

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!