



**Council – a Virtual Meeting
June 8, 2024
9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82907663886?pwd=WmFSMldkVFVKTIZSZFM2NXVUM2hmUT09>

The Meeting Room opens at 8:30 a.m. Delegates are asked to arrive early to be credentialed.

Welcome: President Joan Porte (LWV VA)

Report of Credentials Committee: Chris DeRosa (LWV Arlington and Alexandria City) and Judith Helein (LWV Fairfax Area)

Review of and Vote on Rules and Council Booklet: Judith Brown, (LWV South Hampton Roads)

Appointment of Three Readers to Minutes Approval Committee

Minutes from 2022 Council

Introduction of Board

Introduction of Committees and the Parliamentarian 9:35– 9:40 AM

Election Committee: Emebet Taddese (LWV Fairfax Area)
and Laura McCarty (LWV Loudoun County)

Parliamentarian: Martha Rollins (LWV South Hampton Roads)

Roll Call of Local Leagues

Review of 2025 FY Education Fund Budget, and Review of Treasurers

Report: Treasurer, Andrienne Kostas-Salvette (LWV Fairfax Area)

Vote on FY 2025 Operating Fund Budget: Budget Chair, Jane Newell, (LWV Richmond Metro)

–Break–

Program: Concurrence with LWV Washington on Local News Program, Director. Program Chair, Alice Tousignant (LWV Richmond Metro)

Strategic Transformation: Bylaw changes required, Director of Strategic Transformation, Jane Newell (LWV Richmond Metro)

Program Update: Universal Right to Vote Study, Study Chair, Deb Wake (LWV Fairfax Area)

Growing the League, Visioning Your Future: Membership Chair, Krysta Jones (LWV Arlington and Alexandria City)

Fundraising Plans: President Joan Porte

The Possibility of LWV VA Becoming a 501(c) 3 only: Tom Carson (LWV Greater Los Angeles Area)

Convention 2025: First Vice President, Anu Sahai (LWV Fairfax

Area) **Group Photo!**

Advice to the Board

Adjournment

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Proposed Rules for Council 2024

1. Only credentialed delegates may vote.
2. Credentialed delegates will be identified as voting delegates on the participants' list and Zoom screen.
3. Credentialed delegates shall vote by show of hands with the Zoom tool. The chair is authorized to count votes of individual credentialed delegates in the event of technological problems with the tool or to take a roll call vote.
4. Only credentialed delegates recognized by the chair may address the Council or propose amendments.
5. No delegate may speak more than once until all who wish to speak have been heard. No person may speak more than twice on the same motion. Debate shall be limited to 2 minutes per person.
6. All attendees will mute their microphones unless recognized by the chair to speak.
7. No announcements shall be made that do not relate to the work of the League of Women Voters.

By Laws Pertaining to Council

ARTICLE VIII. Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A meeting of the council shall be held biennially, approximately twelve months after each convention at a time and place to be determined by the 4 board of directors. A formal call giving the exact time and place of the council shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least six weeks before a council meeting. In the event of an emergency, the board may call a special council meeting.

Sec. 2. Composition. The council shall consist of the presidents of local Leagues and the chairs of member-at large units or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend; one delegate chosen by each local League and member-at-large unit; the members of the state board; and one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. Delegates of local Leagues that have failed to make a reasonable effort to meet the fiscal year's per member payment to the LWV-VA shall be denied voting privileges. The council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Powers. The council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; adopt changes in the program, if recommended by the board, following the procedures described in Article X; adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 5. Quorum. Ten delegates, other than the members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE X. Principles and Program

Sec 3. Program Adoption. a. LWV-VA committees and task forces, local League boards, and voting members of the LWV-VA may make recommendations for new issues for study, amendment or elimination of current LWV-VA positions, or concurrence with a new support position. Recommendations must be submitted to the state board at least three months before convention or council. b. Any such League board, LWV-VA study committee, task force or voting member shall send to the board accompanying background information on the issue proposed for study, concurrence, amendment or action, including the timing, need for and importance of the issue for study or action, and the rationale for seeking the proposed form of obtaining member agreement. c. The board shall consider all properly submitted recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least four weeks before convention or, if the board recommends, the council.

ARTICLE XII. Financial Administration

Sec. 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit to the convention and council for adoption a budget for the next fiscal year, specifying the per member payment rate. A

copy of the budget shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least four weeks before the convention or council. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of the convention or council.

2023-2024 Impact Report

The almost 2,000 members of LWV VA were active this year. They: Wrote 7,000 nonpartisan postcards to returning and disenfranchised citizens,

Sent 600,000 nonpartisan text messages sent to turn out the vote among young women of color in the 2023 election,

Created nonpartisan social media ads that had more than one million “impressions” targeted to returning citizens and young people of color reminding them to vote,

Had voting information translated into 7 languages,

Released [Podcasts](#) on voting for marginalized voters and other topics with views exceeding 2000 downloads,

Held more than 30 virtual and in person voter registration events throughout Virginia,

Held more than 40 high school voter registration events,

Sent more than 200,000 GOTV postcards for the 2023 election,

Contacted over 2600 candidates to provide information for our Vote411 Voter Guide, for elections throughout the past year,

Sent more than 187,000 GOTV Postcards for the 2024 primary,

The League of Women Voters of Virginia celebrates 104 years of engaging, registering, and informing voters to be sure that all eligible voters have an avenue for participation, and all citizens have free and fair access to the polls.

Youth and College Engagement

We also started a [Youth Council](#) to engage high school students in the voting and elections process. Also, for the first time, we have a [high school poster contest](#) to further get students engaged in voting. This is in addition to our college intern program.

We are also participants in the College Vote Summit for the third year.

Combatting Mis and Dis Information

For the 2024 general election, we are focused on combating mis and dis information in several ways by:

1. Sponsoring a poster contest for high school students to disseminate correct voting information;
2. Creating with the help of William and Mary College students, a [VerbAI](#) program to use artificial intelligence (AI) to search for election falsehoods and then list correct information from trusted fact checking sites,
- 3.
4. Joining our election protection partners in visually searching social media and then reporting election lies.

Combating Voter Suppression

In addition to 7000 postcards sent to returning citizens, we are working closely with the Campaign Legal Center, the Fair Elections Center, Nolef Turns to address problems with the sudden purging of 3500 returning citizens who had their rights restored and then were removed before the November 2023 election. We were successful in getting them returned to the roles but continue to insist on them receiving proper notification from the State Board of Elections. Plans are in the works to issue a letter from Nolef Turns and LWV VA to these people assuring them that they can vote safely and providing election hotline information.

We have also worked closely with Shawn Barksdale, of “10 Minutes of Truth” to reach returning citizens just before release to educate them on how to get their rights restored.

We will work extremely hard in the next legislative sessions to get a Constitutional amendment passed that assures that rights are restored automatically upon release and one of the last vestiges of our Jim Crow past is removed from the books.

2023–2024 Legislative Wins!

We continue to advocate for legislation supporting voting rights and campaign finance, women’s reproductive rights, childcare, affordable housing, education equity, environmental justice, mitigation of domestic and gun violence, physical health and Black maternal health and behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system

The League was instrumental in saving \$2.8 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money earmarked for election system upgrades.

100 percent of the voting and elections bills we opposed in the 2024 legislative session failed. These bills would have destroyed same day voter registration, limited the early voting windows, and returned restrictive voter ID laws targeting college students and the poor.

We successfully worked for the passage of HB 943 and SB 346, which added election

officials to the protected voter class regarding their personal information on voting records. Sadly, this is necessary in this current climate. We also saw the passage of HB 998 extending the deadline for electoral boards to meet and ascertain the results of elections to 10 days post-election.

The Governor vetoed so many gun and reproductive rights bills we supported, but we celebrated the passage of **SB16 and HB 78, the Menstrual Data Privacy Act**. This bill protects Virginians' private menstrual data from warrants or subpoenas. *Let that sink in – we are celebrating this bill – but why do we even need it?*

Postal Problems

The League is concerned with recent reports of postal delays in several areas of the state which may impact voting by mail in June and November. We are planning a drop box “game” for people to find and become aware of their drop box locations.

Internal Changes

We have a new website loaded with information for members and voters – and we will be adding another section to it in time for the November 2024 election, called “Be a Virginia Voter.”

We also have a new handbook for the State Board and many new toolkits ranging from advocacy tips to league management. All League members and especially local league leaders should look at our [League Management](#) page.

We are now instituting a fund-raising plan to ensure that we can start having paid staff like many of our other state leagues. The need for a constant source of steady money is imperative if we are to be a well-rounded and fully operational league.

We have a new League! Welcome to the LWV of the Northern Shenandoah

Valley! We will never waiver in our protection of voting and Democracy.

Membership Totals as of May 1, 2024

Active Members - State Dashboard Source			
As of 2024-04-30 09:04:47 Eastern Standard Time/EST • Generated by VA000 Roster Manager 1			
Filtered By			
Show: All accounts Deceased equals False Status equals Active League Relationship: Record Type equals Member Member Type equals Primary,Additional,Student,L ife League: League ID not equal to			
Report Visibility in Community All equals True Member Type →	Primary Additional Student Life	Total	
League: Account Name ↑		Record Count	
Members at Large		52	
LWV Of Charlottesville Area		135	

LWV of Arlington and Alexandria City		248	
LWV Of Fairfax Area		379	
LWV of Loudoun County		45	
LWV Of Richmond Metro		134	
LWV Of Lynchburg		57	
LWV Of Montgomery County		111	
LWV Of Falls Church		60	
LWV Of Roanoke Valley		29	

LWV of South Hampton Roads	89 6 2 3	100	
LWV Of The Prince William-Fauquier Area	68 7 0 0	75	
LWV Of Williamsburg	202 44 12 7	265	
LWV of Washington County	41 4 2 0	47	
LWV of Fredericksburg Area	31 4 1 1	37	
LWV of the Northern Shenandoah Valley	25 7 0 0	32	
Total	1415 189 132 70	1806	

Draft Education Fund Budget – FY 2025– 2026
Review Only - will be voted on by Board in July

<i>Draft Education Fund Budget FY 25-26</i>					
		FY 22/23 Budget	Actuals as of April Income/Expenses 1 anticipated	Draft budget FY 2023/2024	
	REVENUES				
	Bequests & Memorials				
	Donations				
	Members	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,335.00	\$ 7,500.00	
	Nonmembers	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 3,000.00	
	Grants - Restricted Funds				
	Virginia G. Young Bequest Projects				
	HS Registration				
	Redistricting				
	HBCU Equity Leadership Grant				
	VCET Civic Education Grant				
	Miscellaneous In-Kind Income Pre-session Legislative Roundtable	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	Pre-session moved to Operating Fund
	Trainings	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,500.00	
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 16,100.00	\$ 15,985.00 \$ 0.00	\$ 16,100.00	

	EXPENSES				
	Administrative Expenses				
	Reimburse Admin Expense to LWV-VA	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 1,473.00	\$ 1,155.00	
	Bank Fees (Ck printing)	\$ 100.00			
	State Corp. Commission/Political Fees	\$ 200.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00	
	PayPal Fees	\$ 200.00	\$ 66.20	\$ 200.00	
	Development				
	Grants - Restricted Funds				
	Virginia G. Young Bequest Projects				
	HS Registration				
	Redistricting				
	HBCU				
	Equity Leadership Grant				
	Educational Activities				
	LWV-VA Studies	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00	
	LWV-US Studies				
	Scholarship for Members	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 600.00	
	WLRT Pre-session				
	Trainings	\$ 5500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5500.00	

	Other Projects: DEI	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	
	Voters Service Activities				
	Informational Voters Service Handouts/Online	\$ 500.00			
	Candidate Debates	\$ 5000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6000.00	
	Vote411	\$ 2500.00			
	Legislative Directory			\$ 2500.00	
	Consultant /Printing	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00		
	Voter Service Coordination				
	Voter Protection Coordination	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00		
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,375.00	\$ 6,141.20 \$ 0.00	\$ 16,955.00	
	In-Kind Offset	(\$ 2000.00)		-\$ 855.00	
	Transfer to/from Savings	(\$ 275.00)	\$ 0.00		
	EXPENSES	\$ 16,100.00	\$ 6,141.20 \$ 0.00	\$ 16,100.00	

League of Women Voters of Virginia	
Balance Sheet	
As of June 1, 2024	
	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Operating Checking	58,284.10
Operating Savings	43,933.06
PayPal	-467.03
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 101,750.13
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	4,207.92
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,207.92
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	3,444.76
Inventory Asset-1	7,509.99
Uncategorized Asset	-150.00
Undeposited Funds	-3,217.30
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 7,587.45
Total Current Assets	\$ 113,545.50
Other Assets	
Other Assets	5,541.11
Total Other Assets	\$ 5,541.11
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 119,086.61
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	-59.99
Total Accounts Payable	-\$ 59.99
Credit Cards	
Credit Card 6252	-10,820.01
Total Credit Cards	-\$ 10,820.01
Other Current Liabilities	
Clearing Account	-2,550.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	-\$ 2,550.00
Total Current Liabilities	-\$ 13,430.00
Long-Term Liabilities	
Other Liabilities	-622.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-\$ 622.00
Total Liabilities	-\$ 14,052.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	25,808.01
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	-72.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	98,140.25
Net Income	9,262.35
Total Equity	\$ 133,138.61

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 119,086.61
Saturday, Jun 01, 2024 02:01:10 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis	

LWV-VA Education Fund	
Balance Sheet	
As of June 1, 2024	
	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
CD	58.67
Education Fund Checking	122,700.80
LWV OP Fund Checking	3,062.30
PayPal	-2,227.21
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 123,594.56
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	4,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,000.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 127,594.56
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 127,594.56
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	6,952.60
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 6,952.60
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 6,952.60
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,952.60
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	-11,281.52
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	0.00
GWCF	16,557.70
GWCF Grant	17,116.80
Virginia G Young Bequest	-1,107.00
Total Perm. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 32,567.50
Unrestricted Net Assets	35,554.56
Net Revenue	63,801.42
Total Equity	\$ 120,641.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 127,594.56
Saturday, Jun 01, 2024 01:41:06 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis	

Video Conferencing (Zoom)	\$ 900.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00					\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 200.00	\$1,500.00					\$1,500.00
Grants: Restricted Funds *								
Redistricting C4								
Voter Services C4								
Outreach Circle								
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 65,503.00	\$ 23,260.81	\$ 58,700.00					
EXPENSES								
Board & Administrative								
Administrative Committees	\$ 500.00							
Membership & MAL Unit Organization	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 400.00					
BOD Expenses	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,351.17	\$ 5,000.00					
Board LL Presidents Retreat 2022	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,416.10	\$ -					this was unique to 2022; \$ taken from BOD Expense amount of 10K
President	\$ 500.00	\$ 493.37	\$ 500.00					
Scholarship Fund for Members	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00					
Public Relations/Media/Editor	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00					
Secretary/Treasurer								
Office Operations								

	\$	\$							
Office Support	2,000.00	2,100.00							
Equipment Purchase & Repair	\$								
Equipment Supplies & Desktop Software	1,000.00								
General Copying /Printing									
General Supplies & Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 126.95	\$ 500.00						
Insurance	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 623.00	\$ 1,350.00						
Internet tools/services/phone/zoom	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,140.91	\$ 6,500.00						
Office Rent and utilities	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,400.00						
State Corporation Fee/Solicitation Fee	\$ 150.00	\$ 39.80	\$ 150.00						
Other Design, Printing & Publications									
PayPal Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 46.42	\$ 150.00						
In-Kind Offset	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ (933.29)	\$ (3,000.00)						
Stipend for Interns			\$2,500						
Donation Solicitation	\$ 500.00		\$ 250.00						
Special Events									
Wares Purchases	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 500.00						
LWV Meetings									
LWV-VA Convention (odd years)	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 24,000.00						
LWV-VA Council (even years)		\$ -							

Pre-session	\$ 7,500.00								
LWVNCA BOD Annual Convention & Workshop	\$ 300.00			\$ 80.00					
LWV-VA LL Presidents Meeting									
LWVUS Convention (even years)		\$ 300.00							
LWVUS Council (odd years)	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 3,500.00					
Position Support									
LL Advocacy Awards Program	\$ 1,000.00			\$ -					
Advocacy & Action Coordination	\$ 250.00								
Coalition Dues/Meetings	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00		\$ 500.00					
Legislative Coordinator/Lobbyist	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 200.00					
WLRT/League Day	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,888.84		\$ 4,000.00					
Contingency for Transformation Expenses				\$ 6,448.00					
VA MALs PP to LWVUS	\$ 520.00	\$ 1,040.00		\$ 1,072.00					
Transfer to/from Savings	\$ 1,683.00								
Grants: Restricted Funds									
Redistricting C4									
Voter Services C4									
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 65,503.00	\$ 19,233.27	\$ -	\$ 58,700.00					
NOTES:									

Program: Concurrence with LWV Washington State – Local News

Local News

Position in Brief

The League of Women Voters of Washington believes it is the responsibility of the government to provide support for conditions under which credible local journalism can survive and thrive. The League of Women Voters of Washington defines local news as accurate, in-depth coverage of government entities, including but not limited to, city councils, county councils, county boards of commissioners, health departments, schools, and school boards.

Position

Local News (2023)

LN-1: The League supports credible and ethical local journalism, in whatever format it is published, as essential to our democracy.

LN- 2: The League of Women Voters of Washington supports efforts to ensure everyone has access to information necessary for casting an informed ballot and that credible local news sources are integral to this pursuit.

LN – 3: The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that support for the viability of local news may take a variety of forms. Control of the content must remain exclusively with the news organizations.

LN – 4: The League of Women Voters of Washington also believes media literacy and news education, including support for journalism students, is essential. These opportunities should be expanded in schools and throughout communities.

LN – 5: The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that everyone should have access to comprehensive, credible local news and that barriers to access should be removed. These barriers include, but are not limited to, geography, economic status, and education.

By Law Changes Required by Strategic Transformation

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA BYLAWS **Draft for Council Approval**

As amended: June 2, 2013, June 18, 2016 (pursuant to LWVUS action), May 23, 2021, June 3, 2023, June 8, 2024.

Proviso: The amendment adopted at the 2024 Council shall take effect upon a date set by vote of the Board of Directors at the time the new membership system is in place to make the transition, expected in 2025. The ~~strikethrough language was deleted but remains in effect and the underlined language was inserted but does not take effect, pending the vote of the Board of Directors setting the effective date of the amendment.~~

ARTICLE I. Name and Office

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Virginia, hereinafter referred to as LWV-VA or the state League. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to as LWVUS.

Sec. 2. Office. The principal office of the LWV-VA shall be at such place as the board of directors shall determine.

ARTICLE II. Purposes and Policy

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

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Sec. 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance with diversity, equity, and inclusion, in principle and in practice.

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 the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, the state League and the LWVUS: (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who **reside outside the area of any** chose not

~~to join a~~ 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 honorary life members, excused from the payment of dues, and (4) those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either full or part time with an accredited institution.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

Sec. 1. Election, Qualifications and Term. The officers of the LWV-VA shall be a president, or co-presidents, and a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be voting members of the LWV VA. They shall be elected by the convention. They shall take office on July 1 following convention and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Sec. 2. The President. The president or co-presidents shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; shall appoint an elected member of the board to sign with the president, all contracts and other such instruments when so authorized by the board; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; and shall perform such other duties as the board may designate. The office of the president may be filled by two persons, to be called co-presidents. Thus, the term president shall refer to either a president or two co-presidents in these bylaws.

Sec. 3. The Vice-Presidents. The two vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that neither vice-president is able to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept minutes of convention, council and of meetings-- whether in-person or electronic--of the board of directors and executive committee and present them to the board for approval at its next meeting. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall perform such other duties as customarily pertaining to the office.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer, or a duly appointed assistant, shall collect and deposit all monies received. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the

board of directors, and shall disburse the same in accord with the adopted budget or upon order of the board of directors. The treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board at its regular meetings and an annual report to the convention or council. The books of the treasurer shall be reviewed when a new treasurer takes office and no less frequently than biennially and a report shall be presented to the board at its next meeting.

Sec. 6. Transfers of Property. With prior approval of the board, either the president or the treasurer shall have the authority to assign, endorse, transfer, and deliver, in the name and on behalf of the LWV-VA, any certificate of stock, bond, note or other security or property belonging to the League.

ARTICLE V. Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Selection, Qualifications and Term. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWV-VA, six directors elected by the convention and not more than six directors appointed by the elected members of the board. All directors shall be voting members of the LWV-VA. The elected directors shall take office on July 1 following the convention and serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with that of the elected directors.

Sec. 2. Vacancies. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled, until the next convention, by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Sec. 3. Powers.

- a. 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 the same, subject to the instructions of the convention.
- b. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention and/or council.
- c. The board shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues; guidance of and cooperation with Inter-League Organizations (hereinafter referred to as ILOs); promotion of League program; financial development; and such other matters as the national board may delegate to it. It may form Leagues-at-Large where circumstances dictate such organization and shall adopt rules and procedures for the formation and operation of such Leagues-at-Large.
- d. The board shall have the power to appoint off-board chairs with organization or program portfolios; to create such special committees as it deems necessary; and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Sec. 4. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least four regular meetings of the board of directors annually. A minimum of two of these shall be in-person meetings. Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given by mail or electronic communication at least two weeks before the meeting. No action taken at any regular board meeting attended by three fourths of the members of the board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to receive any notice properly sent or because of irregularity in any notice actually received. More than three unexcused absences in one fiscal year shall constitute a resignation.

Sec. 5. Special Meetings. 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. Notice of the time and place of the special meeting shall be given at least six days before the meeting, provided, however, that during a convention the president may, or upon the request of five members of the board shall, call a special meeting by handing the members of the board a written notice of the time and place of said meeting.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Up to one quarter of the members of the board may participate in an in-person meeting by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear or communicate electronically with one another. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Sec. 7. Executive Committee. An executive committee composed of the president or co-presidents, the vice presidents, the secretary, and the treasurer shall make decisions between regular board meetings on matters that require immediate attention. The committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the state board and shall keep minutes and report to the board at its next meeting on all actions taken.

Sec 8. Electronic Meetings. Regular and special meetings of the board of directors and executive committee may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference calls, video conferencing, or e-mail.

ARTICLE VI. Local Leagues, ILOs and Leagues-at-Large

Sec. 1. Local Leagues.

- a. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the Commonwealth of Virginia that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.

The state board has responsibility for the establishment of new Leagues and shall recommend to the national board that it grant recognition as a local League to any group of members of the League 26

in any community within the state in which no local League exists,

provided the group fulfills state and national requirements.

- b. In the event of recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill these requirements, the state board shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWV-VA after ~~the national per member payment and other~~ obligations have been met.

Sec. 2. Inter-League Organizations (ILOs).

- a. Members enrolled in local Leagues may organize ILOs in order to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on county, metropolitan or regional governmental matters.
- b. The state board shall recommend to the national board that such an ILO be recognized provided requirements adopted by the national convention have been fulfilled. In the event of recurrent failure of an ILO to fulfill these requirements, the state board shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the ILO. All funds held by an ILO from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be prorated among the member Leagues.

Sec. 3. Leagues-at-Large.

- a. The state board may authorize the establishment of Leagues-at-Large in communities where circumstances dictate such organization. Leagues-at-Large shall fulfill state League requirements.
- b. In the event of recurrent failure of a League-at-Large to fulfill these requirements, the state board may withdraw recognition from the League-at-Large. All funds held by a League-at-Large from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the state League after other obligations have been met.

ARTICLE VII. Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date, and Call. A convention of the LWV-VA shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A first call to convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least six weeks before the date fixed in said call. Thereafter the board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention by not more than two weeks. A final call giving the exact time and place of the convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least thirty days before convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of:

- a. delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues in the number

- provided in Sec. 4 of this Article;
- b. the presidents of local Leagues and chairs of Leagues-at-Large or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend;
 - c. the members of the board of directors of the LWV-VA;
 - d. LWV-VA off-board committee chairs with portfolios;
 - e. one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO: and
 - f. delegates, chosen by the board of the LWV-VA, to represent the members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large, in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote and absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. ~~Delegates of local Leagues that have failed to make a reasonable effort to meet the fiscal year's per member payment to the LWV-VA shall be denied voting privileges.~~ The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation. The members of the LWV-VA who are organized into local Leagues or Leagues-at-Large, and members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be entitled to voting representation in the convention as follows: the members in each local League or League-at-Large shall be entitled to two delegates; when a local League membership reaches 25 voting members, it shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional twenty-five voting members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League. The members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large shall be entitled to one delegate; when the number of members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large reaches 25 voting members, they shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 25 voting members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large or major fraction thereof of such members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large. The official membership count shall be determined by national office records of voting members as reported to the national office in the membership count of the year in which the convention is held.

Sec. 5. Powers. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 6. Quorum. Thirty percent of the possible number of voting delegates other than the members of the state board shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE IX. Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, of whom three shall not be members of the state board. The three to be elected by the convention shall include the chair. Promptly after convention, the board shall appoint two of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

Sec. 2. Suggestions for Nominations. The nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations through the president of each local League and ILO and chair of each League-at-Large by advising them of the offices to be filled and the address to which suggestions are to be sent. Any LWV-VA member may submit suggestions to the nominating committee.

Sec. 3. Report of the Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee containing its nominations for officers, directors, and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large four months [June 3, 2023] before convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention at its first session. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately, thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sec. 4. Election. The election shall be the responsibility of an election committee appointed by the president at the first session of the convention. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X. Principles and Program

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

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the LWV-VA shall consist of action to implement the principles and those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study or concurrence and action by the convention or, if recommended by the board, the council. Information on governmental issues designed for member information and education may be prepared and disseminated by the board at any time.

Sec 3. Program Adoption.

- a. LWV-VA committees and task forces, local League boards, and voting members of the LWV-VA may make recommendations for new issues for study, amendment or elimination of current LWV-VA positions, or concurrence with a new support position. Recommendations must be submitted to the state board at least three months before convention or council.
- b. Any such League board, LWV-VA study committee, task force or voting member shall send to the board accompanying background information on the issue proposed for study, concurrence, amendment, or action,

including the timing, need for and importance of the issue for study or action, and the rationale for seeking the proposed form of obtaining member agreement.

- c. The board shall consider all properly submitted recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least four weeks before convention or, if the board recommends, the council.
- d. The convention or council shall adopt or amend the program proposed by the board by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- e. e. A program recommendation properly submitted by the deadline but not proposed by the board may be adopted by the convention only if its consideration is ordered by a majority vote of the convention and the proposal receives approval by a three-fifths vote of the convention delegates present and voting at a subsequent session of the same meeting.

Sec. 4. LWV-VA Program Support Positions. After the LWV-VA board approves new or amended positions for inclusion in the LWV-VA program, they become the LWV-VA's positions and the basis for action on the issue. Changes to the positions may be made by the convention or council according to the procedures and limitations described in this Article.

Sec. 5. Program Action. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVUS or the LWV-VA. Action on state governmental matters on the basis of local positions should be undertaken only after consultation with the state board. Members may act in the name of the LWV-VA only when authorized to do so by the state board.

ARTICLE XI. National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National League Convention. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to national convention in the number allotted the LWV-VA under the provisions of the LWVUS bylaws. 30

Sec. 2. National League Council. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to national council in the number allotted the LWV-VA under the provisions of the LWVUS bylaws.

ARTICLE XII. Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWV-VA shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the subsequent year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support. Membership Dues. Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy. All members shall pay dues except for those exempted from paying dues in Article III. Membership lasts for one year after joining or renewal. Members who fail to renew within the period specified by

LWVUS will be removed from the roster.

~~a. Financial responsibility for the work of the League as a whole shall be assumed annually by local Leagues.~~

~~b. Members of local Leagues shall pay annual dues to the local League. Each local League shall make a per member payment directly to the LWV-VA, the amount of such payment to be determined by the convention or council. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the local League shall make a payment equal to one and one-half times the determined per member payment. A local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for life members.~~

~~c. Members-at-large shall pay annual dues to the LWV-VA, the amount to be determined by the state board. The LWV-VA shall make a per member payment to the LWVUS for members-at-large.~~

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Sec. 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit to the convention and council for adoption a budget for the next fiscal year, ~~specifying the per member payment rate~~. A copy of the budget shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least four weeks before the convention or council. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of the convention or council.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee that shall be appointed by the state board for that purpose at least three months before convention or council. 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 the LWV-VA, all moneys and securities that may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWV-VA shall be paid to the LWV VA

Education Fund after the state board has paid or made provisions for payment of all the liabilities of the LWV VA. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWV-VA shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as the board of directors in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE XIII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any convention or council by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least three months before convention by a local League board or was proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least four weeks before the convention or council at which they will be considered.

RIGHT TO VOTE Study Proposal Update

Recommended Program Study: [Universal Right to Vote – Update](#) (slides at this link- although the information on slides is below.)

The Voting & Elections Issues Group proposes a new study addressing universal suffrage as expressed in

SJ 272. That bill would have removed the stipulations in Section 1, Article II of the Virginia Constitution that disenfranchise citizens convicted of a felony and those adjudicated to be mentally incompetent. It would also have added a “fundamental right to vote” clause in both the title and body of Section 1. The study would examine the history and underpinnings of the concept of a right to vote and the rationale for universal suffrage. It could additionally consider the need for an explicit right to vote, as distinguished from the implicit rights in the federal Bill of Rights.

Other topics that might fall within the scope of the study are:

- Which specific rights are conferred upon a citizen
- Youth Voting Rights Act and HJ 459 to lower voting age in certain localities
- Recent decisions by the US Supreme Court invalidating sections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Actions by Virginia and other states to restore some of the protections of the VRA
- Mental competency

Schedule of study: Year 1

Year 1 through June 30, 2024

- In odd-numbered years, studies can be adopted at LWV-VA Convention. (June 2023)
- Study Committees organize, develop scope, begin research & share timeline, information, suggested activities with local Leagues. (July 2023)
- Local Leagues may have speakers, reading discussions, other activities to learn about the issues being studied.

Schedule of study: Year 2

Year 2 through June 30, 2025

- The Study Committee develops consensus questions, state board approves and program director disseminates to local Leagues. (July 2024)
- Local Leagues plan their study consensus calendars to complete reports before the deadline.
- Local Leagues continue learning, hold consensus meetings and report results at least 3 months
(ca. Jan 2025) before the Convention. (August 2024-February 2025)
- Study Committees & Program Director tabulate consensus reports, determine areas of consensus, draft positions and submit to the state board. (ca. Feb 2025)
- Board adopts final position wording and shares with League members.
- Positions are debated and voted on at LWV-VA Convention (2025).

Current LWV-VA Position

P. 2 ELECTION LAWS The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia....

P. 44 The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that: The civil rights of felons in Virginia should be restored automatically either upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation and parole. The procedure should be identical for all felons, regardless of the nature of their crime. The process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair. Information about the process should be available to felons, the justice and correction system and the general public. (2009) VA Constitution Article II, Section 1

Qualification of Voters

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article2/section1/>

In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in this section, and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. No person who has been convicted of a felony shall be qualified to vote

unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. As prescribed by law, no person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent shall be qualified to vote until his competency has been reestablished...

Research

Voting Rights in the Law: International, Federal, Virginia

Three Groups left out of the VA Constitution: 16 year-olds, felons, mentally adjudicated

- At What Age Should Someone be Eligible to Vote?
- Historical and Legal Basis of Felony Disenfranchisement
- Mental Capacity and the Right to Vote in Virginia

Appendix:

- Women's Movement and the Franchise
- Project 18 and the 26th Amendment
- Native American Voting Rights
- Asian Voters

Next Steps

Your input is critical for this important study!

- Local Leagues plan your 2024-2025 calendars to include consensus
- Educate yourselves on the issue—it's in the study!
- Engage your members in discussing the study using the census questions
- Report back to the study committee
- Your feedback will be used to strengthen the study and a position to be voted on at the 2025

Possible Change to a 501 C (3)

501 C (3) POSSIBLE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT FAQs



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS **§501(c)(3) OR (c)(4): WHICH TO BE, OR BOTH?** Frequently Asked Questions

Background.

Different types of organizations can qualify to be exempt from income taxes under different subsections of Internal Revenue Code §501(c)—e.g., charities, churches, schools, colleges, hospitals, trade associations, etc.—and each of these different types have their own specific rules under the Internal Revenue Code.

What does it mean that a League is “tax exempt”?

Being “tax exempt” under either §501(c)(4) or (c)(3) means that an organization is exempt from federal and state income taxes. However, they still may be subject to other kinds of taxes, such as payroll taxes, sales or use taxes, etc., unless the applicable taxing jurisdictions provide an exemption.

Historically, Leagues at all levels have qualified as tax exempt under §501(c)(4) as a “social welfare” organization. However, the LWVUS, a majority of state Leagues like LWV Virginia, and larger local Leagues have formed a “sister” Education Fund entity which is qualified as tax exempt under §501(c)(3).

What are the basic tax differences between §501(c)(3) and (c)(4)?

There are only a few significant differences between §501(c)(4) and §501(c)(3), not all relevant for Leagues to consider:

Supporting or opposing candidates for elected office and political parties will not be discussed, because League rules prohibit this kind of political activity irrespective of tax classification.

There is generally no limit on the lobbying activities of a §501(c)(4) organization, whereas for a §501(c)(3) organization lobbying activities cannot constitute a “substantial part” of its overall activities. As we will discuss below, the latter limitation should not impact or limit the operations of a typical state or local League which converts to §501(c)(3) status.

Contributions and dues may be deductible for donors and members of a §501(c)(3) organization. These items are not deductible for §501(c)(4) donors or members.

What might be the effect of a conversion for a League’s advocacy activities?

With respect to general advocacy activities, where there is no reference to specific legislation or ballot measure and thus no “lobbying,” there are no limitations at all under

§501(c)(3). Activities are classified as lobbying if they are related to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (a) at the federal, state, or local legislative level, or (b) in ballot measures, e.g., a referendum, initiative, constitutional amendment, etc. They must involve communication with a member or employee of a legislative body, or with any other government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of the legislation. It also includes “grass roots” lobbying, or communication with members of the organization or members of the public to urge them to contact their legislator, etc., or to vote for or against a ballot proposition, etc. With respect to ballot measures, communications to voters would qualify as lobbying.

How is lobbying measured for the “substantial part” test of §501(c)(3)?

A §501(c)(3) League will elect under §501(h) to measure its lobbying activities by dollars spent rather than time spent. This election is very beneficial as it would be practically impossible to get all a League’s members to keep detailed time records for all their League work, not just the time for lobbying activities. In the majority of League work, “action” or lobbying involves members’ time rather than much staff time, and little if any out-of-pocket expenditures. So, with the §501(h) election in place, Leagues will almost never come close to the §501(c)(3) limits on lobbying activities.

Are there possible disadvantages or costs to a League converting to being tax exempt under §501(c)(3)?

There is an intangible “cost” of achieving this change due to (a) the time necessary to make the required analysis and planning, and then (b) to implement the conversion, but all this time should be easily manageable with the resources available from LWVUS. If a League must apply to the IRS as part of the conversion process, which LWV Virginia would not, there is a \$600 application fee. Pros and Cons of Applying to Change from §501(c)(4) to §501(c)(3).

Pros and Cons of Applying to Change from §501(c)(4) to §501(c)(3)

1. If a League converts to §501(c)(3) organization, its Board of Directors and members will finally have managerial control over the entirety of its operations.
2. One certain benefit for a League qualifying under §501(c)(3) has been the tax deductibility of League member dues and contributions. Members/donors have historically received tax deductions for contributions to Education Fund accounts. But conversion allows deductibility for all funds needed to support a League’s total budget.
3. As a general matter, grant-making organizations are often reluctant to make grants to §501(c)(4) organizations. So, conversion might give Leagues significantly greater opportunities to obtain such grants. It has proved to be very important for a number of Leagues which have converted in the past.
4. Conversion would reduce the workload for most League treasurers.
5. In the past, concerns have been raised by some individuals that §501(c)(3) a League would have to stop all advocacy and lobbying. This is absolutely not true.

7. Concerns have also been raised that there is a horrendous burden in bookkeeping and governmental reporting under §501(c)(3); again, this has also turned out to be entirely erroneous.

Does LWVUS recommend that Leagues convert to §501(c)(3)?

LWVUS does not “recommend” that a League pursue this conversion because it has concern that a League could have very specific individual factors which might make such a conversion impractical or disadvantageous. However, LWVUS is providing substantial support to all Leagues wishing to consider this change through the services of LWVUS consultants Tom Carson (tpcarson@outlook.com) and **highly recommends** that all Leagues consult with him during their planning and certainly before making a final decision.

Nominations

The Nominating Committee is looking for people interested in serving on the LWV Virginia Board of Directors for 2025-2027. If you are interested or have questions, please email them to Les Solomon at Nominations@lwv-va.org

Convention 2025

Theme: "Women...Elect and Be Elected: Women-Focused Elections."

Date: June 13-15, 2025

Location: Fredericksburg Convention Center

If you have ideas for speakers or want to help on this project contact First VP, Anu Sahai at Firstvp@lwv-va.org.

**League of Women Voters of Virginia
Minutes of the State Council
Saturday, June 4, 2022**

President Deb Wake called to order the State Council Meeting, ***Embracing a World of Change***, in a virtual Zoom meeting, on June 4, 2022 at 9:03 A.M. Secretary Jes Davis took the minutes. President Wake welcomed council delegates and guests. She noted this year is the second time we have held the State Council meeting in a virtual format. She also reminded those in attendance that only Delegates should vote and to use the raise hand feature at the bottom of the screen while any questions or points of order should be placed in the chat box. President Wake called for a roll call of Leagues in attendance and to share any updates from this past year.

Arlington and Alexandria City President, Joan Porte, reported LWV-ARL was excited to return to efforts on registering high school students in English and civics classes. High School registration in this area is up 35% from 2020. She reported there are student chapters in all the major high schools in Alexandria City. The program Voter Girl has adopted a virtual platform and in person opportunity.

Charlottesville Area President, Pat Cochran, reported that LWV-CVA has established a new healthcare committee working with the national league healthcare committee. Their voter services have been working on voter registration outreach. The gun violence prevention committee has been active in partnering with other local organizations.

Fairfax Area Co-Presidents, Anu Sahai and Pat Fege, reported there are 402 members in LWV-FA, and they conducted nearly 200 voter registration drives at farmers markets, festivals, and vaccine clinics. They arranged six virtual candidate forums and hosted both a fall general meeting and spring annual meeting. They wrote and distributed information for the “Facts for Voters” and “what’s on the ballot.” There were two members who served on the local redistricting committee. Additionally, members wrote an information report on cannabis.

Falls Church President, Allison Brown, reported LWV-FC has 100 members in an area of 14,000 residents. They hosted a number of virtual programs including sessions with city council members and delegate Marcus Simon. They held an environmental program for Earth Day and a city budget 101 session. They hosted voter registration events and interacted with the high school chapter at Meridian High School. They handed out voter information in both English and Spanish.

Fredericksburg Area president-nominee Cathie Braman, reported LWV-FRA is up to 57 members. This year they distributed facts for voters and are working on distributing them again in the coming weeks. They hosted a voter forum and worked with local high schools to register students. They also started hosting registration drives at the local food bank.

Loudoun County President, Priscilla Godfrey, reported LWV-LC did not have success with local high schools for voter registration this year, but they were able to visit two local colleges and worked with local libraries. She noted they began working with senior centers throughout the county. Several members are serving on the childcare

state study committee and President Godfrey served on the Education Equity State Study Committee.

Lynchburg Co-President, Jennifer Gauthier, reported LWV-LY has 44 members including eight lifetime members. They have been active in the redistricting efforts around Lynchburg. They have not had many in-person events due to COVID, but they worked on duplicating materials and distributed those to partners who could not afford to print. They worked with drug courts to find alternatives to incarceration. They've also received membership grants to support the League's DEI mission.

Montgomery County Co-Vice President, Debbie Travis, reported LWV-MC has been working on voter registration through local committees to become more widespread through individual households, libraries, and other organizations. They have also worked with registering students at Virginia Tech. They have not been successful working with area high schools on voter registration due to COVID restrictions. They have been involved with the redistricting committee and hosted several webinars open to the public to educate people on the changes. They have distributed over 2,500 "Facts for Voters" throughout the community and also hosted candidate forums and other virtual programs. They are currently still meeting virtually with the First Tuesday talks and other gatherings. They have been moving forward with the statewide study on education equity. They are now working on planning the fall forum with the local branch of the NAACP. Finally, they have a growing membership of 135 members and are working on reaching out to younger members.

Prince William and Fauquier Area President, Janet Gorn, reported LWV-PWFA is celebrating the 15th crystal anniversary for the Prince William half of the League, as two years ago they joined with Fauquier County. This has proved to be successful for their overall engagement. She noted that according to the 2020 Census they are the 10th most diverse counties. Fauquier county is 75% rural and Prince William is an urban area. They have been moving forward projects in Fauquier County including a major project on Black Lives Matter vigils. Voter services have worked with 18 area high schools and registered just under 1,600 new voters. They have been focused on national voter registration day where they staffed all 12 libraries. They have two local study committees formed on racial justice and county land use. These are almost finished and will be hosting a special meeting to discuss findings. They have hosted several webinars including a session on the plastic bag tax. They have also hosted several candidate forums this year. The focus for this upcoming year is on raising more members and getting them involved. They have created a unique position, volunteer coordinator, to help members engage with volunteering from home.

Richmond Metro Area President, Jane Newell, reported LWV-RMA has been working on "returning to normal" events including voter service activities by attending farmers markets, schools, the Richmond Folk festival. They have created fact sheets in English and Spanish while also distributing to affordable housing organizations to help reach their tenants. The civics education committee is back to work with the opening of schools and looking to expand beyond the pilot group. The diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee has been busy with speakers and education sessions including an event with the author of the Richmond, Virginia book that was a part of the Black America series. They also hosted a critical race theory speaker for their annual

meeting. They are continuing to observe all electoral board meetings in three counties and a city. They have been active in supporting rank choice voting in the City of Richmond. They hosted their first annual meeting since 2020, on May 21, 2022 where they increased dues, updated bylaws, and elected new officers.

Roanoke Valley Area President, Jean Holzinger, reported LWW-RVA has hosted a series of small group meetings with members to identify ways they are most interested in volunteering; most identified wanting to work on voter registration. They promoted voter access in different ways including city libraries, and homeless centers. They distributed 1,000 voter cards to first time voters and helped 14 area high schools meet the Governor's Challenge.

South Hampton Roads President, Heather Miller Tokarz, reported LWW-SHR managed to host events every month via zoom. They have been active in speaking to city council and school boards and encouraged members to publish letters to the editors on redistricting, critical race theory, regional cooperation, and other topics as private citizens. Jean Hanewich is a new member and is heading up the environmental committee and has been spearheading the efforts to keep the City of Chesapeake from moving their local election back to May instead of November. They have also participated in a pilot project with Feeding America. This partnership has allowed them to reach populations that they normally would not reach while providing additional information on what's on the ballot, restoration of rights, where to find polling location, and a number of other topics. This also allowed them to train food bank volunteers on how to register people to vote. They have been active in speaking with city, council, and school boards. They've been involved with the redistricting efforts as there were key questions involving redistricting in the SHR region. The environmental and affordable housing committees have been active with an urban renewal project in downtown Norfolk that has been controversial in understanding how it will affect citizens. The environmental committee is now sponsoring a new study on local recycling. The other new local study is on Journalism. They have more than 108 members and are gaining membership in Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Suffolk areas.

Washington County President, Merry Jennings, reported 42 members who have been partnering with other organizations like the Washington County Educational Association to promote Vote411 and in-person candidate forum. They were working with the Virginia Women's Attorney Association to promote the film, "These Things Can be Done." They have been working with Emory and Henry to outreach to new students during orientation. They have also engaged the Coalition of Small and Rural Schools for the statewide education equity study. They have found it useful to have relationships with teachers or administrators to get voter registration information out to high school students. They are also working on expanding the 7th grade civics programs at the request of the local school system.

Williamsburg Area President, Sudie Watkins, reported LWW-WA focused on partnerships, programs, and participation. They have continued a longstanding partnership with the public library for the "Great Decisions" lecture series which was moved to a hybrid experience. They are working with William and Mary on a joint civics program "One Book, One Community," DEI committee work, winter break programs, and joining fraternity and sororities for voter registration. They have also partnered with the NAACP in voter registration and Juneteenth programming. They have provided many presentations for other community organizations. They are focusing on increasing member participation and doing most of their work virtually. Their 300-person

membership has been active in observer corps and book club meetings throughout the year.

President Wake introduced the state board members, First Vice President Joan Porte, Second Vice President Erni Bridges, Secretary Jes Davis, Treasurer Debbie Combest and Directors Janet Boyd (Voter Services), Carolyn Caywood (Programs), Denise Harrington (Advocacy), and Andrienne Konstas-Salvette (Membership). President Wake thanked the board for their ability to work as a unit and directing the work of the State League.

President Wake thanked the council committee members for their willingness to say yes and learn something new. The committee members included the Credentials committee: Jeanne Hanewich (LWV-SHR), Rose Ann Jenny (LWV-WC); the Standing Rules committee: Priscilla Godfrey (LWV-LC); 2022 Readers: Susan Roberts (LWV-CA), Janet Ladd (LWV-A/A), Robin Smith (MAL); and the Election Committee: Judy Helein (LWV-FA), Stephanie Lowenhaupt (LWV-CA), and Libby Blanton (MAL). President Wake introduced the Parliamentarian, Martha Rollins. She acknowledged her extensive credentials.

President Wake called for the credentials committee report. Committee Chair, Jeanne Hanewich reported 14 leagues, President/alternate plus 1 delegate, 26 delegates. State board 7, 1 delegate ILO, 1 delegate for MAL, total delegate 33, total attendees is 51. Chair Jeanne Hanewich motioned to accept the report as the official role of the 2022 Council. Delegate Freeda Cathcart and Director Konstas-Salvette asked to clarify they were included in the delegate count. Chair Hanewich updated the report to 14 leagues, President/alternate plus 1 delegate chosen by each local league, 26 delegates. State board 7, 1 delegate ILO, 1 delegate for MAL, total delegate 35, total attendees is 52. Chair Hanewich motioned to accept the updated information as the official role of the 2022 Council. The motion passed and the credentials report was accepted.

President Wake called on the Council Standing Rules Committee Chair, Priscilla Godfrey, to present their report. Chair Godfrey read the rules from page four of the workbook and motioned to adopt the standing rules of the 2022 Council as read. The motion was approved, and the standing rules were accepted.

President Wake called on First Vice President Porte to present the Council Planning committee on the agenda. First Vice President Porte motioned for the council workbook to be accepted as presented. The motion passed and the Council agenda was approved. President Wake noted the minutes from the 2020 LWV-VA Council can be found beginning on page seven of the workbook. She thanked the readers, Carol Proven (LWV-PWFA), Rebecca Lawson (LWV-RMA), Sue Botts (LWV-FRA), and former Secretary Martha Rollins (LWV-SHR).

President Wake called on Treasurer Combest to introduce the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Combest stated the State League is in good financial shape in both funds for the fiscal year 2022-23. The operating fund balance was more than expenses due to the impact of COVID and the educational fund managed seven grants. Treasurer Combest reminded the Council that the Education Fund is included on page 15 informational only and will not be voted on during the 2022 Council. Treasurer Combest introduced the Chair of the Budget Committee, Cathie Braman. Chair Braman thanked the committee members Grace White and Debbie Combest for meeting and drafting the budget. She reminded the Council the budget could be found on pages 17 and 18 and noted the

budget shows an extra \$22,000 from last year to cover the costs of convention next year in Williamsburg. Chair Braman motioned to adopt the budget as presented. The motion was passed, and the fiscal year 2022-23 budget was adopted.

After a ten-minute recess President Wake addressed a question from the chat on confirming delegate vote counts due to confusion of delegates and observers. An additional recess was taken to confer with the Credentials committee. Upon return President Wake noted that the Zoom platform made it difficult to review if only delegates voted. However, the majority vote would still stand. President Wake called for any objections to warrant a roll call vote. No objections were called. President Wake read off names of all delegates to avoid future confusion.

President Wake introduced Programs Director Carolyn Caywood to present the state position study committees. Director Caywood discussed the purpose of the position studies are to direct and focus the league's advocacy work. Any level of the league (local, state, national) can have studies. The state studies have to be specific to Virginia and fit within the national positions. She also noted we arrive at study with consensus, and this will be an update of progress. Studies take place for two years (from convention to convention). The stages include research, report, presentation, development of consensus questions to consider, once feedback comes back from committees--a draft proposal is presented to the board for review and the draft proposal is sent out 30 days prior to convention.

Pamela Stroh (LWV-A/A) presented the updates on study progress for the "Money in Politics" study. Next, Robin Smith (MAL) presented the updates on study progress for the "Education Equity" study. Director Caywood then presented the updates on the study progress for the "Environmental Justice" study. Maria Posey (LWV-FA) presented the final study progress for the "Child Care" study. After the presentation of progress, President Wake shared about the importance of these committees to ensure our voices are represented. She also encouraged interested individuals to reach out to Director Caywood if they are interested in getting involved with any of the studies.

After a fifteen-minute break, First Vice President Porte introduced Kelly Thomasson, former Secretary of Commonwealth for the keynote address.

Next on the program Secretary Jes Davis engaged attendees in a leadership training on membership engagement.

The last session on the program was "Engaging Women to Serve on Commission and Run for Office" by Dorothy Heffron, Virginia Program Manager for ReflectUs.

President concluded with a thanks to all the speakers, First Vice President Porte for managing the chat, committee members who helped to run the council, and all the study members. She offered a special thanks to the state board and all members of LWV-VA. She also encouraged members to join issue groups to stay involved. First Vice President Porte also noted that information on upcoming events can be found in the Google Drive folder for Council.

First Vice President Porte motioned to adjourn the meeting and Second Vice President Bridges seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Jes Davis, Secretary

Reading Committee: Susan Roberts, Janet Ladd, Robin Smith