firm's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.

Susan Millinger, Nominee for First Vice President (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Susan Millinger has lived in Shutesbury since 2008; she joined the Amherst LWV in 2010. She was Publicity and Public Relations chair (2012 -2014); Editor of the electronic bulletin (2016 - 2020); and on the Board, now Steering Committee (2012 - 2014 and 2017 - present). She was convener of the 2019 - 2020 Centennial Commemoration Committee, and is a member of the Sustainability and Climate Action Committee. Elected to the LWVMA Board in 2020, Susan is a member of the DEI and Membership Committees and co-chair of Program Planning for 2021 - 2023. She currently serves on the Shutesbury Council on Aging and the Shutesbury Cemetery Commission. A New England native, she taught at Lakehead University in northwestern Ontario before moving to Virginia, where she spent thirty-three years teaching history and humanities and developing experience in committee service at Roanoke College in Virginia before moving back to New England. She is a Wellesley alumna and received her PhD from UC Berkeley in 1974.

Amy Smith, Nominee for Second Vice President (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Amy is completing her second year on the LWVMA Board and her first as Second Vice President. She co-chairs the LWVMA Membership Steering Committee and also serves on the Communications Committee. Amy joined the LWV of Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton in 2015, serves on their Board of Directors, and manages their website and social media. In addition, Amy serves on the Nominating Committee and is a member of the LWVMA Legislative Envoy program. She recently retired from a 30-year career as a professional and technical writer and social media specialist for a variety of Boston-area high-tech companies. Amy has a B.S. degree in biology from Binghamton University and a Masters in Technical and Professional Writing from Northeastern University. She lives in Georgetown, where she also serves on the board of the Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library.

Courtney Rau Rogers, Nominee for Secretary (July 1, 2021- June 30, 2023)



Courtney Rau Rogers has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 2009 and is president of the LWV Norwood. Her local League has sponsored forums on the Community Preservation Act, Ranked Choice Voting, and local energy resources. They have also partnered with the *Yes For Norwood Schools* political action committee advocating for an operational override for the schools. On the state level, Courtney is a member of LWVMA's 100th Anniversary and DEI Steering Committees, and was the primary author of the Suffrage

Movement “Then and Now” Civics Education Toolkit. She is currently the Assistant Principal for Student Services at Bigelow Middle School in Newton, MA, where she coordinates special education and counseling services. Courtney earned an M.A. degree from Boston College in Special Education and a second M.A. from Endicott College in Educational Leadership. In addition to her work in public schools, Courtney was a member of the Norwood School Committee from 2008-2016, serving as Chairperson twice.

Tanya Roy, Nominee for Treasurer (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Tanya Roy is completing her first year as Treasurer of the LWVMA Board and is the nominee for Treasurer during the second year of her term. Tanya is a board member and Legislative Specialist for LWVMA, as well as a board member and Legislative Envoy for LWV of Wellesley. She serves as a board member and treasurer of Wellesley Students’ Aid Society where she oversees a \$42 million endowment dedicated to providing financial and other assistance to Wellesley College students. She also tutors through the Wellesley ESL program. After an exciting career in the investment field, Tanya is now focused on applying her energy to the nonprofit sector. Tanya earned a B.A. from Wellesley College and an M.B.A from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

Jo-Ann Berry, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Jo-Ann has been a LWV member since 1988 and a member of the Acton Area LWV since 1993. She co-chaired the After-School Child Care study (93-94), has held many and varied local board leadership and steering committee positions. On the state level, Jo-Ann served as a LWVMA Director and Scharfman Fund Trustee (07-09), was a member of the LWVMA Citizen Education Committee, and has been moderating candidate and issue forums for local and state offices since 2006. She has been a leader and guide in developing and teaching moderator training programs for local Leagues. In 2000, Jo-Ann took a break from LWV leadership and served two terms on the Acton School Committee. In 2015, she received the 'Above and Beyond' Award from the LWVMA for her voter service and moderator work. Jo-Ann has degrees from Boston University and Simmons College and has been teaching high school English/Special Education for the Justice Resource Institute since 2013.

Marie Gauthier, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Marie Gauthier contacted LWVMA about starting a League of Women Voters of Franklin County in November 2016 and has served as its president since its founding as a Unit in January 2017. The Unit was recognized as an official local League on August 1, 2018 and has been a vibrant new League presence in Franklin County ever since. On the state level, Marie has served on the LWVMA Membership Steering Committee since November 2017. She also serves on the Education Council for the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, as a regional representative for Mass Poetry, volunteers with the Mohawk Trail Music Association, and organizes and directs the Collected Poets Series in Shelburne Falls, where she lives with her family. She works as the Marketing Project Editor for Pioneer Valley Books, a publisher of literacy resources.

Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Vedna Lacombe-Heywood is a board member of the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters and served this past year on the LWVMA DEI Committee. She emigrated to the U.S. as a young child and did Youth Corps work in Central America and the Caribbean before deciding to become a Registered Nurse. She currently works at Brigham & Women’s Hospital as a Surgical Trauma, Intensive Care Unit nurse and she recently spearheaded a Trauma Training called "Stop The Bleed" to be implemented in Plymouth schools. Vedna serves on the Plymouth Diversity Committee and was recently elected as a Plymouth School Committee Member. She serves on several boards, some of the most recent being the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Massachusetts, Boston Haitian Community Partners, and the Plymouth Area Advisory Board for the MA Department of Children and Families.

Ginger Navickas, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Ginger Navickas was born and raised in Worcester, and has lived there her whole life. She has been involved in local organizations, particularly those organizations committed and focused on social change issues, since young adulthood. Her career at the YWCA of Central MA (YWCACM) spanned 40 years and allowed her to be both a social worker and a community activist, working to empower women and girls and committed to racial justice.

While at the YWCA, she served as the Transitional Housing Director for Women and the Director of Domestic Violence Services. This department served 44 cities and towns, providing emergency intervention, community based counseling, court advocacy, and community education. As a program director, Ginger initiated and helped develop extensive outreach programming that included both state and national program models. Since retiring from the YWCA, she has become an active community volunteer, which includes CASA, JHC Hospice, ArtsWorcester, and the LWVWA. Since joining the League almost 6 years ago, Ginger has served on the Nominating Committee, Program Committee, and Membership Committee, and serves currently as a board member.

Judith Reilly, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



Judith Reilly joined the League as a founding member of the LWV Salem Unit (2018) and is currently finishing her term as the Salem League's first Voter Services & Civic Engagement chair. She is a native New Yorker who loves her adopted home of Salem. A mid-life career-changer, she earned AS, BS, and MBA degrees from Johnson & Wales University and has worked for 12 years as a performance auditor for a federal agency. Prior to moving to Massachusetts, she was active in a Providence, Rhode Island social justice organization. She has a passion for open government and filed about a dozen successful open meetings and access to public records complaints in Rhode Island, leading to redress by the government entities.

Recommended for Appointment to LWVMA Board

Jen Goldman, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Jen Goldman started her path in charity and non-profit work early on and was awarded the Good Citizenship Award in elementary school, the Humanitarian award in middle school, and President of Varsity Club and Honors Society in high school. She graduated with honors, went onto college to graduate early while working to help those less fortunate gain financial freedom. Jen obtained her Financial Planning degree while working full time and volunteering at the Brighton YMCA and 5 Years at Brighton's Homeless Pantry. She then started her own transformation consulting business, created the largest free online directory of USA-based resources for service businesses, and provided pro bono consulting to non-profits until a family situation paused her charitable efforts. In 2016, Jen was appointed to North Andover's Finance Committee and then joined LWV North Andover to boost high school voter registration, marketing, and funding of a sign campaign to increase voting. In 2019, Jen left the Finance Committee to pursue her passion in public school improvement advocacy and getting out the vote. She currently manages a non-partisan 2,000+ member Facebook page focused on education and long-term public school improvements. She lives in North Andover with two healthy teenagers and one understanding husband.

Lois Hartman, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Lois grew up in Kansas and received her BS degree from Kansas University. After getting her degree, she spent the next 48 years working in elementary education. Lois also created an oral language program for preschool children, kindergarteners, and first graders. She got her Masters of Education in Reading from the University of New Hampshire. Lois was trained as a Reading Recovery teacher and ended her career as a Literacy Coordinator with a certificate from Lesley University. Since retiring, Lois has been involved in the local Head Start Program as a volunteer, and as a literacy volunteer working with adults who are learning to read and speak English. Lois became a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Haverhill in 2016. In 2018 she became the league's president. She has organized a series of educational events from climate change to immigration to the movie *RGB*, and has been an active participant in the planning of many League events. She has helped with voter registration both at the naturalization ceremonies and local sites. She has worked on studies, such as the Charter School Study, and is currently on committees involved in rewriting her local league bylaws, planning for a forum on women, and improving membership. Lois has recently joined the DEI Peer Discussion Group.

Lucy Kennedy, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Lucy Kennedy grew up in western Massachusetts and currently lives in Lenox. She has a BA from the University of Michigan, an MA from Stanford University, and an MBA from Harvard. After completing her business degree, she worked in advertising and then consumer product marketing. For most of her career she worked in research and product development for banks and insurance companies. Since retiring from MetLife in 2013, she has pursued her interests in history and political reform. For Lenox's anniversary she wrote an ebook *Lenox at 250*, and established a local history website, www.lenoxhistory.org. She has been on several historic house boards and currently is on the board of the Historic House Trust in New York City, the Lenox Historical Commission, and the local Historical Society. She is active in two non-partisan political reform groups: Leadership Now and Reform Elections Now. These groups work on enacting changes in our political system, such as non-partisan primaries, ranked choice voting, and getting money out of politics. Lucy was involved in establishing a new local League, the League of Women Voters of Central Berkshire County, and has been active since its founding last year.

Hannah Kimberley, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Hannah Kimberley is an educator and author who is passionate about history, civics, and recovering uppity, unruly, and unladylike women from the footnotes of history. She has twenty-four years of experience as an educator and currently teaches American History and Civics to high school students, who know her mantra very well: “Democracy is not a spectator sport!” Hannah holds a PhD in English, specializing in rhetoric, writing, and textual studies, and she is a published author with St. Martin’s Press. She has considerable research experience, as well as some experience with legislative action. She is also passionate about voting rights and human rights. Hannah has been a board member of the LWV of Cape Ann since 2014 and served as president since 2015. She currently serves as the chair of the Gloucester Human Rights Commission.

Jeanne Morrison, Nominee for Director (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Jeanne has over 30 yrs of managerial experience in non-profit and state government agencies in the health care, human services and transportation industries. She has held senior manager positions overseeing state service provider contracts, federal civil rights compliance programs and corporate diversity initiatives. Jeanne led the MBTA in satisfying a civil rights agreement with the Massachusetts’ Attorney General’s office. Currently Jeanne serves on several local and state boards and steering committees for non- profit organizations committed to social and racial justice. She is co-Vice President of the League of Women Voters Cape Cod, a board member for Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition (MAWOCC) and Chair of the MAWOCC Political and Civic Leadership Platform, boards of the Cape Cod branch of the NAACP and the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission, President of Amplify-POC Cape Cod and a member of WYBoston Parity on Board, Barnstable No Place For Hate and MLK steering committees. She offers career counseling to youth in her community and provides diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) consultation for nonprofit organizations.

Nominating Committee Biographies

Sharyn Roberts, Nominee for Off-Board Member and Chair (July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022)



Sharyn Roberts comes to us from LWV Newton where she's been an active member for over 20 years and on the LWVN Board for almost that long. Originally she led the Voter Service team for about ten years before the job was split into Citizen Education and Voter Registration. Currently, she helps people register to vote in a number of venues, including farmers' markets, city festivals and at high schools and colleges. Sharyn has been a Field Service Representative for the LWVMA Metrowest Region for about 10 years. During that time she also played an active role in making sure our Annual LWVMA Phonathon was successful. Sharyn has been very involved with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, was a troop leader for years and now volunteers citywide and district-wide for the Scout Councils. She also worked with the Understanding Our Differences (formerly Understanding Handicaps) Program for 40 years, serving on their Board for over 30 years.

Gillian Hinkson, Nominee for Off-Board Member (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Gillian Hinkson lives in Springfield and is a very active community member. She serves as a director on the Northampton League of Women Voters and is also on the Board of Directors for *Art for the Soul Gallery*. Gillian volunteers her time helping members of the community who are interested in running for political office. She also brings community events that are meant to help educate and elevate the community through the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Beta Alpha Zeta Zeta Chapter. Gillian is a Trustee for the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, serves on their education committee, and is a scholarship reviewer. Gillian received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master of Science in Communication and Information Management from Bay Path University. She currently works for the Hampden County District Attorney's Office as a Victim Witness Advocate, and is an independent business owner of a natural health and wellness company. She is dedicated to educating our community on the importance of living a balanced life through exercise, well-balanced eating habits, and mindfulness.

Josiah Morrow, Nominee for Off-Board Member (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023)



Josiah Morrow has been a very active member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Haverhill. He served for nearly two years as Secretary of the LWVGH after being elected as the youngest officer and Executive Board member in League history in July 2019. He also served as Treasurer from July 2020 to February 2021. In addition to his executive posts, Josiah has organized two forums for the League - the 2019 Haverhill Candidate Forum and the 2020 Virtual Ballot Question Forum. Josiah has chaired the Bylaws Committee, served on the Suffragette Committee, Fundraising Committee, and the Membership Fees Committee, and has run League social media platforms. In February 2020, Josiah was nominated and confirmed to be a Downtown Haverhill Parking Commissioner, making him the youngest regulatory official in city history. Josiah operates the positive news social media platform Today in Haverhill; serves on the board of two nonprofits: Asperger Works, as board president, and Eammon's Heart Foundation; been a reporter for local radio station WHAV, and interned with the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. Josiah is a freshman at Merrimack College. He graduated from the former Presentation of Mary Academy after two terms as Class President.

This report is respectfully submitted by the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee: Sharon McCarthy, Chair (Harvard), Jean Cherdack (Franklin County), Sharyn Roberts (Newton), Judith Reilly (Salem) and Amy Smith (Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton).

Past Presidents of LWVMA

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Mrs. George Fearing | 1920-1923 |
| Mrs. Arthur G. Rotch | 1923-1926 |
| Mrs. Robert Denormandie | 1926-1929 |
| Mary Tenney Healey | 1929-1931 |
| Mrs. Ronald Baker | 1931-1933 |
| Mrs. Henry Randolph Brigham | 1933-1935 |
| Mrs. Richard H. Field | 1935-1937 |
| Merle Fainsod | 1937-1939 |
| Mrs. LaRue Brown | 1939-1942 |
| Sylvia Whittemore | 1942-1945 |
| Ruth Lurie | 1945-1948 |
| Mrs. Alan Morse | 1948-1951 |
| Mrs. Edgar Driscoll | 1951-1953 |
| Helene Stoneman | 1953-1955 |
| Peggy Bruce | 1955-1957 |
| Elizabeth McKinstry | 1957-1959 |
| Doris Smith | 1959-1961 |
| Lucy Wilson Benson | 1961-1965 |
| Rae Kipp | 1965-1967 |
| Harriet Bates | 1967-1969 |
| Lotte E. Scharfman | 1969-1970 |
| Errol Jacobsen | 1970-1971 |
| Margaret Lynch | 1971-1973 |
| Florence Rubin | 1973-1977 |
| Susan Wiltshire | 1977-1979 |
| Barabara Fegan | 1979-1981 |
| Margaret Bliss | 1981-1984 |
| Susan Shaer | 1984-1987 |
| Arlene Stamm | 1987-1989 |
| Risa Nyman | 1989-1993 |
| Deena Whitfield | 1993-1995 |
| Nancy Carapezza | 1995-2003 |
| Dona Kemp | 2001-2003 |
| Madhu Sridhar | 2003-2007 |
| Diane L. Jeffery | 2007-2009 |
| Zaxaro Bennett | 2009-2010 |
| Marcia Hirshberg | 2010-2011 |
| Eva Valentine | 2011-2013 |
| Anne Swingle Borg (co-president) | 2013-2015 |
| Marilyn Peterson (co-president) | 2013-2015 |
| Jean Cherdack | 2015-2017 |
| Mary Ann Ashton | 2017-2019 |
| Judith Zaunbrecher | 2019-2021 |