

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 non-approved 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.