

Delegate Workbook

LWV California Convention
June 17 – June 22, 2025
A Virtual Event



lwvc.org/convention

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Convention Rules and Procedures



2025 Proposed Convention Rules

Convention rules work with the LWVC bylaws to run a smooth meeting of a large number of people. If an issue arises that is not addressed by the Rules or Bylaws, we refer to Robert's Rules of Order, 12th edition.

1. ADMISSION

Delegates must sign into the Zoom software to participate in the general sessions and in the voting process that will use the polling function of Zoom.

Each delegate is responsible for their connection to the internet. The loss of, or poor quality of, a delegate's individual connection preventing participation in the general session shall not impact the consideration of an issue or outcome of an action.

Accredited delegates shall sign into the webinar software to access all controls needed for debate and voting and maintain internet access throughout the general session when present; delegates must sign out upon any departure prior to adjournment.

2. QUORUM

The presence of a quorum shall be established by the online list of participating voting members. The list will be copied for the minutes.

In the event of a major technical disruption in the general session that affects quorum, the chair will have the option to recess, or to fix the time which to adjourn, for members to again login to reconvene the session.

3. VOTING

Only accredited local League delegates, local League and ILO presidents or their alternates, and members of the LWVC board may vote.

The method of voting will be the Zoom polling function.

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4. ALTERNATES

If a delegate leaves the convention before final adjournment, an alternate delegate may be designated for the duration of the convention.

- The alternate delegate must use the Zoom link assigned to the departing delegate.
- A delegate who temporarily leaves the general session may not use an alternate delegate to cast a vote.

5. OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

Each authorized Member-Around-the-State/Member-at-Large (MAS/MAL) unit may be represented at convention by an observer who shall be extended the privilege of the floor. They may participate in discussion and debate via the method provided by the LWVC, but may NOT vote.

6. VISITORS

League members or nonmembers may attend as visitors and may observe general sessions. They may not participate in discussion, debate, or vote. Nonvoting attendees are welcome to observe the general sessions and participate in workshops, caucuses, and other events for a flat-fee registration rate.

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Past state presidents, shall be extended the privilege of the floor. They may participate in discussion and debate via the method provided by LWVC, but may NOT vote.

8. DEBATE AND DISCUSSION

Delegates that wish to speak must use the Question and Answer function in Zoom to say they wish to speak. Identify delegate name and whether delegate wishes to speak for or against a motion currently being debated.

- Speakers must state their names and Leagues before saying anything else.
- During debate on a motion, the speaker has one minute to offer remarks. The chair is authorized to shorten or extend the time.
- During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so. No person may speak more than twice on the

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same motion.

9. MOTIONS

Main motions, or amendments of more than a few words, must be submitted in writing by 12:00 PM Friday, June 13, 2025 via an email sent to convention@lwvc.org, with the subject line "Motion".

10. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

The procedure shall be as follows:

a. *Procedure for the Recommended Program:*

- The proposed 2025-2027 LWVC Program will be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVC Board. Debate and action on the Proposed Program will take place at a time designated by the Chair.
- During the times specified in the agenda for Program consideration and Program debate, the Chair will divide the time among the Program items to ensure fair and equitable debate on all items.

b. *Procedure for Considering Not-Recommended Program Items:*

- Any delegate may propose the consideration of a not-recommended Program item. Items are listed in the Convention Workbook **and** the wording must conform to that contained in the workbook list.
- Any proposal to consider a not-recommended program item must be submitted in writing by **April 14, 2025** via the method provided by LWVC. The "Not Recommended Item" motion will be listed in the Convention Workbook.
- The delegate making the motion may speak on behalf of the motion for up to two minutes. No debate or additional motions are in order at this time.
- If a not-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWVC Board, limited to two minutes, providing the Board's reasons for not recommending the item.
- After all the not-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved.

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- **A majority vote is required to consider** a not-recommended item as part of the proposed program.
- Debate and voting on not-recommended Program items occurs during the same general session as debate and action on the proposed Program.
- **A three-fifths (60%) vote is required to adopt** not-recommended Program items.

c. *Amending Program Items*

- Wording of proposed program items may be amended. Any proposal to amend proposed program items must be **submitted in writing to program@lwvc.org by April 14, 2025**.
- A recommended item may not be expanded in scope by amendment.
- Any proposal that expands the scope of a recommended item must be presented as a not-recommended item following the rules above.

11. BUDGET ADOPTION

A balanced or surplus LWVC budget must be adopted by the convention delegates.

Any motion to amend the proposed budget contained in the Convention Workbook **must be proposed to the Budget Adjustment Committee by 12:00 PM on Friday, June 13, 2025**. The motion should be sent to convention@lwvc.org, with a subject line "Motion".

The delegate making the motion to amend may speak on behalf of the motion for two minutes.

If a motion to amend is made, any delegate may request a statement from the LWVC Board, limited to two minutes, providing the Board's reasons for not recommending the item.

Debate on any motion to amend the proposed budget follows the procedures for Debate and Discussion in Rule 8 above.

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12. RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions to Express the Will of the Convention may be offered by any local League or ILO. Resolutions cannot be used to expand or modify the procedure described in Rule 10 for adoption of positions or Issues for Emphasis.

Procedure for adopting resolutions:

- Motions expressing the Will of the Convention **must be submitted in writing 12:00 PM, Friday June 13, 2025** via the method provided by LWVC.
- The Resolutions Committee will use the following criteria to judge the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. The resolution:
 - has complied with procedural requirements of this rule;
 - is consistent with LWVC Bylaws, League Principles and League Positions;
 - does not circumvent the Program Planning process;
 - addresses a single, topical issue;
 - has a minimal LWVC budgetary impact; and
 - is pertinent to California.
- The Resolutions Committee will report its findings on all submitted resolutions.
- Any resolution reported by the Resolutions Committee as complying with the criteria may be moved for consideration of the convention.
- Resolutions to Express the Will of the Convention are main motions and follow Rules 8 and 9.
- Adoption of a resolution requires a **majority vote**.
- If the Resolutions Committee reports a resolution as not complying with the criteria, the convention delegates may override the decision by a two-thirds (66%) vote. The resolution may then be moved for consideration of the convention.

13. ELECTION OF LWVC OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A person not included on the slate of Officers, the Board of Directors, or the Nominating Committee can be nominated by submitting the nomination in writing by **12:00 PM Friday, June 13, 2025** by sending an email to convention@lwvc.org, with the subject line "Motion". Prior to submitting the nomination, permission of the person to be nominated must be sought, obtained and stated in the motion.

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- The slate of Officers, the Board of Directors, and the Nominating Committee may be approved by a single vote if there are no nominations from the floor.
- All candidates for office will comply with the LWVC Campaign Policy and sign the LWVC Fair Campaign Practices Principles as indicated below.

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES PRINCIPLES

As a candidate for LWVC office, I pledge the following:

I will conduct my campaign for the LWVC Board of Directors or Nominating Committee openly and fairly. I will discuss the issues and participate in fair public debate with respect to my views and qualifications.

I will neither engage in nor be involved with unfair or misleading attacks upon the character of an opponent, nor will I engage in invasion of personal privacy unrelated to fitness for office.

I will not be part of any appeal to prejudice.

I will neither use nor be involved with the use of any campaign material or advertisement that misrepresents, distorts or otherwise falsifies the facts regarding an opponent. I will clearly identify (by name and address) the source of all advertisements and campaign literature published or distributed.

I will publicly repudiate support deriving from an individual or group whose activities would violate the Fair Campaign Practices Principles.

In signing this pledge, I assume personal control over and responsibility for the conduct of my campaign.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

All announcements will be made by the LWVC secretary. Forms for announcements will be available upon request to convention@lwvc.org.

Convention Rules and Procedures

Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

(Adapted from *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 12th edition)

The motions below are listed in established order of preference.

To Do This	You Say This	Can interrupt	Requires second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote required	Can be reconsidered
Adjourn	I move to adjourn.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Call for an intermission	I move to recess for ... minutes.	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Complain about noise, etc.	I rise to a question of privilege (state problem).	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides	No
Make sure that orders of the day are being followed	I call for the orders of the day.	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides	No
Temporarily suspend consideration of a question	I move to lay ... on the table.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Close debate	I move the previous question.	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes (1)
Limit or extend limits of debate	I move to limit (extend limits of) debate to...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	Yes
Postpone discussion to a specific time	I move to postpone the question until...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Have motion studied further	I move to refer the matter to a committee.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Amend a motion	I move to amend the motion by... (adding, deleting, inserting, striking out).	No	Yes	Yes (2)	Yes, but only once	Majority	Yes

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To Do This	You Say This	Can interrupt	Requires second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote required	Can be reconsidered
To prevent discussion or suppress a motion without letting it come to a vote	I move to postpone the motion indefinitely.	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Yes (Affirmative only)
Introduce business	I move to..., or I move that....	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes

The motions below have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced when pertinent.

To Do This	You Say This	Can interrupt	Requires second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote required	Can be reconsidered
Challenge ruling of the chair	I appeal from the decision of the chair.	Yes	Yes	Yes (3)	No	Majority to sustain decision	Yes
Ask for standing vote	I call for a division. Or call out "Division."	Yes	No	No	No	None	No
Divide a pending question of two or more parts	I move to divide the motion so as to consider separately...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Request information about meaning or effect of pending motion	I have a request for information.	Yes	No	No	No	None (4)	No
Request information about procedure	I rise to a parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None (5)	No
To avoid discussion on unnecessary or embarrassing item	I object to consideration of the question.	Yes, but before debate has started	No	No	No	2/3 negative to sustain objection	Yes, negative vote only
Object to procedures	I rise to a point of order.	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides	No

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To Do This	You Say This	Can interrupt	Requires second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote required	Can be reconsidered
Withdraw a motion not yet stated by chair	I withdraw the motion.	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides	No
Withdraw a motion after stated by chair	I ask permission to withdraw the motion.	No	(6)	No	No	Majority	No
To suspend the rules temporarily	I move to suspend the rules on ...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Reconsider a vote (7)	I move to reconsider the vote on ...	(8)	Yes	Yes (9)	No	Majority	No
Rescind something previously adopted	I move to rescind the motion...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3	Affirmative no
Take up a matter postponed temporarily (laid on the table)	I move to take from the table the motion relating to...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No

Notes

1. Vote to close debate may be reconsidered only before the vote on the question being debated is taken.
2. When applied to a debatable motion.
3. Not debatable if it relates to a transgression of the rules of speaking (indecorum), to the priority of business, or if made while the immediate pending question is undebatable.
4. Maker of motion or other person with information responds to question.
5. Chair responds to question.
6. No, if made by maker of motion; yes, if made by another delegate.
7. May only be made by a delegate who voted on the prevailing side and must be made on the same day or succeeding day.
8. When another has been recognized, but not after she/he has begun to speak.
9. If original motion is debatable.

Proposed Order of Business



Saturday, June 21, 2025

9:00 am Call to Order: Chris Carson, President

Report of the Credentials Committee

Parliamentary Briefing: Esther A. Heller, PRP

Adoption of the Rules of Convention (pp. 3-11)

Adoption of the Order of Business (pp. 12-14)

SPEAKER: Justin Levitt, Loyola Marymount University

Appointment of Committees:

Budget Adjustment Committee, Committee to Read Convention
Minutes, Resolutions Committee, Elections Committee

Convention Fundraiser Introduction

Opening Remarks: Chris Carson, LWVC President

Presentation of Proposed Program for 2025-2027 (pp 18-33): Gloria Chun
Hoo, 2nd Vice President

Motions to Adopt the Recommended Program

1. to Retain Current Positions (pp. 19-25)
2. to Adopt Recommended Issues for Emphasis (pp. 25-33)

Discussion of Proposed Program for 2025-2027

Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Amendments (pp. 64-69): Caroline de
Llamas, Secretary

Discussion and Debate of Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Vote on Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Proposed Order of Business

Announcements: Caroline de Llamas, Secretary

11:30 am Recess

11:30 am – 1:30 pm Break

1:30 pm Call to Order

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Nominating Committee (pp. 40-50): Maxine Anderson and
Kandea Mosley, Nominating Committee Co-Chairs

Nominations from the Floor

Financial Report (pp.51-56): Frances Carrillo, Treasurer

Presentation of Proposed Budget (pp.57-63): Frances Carrillo, Treasurer

Discussion and Debate of Proposed Budget

SPEAKER: Dora Rose, LWVC Deputy Director

Convention Fundraiser Update

Announcements: Caroline de Llamas, Secretary

3:00 pm Recess

Sunday, June 22, 2025

9:00 am Call to Order

Report of the Credentials Committee

SPEAKER: Dianna Wynn, LWVUS President

Discussion and Debate on Proposed Program for 2025-2027

Proposed Order of Business

Vote on Motion to Adopt Proposed Program

Discussion and Debate on Proposed Budget

Vote on Motion to Adopt Proposed Budget

Presentation of Convention Award Winners

Presentation of the Will of the Convention Resolutions Debate and Vote
on the Will of Convention Resolutions

Election of Officers and Directors

Remarks from Incoming LWVC President

Executive Director Search Committee Update

Invitation to Convention 2027

Convention Fundraiser Results

Announcements: Caroline de Llamas, Secretary

11:00 am Adjourn

Program 2025-2027 Overview



Introduction

Delegates to LWVC Convention 2025 will adopt the LWVC Program¹ for 2025-2027 as the final step in the Program planning process that started last December and continued through February 24, 2025. The proposed Program includes the LWVC Program Positions and the LWVC Issues for Emphasis. A full list of the Program ideas submitted by the local Leagues is listed in the **Program Planning Report 2025**.

LWVC Program Positions. The LWVC Board recommends all of the current LWVC positions for retention. **All current LWVC positions can be found [here](#).**

LWVC Studies and Position Updates, New Positions, and Action Policy. No new study or update study is recommended. If there are proposed issues for emphasis that the Board does not recommend (referred to as “non-recommended items”) they would be found in the chart included with the Program Planning Report. This year there are no non-recommended items.

LWVC Issues for Emphasis. In *addition* to Making Democracy Work, three issues for emphasis are proposed for concerted local and state-level action and community education and can be found in the **Proposed Program for 2025-2027**. As always, the LWVC Board’s recommendation reflects a variety of factors including an assessment of which issues received the strongest endorsements from local Leagues in the Program planning process, the state League’s ongoing activities, strategic opportunities to make an impact on issues related to democracy and civic engagement, and the need to maintain flexibility so that we can adapt our priorities in the face of a rapidly changing legislative environment. This year we are also mindful of the need to keep some of our powder dry to deal with emerging threats from the federal government. LWVC must also consider financial and League staff capacity, along with volunteer resources.

¹ In the League of Women Voters, “Program” consists of the body of policy issues we choose for study, education and action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work.

Program 2025-2027 Overview

Program Planning at Convention

Members of 45 Leagues participated in the Program planning process for 2025-2027. The results were presented to the LWVC Board for its consideration and recommendation.²

At the convention, the presentation of the **Proposed Program for 2025-2027** will occur on Saturday, and a motion to adopt each recommended item will be made by a member of the LWVC Board. No second is necessary. Questions for clarification will be allowed at that time, but there will be neither votes nor debate.

One of the purposes for a convention of member delegates is to adopt issues to emphasize for education or advocacy for the next two years. Local Leagues conduct program planning meetings to identify issues that they believe should be pursued. The suggestions for issues for emphasis are collected, noting the number of Leagues that raised each particular issue. The LWVC Board of Directors reviews the collated submissions from local Leagues and provides a recommended program that is put before the delegates at the LWVC Convention. The delegates approve or disapprove the recommended program.

Please note that the Recommended Program items represent combinations of the recommendations from local Leagues. For example, several Leagues specifically mentioned Civic Education. This is included in the “Making Democracy Work” item. Likewise, several Leagues listed either wildfire response, or responding to natural disasters. These are included in both Climate Change and Housing.

Discussion and debate will take place on Saturday on the LWVC Board-recommended Program. Final Program debate and adoption will occur on Sunday. A majority vote is required to adopt recommended Program items. Adoption of Program priorities means that time and resources of staff, the LWVC Board of directors, and local Leagues will be committed to these issues.

Traditionally, Convention delegates may ask that an item that was not included in the Recommended Program be added to the Program. It is called “Considering a Not Recommended Item.” This can still occur but **only if the LWVC Board of Directors was informed of the request before or on April 14, 2025**. This year, no one requested consideration of a not recommended item so all that is before the delegates is the Recommended Program.

² Local Leagues were asked to rank up to three issues in a [Program Planning process](#). A first-place vote received three points, second place two points, and third place one point. The topics input by local Leagues were consolidated. This process, by definition, requires judgment calls, both for what is combined and what is not.

Program 2025-2027 Overview

If there had been “Not Recommended Items” presented for debate they would have been listed in the Convention Workbook so that you can see what items were suggested and how many Leagues suggested or supported them.

If you have questions regarding the procedures outlined above, please consult the Convention Rules or contact Gloria Chun Hoo, Second Vice President for Advocacy and Program (ghoo@lwvc.org).

Program Adoption Process at a Glance

PROPOSED PROGRAM (RECOMMENDED ITEMS)	NOT-RECOMMENDED ITEMS
Saturday, June 21	
Proposed Program presented. Board members move adoption of the proposed Program (pp. 18-33). <i>Questions for clarification are allowed. No debate or amendments.</i>	We did not receive any Not-Recommended Items presented for consideration this biennium.
Sunday, June 22	
Discussion, debate and vote on proposed Program. <i>Majority vote required to adopt.</i>	

Proposed Program 2025-2027



Summary

The LWVC Board-recommended program for 2025-2027 is:

- Retain all [existing LWVC positions](#)
- No new study or update study for 2025-2027
- Adopt the following as Issues for Emphasis for 2025-2027
- **Making Democracy Work in California**, including: redistricting, civic education, response to changing federal policies, misinformation, voter participation/voting rights, money in politics, threats to the Constitution, informed information access, reproductive rights/justice, citizen right to know/participate, free speech, equal rights, government/open government
- **Climate Change**, including: a focus on water, natural disaster response/wildfires, climate smart infrastructure, air quality
- **Housing and Homelessness**, including: disaster relief reform.
- **Secondary priorities:**
 - Immigration
 - Criminal Justice

Descriptions of these recommended Issues for Emphasis, and details on our current work related to them, are provided below. LWVC engages in a broad portfolio of work within the issue areas of Government, Social Policy, and Natural Resources. Check out these related resources:

- A complete [list of the positions](#) on which we advocate
- [Action Policies and Positions](#) (updated 2025)
- LWVUS [Impact on Issues 2024-2026](#)
- [The LWVC Bill Status Report](#) which contains bills on which we are currently advocating and linked letters of support or opposition.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Racial Justice

The League's emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and racial justice is an overarching priority that we intentionally weave into all our work. The state League applies an "equity lens" by analyzing what we do from the perspective of how it impacts underrepresented individuals and communities. We look for opportunities to develop representative League leadership and add rich, diverse perspectives to our work by proactively engaging both League members and community partners who are young,

Proposed Program 2025-2027

Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, have disabilities, are in the LGBTQAI+ community, or otherwise underrepresented.

Program Positions in Brief

Government

CAMPAIGN FINANCING: adopted 1973; updated 1976

Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions that will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

CONSTITUTION: adopted 1957; updated 1965-67

Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified State Constitution; provisions that enable the legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibility clearly fixed; and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in both houses of the state legislature.

ELECTORAL PROCESS: adopted 2019

Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS: adopted 1984; updated 1999 and 2013

Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS: adopted 1981

Support an efficient, effective, and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES: adopted 1998

Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source.

Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

Proposed Program 2025-2027

REDISTRICTING: adopted 1988; amended 2007

Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny.

Support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body.

STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES: adopted 1969; updated 1975; new positions 1976, 1977, 1981, 1995

Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt.

Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures; that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote.

Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and that emphasizes accountability.

Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue, with limitations on the types of services it funds.

Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with similar properties treated uniformly.

VOTING RIGHTS: adopted 1972; reviewed 1986

Support measures that will protect every citizen's right to vote and ensure the government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate.

Proposed Program 2025-2027

Natural Resources

AGRICULTURE: adopted 1983; amended 2015

Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource that must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation.

Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long-term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs that include comprehensive planning, zoning measures, and other preservation techniques. State policy that affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance.

AIR QUALITY: adopted 1971; updated 1973

Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION POLICY: adopted 2023

Recognize the urgent need for action on climate change and support advocacy that recognizes the many interrelationships involved and guard against unintended consequences. For example, wind turbines kill birds, but climate change kills more of them. Solar is not totally carbon-free; it requires supply from mining and discarding used equipment is polluting. Such risks must be considered with an eye to the big picture, rather than focusing only on the risk or benefit of any single action.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ACTION POLICY: adopted 2023

Support actions, including those at local and regional levels, to enable California's agricultural sector to adapt to climate change, mitigate and eventually negate the impacts that California's agriculture and food production industry have on climate change, provide assistance to alleviate food insecurity and reduce food waste throughout the State, inform and educate citizens about how their food is sourced and produced.

ENERGY: adopted 1978; updated 1980 and 2006, amended 2007

Support development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency.

State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures.

Proposed Program 2025-2027

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: adopted 1986 and 1987

Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and groundwater contamination, bioaccumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures.

LAND USE: adopted 1975

Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation.

SOLID WASTE: adopted 1973

Support measures to assure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generations of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials.

TRANSPORTATION: adopted 1981; revised 1985; new position 1991

Support a transportation system to move people and goods that: includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost-effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

WATER: adopted 1959; updated 1961, 1967, 1971, 1979; restated 2025

Support measures that promote the management and allocation of water resources in ways that respect the environment, with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use.

Proposed Program 2025-2027

Social Policy

CHILDREN AND FAMILY ISSUES: adopted 1995

Support for the principles that all children are entitled to safe, nurturing care and that caring for children is a societal as well as a family responsibility.

Support programs and policies that would effectively coordinate and integrate services that meet basic human needs, prevent or reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

CHILD CARE: adopted 1989

Support state and local policies, legislation and programs that meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality childcare.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM: adopted 2003

Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education.

Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning.

Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: adopted 2019

The LWV California supports:

- A criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;
- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful re-entry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and
- reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness).

Proposed Program 2025-2027

EDUCATION: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12: adopted 1973; updated 1985 and 2005

Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; and develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship.

Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students.

Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students.

Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS: adopted 1970; updated 1973, 1993, 2019

Support equal opportunity in housing.

Support measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians.

Support action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.

JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY: adopted 1997 and 1999; amended 2011

Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, that serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and that rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society.

Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services that work with children, youth, families and schools.

Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems.

Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual.

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LEGAL AID: adopted 1971; revised 1983

Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services. Support adequately funded, government supported legal assistance programs that provide legal aid to those unable to pay.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE: adopted 1998

Support an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION: adopted 2016

Support a comprehensive system of public higher education that serves the personal, professional, and occupational goals of all adult Californians and advances the social, economic, and civic needs of the state. To achieve these objectives, public higher education must prioritize access, affordability, equity, and excellence. These priorities require state funding, including student financial aid, that is stable, predictable, sustainable, and timely.

Proposed Issues for Emphasis 2025-2027: Descriptions and Recent Action

The following are some highlights from our priority areas for advocacy and education. We urge you to take a look at our [2023 Advocacy Wrap-Up](#) and [2024 Advocacy Wrap-Up](#) for more insight into our work over the last biennium, and our current [Bill Status Report](#) for a regularly updated list of the bills on which we are advocating. Please also check out the [Advocacy Members Only](#) site, and if you would like to be more engaged, join an [Interest Group](#)!

Making Democracy Work in California

This is a broad area that aligns with national priorities and includes core issues for the League at all levels. It includes League priorities such as election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, money in politics, redistricting, and civics education. We sit on a number of state bodies to monitor various issues related to elections and voting rights, including the California Department of Justice Civil Rights Advisory Group, the Secretary of State's Motor Voter Task Force, and soon the reconstituted Voter's Choice Act Task Force.

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Voting Rights, Expanding the Electorate, and Election Reform

While California continues to lead in safeguarding voting rights, disparities in voter participation persist, particularly among youth, communities of color, and low-income populations. You can explore these issues further by watching [California's Voter Participation Gap: Strategies to Promote Engagement & Representation](#). In 2024, the LWVC achieved significant legislative victories aimed at narrowing these gaps and strengthening democratic processes statewide.

Voter ID and Preemption of Local Suppression Efforts

LWVC supported SB 1174 (Min 2024), which clarified that voting rights are a matter of statewide concern, preempting attempts by charter cities like Huntington Beach to impose unnecessary voter ID laws. These efforts, often modeled on restrictive national trends, disproportionately burden vulnerable populations and undermine confidence in the electoral process. The passage of SB 1174 reinforces the principle that all eligible Californians should be able to vote without barriers.

Right now, in the current legislative session, we're leading opposition to a slew of anti-voter bills in California - bills that would repeal the Voter's Choice Act, block universal mail-in ballots, require strict voter ID, demand proof of citizenship to register, and force all ballots to arrive by Election Day, regardless of postal delays. It's all part of a coordinated national playbook—and we're calling it out for what it is: voter suppression.

And we're not just fighting in the legislature—we're [fighting in the courts](#). When a federal lawsuit was filed in California to block the counting of ballots received after Election Day, we immediately filed a motion to intervene. Because democracy depends on every vote being counted.

Voter Registration Monitoring

Governor Newsom signed AB 2127 (Berman), a League-sponsored bill extending the New Motor Voter Task Force through January 2030. This extension ensures continued collaboration between government agencies and voting rights organizations to enhance voter registration efforts. Since its inception in 2018, the New Motor Voter Program has registered over 28 million Californians through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Despite this success, over 4 million eligible adults remain unregistered, highlighting the ongoing need for targeted outreach and system improvements. While the Task Force's work is important in ensuring that the Motor Voter system continues to work well, its members have limited ability to effectuate changes without further legislation and funding.

Recall Reform

A significant advancement in democratic integrity was achieved with the passage of SCA 1 (Newman), a constitutional amendment sponsored by the LWVC. This measure reforms the recall process for statewide and legislative offices by removing the

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immediate replacement question from the recall ballot. Instead, if a recall is successful, a separate election will be held to select a replacement with majority support. This amendment, slated for the November 2026 ballot, aims to prevent frivolous recalls and uphold the legitimacy of democratic elections.

Protection at the Polls

The enactment of the California PEACE Act, AB 2642 (Berman), marks a pivotal step in protecting voters and election workers from intimidation and violence. The law establishes a new civil cause of action against individuals who engage in threatening behavior toward voters or election officials. Notably, it presumes that carrying firearms near election activities constitutes intimidation, thereby enhancing the safety and accessibility of the electoral process.

These legislative achievements underscore the LWVC's commitment to fostering an inclusive and secure voting environment. Local Leagues are encouraged to continue their vital roles in community education, monitoring the implementation of these reforms, and advocating for equitable access to the electoral process.

Election Misinformation and Deepfakes

The LWVC took steps last year to combat election-related misinformation and deceptive content, supporting two key bills.

AB 2655 (Berman 2024), the Defending Democracy from Deep Fake Deception Act, requires large online platforms to label or block false or altered election-related content before and after elections. Although currently under legal challenge, this bill represents a national model for protecting electoral integrity.

AB 2839 (Pellerin) expands the period during which knowingly distributing materially deceptive content about a candidate is prohibited - from 60 to 120 days before an election. It also provides legal standing for public officials to stop the spread of such content.

These bills help defend our democracy against bad actors seeking to manipulate voters through misinformation.

Money in Politics

The League of Women Voters of California prioritizes campaign finance reform to promote transparency and curb the influence of big money in politics. This year we [reintroduced a bill](#) that died in the Appropriations Committee in 2024, to put a measure on the 2026 ballot to get rid of California's current ban on public financing for campaigns. The ban currently in place prohibits most California jurisdictions from using government funds that are used to support the campaigns of political candidates. The idea behind public funding is to level the playing field, reduce corruption, and limit the influence of wealthy donors.

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Campaign Transparency & Disclosure

We continue to advocate for robust implementation of political advertisement transparency rules and support efforts by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to address loopholes in political advertising.

Cal-Access Replacement System (CARS)

Implementation of CARS remains a top priority. The League continues to monitor and advocate for a fully functional, user-friendly, and timely public disclosure platform that increases accountability across all levels of California government. We support efforts to improve the system's usability for voters, journalists, and watchdog organizations.

Redistricting

In 2023, we built on lessons learned from the 2020 redistricting cycle (chronicled in the report [Promise of Fair Maps: California's 2020 Local Redistricting Cycle: Lessons Learned and Future Reforms](#)) and played a central role in strengthening local redistricting rules through sponsoring the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting (FAIR MAPS) Act of 2023 (AB 764).

FAIR MAPS Act of 2023

AB 764 significantly enhanced redistricting practices by improving transparency, accessibility, and public participation in the map-drawing process. It clarified critical provisions in the original 2019 FAIR MAPS Act and expanded requirements for community engagement, including language access and public input opportunities. The League will develop materials to help ensure proper implementation at the local level for the next redistricting cycle.

Independent Commissions Expansion

While our 2023 legislation to require the use of independent redistricting commissions in all jurisdictions with populations of 300,000 or more was [vetoed by the Governor](#), we believe independent commissions are the gold standard for fair, representative redistricting and remain committed to supporting local Leagues in these efforts.

Civics Education Related to Making Democracy Work

While the League's founding principles are based on the belief that democratic government depends on both informed and engaged participation, we have to acknowledge that California is not an easy place to engage in the process or be a voter. It's difficult to understand complex public policy issues and to access the corridors of power to engage in meaningful public participation. And when it comes to voting, our ballots are very long and difficult to understand - according to a [Public Policy Institute of California](#), 82 percent of likely voters reported confusion due to complicated ballot

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language. Studies have also shown that people are often confused about who or what to vote for.

Local Leagues play a key role in Making Democracy Work through Voter Service and by providing basic, accessible, plain language civics education regarding how democratic government works. This includes explaining [voting rights](#), the voting process (like highlighting the availability of online registration, Same Day Registration, pre-registration for youth 16 and 17 years old, in-person voting opportunities and how to vote by mail), and how to make an impact with public participation. The state League offers tools to support local Leagues with civics education. Among them are:

- The [cavotes.org](#) website and voting information provided there.
- The voting information section of [Vote411](#).
- The [Easy Voter Guide project](#)
- [Pros & Cons](#)

Climate Change and Sustainability, including a focus on Water Resources

The LWVC continues to view climate change as a systemic threat to California's environment, economy, and democracy. Over the last biennium, the League advanced its work in this area through new policy updates, advocacy efforts, and statewide collaboration. The [Climate Change Interest Group \(CCIG\)](#) is a hub for local League members working on climate issues, offering training, advocacy tools, and statewide coordination. The CCIG holds events, advocates for climate legislation, and provides resources and ideas to local Leagues. To join a team or just be informed of events like webinars, discussions, and book clubs, [click here](#).

[Water Resources](#) are likewise critically important to California and are significantly impacted by climate change. The LWVC Water Interest Group has been active for decades, hosting a monthly forum for California League members to discuss regional and inter-regional water issues. Connect by joining the [LWVC Water Interest Group](#).

Climate and Consumer Protections Advance in California, But Other Efforts Fall Short

Over the last two years legislative progress on climate issues in California has been limited to small changes. That is not because the effort has diminished. Rather, most of the overarching bills and goals have already been passed, building on AB 32, the [Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006](#).

In a victory for the environment and consumer protection, AB 660 (Irwin), which the League supported, did pass. It will require the use of California Department of Food and Agriculture specified terms to communicate quality dates and safety dates to consumers. Food waste contributes to climate change through the release of methane

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as it decomposes. Additionally, consumers throw away food often due to confusion around expiration labels that state “sell by,” “use by,” or “best by.” This often means that food that could still feed families is being thrown away, which is a waste of money for the consumer and does not cut down on hunger in the state. AB 660 allows for continued communication of “sell by” dates to retailers, but in a manner that is not confusing to the consumer.

In less happy news, the League supported AB 308 (Becker) which failed. It would have strengthened carbon offsets in the cap-and-trade system by requiring strict requirements for validation and assuring that carbon removed from emissions is actually stored over time. Senator Becker has proposed a new bill with similar aims in the current legislative session which the League again supports.

AB 828 (Connolly), which would have protected safe and clean water accessibility for California communities, was vetoed. Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) have been found to neglect managed wetlands and small water systems serving disadvantaged communities. The bill would have provided temporary relief to small, disadvantaged community water systems and managed wetlands from mandated pumping reductions and fines. Additionally, it would have required GSPs to study the impacts of their plans on such users.

California continues to lead on climate policy—moving now into implementation of existing laws and working to make them better. Much work remains to reach our aggressive climate goals, and to ensure environmental justice and resource equity for all communities.

Housing and Homelessness

California’s housing crisis remains a central focus for the League, as the state continues to face a shortage of at least 2.5 million homes — over one million of which are needed for low- and very low-income households. The League of Women Voters of California remains committed to policies that promote safe, affordable, and stable housing, reduce homelessness, and support equitable development. Check out our [Housing and Homelessness Speaker Series](#) for a deep dive on the issues.

California Expands Pro-Housing Laws, But Implementation Challenges Persist

The LWVC has advocated for major legislative strides to tackle California’s housing shortage, but uneven implementation and local resistance continue to limit the impact of state-level reforms. In a significant 2023 victory, lawmakers passed SB 423 (Wiener), extending and expanding the state’s landmark housing streamlining law, SB 35, which has helped fast-track thousands of new homes in jurisdictions that fail to meet state housing goals.

As of early 2025, California's SB 35 has facilitated the approval of over 21,000 housing units through its streamlined, ministerial process since its enactment in 2017. Between

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2021 and 2023 alone, more than 21,227 units were approved under SB 35 and SB 423, with approximately 79% designated for low- or very low-income households.

However, local pushback, permit delays, and legal loopholes have hindered broader adoption. SB 423 aims to overcome some of these barriers by extending SB 35's provisions through 2036 and expanding them to encourage mixed-income developments. To address environmental concerns, the bill excludes high-risk areas like those prone to wildfires or sea-level rise.

Still, implementation is far from smooth. Cities have often resisted pro-housing laws, sometimes invoking vague environmental or infrastructure concerns to deny compliant projects. Developers have reported inconsistent interpretations of state housing mandates at the local level, slowing down projects that should qualify for fast-track approval. Advocates warn that without stronger enforcement, California's ambitious housing laws could continue to fall short of their transformative potential.

In another move to unlock housing opportunities, the LWVC advocated for SB 4 (Wiener), allowing religious and educational institutions to build affordable housing on their own land—an effort projected to open up nearly 40,000 acres for development. While promising in theory, zoning reform alone won't result in new homes without technical support and funding pathways for nonprofit builders navigating complex entitlement and financing processes.

The League has continued to champion greater accountability. In 2024, the League backed AB 1287 (Alvarez) and AB 434 (Lee). AB 1287 strengthens the state's density bonus law to boost affordable housing production in market-rate developments, while AB 434 enhances the state's ability to enforce local compliance with housing plans. Both bills respond directly to long-standing concerns that cities often sidestep their obligations under state law.

As California continues to adopt pro-housing legislation, the next challenge lies in ensuring these laws translate into actual homes—particularly for those most in need. Without vigilant enforcement, local cooperation, and ongoing policy refinement, the promise of these reforms may remain out of reach for many Californians.

Local Advocacy and Toolkits

Local Leagues continue to use the [Positions](#), [Homelessness Action Policy](#) (HAP) as well as the [HAP Tool Kit](#) and [Housing Element Tool Kit](#) to educate communities and advocate for solutions. These resources help members analyze their local housing plans, identify gaps, and push for improvements grounded in League positions. The work involves examination through multiple lenses, including land use and zoning determinations, transit, the impacts of development on climate change and natural resources, and how to create more safe, stable, and affordable homes. All of this starts with understanding the resources and plans a city/county already has in place.

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There are no easy answers — every community struggles with concerns specific to their area, whether it's sheltering a large unhoused population and providing appropriate services; helping assemble state/federal/private funds to build more student, formerly incarcerated or senior housing; or collaborating with other groups to improve care for those with mental health and substance abuse issues.

If you're interested in diving into the work more deeply, join the [Housing & Homelessness statewide Interest Group](#) where members exchange ideas and surface new concerns. And while at Convention be sure to catch the Workshop "Reaching Functional Zero: Redondo Beach Got There — Your Community Can Too!" It will discuss ways to reach "functional zero" homelessness.

Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal justice reform remains one of the League's most urgent priorities. In 2024, the LWVC continued to challenge the inequities embedded in California's legal system — from over-policing to incarceration — and worked to expand civic participation for all impacted individuals. There has been [significant backlash against criminal justice reform](#) over the last year, so in 2025 we are playing more defense than usual to try to protect our gains. We also sit on the California Department of Justice Civil Rights Advisory Group where we provide feedback on civil rights issues in general (including related to voting rights) and on the implementation of the [Racial and Identity Profiling Act](#).

Voting Rights for People in Jails

In 2024, we [sponsored a bill](#) that would have created a pilot program to facilitate in-person voting in jails in three counties - San Mateo, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. While people in jail have the right to vote, that right is illusory when they are not provided access to registration and voting. We were deeply disappointed by Governor Newsom's decision to [veto](#) the bill, and will continue the very important work to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their rights.

Addressing Police Violence and Accountability

LWVC supported SB 50 (Bradford) in 2024, a bill that strengthens independent oversight and transparency of law enforcement agencies by requiring public reporting of misconduct records. The League also advocated for SB 94 (Cortese), which creates a pathway for resentencing people serving life without parole for crimes committed before age 26.

Youth Justice and School Discipline

Recognizing the need for holistic youth justice reform, the League supported AB 723 (Bryan) to increase oversight of school-based law enforcement and reduce punitive discipline practices that feed the school-to-prison pipeline.

Proposed Program 2025-2027

Toolkits and Local Action

The Criminal Justice Interest Group remains active with working groups on sheriff oversight, youth justice, and jail voting. Local Leagues are encouraged to use the [California Local League Criminal Justice Toolkit](#) to guide advocacy efforts and build partnerships with community stakeholders, educators, and directly impacted individuals. We invite individuals and Leagues to join our active members across California in education and advocacy by engaging with the [LWVC Criminal Justice Reform Interest Group](#).

How to Engage

There are three different ways to engage with each of the issues recommended for education and advocacy in the 2025-2027 biennium. We may:

- **Advocate:** Each of the issues is based on positions adopted after [League study](#)¹ and member agreement. Unlike many single-issue organizations, the League brings a balanced view to the table. Instead of focusing on a special constituency, we base our positions and action on the overall public good. Advocacy can be at the local and regional levels as well as at the state legislature and state agencies.
- **Educate:** One of the League's strengths is providing nonpartisan information and helping people understand the decisions that need to be made and the consequences of these decisions. We can help our fellow Californians understand their options and weigh them in civil discourse.
- **Empower Community Leadership:** Along with educating community members about decisions we make as communities and as a society at large, we provide tools to help people make their voices heard, offer an understanding as to how the decisions being made will affect lives, and lend insight into how to access venues to provide meaningful public input. The League partners with other community-based organizations and works on solutions to public policy problems that will foster equity.

For more information on how to engage, check out the [Speaking with One Voice: LWVC Advocacy Policy Explainer](#).

¹ Because we did not receive a study request this year we have not amended the rough schedule dates provided from the last biennium. The timeline does offer a general idea as to how long studies take.

Program Planning Report



Participating Leagues

The following 45 local Leagues participated in program planning.

Alameda	Monterey County	San Diego
Beach Cities	Mt. Baldy Area	San Francisco
Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville	Napa County	San Jose/Santa Clara
Butte County	North Orange County	San Luis Obispo County
Cupertino/Sunnyvale	North & Central San Mateo	Santa Barbara
Diablo Valley	North County San Diego	Santa Cruz County
Eden Area	North Santa Barbara County	Santa Monica
Fresno County	Oakland	Sonoma County
Fremont, Newark, Union City	Orange Coast	Solano County
Greater Los Angeles	Palos Verdes Peninsula	South San Mateo County
Humboldt County	Pasadena Area	Southwest Santa Clara Valley
Long Beach Area	Placer County	Stanislaus County
Los Altos-Mountain View Area	Redding Area	Torrance Area
Marin County	Riverside	Ventura County
Merced County	Sacramento County	Yolo County

Retention of Current LWVC Positions

The Board-recommended program includes **retention of all [current LWVC positions](#)**.

Issues for Emphasis for 2025-2027

In the Program Planning Kit, the LWVC board noted that the League at both the state and local level will be involved in implementing the national Making Democracy Work (MDW) program first adopted at the June 2016 LWVUS convention, and re-adopted at the 2018 and 2020 LWVUS convention. We asked local Leagues to indicate up to three Issues for Emphasis—areas to focus on in 2025-2027. Because MDW is always core to our mission, we centered the assessment of proposals around those that were **additional** to MDW. An **Issue for Emphasis** could be one or any combination of:

- A study of a new issue or a new position to be adopted by concurrence
- An update study of an issue on which the LWVC already has a position
- community education on an issue
- Advocacy on an issue

Only items proposed by local Leagues in program planning are eligible for consideration as not-recommended items.

Program Planning Report

Compilation of Local League Recommendations for Issues for Emphasis

The recommendations from local Leagues were compiled using a weighted system. First choice items received three points, second choices two points, and third choices one point. Items are grouped as seemed logical.

Topic	Weighted Local League Values	Topics Included in this Area
Making Democracy Work	81	Redistricting, civic education, response to changing federal policies & budget action/federal response, misinformation, voter participation/voting rights, money in politics, threats to the Constitution, informed information access, reproductive rights/justice, citizen right to know/participate, free speech, equal rights, government/open government
Climate Change	69	Water, climate change (water focus), natural disaster response/wildfires, climate smart infrastructure, air quality
Housing	51	Disaster relief reform
Immigration	27	
Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice	21	
Healthcare	4	
Education	4	
Insurance	4	
Meeting Basic Needs	3	
Mental Health	3	
Federal Judiciary & Ethics Study	2	
Update criminal justice phrasing	1	Replacing 'justice' with 'legal', ie: "criminal justice system" to "criminal legal system"

Program Planning Report

Topic	Weighted Local League Values	Topics Included in this Area
Social Policy Issue education	1	
Public Libraries	1	

Recommendations for a New State Study, a Study to Update an Existing Position, or a Position Adoption by Concurrence

The following studies were recommended: the intersection of mental health and medical care in jails, unions/collective bargaining

These national LWVUS positions or studies were requested to be explored: Local Media, Federal Judiciary & Ethics

One League also mentioned, on the topic of concurrence: “Due to the threat on Democracy at the Federal level, it’s impossible to limit our concerns to one area. We need to adopt concurrence with other states as often as possible to enable us to advocate. Book banning as an example.”

Legislative Priorities 2025



California Legislative Priorities 2025

Based on our current work and focus, we recommend maintaining our current legislative priorities. These continue to be big issues statewide, and the League voice has made a difference in these areas. We also need to maintain flexibility to respond to the state impact of issues that may arise from the federal government. These include things like federal Voter ID and documentary proof of citizenship requirements, attacks on immigrants, and defunding of Medicaid.

Making Democracy Work

- Voting Rights
- Voter Protection and Service
- Election Reform
- Money in Politics
- Local Redistricting Legislation

Housing

- Housing supply, affordability, and production

Climate Change

Criminal Justice

Other Legislative Issues - as time and resources permit

- Support requests from local Leagues and ILOs for advocacy on bills of specific interest to their jurisdictions.
- Act as appropriate on other core issues like the Initiative and Referendum Process and Open Government.
- Consider Program Director recommendations for action on the highest priority bills in their Program areas.

Program 2025-2027 Resources



Program Glossary

Use of the following League terms will help to avoid confusion and misunderstanding during discussion and debate of Program.

CONCURRENCE	Members are asked to agree with a statement or position held by another League or recommended by a League board or committee. The statement must be approved or rejected as written.
CONSENSUS	Substantial member agreement; the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion.
ISSUE FOR EMPHASIS	An issue/topic adopted by convention delegates as a program item on which state and local Leagues will mutually focus their efforts. May include concerted action using existing state or national positions, and/or community education on selected issues. (Also called Issue for Education and Advocacy.)
LIMITED STUDY	A new study with a narrow scope and usually of short duration.
NOT-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM POSITION	Issues of interest to a number of members but not receiving enough support to appear on the proposed program.
POSITION UPDATE	The stand of the League on a public policy issue and the basis for action.
PROGRAM	A study of limited scope to reevaluate an existing League position in light of new information, changed circumstance, and/or conflict with another position. The goal is consideration of a change in position. Any new position resulting from an update is adopted by the appropriate board and affirmed by the convention or annual meeting.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	In the League of Women Voters, "Program" consists of the body of policy issues we choose for study, education and action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work.
REVIEW	Subjects that reflect the thinking of most of the members in the state and are recommended by the appropriate board for adoption.
SCOPE	Members ask the board for evaluation of a current position for clarity, relevance, effectiveness. No change is made in the position statement.
	Definition of the limits of a study and possible areas of exploration, developed by the study committee and approved by the appropriate board.

Program 2025-2027 Resources

STUDY	The process of gathering information for discussion by members with the aim of reaching consensus and establishing a position.
VERTICAL POSITION	LWVUS, LWVC or ILO (Inter-League Organization) positions are designated as vertical if they may be used as the basis of action at other levels of League without prior permission.

Study Process

Check the [League of Women Voters of California Education Fund Study Process](#) for details.

Nominees



2025-2027 LWVC Officers and Board of Directors Nominees



President

Gloria Chun Hoo

Local League: San Jose/Santa Clara

Gloria is currently the Second Vice President for Advocacy and Program on the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) Board, chair of the state Legislation Committee, and a member and former chair of the LWVC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. Before joining the state board, she chaired the LWV Santa Clara County Council, served on the LWV Bay Area ILO board, and was president of the LWV San Jose/Santa Clara for

three years. Although a League member since 1995, Gloria became more active after retiring in 2010.

A San Jose resident, Gloria's professional background includes marketing, communications, and public relations roles in the science and cultural museum field, with positions at The Tech Museum of Innovation, the Campbell Historical Museum, and the Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawai'i. Earlier in her career, she worked in PR, marketing, and training in the corporate sector in the Boston area. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the YWCA of the USA (1985–1997), and was chair and a member of the San Jose Planning Commission (2001–2008). She recently stepped down as co-chair and remains a board member of CreaTV San Jose, a public access media organization.

Gloria attended the University of Hawai'i and earned a journalism degree with a minor in East Asian history from Boston University.

State Leaders – Nominees



1st Vice President

Lorrel Plimier

Local League: Piedmont

Lorrel joined the League of Women Voters in 2017 where she has served as the Communications Director and Webmaster for the League of Women Voters of Piedmont and is currently serving as their President. Within her League she helped plan and moderate live interviews with nationally and internationally recognized speakers on policy issues that reached members from dozens of local Leagues in over a dozen different states. She

overhauled her League's technology systems to enhance their communications and outreach, which resulted in increased membership and a 15-fold expansion of their newsletter subscribers. She regularly teaches communications and web development classes to groups of League leaders from across the country. Lorrel is an attorney and data scientist with a BA from Mount Holyoke College, a JD from Boston College Law School and a Masters in Information and Data Science from UC Berkeley. She is well-versed in policy analysis and has over 15 years of experience as a practicing patent attorney specializing in software technology. She currently works as a technology consultant specializing in digital communications and data science.

She lives in Piedmont with her husband, two teenagers and their middle-aged dog, Duncan. When she's not creating graphics or tinkering with a data science project, she can be found baking sourdough bread or out walking the dog around town with a political news podcast in her ear.



2nd Vice President

Carol Moon Goldberg

Local League: Sacramento County

Carol has been an active League of Women Voters member for over 25 years, serving at both the local and state levels. While on the LWVC Board of Directors, she was Voter Service Director, overseeing the production of voter education materials, curating content for Voter's Edge, and coordinating the League's participation in the U.S. Senatorial candidate forum and the California Channel Free Airtime Project in 2018. Prior to that, she served as LWVC Program Director for the reproductive choices portfolio, representing the League in advocacy

coalitions and tracking related legislation.

State Leaders – Nominees

At the local level, Carol held various leadership roles in the Sacramento County League, including co-president. She led high school voter registration drives, helped organize mock elections, coordinated Election Day coverage with a local TV station, and authored resources for members.

Carol served on the Sacramento County Grand Jury and contributed to local education through school board advisory committees. Her nonprofit experience includes strategic planning, capital campaigns, and personnel searches through long-standing involvement with her family's religious community. Beyond civic engagement, Carol supported her children's sports and arts activities through organizing, fundraising, and transportation. She has been married for 36 years to a supportive spouse who practices law and is also active in nonprofit work in Sacramento.



Secretary

Suzanne Stassevitch

Local League: San Francisco

Suzanne has represented the League of Women Voters in a variety of positions since 1999. Voter Service, community education and strategic planning have been the focus of her activities with the League. She continues to believe that our community outreach through local Leagues is the greatest tool we have to strengthen our democracy and our communities. From 2000 to 2009 at the League of Women of San Francisco (SF), she served as 1st VP for Voter Services. She ensured the League provided access to voting materials city-wide in English,

Spanish and Chinese through local newspapers, and coordinated vote-by-mail promotions and ranked choice voting education. From 2004 to 2009, Suzanne served on the SF Ballot Simplification Committee. She also served on the League of Women Voters of California Board from 2009 to 2013, where she helped lead a statewide education campaign supporting application & processes of the first California Independent Redistricting Commission. In 2012, Suzanne was instrumental in resurrecting, revising and publishing the *Guide to California Government*. She was also an LWVUS Observer at the United Nations from 2013-2018 and focused on outreach to LWV members nationwide to "think globally, act locally". She served as a LWVUS Shur Fellow and trained to build strategic plans and implement organizational practices to meet the League's DEI goals. Suzanne was also the League of Women Voters of New York State President from 2019 to 2021.

Professionally, she has worked and supported the arts her entire life, including devoting 23 years at the San Francisco Opera in the Costume and Wardrobe Department.

State Leaders – Nominees



Treasurer

Kande Mosley Gandhi

Local League: Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville

Kande joined the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville in 2016. She has a strong background in nonprofit and social enterprise management in the workforce development, solar and education sectors. With a career built in nonprofit and program management, she drives innovation as a collaborative leader and the Co-Founder of StrideLabs, where she serves their nonprofit and community-based clients. She

serves as Co-Chair of the League of Women Voters of California Nominating Committee and is the first African-American to become President of the League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville. Passionate about democracy and equity, she supports the League's mission to build a more just and inclusive society. Recognized by the League of Women Voters of California during Women's History Month in 2022 and by the Black graduate student association in 2024 at Cornell University, where she earned her MBA in sustainable global enterprise, Kande brings management expertise, DEI insight, and a Gen X perspective to the League.



Director

Jacqueline Coto

Local League: Greater Los Angeles

Jacqueline Coto is a social justice leader committed to driving systemic change and empowering communities through education, policy reform, and civic engagement. As the former State Director of Civic Engagement Policy for NALEO Educational Fund, she advanced election policy reform and championed Latino civic participation across California. Her leadership included work on California and Los Angeles County Redistricting, the implementation of the Voter's Choice Act in L.A. County, voter protection, and the 2020 Census. Jacqueline also

serves on the Secretary of State's Language Accessibility Advisory Committee and co-chaired the L.A. County RR/CC Community Voter Outreach Committee.

Before entering policy work, Jacqueline spent 12 years in Human Resources before transitioning to macro social work to pursue her passion for systems change. She has held key field roles with a State Assemblymember and an LAUSD School Board Member and consulted on policy programs related to parent leadership and workforce development in higher education.

State Leaders – Nominees

A proud South L.A. native and first-generation college graduate, Jacqueline worked full-time while earning dual master's degrees in Social Work and Public Administration with a public policy focus from the University of Southern California. Her mission is rooted in improving conditions for marginalized communities through inclusive and equitable policy, with a lifelong commitment to uplifting underserved populations.



Director

Gena Davis

Local League: Greater Los Angeles

Dr. Gena Yvette Davis is a renowned Organizational Psychologist, successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, and community advocate. She is the visionary founder and CEO of True Synergy Inc., a people and culture management consulting company specializing in corporate culture change, people operations, and behavioral transformation for progressive and innovative global organizations. She is the founder and board chair of My Serenity Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) public charitable

organization dedicated to making self-care, wellness, and physical and mental healthcare accessible and inclusive for Black women and girls everywhere through fundraising, programming, support, and interactive community building.

A University of Southern California graduate with a BA in Communication Arts & Sciences, she furthered her education with an MBA in Marketing from the University of Phoenix and a PsyD in Organization Development from the California School for Professional Psychology (CSPP) at Alliant International University, Fresno.

She is a proud member of several professional, civic, and service-based organizations, including the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, NTL Institute for the Applied Behavioral Sciences, American Psychological Association (APA), Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and Black Women Scholars & Practitioners Collective (BWSPC). She is also a dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

State Leaders – Nominees



Director

Marilú Guevara

Local League: Greater Los Angeles

Marilú Guevara has been a dedicated League of Women Voters member since 2011, when she joined the Greater Los Angeles League as a student intern. Since then, she has supported the League's election contracts, served briefly on the board of directors, and ultimately became Executive Director. In that role, Marilú led the organization through strategic planning efforts, successful fundraising, budget balancing, and initiatives to diversify membership. She brings deep operational expertise, with hands-on experience in financial management, including balance sheets and financial reporting, and a strong understanding of League culture. Marilú currently serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Greater Los Angeles League and has previously served as Co-Chair and at-large member of the LWVC Nominating Committee. She is deeply committed to the League's mission, shaped in part by her personal background as the daughter of immigrants who sought political asylum in the United States—an experience that underscores her passion for civic engagement, political freedoms, and access to voting information.

Outside of her League work, Marilú leads the Awareness & Engagement Division at EmpowerLA (City of LA), where she fosters inclusive civic participation by connecting communities to the Neighborhood Council system. Her work includes managing grassroots engagement initiatives, building strategic partnerships, running awareness campaigns, and supporting Neighborhood Council elections. She holds a B.A. from the University of California, Irvine, and an M.A. from California State University, Long Beach, both in Political Science.



Director

Kim Knox

Local League: San Diego

Kim is originally from Sacramento and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from CSU San Marcos. She began her career as a data center manager for a nationwide Internet service provider. Now living in San Diego, she enjoys skiing, concerts, and spending time with her husband, two sons, and their Golden Retriever. She serves as Vice President of the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties Foundation and represents the affiliate on the ACLU California Action board.

State Leaders – Nominees

Kim joined the League of Women Voters of San Diego in 2017 and has served as co-chair of candidate forums, program director, and twice as president. During the pandemic, she led the shift to virtual events, significantly expanding reach and impact. Candidate forums garnered over 6,000 views across Zoom and YouTube in 2020, with viewership growing each election year. Ballot talks have been viewed over 10,000 times since 2020. She has worked with community partners on implementing the Voter's Choice Act, voter registration for formerly incarcerated individuals, and advancing publicly financed elections. Kim led a coalition to pass a ballot measure reforming an outdated ordinance on trash collection—an equity-driven initiative that helps address the city's \$200 million budget deficit. She also initiated a strategic planning process that set the foundation for expanding LWV San Diego's role as the region's trusted, nonpartisan source of voter information. Kim currently serves on the LWVC Legislation Committee.



Director

Ninochka McTaggart

Local League: Greater Los Angeles

Dr. Ninochka McTaggart is a sociologist who specializes in researching race, gender, and other forms of inequality in society. She is a trained researcher who investigates and develops focused, research-based tools, strategies and initiatives that promote awareness and understanding of issues related to inequity. Currently, she serves on the DEI Committees for LWV California and the LWVUS. Her work is guided by her strong commitment to advocating for the equitable treatment of

all marginalized groups.

Dr. McTaggart worked as the Director of Research and Outreach at the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. She also served as a guest curator of “Don’t Believe the Hype”: L.A. Asian Americans in Hip Hop at the Chinese American Museum, an exhibit grounded in her dissertation research on the dynamics of gender and race relations. In 2020, she co-authored a book entitled *White Privilege: The Persistence of Racial Hierarchy in a Culture of Denial*. She previously served as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles (LWVGLA) and is currently a DEI consultant and inclusive language specialist.

Dr. Ninochka McTaggart (she/her) is a Los Angeles native and the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. She enjoys museums, concerts, and learning more about Los Angeles history and architecture.

State Leaders – Nominees



Director

Marianne Ramos

Local League: Ventura County

Marianne has dedicated over two decades to education, leadership, and civic engagement. She currently serves as Principal of Channel Islands High School in Oxnard, California, where she leads initiatives to promote academic achievement, college and career readiness, and student wellness. Under her leadership, the school has embraced a holistic approach to student success, preparing students for a future of opportunity and impact. Prior to her current role, Marianne served as the Director

of Instructional Support Services for the Oxnard Union High School District, where she oversaw district-wide initiatives in curriculum development, professional learning, and assessment practices. Her leadership was key in advancing several impactful district programs.

In addition to her professional commitments, Marianne is deeply engaged in civic life. She served on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Ventura County and continues to advocate for civic engagement, the promotion of multicultural education, and the advancement of women's rights.

Marianne holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from UCLA and three Master's Degrees in Education, School Counseling, and Educational Leadership.



Director

Ashley Raveche

Local League: Marin County

Ashley is a policy advocate dedicated to public safety, open government, and human rights, with a focus on serving disadvantaged and marginalized communities. She uses data-driven strategies to advance collaborative solutions at local, state, and national levels. Ashley holds several public service roles, including elected Director of the Southern Marin Fire District Board, Commissioner on the Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness Commission, and founding stakeholder in the Marin D.A. Oversight

Committee and Marin Sheriff Community Oversight Group. She also contributes to the San Francisco Police Department's Executive Sponsor Working Groups on Bias and Use of Force.

State Leaders – Nominees

As Deputy Area Director of Social Policy for the League of Women Voters of California, Ashley works to embed human rights into social policy. During her tenure as President of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco, the organization received the HERO Award from the Mayor and Human Rights Commission for her leadership and advocacy.

She currently serves on the United Nations Association's Ratify Steering Committee for the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2020, she received the Emerging Public Leader for the United Nations Agenda 2030 Award for her work in human rights and racial justice. A Bay Area native, Ashley lives in Marin County with her two young daughters.



Director

Paula Romanovsky

Local League: San Francisco

Paula is Principal of March Partners, a consulting firm specializing in public benefit management, with expertise in capital campaigns, annual funds, membership programs, and planned giving. Her clients have included the Treasure Island Museum, the Junior Museum and Zoo in Palo Alto, and the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. Previously, Paula spent 20 years in leadership roles at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco before transitioning to social services as

Executive Director of Development for Catholic Charities of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin. She also served as Board Chair of FirstBank in Nebraska, overseeing its management and eventual sale.

Her extensive volunteer work includes serving as Board President for Leadership California and Pocket Opera, and leading development committees for the boards of the San Francisco Education Fund, Leadership San Francisco, and Duchesne Academy in Omaha. She has also been an active member of the Francisco Heights Neighborhood Association for over 25 years.

As a newer member of the League of Women Voters, Paula currently serves as Grants Chair for the Development Committee of the San Francisco League. Her previous role as President of Leadership California (2006–2009) and ongoing work with its Executive Advisory Council align with the statewide mission of the LWVC.

State Leaders – Nominees

2025-2027 LWVC Nominating Committee Nominees



Jennifer Waggoner, Chair
Local League: San Francisco

Jennifer “JDub” Waggoner is a longtime League leader who strongly believes in the League’s mission and values. She is grateful for the resilient, inclusive community it fosters and the opportunities it provides for civic engagement. Jennifer brings a wealth of experience and a passion for relational, operational, and systemic change to her work with the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC). Since joining the League in San Francisco in 2000, Jennifer has held nearly every role, including serving as LWVC Communications Director and then as LWVC President from 2011 to 2014. She has been involved at the national level as well, serving

on tech and modernization task forces, chairing the LWVUS Convention resolution committee, and representing the League at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Known to many members through League events, webinars, and regional gatherings, Jennifer continues to support LWVC’s work both remotely and in person. She also volunteers with other nonprofits and advocacy coalitions.

Professionally, Jennifer works as a consultant specializing in operations, finance, and communications for nonprofits, small businesses, and socially driven tech startups. Her flexible work enables her to stay engaged with League initiatives and travel as needed. She holds a Government degree from Claremont McKenna College and a Public Policy diploma from the University of Edinburgh. She lives in central San Francisco with her partner, David LaMacchia. Learn more about JDub: LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/jwaggoner](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jwaggoner)

State Leaders – Nominees



Maxine Anderson

Local League: San Francisco

Maxine came to the San Francisco League through her political activity during the 2004 election. Her political involvement began in anger, which led to partisan activism, and then to the League where she was recruited to Voter Service work. She has served on the San Francisco League board and as chair of their Advocacy and Action Committee. She also currently serves on the state Criminal Justice Reform Committee.

Maxine was born and raised in Chicago and attended public schools there. She has worked in both the private and public sectors: first as a private industry insurance adjuster and then as a claims adjuster in San Francisco's City Attorney's Office. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission gave her the HERO award for her outstanding contributions to voting rights. She also serves on the Older Women's League board. For fun, she enjoys traveling and reading.



Carolina Goodman

Local League: Greater Los Angeles

Carolina Goodman is the daughter of immigrants who gave back to their community—her father came to the U.S. from the Philippines in the 1920s and served in the U.S. Army under General MacArthur during World War II, where he met her mother. After the war, her mother dedicated 50 years to the American Legion Auxiliary and strongly believed in democracy, often writing to U.S. presidents to make her voice heard.

Inspired by her mother's example, Carolina pursued a career in education, serving as a teacher and curriculum coordinator before mentoring new teachers in retirement.

Her commitment to civic engagement led her to the League of Women Voters (LWV), where she has taken on leadership roles with the Greater Los Angeles chapter, chairing both the Criminal Justice Reform and Government Reform Committees.

At the state level, her work as co-chair of the LWV California Criminal Justice Interest Group prepared her to become a bill analyst for the League. Carolina is proud to be part of an organization that helps voters make informed decisions and strengthens democracy at every level.

Financial Report



Summary

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) use the accrual accounting method. This means revenues and expenses are recorded when the transactions are incurred, rather than when they are physically received and/or paid.

Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position reports consist of the year-end actuals as of June 30, 2024 and the current year actuals as of March 31, 2025.

A sufficient cash balance and cash flow is essential for maintaining day-to-day operations and for managing unexpected challenges. The release of previously restricted Net Assets refers to the release of grants funds and/or cash reserves that were recorded as revenue in prior years, intended for future use. The League maintains funds held in two fully insured financial institutions as well as strategically invested certificates of deposit (CDs). As a result, the League's current assets maintain a balance of over \$1 million.

Current liabilities consist of accounts payables, vacation accruals, the true-up account between the GF and EF, and credit cards. The League does not have any outstanding short- or long-term loans.

Equity represents retained earnings (unrestricted) as well as temporarily restricted funds designated by the Board of Directors. Additionally, the EF serves as the custodian for restricted education funds on behalf of local Leagues that have chosen to hold these funds with the State under the 501(c)(3) umbrella. As of June 30, 2024, the total balance held in this program was \$100,003. This service is at no cost to the Local Leagues.

Financial Report

Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities report includes the year-end actuals as of June 30, 2024 and the current year actuals as of March 31, 2025.

As evidenced in the 2023-2024 fiscal year statements, the League faced a challenging financial year, with total revenue falling short by \$183,822 compared to budgeted expectations. However, there were a number of key highlights that we would like to address.

- Public contributions significantly exceeded expectations, bringing in +\$92,014 more than budgeted driven by stronger-than-expected donations. This area was a key bright spot for the year and helped mitigate some of the revenue shortfall elsewhere.
- The largest discrepancy came from grant revenues, where expected funding did not materialize as expected. This was a major challenge for the year and impacted our ability to meet overall revenue targets. We are working to diversify funding sources and pursue additional grant opportunities moving forward. We anticipate based on the current grant funding trends that this area will continue to be a challenge for the League.
- Membership revenue came in slightly above budget, demonstrating strong retention and slight growth in new members. While the increase was modest, it indicates that our membership base is stable.

Total expenses for the 2023-2024 fiscal year amounted to \$1,065,206, which is (\$73,680) under budget. While some areas of spending exceeded expectations, there were also significant savings achieved across several categories.

- Personnel expenses came in under budget by (\$35,861) due to staffing changes.
- The significant underage of (\$68,500) in “convention, events, and travel” expenses was primarily due to fewer in-person events than planned. However, this was also offset by the potential revenue that could have been earned in event registrations. We continue to evaluate future programming for events and conferences based on balanced budgeting.
- Direct program expenses were over budget by +\$57,535. This indicates that more funds were spent on program delivery than originally planned, reflecting the organization's commitment to maintaining program quality despite financial constraints. This overspend may be justified given the value of the programs

Financial Report

being offered, but we'll review program spending to ensure it aligns with available resources in the future.

- Processing fees exceeded the budget by +\$4,541, due to higher-than-anticipated transaction volumes (e.g., online donations, membership payments, MyLO payments) *and* increases in processing fee costs via third party processors. This is a manageable variance, but has been budgeted more liberally going forward.

As of nine months into the current fiscal year (financial statements as of March 31, 2025), total revenue stands at \$753,332, falling (\$677,076) short of the budgeted amount. While this shortfall is significant, it's important to highlight both the underperforming areas and those that have performed better than expected. With three months remaining in the year, we still have opportunities to finish strong.

- Total public contributions for the 9-month period were under budget by nearly (\$75,000). We currently have a major focus on year-end campaigns to boost contributions and this is not a line item of concern. As of the day of print, this gap has already begun to close and there is no concern that the goal will not be met by year-end.
- Local League contributions significantly underperformed. The shortfall stems from reduced participation in the programs, which we plan to address with renewed outreach and engagement.
- A big concern for the year is the (\$305,000) shortfall in grants, with anticipated funds not being awarded as expected. This is a critical focus area, and we are actively pursuing other grant opportunities and diversifying anticipated revenues for the future. Note: in most cases, grants were tied to expenditures that did not come to fruition if funding was not secured.
- Contract services revenue is down significantly, primarily due to fewer MyLO renewals and the competition with other recently-released hosting platforms.
- As of the date of print, convention revenue, and expenses, have not been accounted for.

Looking ahead, we are focusing on:

1. Strengthening relationships with existing grant sources and pursuing new opportunities to recover some of the anticipated funding.
2. Reworking our event strategy to ensure future conventions and special events are more financially sustainable.
3. Enhancing membership growth through targeted campaigns.

Financial Report

Total expenses in the current year, as of the date of print, amount to \$795,735, which is (\$631,086) under budget. While some categories show substantial savings, there are a few areas where spending exceeded expectations. Given that there are 3 months remaining, the organization is positioned to close the year with favorable cost management if current trends continue.

- Personnel costs are projected to end the current year under budget by approximately (\$190,000) as a result of staffing changes, costs associated with said changes/vacancies, and not issuing COLAs due to overall financial impact.
- Direct program expenses are under budget by (\$35,566), suggesting that program delivery has been more cost-effective than anticipated. We have focused on streamlining program operations and prioritizing key activities. We feel strongly that program quality has not been compromised in any service deliveries.
- Processing fees are only slightly under budget by (\$974). However, given there are three months left in the year, this line item is projected to be over-budget by approximately \$2,300.
- There were no internship expenses related to anticipated grant-funded programs this year, resulting in \$57,000 savings.

Over the past two years, the League managed to keep expenses under budget despite facing revenue challenges. In Year 1, total expenses were (\$73,680) under budget, with savings in personnel and events, though direct program costs came in higher than expected. For Year 2 (covering 9 months), expenses were \$631,086 under budget, driven by savings in personnel and operational costs, although revenue from events in the final quarter have not been accounted for as well as significant larger contributions received in April. Moving forward, efforts will focus on maximizing program revenue, campaign and outreach opportunities, and maintaining cost efficiency to close the year strong.

Financial Statements on the following pages.

Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

	Fiscal Year 2023-2024 July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			Fiscal Year 2024-2025 July 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025		
	General Fund	Education Fund	Combined Total	General Fund	Education Fund	Combined Total
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	225,487	763,118	988,604	280,517	622,492	903,009
Accounts receivable	162,880	200	163,080	22,021	9,680	31,701
Other current assets	22,686	6,227	28,913	140,143	17,130	157,273
Total current assets	411,052	769,544	1,180,597	442,682	649,302	1,091,984
Fixed assets	-	-	-	1,394	-	1,394
Total assets	411,052	769,544	1,180,597	444,076	649,302	1,093,378
Liabilities and Net Assets						
Current liabilities						
Accounts payable	5,141	154,408	159,550	23,884	130,367	154,252
Accrued vacation	17,581	20,796	38,377	17,876	14,559	32,435
Other current liabilities	10,380	-	10,380	4,237	-	4,237
Total current liabilities	33,102	175,205	208,307	45,998	144,926	190,924
Long-term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	33,102	175,205	208,307	45,998	144,926	190,924
Net assets						
Without donor restrictions	230,412	463,930	694,343	246,479	315,041	561,520
Net assets released	-	(52,723)	(52,723)	-	(23,483)	(23,483)
With donor restrictions	1,423	84,852	86,275	42	60,372	60,414
LL impact funds		100,003	100,003	-	101,000	101,000
Board designated net assets	127,479	117,926	245,405	127,479	117,926	245,405
Net revenue/(loss)	18,635	(119,649)	(101,014)	24,078	(66,481)	(42,403)
Total net assets	377,950	594,339	972,289	398,078	504,376	902,454
Total liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 411,052	\$ 769,544	\$ 1,180,597	\$ 444,076	\$ 649,302	\$ 1,093,378

Financial Report

Statement of Activities

	Fiscal Year 2023-2024 July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			Fiscal Year 2024-2025 July 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025		
	General Fund	Education Fund	Combined Total	General Fund	Education Fund	Combined Total
Revenues and support						
Public contributions	162,380	321,134	483,514	117,616	232,557	350,173
LL contributions	-	11,816	11,816	-	4,969	4,969
Grant revenues	-	99,358	99,358	-	69,206	69,206
Membership	178,032	-	178,032	176,362	-	176,362
Billable expense	44,023	-	44,023	34,187	-	34,187
Contract services	74,041	200	74,241	51,999	400	52,399
Convention/special events	-	12,937	12,937	2,500	-	2,500
Publications/merchandise	(740)	4,730	3,990	1,355	37,721	39,076
Miscellaneous/investment	412	3,146	3,558	676	302	977
Net assets released	-	52,723	52,723	-	23,483	23,483
Total revenues and support	458,148	506,044	964,192	384,694	368,638	753,332
Expenditures						
Personnel	306,636	392,355	698,991	244,550	273,409	517,959
Convention, events, & travel	6,904	13,070	19,973	3,258	2,112	5,369
Direct program expenses	47,344	118,175	165,520	63,479	92,692	156,171
Operational expenses	47,197	26,342	73,538	26,390	37,923	64,312
Processing fees	9,141	7,496	16,637	7,175	6,646	13,822
Insurance	12,991	9,689	22,680	8,216	6,730	14,945
Legal fees	3,760	-	3,760	7,550	4,438	11,988
Fundraiser/special events	-	38,944	38,944	-	-	-
LL impact fund expenses	5,540	19,623	25,163	-	11,168	11,168
Total Expenditures	439,513	625,693	1,065,206	360,617	435,118	795,735
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 18,635	\$ (119,649)	\$ (101,014)	\$ 24,078	\$ (66,481)	\$ (42,403)

Proposed Budget 2025-2027



*For the purposes of this document, the terms '**Action Fund**' (AF) and '**General Fund**' (GF) are used interchangeably to refer to the same fund under the LWVC, which is distinct from the '**Education Fund**' (EF) under the LWVCEF.*

Introduction

The proposed biennial 2025-2027 budget for the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) is submitted to delegates for their consideration in accordance with the bylaws (Article XIII Financial Administration, Section 2 Budget). Although the delegates only consider and vote on the Action Fund budget for the LWVC, the Budget Committee is also presenting the budget for the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) for informational purposes. We hope this will help delegates understand our overall budgetary priorities and projected sources and uses of funds for all League activities in California. The LWVCEF Board of Directors adopts the LWVC EF budget after the Convention.

The Budget Committee

This budget was reviewed by a committee, appointed by the LWVC Board of Directors. The members as of print date were:

- Frances Carrillo, Treasurer (Chair), LWVC
- Chris Carson, President, LWVC
- Carol Moon-Goldberg, First Vice President, LWVC
- Debbie Fagen, LWV Ventura County
- Lorrel Plimier, LWVC Director
- Susannah Hill, LWV South San Mateo County
- Staff Members: Helen Hutchison, LWVC Interim Executive Director; Kristy Oriol, LWVC Development Director; and accountant Renee Rocha, LWVC Finance Manager.

Comments and Questions

Comments and questions should be addressed to state League Treasurer, Frances Carrillo at treasurer@lwvc.org. Delegates will also have an opportunity to meet with the Budget Committee during the Budget Q&A on Thursday, June 12, at 5:00pm.

Proposed Budget 2025-2027

The Budget Process

This year the Interim Executive Director and Finance Manager worked closely with staff members in developing their program budgets based on historical data and forecasts, as well as accurate labor and time allocations. The Executive Director then worked directly with the Finance Manager in restructuring accounts to reflect the considerations presented in this report. The detailed programmatic budgets and the overall budgets were approved by the Finance Committee with some minor modifications. The recommended biennial budget was approved by the LWVC full Board of Directors during the March 29, 2025 Board of Directors meeting.

Considerations and Context

In the prior biennial budget all revenue/expenses related to membership, advocacy and lobbying, convention, and direct service of Local League operations (including *Pros & Cons*) were maintained in the AF. Revenue/expenses related to administering interest groups, community organizing, voter education, and the Trudy Schafer Fellowship were maintained under the EF. This was a major change in how we tracked expenses. It made the EF budget appear larger, but the goal was to match grant income with related spending in the same year, to avoid showing a misleading loss in later years. As a result, more funding was allocated to EF programs expecting grant support. However, several expected grants didn't come through. For the 2025–2027 budget, we've taken a more cautious approach, leaving out many previously assumed grant revenues to create a more realistic and conservative budget.

The switch to the new national membership system (ChapterSpot) in January affected our original membership revenue projections and future forecasts at all levels - national, state, and local. We're working to make this transition as smooth as possible. As usual, the final collection of Per Member Payments (PMP) from California Leagues will happen at the start of the new fiscal year to cover memberships in arrears. To ease the financial impact on Local Leagues, LWVC is spreading the PMP collection over two years instead of one, which is reflected in the budget.

Proposed Budget 2025-2027

Assumptions

Program Assumptions:

- **One Voice Social (Action Fund):** A new fee-for-service, the One Voice Social Media subscription, is ready to launch. For \$80/month, subscribing Leagues receive six posts per month—created and posted by LWVC to their Facebook and Instagram. The service helps Leagues boost engagement and expand their reach while retaining full control over their accounts. Revenue projections are conservative due to its early stage.
- **MyLO (Action Fund):** MyLO was created as a non-PMP revenue source for LWVC, offering valuable web services to Local Leagues while supporting advocacy. With the launch of LWVUS's ChapterSpot, enrollment is slowly declining. As expected, MyLO has reached break-even, despite rising costs for hosting, payment processing, and tech support. The customer fee will stay the same in year one and increase by \$25 in year two. Given its robust features—such as dynamic content management, shared image libraries, web forms, and ongoing training—MyLO remains a valuable and adaptable option for Leagues and will continue operating.
- **Easy Voter Guide (Education Fund):** EVG has historically had moderate grant funding and support. In this budget, no grant support has been awarded as the future of specific streams of grant funding for print production and distribution is uncertain. There will not be any negative impact on digital production.
- **VOTE411 (Education Fund):** Fundraising remains critical for VOTE411. The LWVUS charges \$10,000 annually for the program, and this does not include the personnel cost of LWVC staff managing the program, data entry, and volunteer management. Other state Leagues pass this cost along to their local Leagues, but the LWVC chooses to cover the cost for local Leagues. Therefore fundraising and contributions are necessary.
- **Development & Fundraising (both Education and Action Funds):** The fight to defend democracy and educate voters has entered unprecedented times. Motivation and momentum is strong, but the LWVC will face significant challenges fundraising this year.

Proposed Budget 2025-2027

Education Fund

While the LWVC does not receive state and federal grants, many organizations that do receive public funds have lost that support, and will be reaching out to more private foundations and donors. We anticipate that this will stretch private funds thin, and result in higher competition for donations. To address this, the budget reflects a large increase in individual giving year over year.

- The year-one fundraiser, “Over the Edge - Democracy on the Ropes” will be hosted in May of 2026 in downtown Los Angeles. Sponsorships from this event will benefit the Education Fund. A year two in-person fundraiser will be planned in conjunction with Convention.
- With the significant decrease in grant funding, individual contribution goals for the education fund are increased over the two years.

Action Fund

Donations to the LWVC Action Fund are not tax deductible and support LWVC’s advocacy. Many partners have reduced their voting rights resources due to the multitude of attacks at the federal and state level against fundamental rights. Therefore, the LWVC has been called upon even more frequently to support and oppose bills impacting voting rights and democracy. This trend will continue over the next budget cycle, and is reflected in our need for increased individual contributions.

- The Development Committee is responsible for sourcing \$45,000 annually for the Action Fund.
- The year-one fundraiser, “Over the Edge - Democracy on the Ropes” will be hosted in May of 2026 in downtown Los Angeles. All fundraising proceeds outside of sponsorships will support the LWVC Action Fund. A year two in-person fundraiser will be planned in conjunction with the Convention.

Other Assumptions:

- Two in-person board meetings per year (including one at Convention) are budgeted with Board hotel costs to be reimbursed 100%. This is a strategic and inclusive measure to help support and maintain diversity on the Board.
- In-person participation in LWVUS Convention & Council for Board-designated delegates/ reps and the Executive Director.

Proposed Budget 2025-2027

- Convention travel is budgeted for LWVC staff, LWVC Board, and LWVC Board Nominees.
- Processing fees for accepting online payments and contributions continue to rise and have been liberally budgeted for as a precaution.

Staffing Assumptions:

- **Trudy Schafer Fellowship (Education Fund):** The LWVC Board, with support from Trudy's family, agreed to sunset the Trudy Schafer Fellowship program in its previous form. The Fellowship positions were difficult to retain, the LWVC is committed to honoring Trudy's memory in the most meaningful and impactful way. In its place, the LWVC will build out the Trudy Schafer Public Policy Internship program once a permanent Executive Director is hired. On an ongoing basis, the LWVC will hire approximately 3 public policy interns per semester, who will be paid an hourly minimum wage for their internships. But prior to beginning the actual internship program, we will use existing funding we have raised to hire a consultant to help design the internship program and its curriculum, and train internal staff on how to teach, mentor, and manage interns.

This is a far more financially sustainable program. Under this, we will allocate about \$20,000 annually of an LWVC staff person's salary to management of the program. We will have an approximate \$16,000 in annual expense for intern stipends, travel, and taxes. This will bring the annual cost of the program from the current \$70,000 to approximately \$36,000 - \$40,000 annually. This is far more sustainable. It will also provide the structure to develop and support internal staff, while providing a meaningful experience to interns - allowing us to simultaneously meet our mission driven goals.

- **Personnel (both Education and Action Funds):** The Board has worked closely with the Executive Director to support staff retention by ensuring salaries and benefits remain competitive.
 - Our LWVC Policy calls for us to give COLAs that match the Western CPI each year.
 - The cost for employee health premiums increased in both 2023 and 2024. We are able to maintain comparable coverage and lower costs by contracting with a PEO HR platform, with access to large-employer health benefit rates under the PEO's umbrella. Employee health premium increases are budgeted with a 4% increase in year two.

Proposed Budget 2025-2027

LWVC General Fund Budget Comparisons						
	2023 2024	2024 2025	Total 23-25 Biennial Budget	2025 2026	2026 2027	Total 25-27 Biennial Budget
Revenues and support						
Public contributions	\$ 160,000	\$ 176,500	\$ 336,500	\$ 210,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 380,000
LL contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant revenues	15,000	20,000	35,000	-	-	-
PMP/membership	169,044	171,632	340,676	275,650	275,650	551,300
LL insurance	8,900	8,900	17,800	8,500	8,500	17,000
MyLO/One Voice	85,650	92,100	177,750	57,217	61,359	118,576
Convention/special events	-	104,000	104,000	-	100,000	100,000
Publications/merchandise	2,500	2,500	5,000	-	-	-
Cost of goods sold	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous/investment	-	-	-	650	650	1,300
Net assets released	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues and support	441,094	575,632	1,016,726	552,017	616,159	1,168,176
Expenditures						
Personnel	\$ 297,868	\$ 333,435	\$ 631,304	\$ 376,889	\$ 379,743	\$ 756,632
Operational expenses	28,045	33,917	61,962	24,143	20,472	44,615
Convention, events, & travel	28,650	120,650	149,300	52,593	111,220	163,813
Direct program expenses	61,388	64,322	125,710	63,375	64,606	127,981
Insurance	13,285	13,505	26,790	16,796	16,306	33,101
Processing fees	4,924	7,624	12,548	9,060	9,120	18,180
Legal fees	3,000	2,000	5,000	8,000	8,000	16,000
Internship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	437,161	575,453	1,012,614	550,855	609,467	1,160,321
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 3,933	\$ 179	\$ 4,112	\$ 1,162	\$ 6,692	\$ 7,854

Proposed Budget 2025-2027

LWVC Education Fund Budget Comparisons						
	2023 2024	2024 2025	Total 23-25 Biennial Budget	2025 2026	2026 2027	Total 25-27 Biennial Budget
Revenues and support						
Public contributions	\$ 231,500	\$ 248,500	\$ 480,000	\$ 260,860	\$ 261,213	\$ 522,074
LL contributions	25,000	25,000	50,000	8,000	8,000	16,000
Grant revenues	365,000	354,000	719,000	158,800	158,800	317,600
PMP/membership	8,020	8,020	16,040	4,500	4,500	9,000
LL insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
MyLO/One Voice	18,800	29,800	48,600	-	-	-
Convention/special events	58,000	163,000	221,000	16,500	150,500	167,000
Publications/merchandise	600	26,456	27,056	4,160	34,160	38,320
Cost of goods sold	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous/investment	-	-	-	250	250	500
Net assets released	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues and support	706,920	854,776	1,561,696	453,070	617,423	1,070,494
Expenditures						
Personnel	\$ 436,984	\$ 462,763	\$ 899,747	\$ 348,884	\$ 371,521	\$ 720,405
Operational expenses	23,361	41,484	64,845	29,994	30,233	60,226
Convention, events, & travel	59,825	133,825	193,650	24,627	140,200	164,827
Direct program expenses	110,702	138,583	249,285	16,945	38,044	54,988
Insurance	10,681	10,541	21,221	6,973	6,732	13,706
Processing fees	7,172	7,172	14,344	7,980	8,580	16,560
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internship	53,000	57,000	110,000	17,500	16,000	33,500
Total Expenditures	701,725	851,367	1,553,093	452,903	611,310	1,064,213
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 5,195	\$ 3,409	\$ 8,603	\$ 167	\$ 6,114	\$ 6,281

Proposed Bylaw Amendments



General Background

The procedure for amending the bylaws is set forth in Article XII. Amendments may be proposed by any local League or ILO board of directors, or by the LWVC board, for consideration at any convention. To pass, the proposed amendments must receive a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting at convention. Amendments are effective upon adoption.

To facilitate your deliberation, the proposed amendments are set forth below along with the board's recommendations for action on these amendments. Language to be deleted is indicated by a strikethrough effect (e.g., ~~strikethrough-effect~~). New language is indicated by bold type face and underlining (e.g., **underlining**).

Delegates are asked to consider the following eight proposals to amend the bylaws submitted by the LWVC Board of Directors. No proposed bylaws amendments were submitted by any local League or ILO board of directors. For reference, if needed, a copy of the current LWVC Bylaws is included in this workbook.

Please note: The amendments required by the LWVUS relating to the Transformation Plan were previously made by the LWVC board per Article XII, Section 2, and are reflected in the current LWVC Bylaws noted above.

Proposal No. 1: Amendment to Article IV – Recognition of Local Leagues, Member-At-Large Units (MAL) and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs).

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors
LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: The LWVUS identifies members who join League but choose not to join a local League as Members-at-Large (MAL). In California we identify ours as Members-Around-the-State (MAS). This amendment simply reflects our preference.

Section 3. Recognition of Member-at-Large around-the-State (MAL) (MAS) Units by the LWVC. The board has the responsibility for the establishment of

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

new Leagues. The board may authorize the establishment of ~~MAL~~ **(MAS)** units in communities in which a group wants to establish a local League or in which the establishment of a recognized local League is not feasible. The ~~MAL~~ **(MAS)** units shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and with guidelines adopted by the LWVC board.

Section 5. Withdrawal of Recognition. In the event of recurring failure of a local League, ~~MAL~~ **(MAS)** unit or ILO to meet these qualifying standards, the board may recommend to the LWVUS that it withdraw recognition. All funds held by a local League or ~~MAL~~ **(MAS)** unit from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWVC. All funds held by an inter-League organization from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be prorated among member Leagues by size of membership.

###

Proposal No. 2: Amendment to Article V – Board of Directors

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: Regular attendance is required of board members to effectively serve the membership and develop working relationships with others on the board. This was added to stress the importance of regular attendance.

Section 5. Vacancies. Vacancies (including those caused by removal of a director) may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. Each director so selected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced director and until a successor has been selected and qualified.

(a) A vacancy in the board shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation or removal of any director.

(b) **In the event a member of the board is absent from two regularly scheduled board meetings in one fiscal year, without excuse, that office shall be declared vacant.**

###

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Proposal No. 3: Amendment to Article VI – Officers

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: This amendment clarifies the title by removing an item that is not discussed in Section 2.

Section 2. ~~Removal and~~ Resignation of Officers. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board, president or secretary of this corporation, but without prejudice to the rights, if any, of this corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party. Any such resignation shall take effect on the date such notice is received or at any later time specified therein. Unless specified otherwise in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

###

Proposal No. 4: Amendment to Article VII – Committees

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: This amendment removes a superfluous word.

Section 1. Board Committees. The board may by a majority vote of the directors then in office, establish committees ~~comprised~~ of two or more directors (and no one who is not a director) as required to carry out the activities of the LWVC with the authority of the board except those responsibilities prohibited by law. The members of the committee shall be appointed and may be removed, with or without cause, by the board.

###

Proposal No. 5: Amendment to Article VIII – Financial Administration

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: Section 8, Dissolution, is required by California law. It was inadvertently omitted at an earlier time. This amendment will simply add it

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

back.

Section 8. Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVC for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time be owned or under the absolute control of the LWVC shall be distributed at the discretion of the board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWVC and its affairs, to the LWVUS or if that organization is not then in existence or tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding sections of any future tax code, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national organization which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

###

Proposal No. 6: Amendment to Article IX – Convention and Voting Rights

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: The proposal reflects changes in the type, conduct, and noticing of convention meetings since they are now held in-person and/or virtually.

Section 1. ~~Place~~ Method and Date. The LWVC shall hold a biennial meeting of all members by representation through elected delegates. The meeting shall be called a convention and shall be held in April, May or June in odd-numbered years. The **method and date** ~~time and place~~ of the convention shall be determined by the board.

Section 3. Voting. Each delegate, local League and ILO president, and director shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. All elections for officers and directors must be by ballot **or electronic voting, if applicable,** upon the written demand of a delegate, local League or ILO president, or director at the convention ~~and~~ **submitted to the convention chair** before the voting begins. ~~If the election is by written ballot, the~~ **Candidates** receiving the highest number of votes of those persons voting are elected. Voting shall in all cases be subject to the provisions of the California

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

Section 7. Election Committee. The election committee appointed by the president on the first day of the convention shall be in charge of the election. The election shall be by ballot or electronic voting, if applicable, except that if there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be by voice vote or electronic voting, if applicable. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

Section 8. Notice of Convention. The first call to the convention shall be sent to local League and ILO presidents, and directors not less than 90 days prior to the opening date of the convention to fix the method, date, and time ~~place, date and hour~~ of the convention. A final call to the convention shall be sent to local League and ILO presidents, and directors not less than 30 or more than 90 days before the convention. The final call shall include matters that the board intends to present for action and shall include the names of all those who are nominees for office ~~director~~. Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any proper matter may be presented at the convention for such action.

###

Proposal No. 7: Amendment to Article X – Council and Membership Meetings

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: This proposal clarifies noticing procedures since meetings are now held in-person and/or virtually.

Section 2. Place, Date, Call and Notification. The council may be held approximately 12 months after the preceding convention. The method, date, and time ~~and place~~ of the meeting shall be determined by the directors. The president shall send a notice to the local League and ILO presidents, and directors not less than 30 days or more than 90 days before a council meeting. Special meetings may be called in case of extreme emergency.

###

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Proposal No. 8: Amendment to Article XI – Program

Proposed by: LWVC Board of Directors

LWVC Recommendation: Approve

Reason for Proposed Amendment: At the suggestion of the membership following more than one convention, the board has worked to reduce time spent in plenary sessions. The recommended change is consistent with that goal.

Section 3. Convention Action. The convention shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

Any recommendations for the program submitted to the board by the deadline set by the board prior to the convention, but not proposed by the board, may be adopted by the convention, provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and, ~~on a following day,~~ the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths vote.

###

**BYLAWS OF
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION
500 Capitol Mall, Suite 2350 #5001, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND OFFICE**

Section 1. Name. The name of this corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of California (hereinafter referred to as the “LWVC”). The LWVC is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (hereinafter referred to as the “LWVUS”).

Section 2. Form. The LWVC shall be a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

Section 3. Principal Office. The principal office of the LWVC shall be maintained at such location in the State of California as may be determined by the board of directors (hereinafter referred to as the “board”). The board is granted full power and authority to change said principal office from one location to another.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSES AND POLICIES**

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVC are:

- (a) To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.
- (b) To act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policies. The policies of the LWVC are:

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

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ARTICLE III **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVC shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- (a) **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League in California shall be voting members of the LWVC and the LWVUS. Such persons include:
- (1) Those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other League and shall be voting members of that League.
 - (2) Life Member. An individual who has been a member of the League for 50 years. A life member is exempt from paying dues to the LWVC.
 - (3) Member-at-Large (MAL)¹. An individual who resides outside the area of a local League or is not enrolled in a local League.
- (b) **Associate Members.** All other persons who join the LWVC shall be associate members.

Section 3. Termination of Membership.

- (a) A member may at any time voluntarily resign by delivering a written notice to the secretary. Resignation will be effective on the date and time of the receipt of such notice.
- (b) League membership automatically terminates upon the death of a member.
- (c) Members who fail to renew within the period specified by the LWVUS shall be removed from the membership roster.
- (d) The board may recommend to the LWVUS that a member be terminated for conduct which the board shall deem inimical to the best interests of the League. The board shall give such members 15 days prior notice, with reason of the proposed termination or suspension. The member may submit a written statement to the board regarding the proposed termination or suspension no less than five days before the effective date of the proposed action. Prior to the effective date, the board shall review any statement submitted and shall

¹ The LWVC identifies its members-at-large (MAL) as members-around-the-state (MAS).

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determine the mitigating effect, if any, of the information in the statement on the proposed action. A suspended member shall not be entitled to exercise any of the voting rights set forth in these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV RECOGNITION OF LOCAL LEAGUES, MEMBER-AT-LARGE UNITS AND INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Local Leagues. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the State of California that have been recognized by the LWVUS.

Section 2. Recognition of Local Leagues by the LWVUS. The board shall recommend to the LWVUS that it recognize as a local League any group of members of the LWVC in any community within California provided the group meets qualifying standards for local Leagues as adopted by the LWVUS.

Section 3. Recognition of Member-at-Large (MAL) Units by the LWVC. The board has the responsibility for the establishment of new Leagues. The board may authorize the establishment of MAL units in communities in which a group wants to establish a local League or in which the establishment of a recognized local League is not feasible. The MAL units shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and with guidelines adopted by the LWVC board.

Section 4. Recognition of Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) by the LWVC. Members enrolled in local Leagues may organize an ILO to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on governmental matters within its jurisdiction. ILOs must meet the qualifying standards of the LWVUS and guidelines adopted by the LWVC board.

Section 5. Withdrawal of Recognition. In the event of recurring failure of a local League, MAL unit or ILO to meet these qualifying standards, the board may recommend to the LWVUS that it withdraw recognition. All funds held by a local League or MAL unit from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWVC. All funds held by an inter-League organization from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be prorated among member Leagues by size of membership.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number of Directors. The authorized number of directors, including the officers designated in Article VI Section 1, shall not be less than five and no more than 21. The exact number of authorized directors shall be fixed by a resolution adopted by the board.

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Section 2. Selection of Directors.

- (a) Of the authorized number of directors established by the board, at least two-thirds shall be elected by a majority of those eligible to vote and voting at the convention.
- (b) Up to one-third of the authorized number of directors may be elected by the current directors.

Section 3. Term of Office. All directors shall take office on July 1 following the convention and serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 4. Qualifications. All directors must be voting members of the LWVUS and of the LWVC.

Section 5. Vacancies. Vacancies (including those caused by removal of a director) may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. Each director so selected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced director and until a successor has been selected and qualified. A vacancy in the board shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation or removal of any director.

Section 6. Powers. Subject to the limitations of the law, articles of incorporation of this corporation, and these bylaws, the activities and affairs of the LWVC shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the control of the board. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out programs on selected governmental issues as adopted by the convention.

Section 7. Duties. In executing the duties of their office, board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards, and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, they may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors.

Section 8. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least five regular meetings of the board annually at such time and place as the board may determine.

Section 9. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the board for any purpose may be called at any time by the president or any five directors. Members of the board shall be notified in writing of the time and place of special meetings at least three days prior to such meeting.

Section 10. Quorum. A majority of the directors currently in office shall constitute a quorum; and a majority of the members in attendance at any board meeting shall, in the presence of a quorum, decide its action.

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Section 11. Meetings by Other Means. Any communications equipment may be used if all of the following apply:

- (a) Each director participating in the meeting can communicate with all of the other directors concurrently or serially.
- (b) Each director is provided the means of participating in all matters before the board; and
- (c) The LWVC has means of verifying (1) that all persons participating in the meeting are directors of the LWVC or are otherwise entitled to participate in the meeting, and (2) that all actions of, or votes by, the board are taken and cast only by directors and not by persons who are not directors.

Section 12. Action Without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the board may be taken without a meeting if all directors shall individually or collectively consent to such action. Such written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the board. Such written consents shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of such directors.

Section 13. Notice. Notice of the time and place of regular meetings of the board shall be provided to all directors not less than one week before the date of the meeting.

Section 14. Waiver of Notice. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any director who signs a waiver of notice or a written consent to holding the meeting or an approval of the minutes thereof, whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice to such director. All such waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Section 15. Rights of Inspection. Every director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the LWVC of which such person is a director.

Section 16. Fees and Compensation. Directors and members of the committees may receive such compensation, if any, for their services, and such reimbursement for expenses, as may be fixed or determined by the board.

Section 17. Removal and Resignation. Except as provided herein, any director may resign by giving written notice to the president or the secretary. The resignation shall be effective when the notice is given unless it specifies a later effective date (the board may elect a successor director before such time, to take office as of the date when the resignation becomes effective.) Except on notice to the California Attorney General, no director may resign if, by doing so, this corporation would be left without a duly elected director or directors. Any director may be removed, with or without cause, by approval

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of the members.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration and Term of Officers. The officers of the LWVC shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. Such officers shall be elected at the convention by a majority vote of those eligible to vote and voting at the convention. They shall take office on July 1 after being elected at the convention and hold office for two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The office of president may be held concurrently by more than one director. If there are co-presidents, all references to the “president” in these bylaws shall be interpreted in the plural. Co-presidents may act independently with the full authority of the office, but they must agree to this collectively in advance.

Section 2. Removal and Resignation of Officers. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board, president or secretary of this corporation, but without prejudice to the rights, if any, of this corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party. Any such resignation shall take effect on the date such notice is received or at any later time specified therein. Unless specified otherwise in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 3. Vacancies of Officers. Vacancies (including those caused by removal of an officer) may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. Each director so selected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced officer and until a successor has been selected and qualified.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section 1. Board Committees. The board may by a majority vote of the directors then in office, establish committees comprised of two or more directors (and no one who is not a director) as required to carry out the activities of the LWVC with the authority of the board except those responsibilities prohibited by law. The members of the committee shall be appointed and may be removed, with or without cause, by the board.

Section 2. Other Committees. The board may create committees that are not board committees as deemed appropriate, consisting of directors or persons who are not directors, which shall not exercise powers of the board. Other committees may be delegated with implementation of certain specified tasks under the direction and control of the board. Notice of, and procedures for, meetings of such committees shall be as prescribed by the chair of each such committee, and meetings may be called

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by the board, the president, or the chair of the committee.

(a) The Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members. The chair and two members shall be elected by the convention. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the convention. Nominating committee members shall hold office for a term of two years beginning July 1 after the convention or until their successors are elected and qualified. Two members of the committee shall be appointed by the board and their term of office shall run concurrently with the term of office of the elected members. The president is not eligible to serve on the committee.

- (1) Any vacancy occurring in the nominating committee shall be filled by the board.
- (2) The names and contact information of the nominating committee shall be sent to the local League and ILO presidents. The nominating committee shall solicit from each local League and ILO, through its president, suggestions for nominations for the offices to be filled.
- (3) Any LWVC member may send suggestions to the nominating committee for nominations for the offices to be filled.
- (4) The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the chair and two members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to local Leagues and ILOs one month before the convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention on the first day of the convention. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the convention, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

(b) Audit Committee. The board shall appoint an audit committee to oversee the LWVC's financial controls and procedures on behalf of the board. The audit committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a person who is not on the board. The president, treasurer and staff members are not eligible to serve on the committee. No more than one member of the finance committee may serve on the audit committee. The chair of the audit committee shall not be a member of the finance committee and shall be selected by majority vote of the committee members.

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ARTICLE VIII FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVC shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

Section 2. Budget. The board shall submit a biennial budget to the convention for adoption. The budget shall provide for the support of the LWVC. A copy of the budget shall be sent to each local League and ILO president at least one month in advance of the convention.

Section 3. Fiscal Report. The board shall publish an annual financial report not later than 120 days following the end of the LWVC's fiscal year.

Section 4. Transactions with Interested Persons. Within 120 days of the end of the LWVC's fiscal year, the board shall publish a report of any transaction in which the LWVC, its parent or subsidiary was a party and in which any officer or director of the LWVC had a direct or indirect material financial interest and any indemnifications that were paid.

Section 5. Financial Support. Local League members and associate local League members shall pay annual dues in accordance with the LWVUS policy.

Section 6. Indemnification. The LWVC is empowered to indemnify its officers, directors and agents to the extent provided, and within the limitations imposed by law.

Section 7. Endorsement of Documents, Contracts. Subject to the provisions of applicable law and unless authorized by the board, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power to bind the LWVC by any contract, engagement or pledge to its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.

ARTICLE IX CONVENTION AND VOTING RIGHTS

Section 1. Place and Date. The LWVC shall hold a biennial meeting of all members by representation through elected delegates. The meeting shall be called a convention and shall be held in April, May or June in odd-numbered years. The time and place of the convention shall be determined by the board.

Section 2. Composition. Voting Body. The voting body shall consist of:

- (a) the delegates chosen by the local Leagues in the number provided in Section 4 of this article;

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(b) the local League and ILO presidents or alternate; and

(c) the directors of the LWVC.

Section 3. Voting. Each delegate, local League and ILO president, and director shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. All elections for officers and directors must be by ballot upon the written demand of a delegate, local League or ILO president, or director at the convention and before the voting begins. If the election is by written ballot, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes of those persons voting are elected. Voting shall in all cases be subject to the provisions of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

Section 4. Representation. The local Leagues shall be entitled to delegates in proportion to their membership as of the record date of the year of the convention in accordance with Article IX, Section 9. Each local League shall be entitled to at least one delegate in addition to the local League president as provided in Article IX, Section 2(b). When local League membership reaches 51 voting members, the local League shall be entitled to one additional delegate. Thereafter, one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 50 members.

Section 5. Authorization for Action. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program, shall elect directors and officers and three members of the nominating committee, shall adopt a budget for the next two fiscal years, and shall transact such other business as shall be presented.

Section 6. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting body currently registered at the convention, provided that not less than a majority of local Leagues are represented.

Section 7. Election Committee. The election committee appointed by the president on the first day of the convention shall be in charge of the election. The election shall be by ballot, except that if there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

Section 8. Notice of Convention. The first call to the convention shall be sent to local League and ILO presidents, and directors not less than 90 days prior to the opening date of the convention to fix the place, date and hour of the convention. A final call to the convention shall be sent to local League and ILO presidents, and directors not less than 30 or more than 90 days before the convention. The final call shall include matters that the board intends to present for action, and shall include the names of all those who are nominees for director. Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any proper matter may be presented at the convention for such action.

Section 9. Record Date. The official membership count shall be determined by

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record of voting members as reported to the LWVUS in January of the year in which the LWVC convention is held.

Section 10. Inspection of Corporate Records. Subject to California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, delegate members, local League and ILO presidents, and directors may demand inspection of corporate records.

ARTICLE X **COUNCIL AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN EVEN YEARS**

Section 1. Composition. A meeting of members in even-numbered years, called a council, may be held through representation in accordance with the procedures and for the purposes set forth in the bylaws. A council may be held each even-numbered year in the interim between conventions. The council shall be composed of the local League and ILO presidents, or an alternate, as the delegate of the members of such local League and ILO, and directors of the LWVC.

Section 2. Place, Date, Call and Notification. The council may be held approximately 12 months after the preceding convention. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the directors. The president shall send a notice to the local League and ILO presidents, and directors not less than 30 days or more than 90 days before a council meeting. Special meetings may be called in case of extreme emergency.

Section 3. Voting. Each delegate member and director shall be entitled to only one vote at council. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Section 4. Powers. The council may give guidance to the board on program and methods of operation. The council shall transact such other business as may properly come before it. In an emergency, the council may change the program of the LWVC, as defined in these bylaws, upon the recommendation of the board of directors, a local League or ILO, using the following procedure:

- (a) At least 60 days prior to the council meeting, any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the board which shall decide whether to recommend it;
- (b) No more than 60 or less than 20 days prior to the council meeting, the board shall send all proposed changes to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs;
- (c) Any change proposed by a local League or ILO and not recommended by the board shall require a majority vote of the council for consideration; and
- (d) A three-fifths vote shall be required to adopt any change.

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Section 5. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of not less than 50 percent of the number of local League and ILO presidents plus a majority of the board of directors.

ARTICLE XI PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles. The governmental Principles as adopted by the LWVUS convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Section 2. Program. The program of the LWVC shall consist of:

- (a) action to implement the Principles; and
- (b) those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3. Convention Action. The convention shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- (a) Local League and ILO boards may make recommendations to the board by a date, set by the board, that falls within four months prior to convention.
- (b) The board shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed program that shall be submitted to the local League and ILO boards of directors at least one month prior to the convention, together with a list of not-recommended items.
- (c) A majority of those present and voting shall be required for the adoption of the program proposed by the board; and
- (d) Any recommendations for the program submitted to the board by the deadline set by the board prior to the convention, but not proposed by the board, may be adopted by the convention, provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and, on a following day, the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths vote.

Section 4. Council Action. The council may change the program as provided in the bylaws.

Section 5. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVC only when authorized to do so by the board.

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Section 6. Local League and Inter-League Organization Action. Local Leagues and ILOs may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized by the LWVC board. Local Leagues and ILOs may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, the position taken by the LWVC.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote using the following procedure:

- (a) Proposals for bylaw amendments shall be submitted by any local League or ILO board of directors to the board no later than December 15 prior to a convention;
- (b) All such proposed amendments with the recommendations of the board shall be published not less than 30 days prior to the convention; and
- (c) The presidents of the local Leagues shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. The failure of a local League president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate the amendments to the bylaws.

Section 2. When required by law or amendments of the LWVUS bylaws, these bylaws may be amended by the board of directors.

Amended: June 2, 2019 LWVC Convention; June 12, 2021 LWVC Convention;
July 17, 2021 LWVC Board of Directors; March 29, 2025 LWVC Board of Directors.

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