



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a member of the League of Women Voters to apply for the plate?

You need **NOT** be a member of the League to apply for a LWV specialty plate.

Why should I purchase a specialty plate(s)?

To show your support for the League! Everywhere you drive (within and without North Carolina) you will be spreading the word about the League and its mission. We believe we can be the first US State to boast a League specialty plate. A new North Carolina law requires license plates older than 7 years to be replaced, so consider this a perfect opportunity to support the League in this unique way. You may apply for more than one plate if you have multiple cars, but you will need to fill out a separate application for each car.

What happens to my check – is it deposited or held on to?

Your check will be deposited into a dedicated League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC) specialty plate bank account and a record of your payment will be kept.

Where does the money go?

Until the plate is approved by the state, payments will be held by LWVNC. After we win approval and the plate is being sold by the state of North Carolina, sales from each plate will function as a fundraiser for the League. For each \$30 specialty plate that is purchased or renewed each year, the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) will keep \$10 and the remaining \$20 will go to LWVNC, who will use the proceeds to support the cost of providing access to Vote411.org to North Carolina voters.

What should I do after I apply for a plate?

Follow us on social media and encourage all your friends, family and social followers to apply for a League specialty plate! Check back frequently to check on our progress in gathering applications and requesting approval from the State.

When will I receive my plate?

Right now, we are in the preliminary stages of obtaining the plate so you will **NOT** receive your plate right away. The state of North Carolina requires organizations to prove there is a market for a specialty plate before they will agree to produce one. These are the steps we need to take:

LWVNC must collect a minimum of **500 prepaid** plate applications. These will be submitted collectively to the NCDMV who reserves the right to alter the design as necessary. The NCDMV will then request legislative authorization from the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA). Once the special registration plate is authorized by the NCGA, the NCDMV will issue the plate within 180 days. Visit the NCDMV website to learn more about the process: <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/title-registration/license-plates/Pages/legislative-process-special-plate.aspx>

What happens if the plate is not authorized?

If the plate is not authorized by the NCGA, NCDMV will refund application payments to the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. LWVNC will then refund each individual who submitted a paid application and who requests to be reimbursed. You may also, if you wish, direct your plate application payment to instead be donated to LWVNC to underwrite the cost of providing Vote411.org in North Carolina. We will provide regular updates on the status of our specialty plate campaign.

The plate is awesome! Who designed it?

The plate was designed by Nan Fulcher, free-lance designer and owner of Pie Chart Graphic Design. Nan was the winner of a statewide design contest for the new League specialty license plate. See her message below regarding the inspiration for her design:

I specialize in helping non-profit organizations develop effective messaging and public outreach campaigns by creating informative and engaging content.

Several years ago, I had the good fortune of meeting several North Carolina League members as we rallied around the issue of fair voting districts. These accomplished and talented women taught me many valuable things about advocacy and inspired me to support multiple causes including voting rights, public education, and racial equity.

For the specialty license plate representing the North Carolina Chapter of the League of Women Voters, I wanted to convey the women behind the League's unrelenting effort to uphold the democratic process: their strength of character, their sense of purpose, and their bond of sisterhood.

What do I do with my old plate?

The DMV encourages you to return your old plate to a DMV plate office for recycling. However, you are not required to.

Questions where the answer is YES:

Is the license plate mailed to me?

Do I need to fill out a separate application form for each car if I am applying for more than one plate?

Is the extra specialty plate fee due every year along with my regular plate renewal fee?

Questions where the answer is NO:

Do I need to keep the specialized license plate permanently?

Do I need to send anything to the DMV?

Does this affect my current registration?

Is the license plate fee tax deductible?

Do I need to wait until my current registration expires to apply for this?