



Virtual Annual Meeting 2020
Saturday, June 6, 2020
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Meeting Materials and Information

New This Year!

While we can't gather face-to-face for the League's Annual Meeting this year, the show must go on! In 2020, we will be meeting virtually through Zoom, an online meeting platform. The virtual meeting is a first for LWVK . . . but probably not the last!

Why Have an Annual Meeting?

The League's Annual Meeting sets the stage for the next program year: the organization's operating budget is approved, local program is determined, officers and directors are elected, changes to the bylaws are approved, and a general direction is given to the board.

Are You Ready to Zoom?

We hope so! *We* are ready for *you*! To be sure that everything goes smoothly—for you and for us—the LWVK board is offering training sessions on how to use Zoom that will give you a chance to practice before the meeting.

Next Steps

Here's what you need to do now so you're well-prepared for the Annual Meeting:

- Review the information packet, and have it available for reference during the meeting.
- **[RSVP](#) by June 1** to let us know you're coming.
- **[RSVP](#) by May 15** to join the Zoom training session.
- If you don't have access to the Internet, call 614-407-6088, and we'll help you team up with another Leaguer to view the meeting—using proper social distancing, of course!

What's Inside . . .

Agenda.....	2
Bylaws Changes	3
Proposed Budget for 2020-2021.....	8
LWVK Positions.....	10
Nominating Report for Election of Officers and Directors	17

Virtual Annual Meeting | Saturday, June 6, 2020

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. | Meeting opens for participants to log in. Use the “Chat” function to visit with other members until 9:30.

9:30 a.m. | Meeting Instructions | Welcome | Announcements & Introductions – President Stacy Yaniglos

- **Call to Order** – President Stacy Yaniglos
- **Secretary’s Report** – Secretary Jackie Peck; minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting (LWVK website, click [here](#)); 2019 Reviewers: Chris Schjeldahl, Ruth Saltzman, Diane Kurlich
- **Approval of Bylaws Changes** (Annual Meeting Packet pages 3 through 7) – Committee: Jane Preston Rose, Renee Ruchotzke
- **Adoption and Approval of 2020-2021 Budget** (Annual Meeting Packet pages 8 and 9) – Committee: Nena Hankins, Chair; Jen Kinney, Deb Newberry, Treas. Gail Pytel
- **Action on Positions to Retain, Update or Delete**¹ (Annual Meeting Packet pages 10 through 16), Vice President Debbie Barber and Vice President Penny Graves
- **Election of Officers and Directors**² (Annual Meeting Packet page 17) – Committee: Iris Meltzer, Chair; Mary Myers, Chris Schjeldahl, Deborah Austin-Sanders, Penny Graves

10:30 a.m. | **Speaker: Iris Meltzer on “Who We Are and Why We Matter.”** Iris is president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and a member of Kent LWV. Submit questions for Iris through the Chat function.

11:15 a.m. | **Remarks: Stacy Yaniglos on “The League’s Year in Review with Video.”** Stacy is the retiring president of LWV Kent.
Remarks: Debbie Barber on “The League’s Year Ahead.” Debbie is the incoming president of LWV Kent.



Iris Meltzer

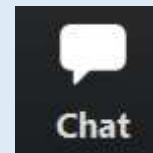
Procedural Notes for the business meeting:

¹The LWV Kent Positions are grouped together to be acted upon with one motion and one vote through a procedure called consent agenda. Consent agenda is being used because all of the positions were considered and discussed at the Positions and Priorities meeting in March, and most of the positions have been topics for information and discussion at meetings throughout the year. Any member in attendance at the Annual Meeting may request that any or all positions be considered and discussed separately and removed from the consent agenda. Requests for removal will be honored at the meeting; however, if possible, please contact Debbie Barber in advance of the meeting to make your request.

²Unless there are nominations from the floor, we will vote on the entire slate of nominees as presented.

HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING

Check your email from lwvKent@gmail.com or Kent LWV VOTER newsletter for the link to the Zoom meeting. Follow the prompts.



PLEASE USE THE CHAT FUNCTION TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS.



Members will be muted during the meeting. The icon pictured here means the audio on your device is muted.

Our LWV Kent Tech Team will be working behind the scenes to answer your questions.

During the meeting, you will receive instructions about voting procedures.

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT

As adopted at the Annual Meeting, April 21, 1953 and last amended on June 1, 2019

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE AT THE JUNE 6, 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Proposed changes in **RED** and rationale in **GREEN**. Recommended by LWVK board for approval at the LWVK Annual Meeting, 6/6/2020. Submitted by the Bylaws Review Committee: Jane Preston Rose and Renee Ruchotske.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Kent, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV of Kent, or, as the League.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND POLICY

- Sec. 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of LWV of Kent is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.
- Sec. 2. LWV of Kent is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of those Articles, LWV of Kent shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of LWV of Kent shall be attempting to influence legislation.
- Sec. 3. **Political Policy.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

- Sec. 1. **Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.
- Sec. 2. **Types of Membership.**
- a. Voting members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join LWV of Kent shall be voting members of LWV of Kent, the LWV of Ohio, and the LWVUS.
 - (1) Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other league;
 - (2) Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;
 - (3) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
 - (4) Those who are attending school may join as student members
 - b. Associate members. All others who join the League shall be non-voting associate members.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sec. 1. **Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.** The Board of Directors shall be the officers of the League, seven elected Directors and not more than seven appointed Directors. Four Directors shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years and three elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in odd-numbered years, and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding seven, as they deem

necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall begin on July 1 following the Annual Meeting and expire on June 30 of the next year.

- Sec. 2. **Qualifications.** No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of LWV of Kent.
- Sec. 3. **Vacancies.** Any vacancy, other than the presidency, occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors to complete the unexpired term.
- Sec. 4. **Powers and Duties.** The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the LWV of Kent Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate special committees as it may deem necessary.
- Sec. 5. **Meetings.** There shall be at least eight regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. Notice of meetings can be sent by mail, email or other forms of communication. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. It may be necessary to address the issues of LWV of Kent without an **in-person** meeting. Any board meeting which occurs electronically or telephonically will be considered the same as an **in-person** meeting and any votes taken will be given full force and effect.

Substitute “in-person” for “formal” meeting to clarify type of meeting.

- Sec. 6. **Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

- Sec. 1. **Election, Qualifications, and Terms.** The Officers of LWV of Kent shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and who shall take office on July 1. The President, one Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. One Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Treasurer shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year and shall serve for two fiscal years.
- Sec. 2. **The President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Organization and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have the usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.
- Sec. 3. **The Vice Presidents.** The Vice Presidents shall, in the event of absence, disability, or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.
- Sec. 4. **The Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Annual Meeting and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other duties as the President and Board shall direct.
- Sec. 5. **The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 6. Executive Committee. The LWV of Kent Board may appoint an executive committee consisting of no fewer than four members of the board. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the LWV of Kent Board and shall report to the LWV Board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the LWV of Kent Board.

During 2018-2020, an Executive Committee, consisting of the LWV-Kent officers (President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary), the Membership Chair and the Voter Service Chair, met monthly prior to the board meeting to make preliminary plans about LWVK programs and calendar, and/or to address issues that arose between board meetings that required attention. Notes from the meeting were sent to all board members prior to the monthly board meetings. Since the Executive Committee helped the 2018-2020 LWVK board accomplish its work more efficiently, it is proposed that provision for an Executive Committee be formally incorporated in LWVK's governance structure. Each president and LWVK board could decide if an Executive Committee was appropriate for that board and, if so, the board would adopt policies and procedures with respect to the membership, responsibilities, and decision-making authority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- Sec. 1. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWV of Kent shall coincide with the fiscal year of the LWVUS and the LWV Ohio.
- Sec. 2. **Dues.** Annual dues shall be payable July 1st. The amount of dues shall be recommended to the Board of Directors by the budget committee and approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting and shall be in effect until changed by a vote at the Annual Meeting. Any member who fails to pay dues by October 31 shall be dropped from the membership rolls. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the primary member shall pay the full annual dues and each additional member shall pay one-half times the annual dues.
- Sec. 3. **Budget.** A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.
- Sec. 4. **Budget Committee.** A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.
- Sec. 5. **Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.** In the event of the dissolution of LWV of Kent for any reason, all moneys and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time is owned or under the absolute control of LWV of Kent 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 LWV of Kent and its affairs to any member organization of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and/or United States which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future 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 after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

- Sec. 1. **Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least three (3) general meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board may call a special general membership meeting and shall call such a meeting upon the written request of 15 percent of the voting members.
- Sec. 2. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 1 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. At the Annual Meeting the membership shall:

- a. adopt a local Program for the ensuing year,
 - b. elect officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee,
 - c. adopt an adequate budget, and
 - d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.
- Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.
- Sec. 3. **Quorum.** Fifteen percent (15%) of the members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of LWV of Kent.

Sec. 4. It may be necessary to address the business of LWV of Kent without an in-person meeting. Any membership or annual meeting which occurs electronically or telephonically will be considered the same as an in-person meeting and any votes taken will be given full force and effect. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

LWV-Kent by-laws already provide for electronic or telephone meetings of the LWV-Kent Board of Directors. This addition to the by-laws extends provision for LWV Kent meetings in an alternate format to general and annual meetings if the LWV-Kent Board determines circumstances so warrant. The State of Ohio Revised Code provides for meetings of non-profit boards in alternate formats, and House Bill 197, which was signed into law by Governor DeWine on March 27, 2020, permits alternative formats for meetings of public bodies during the coronavirus emergency up until December 20, 2020. While the League of Women Voters is not a public body, meetings in such formats should be appropriate if we follow our established practices for our meetings (e.g. proper parliamentary procedure, provisions for member participation, etc)

ARTICLE VIII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Sec. 1. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chairman and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and take office on July 1 following the Annual Meeting. Nominations for off-board members shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors after July 1. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors by appointing an off-board member to fill a vacant off-board position and a board member to fill a vacant board appointed position.. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this Committee by any voting member.
- Sec. 2. **Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.** The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors and the members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to the membership one month before the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.
- Sec. 3. **Elections.** The election shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting. When there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

- Sec. 1. **Principles.** The governmental principles adopted by the National and State Conventions constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.
- Sec. 2. **Program.** The program of LWV of Kent shall consist of:
- a. action to implement the principles of the LWVUS and of the LWV Ohio and
 - b. those local issues chosen for concerted study and action.
- Sec. 3. **Adoption of Program.** At the Annual Meeting the membership shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program.
 - b. The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.
 - c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the Proposed Program as presented to the membership by the Board of Directors.
 - d. Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered at the Annual Meeting provided that: (1) the membership shall order consideration by a majority vote and (2) the membership shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.
 - e. Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.
- Sec. 4. **Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board of Directors. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by LWV of Kent, the LWV Ohio, and the LWVUS when acting in the name of the league.

ARTICLE X NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

- Sec. 1. **National Convention.** The Board of Directors shall select delegates to that Convention. The Board shall send the number allotted LWV of Kent under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS.
- Sec. 2. **State Convention.** The Board of Directors shall select delegates to that Convention. The Board shall send the number allotted LWV of Kent under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWV Ohio.
- Sec. 3. **State Council.** The Board of Directors shall select delegates to that Council. The Board shall send the number allotted LWV of Kent under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWV Ohio.

ARTICLE XI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most recent *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, or at a general member meeting called by the board, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

**LWV KENT PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET
(PAGE 1 OF 2)**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT	PROPOSED BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021			
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
	For year ended 6/30/19	For period ended 3/31/20	For year ended 6/30/20	For year ended 6/30/2021
Revenue				
Contributions-Member	2,435.00	860.00	2,250.00	2,503.00
Contributions-Nonmember	2,251.00	1,091.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Contributions--In Kind	1,097.43	329.53	350.00	350.00
Dues (Note 1)	11,596.00	3,962.50	7,560.00	8,430.00
Book Award Contributions (Note 2)	820.00	60.00	500.00	-
Meeting Reservations (Note 3)	1,160.30	1,400.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
Centennial sponsors			2,500.00	
Seneca Falls		11,879.53		
VoterGirl	7,047.20	4,408.30	2,350.00	1,500.00
Coffee/PLB Sales	567.28	663.47		200.00
Diversity Art		121.00		
Miscellaneous	331.00	516.48		
Transfers in from Education Fund	3,147.20			
65th Anniversary/Women in Public Service	3,215.00			
Other grants	532.00			
From Reserves (Note 2)			2,500.00	2,000.00
Total Revenue	34,199.41	25,291.81	21,710.00	18,983.00
Expenses				
<u>Membership Recruitment & Development</u>				
Women in Public Service	3,201.74		200.00	200.00
Membership events			400.00	400.00
Membership brochures	449.00		200.00	150.00
Name badges	65.02	168.53	150.00	150.00
New member packets			50.00	
Total Membership Rec. & Dev.	3,715.76	168.53	1,000.00	900.00
<u>Board and Administration</u>				
Insurance	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Postage	89.00		200.00	125.00
Supplies/Misc.	305.40	64.00	200.00	250.00
Website	350.00	12.00	450.00	450.00
Equipment purchase	577.00			200.00
Intern compensation (gift card)	50.00		50.00	
Miscellaneous - other (incl. PayPal)	69.87	9.35	50.00	100.00
Total Board/Administration	1,941.27	585.35	1,450.00	1,625.00
<u>VOTER Production & Mailing</u>	448.44	385.00	450.00	450.00
<u>Finance Drive Exp.</u>	-	121.00	250.00	250.00
<u>Travel and meetings (Convention, etc.)</u>	1,747.46		4,500.00	1,500.00

**LWV KENT PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET
(PAGE 2 OF 2)**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT	PROPOSED BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021			
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
	For year ended 6/30/19	For period ended 3/31/20	For year ended 6/30/20	For year ended 6/30/2021
<u>League Support</u>				
LWVUS PMP (dues) (Note 1)	3,968.00	4,032.00	4,032.00	4,496.00
LWVO PMP (dues) (Note 1)	2,945.00	2,992.49	2,992.50	3,337.00
Total League Support	6,913.00	7,024.49	7,024.50	7,833.00
<u>General Meetings (Note 3)</u>	1,825.70	1,789.58	1,300.00	1,825.00
Centennial celebration/Seneca Falls		13,313.10	2,500.00	500.00
<u>Voter Service (Note 4)</u>	448.67	590.29	800.00	2,000.00
<u>Community Outreach</u>				
Festivals--fees/supplies/eqpt.	255.00	225.00	350.00	350.00
Environmental Awards Dinner sponsor	50.00		50.00	50.00
Chamber of Commerce dues	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Voter Girl	3,036.54	1,458.03	1,300.00	1,000.00
Senior book award	500.00		500.00	500.00
Other grant expenses & contributions	81.98			
Miscellaneous Outreach	100.00	111.55	100.00	100.00
Total Community Outreach	4,123.52	1,894.58	2,400.00	2,100.00
Total Expenses	21,163.82	25,871.92	21,674.50	18,983.00
Excess	13,035.59	(580.11)	35.50	-
Checking Acct. balance 7/01/2018	6,511.84			
Checking Acct. balance 7/01/2019		19,547.43		
Checking Acct. balance 6/30/2019	19,547.43			
Checking Acct. balance, ending 3/31/20		18,967.32		
Designated for Book Award		2,015.00		
Undesignated		16,952.32		
Note 1: Dues & PMP 135 primary, 11 additional, 7 student & 9 life members on 1/31/20 (162 total members). We do not pay PMP to LWV Ohio or LWVUS for students and life members.				
Dues: 135 @ \$60 + 11 @ \$30 + 7 @ \$0 + 9 @ \$0		8,430.00		
Calculated on all members paying the full amount; therefore assumes that other members will contribute enough to make up the difference if some members "pay what you can."				
PMP LWVUS 135 @ 32 + 11 @ 16		4,496.00		
PMP LWV Ohio 135 @ 25 + 11 @ 12.50 - 5% discount		3,336.88		
Note 2: Nothing budgeted for Book Award Contributions since \$2015 is currently available. Therefore, \$500 (the amount budgeted to be distributed) will come <i>From Reserves</i> .				
Note 3: Meeting Reservations budget is for the Holiday Brunch. The cost of the meals, other Holiday Brunch expenses, and other mailing expenses are included in the expense line item <i>General Meetings</i> .				
Note 4: Includes vote411 (\$400), postage/supplies for Voters' Guide & face2face expenses, and Absentee Ballot Application Drive (if General Election is mail-in)				

LWV KENT POSITIONS

JUNE 6, 2020

Intergovernmental Cooperation and Regional Tax-Base Revenue Sharing

History: At the 2010 annual meeting, LWV Kent concurred with the position adopted/concurred in 2009 by the LWV Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area, Shaker Heights.

- A. The League of Women Voters of Kent supports voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies and maintain service standards. Such agreements:
- are appropriate at local, county, metropolitan, multiple-county or regional levels;
 - should be practical and of manageable size; and
 - should demonstrate the interconnectedness of all neighboring communities.
- B. The League of Women Voters of Kent supports regional tax-base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of participating communities. Such a program should:
- advance smart growth, economic development and fiscal equity within the target area;
 - impact positively upon infrastructure, housing, education, recreation, inclusion and/or shared public facilities;
 - set standards for finance, staffing and administration that are consistent, accountable, transparent and efficient;
 - pool contributions from an agreed portion of new growth in local commercial and industrial property tax revenue;
 - distribute that revenue pool among participating communities to further fiscal equity across the area;
 - honor local sovereignty and school funding resources, be flexible, and grow with time.
 - Formulas for collection and allocations should be determined by the participating communities and periodically reviewed.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Charter of Kent City

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1967 and updated in 1975, 1981, 2017, and 2018.

The League supports:

- Local self-government for the City of Kent.
- Retention of a charter for Kent in order that the form of government, system of representation and election system of the city may be locally determined.
- Continuation of the council-manager form of government for Kent. Full responsibility for

the administration of the city should be vested in the manager, the city's chief executive. In conjunction with this form of government, the charter should provide for the appointment of a manager by city council and recognize the subordinate position of staff department heads to the manager. All staff department heads should be appointed by and be responsible to the manager. Department heads, such as the Director of Law and Director of Finance, should not be directly elected by the voters.

- The present system of electing council both from wards and at-large. Four-year terms for council should be retained, as should the present system of staggering terms. Council should be elected by wards that are substantially equal in population.
- The election of Mayor and council members via non-partisan elections.
- The power of electors to remove from office by recall election any officer of the City. A petition signed by no less than 25% of Kent voters who voted in the last Presidential election to sign a petition to place on the ballot recall of Mayor or Council-at-Large, or in the case of a ward councilperson 25% of voters in the ward in question who voted in the last Presidential Election.

The review of the Charter occurring on even numbered years, as needed, but not to exceed 10 years between reviews.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Kent City Finances

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1983 and updated in 1984. A third update began in 1999 and was completed in 2013.

The League believes that the primary responsibility of city government is to provide basic services and therefore supports the provision of the following basic services and funding sources:

- **Fire protection:** Property tax, income tax and general fund revenue.
- **Police Protection:** Income tax revenue, though not necessarily the sole source of funding.
- **Water and Sewer:** Assessment of a fee for each service.
- **Street Upkeep:** Income tax revenue, though not necessarily the sole source of funding.
- **Emergency Medical Assistance:** Income tax revenue.
- **Municipal facilities** supporting basic services as outlined in the position, including design, construction, equipment, any necessary property acquisition and debt service, shall be supported through property tax, income tax and general fund revenue, government funding, private grants and user fees as appropriate.

The League also believes the city should improve its SCMR (street construction, maintenance and reconstruction) and long-range planning, find ways to enhance the city's economic base and continually promote good working relations among the public, the city administration and Kent State University.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Portage County Justice System

History: The League's position on this issue was developed by the League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County and League of Women Voters of Kent and was adopted in 1984 and updated in 1997 to change the name to Portage County Justice System. The position was updated in 2018.

The Leagues support:

- An integrated approach to solving jail-related problems through cooperation among the county's judicial, executive and law enforcement branches.
- Financing for the jail and all recommended services from government funds and private grants.
- The use of alternative sentencing for nonviolent offenders, including the expansion of both the mental health and drug courts.
- Transparency:
 - Records documenting the use of funds seized through civil forfeiture and the auditing of such funds should be available to the public.
 - Collection of local demographic data in order to identify trends in arrests, arraignments, convictions and incarceration and the provision of such data to national databases.
- Comprehensive health care:
 - Provision of a medical evaluation upon intake.
 - Clear and available documentation of medical and behavioral health assessments and treatments maintained in readily accessible files for further use by the system and community-based healthcare/treatment facilities.
 - Licensed health care professionals shall determine and meet the healthcare needs of those jailed.
 - Behavioral health assessment and treatment by appropriately trained personnel from arrest through release from the justice system. This would include development and implementation of wrap-around services post-discharge from the jail or from mental health or drug specialty dockets.
 - Provision of evidence-based treatment for both physical and behavioral health needs.
 - Continuation of prescribed medication in jail, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to treat addiction.
 - Communication between the jail's health care providers and primary care providers in the community to facilitate care coordination.
 - Development and implementation of an ombudsman program for families and those jailed.
 - Evaluation of contracted health services by community stakeholders.
- A well-trained police force reflective of the community served.
 - Continuing and mandating Crisis Intervention Team training.
 - Enhancing community interaction of police officers with an emphasis on their role as peace keepers.
 - Critical incident debriefing and the provision of treatment if indicated.
 - Periodic psychological screening of law enforcement officers.

- The composition of the police forces in Portage Co. should reflect the diversity of the community served.
- Fair, equitable and minimal imposition of bail
 - Minimization of the use of bail, and the use of evidence-based tools when setting bail is deemed necessary.
 - Affordable court costs
 - Payment of court costs and fines through alternatives such as community service, enrollment in education or training programs, and participation in treatment/counseling.
 - Sufficient time to pay fines and court costs assessed on a sliding scale based on personal resources.
 - The use of funds seized through civil forfeiture and auditing of such funds should be publicly available.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Parks and Recreation

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1965 and updated in 1968, 1985, and 2006.

The League supports:

- Adequate park facilities in Kent and Portage County.
- Kent City providing park and recreation programs for all ages.
- Kent City providing adequate funding to maintain these programs. Property tax levies, program and developers' fees are appropriate revenue sources for park and recreation funds.
- Kent City regulations to allow developers' fees to more closely reflect current land market values in lieu of land for parks.
- Continued cooperation between the Kent Parks and Recreation Department and the Kent City School System to ensure adequate gymnasium and meeting space for Kent City recreation programming in addition to the continued operation of the community pool at Kent Roosevelt High School.
- The use of federal/state funds and programs to develop and maintain both city and county parks and programs.
- Establishment of a broad-based source of revenue for the Portage Park District that would provide adequate funds for: the conservation of environmentally sensitive natural areas; a system of greenways and hike/bike trails connecting communities and parkland throughout Portage County; partnerships with townships and municipalities in land conservation projects; expansion of environmental education programs. Specific broad-based sources of funding could be a county park levy, designated developers' fees, transfer tax allocations or other viable options.
- Active planning and collaborative efforts among regional governmental units such as the Portage County Commissioners, townships, municipalities and Portage Park District to

enhance the conservation and protection of the natural heritage of Portage County, which might include watersheds, wetlands, forests, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Land Use and Zoning

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1959 and was updated in 1985 and 1996. A third update began in 1999 was completed in 2003.

The League supports the:

- Development of a countywide comprehensive plan that incorporates principles of sustainable growth and is consistent with existing land use plans of local governmental subdivisions. This planning process should be undertaken with representation of all governmental subdivisions under the guidance of the Portage County Regional Planning Commission.
- Updating of the county's subdivision regulations to include encouragement of sustainable development.
- Adoption by governmental subdivisions of zoning ordinances which are based on the county's comprehensive plan and include:
 - Prescribed setbacks with appropriate vegetation requirements that would establish adequate buffer zones to protect wetlands, floodplains, wildlife habitat, and other environmentally sensitive areas.
 - Conservation development overlay districts that permit higher density cluster homes while designating common open space and wooded lots.
- Implementation of the Portage County Farmland Preservation Plan that:
 - Establishes growth centers determined by the availability of water, wastewater treatment, and other utility infrastructures.
 - Provides for public financing of PDRs (purchase of development rights).
 - Encourages use of conservation and agricultural easements as well as developers' purchase of TDRs (transfer of development rights).
- Development of a transportation system throughout the county that is intermodal in nature, including networks of pedestrian and bicycle trails and greenways connecting communities and providing regional transit and rail alternatives to major commercial and employment centers.
 - Meaningful public involvement of stakeholders and citizens, especially neighborhoods and school systems, affected by land use decisions of local government entities.

Recommendation: CONTINUE UPDATE

Kent City Schools

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1986 and updated and condensed in 1999. The following is a statement of the condensed position adopted at the 1999 annual meeting. The position was updated in 2003 and 2017.

The League of Women Voters of Kent strongly supports public school systems which are empowered by and responsive to the communities they serve. The League supports school systems that strive to provide students with a quality, comprehensive education and exhibit financial responsibility and stability. A system's ability to be a model educational institution stems from its dedicated, well-trained staff and fine physical facilities that are made possible through voter and community support.

- **Citizen Participation**

The League supports:

- Ongoing citizen participation in the planning, development and review of all areas of Kent education programs. The League believes that active citizen participation is critical to ensure that the district is responsive to the changing needs of the Kent community that supports it.
- Encouragement of Kent citizens' substantive and continuous input through easy access to available information concerning the health, accomplishments, strengths, and weaknesses of the school system. It is the school system's responsibility to provide an aggressive and open public information program that is scheduled into the school calendar, advertised and accessible to all who wish to participate. This can further be accomplished through use of the district's website, small group meetings with District staff members, and printed communication.
- Increased citizen participation through implementation of citizen advisory councils in each building, advertised public hearings, and the appointment of ad hoc committees to address specific concerns, such as facilities planning, curriculum changes, and financial planning.

- **Financial Accountability**

The League recommends:

- Bond issues be considered for capital projects and major improvement projects. The limited use of current operating funds for minor capital improvements is acceptable.
- The District continues efforts to explain its needs for additional funds to potential voters on its own website and in its newsletter, in the local paper, and through any other means.

- **Planning**

The League recommends:

- The District actively and aggressively seek public input on policy and planning issues—including long-range financial planning and facilities planning—before decisions are made on these matters.
- The District actively share the long range plans it has adopted with the community. If members of the community have concerns about planning issues, we encourage them to communicate directly with the administration or the Board of Education.
- Ad hoc committees should have clearly stated goals and time frames that are

understood by all who participate. The district should value the results of such efforts and seriously consider any recommendations that are offered and provide feedback on the manner in which the recommendations were addressed.

- The ongoing efforts by the District to use feedback should be encouraged on all levels, national, state and/or local, to establish planning that will guide and move the district toward improvement.

- **Curriculum Development**

The League supports:

- The continued focus on increased instructional time for all students from preschool through high school.
- Opportunities for individual creativity in writing and a continuing emphasis on critical thinking skills, problem solving and decision-making skills.
- A well-integrated reading and language arts program that incorporates strategies designed to meet individual learning styles and abilities. The League further supports expansion of learning experiences across the spectrum of student capabilities and needs, including the continual growth of gifted educational services and the longstanding Six District Educational Compact in which Kent participates.
- The continuing availability and expansion of technology for students and staff. Continuing integration of technology into curricular instruction is recommended along with additional opportunities for distance learning. The Kent City School District should continue to provide appropriate technical staff, which is crucial for the efficient and effective use of technology.
- The wide variety of curriculum and co-curricular offerings at the secondary level.
- The District's remediation programs that enable students, at all levels, to stay in school and reach their full potential.
- The continued incorporation of strategies and curricular content which promotes emotional wellbeing, social competence and emotional intelligence at every grade level.

Recommendation: RETAIN

**Nominations for LWV Kent Officers and Directors
Virtual Annual Meeting | June 6, 2020**

One-Year Term Ending 6/30/2021

President: Deborah Barber

(unexpired term currently held by Stacy Yaniglos)

Two-Year Term Ending 6/30/2022

Vice President: Janice Hutchison

Treasurer: Gail Pytel

Directors: Amie Cajka, Jennifer Kinney, Renee Ruchotzke, Sally Saltzman

One Year Term Ending 6/30/2021

Director: Jill Hazelton

(unexpired term held by Alfreda Brown)

2020-2021 Nominating Committee:

Iris Meltzer, Chair; Mary Myers, Chris Schjeldahl

Continuing Board Members:

Vice President: Penny Graves

Secretary: Jackie Peck

Directors: Deborah Austin Sanders, Sherry Rose

Submitted by:

Iris Meltzer, Chair; Deborah Austin-Sanders, Penny Graves, Mary Myers, Chris Schjeldahl