

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAKLAND AREA

LWVOA BYLAWS

Originally Adopted May 18, 1991
Amended April 25, 1992
Amended April 24, 1993
Amended May 15, 1996
Amended May 6, 2000
Amended May 12, 2002
Amended May 14, 2005
Amended June 2, 2007
Amended June 11, 2011
Amended May 21, 2016
Amended 2016 LWVUS Convention
Amended May 19, 2018
Amended June 28, 2021

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Oakland Area, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVOA. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), and of the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI).

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Policy

Sec. 1. Purpose. The purpose of the LWVOA is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected government issues.

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

Sec. 3. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose 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 LWVOA shall be voting members of LWVOA, LWVMI, and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals 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 local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the LWVUS for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; **[4] Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as 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 LWVOA shall be voting members and consist of a president or co-presidents, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a third vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Officers shall be elected for two-year terms at the annual meeting. All officers shall take office immediately following the annual meeting. The president or co-presidents, the second vice-president, and the secretary shall be elected in the odd-numbered years. The first vice-president, the third vice-president and the treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years.

Sec. 2. The President or Co-Presidents. 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 the board, or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes in the absence of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the board may direct. If there are co-presidents, they shall determine how to share these responsibilities. If a co-president is absent, disabled, resigns, or dies, the remaining co-president shall assume the office of the presidency until the term expires. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, the vice-presidents, in order of their rank, shall assume the office until the term expires. If no vice-president is able to serve as president, the board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors.

Sec. 3. The Vice-President. The vice-president shall perform such duties as the president or co-presidents and board shall direct.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the membership and of the board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election; send written notice to be received prior to any Board Meetings; sign with the president or one of the co-presidents all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board; and perform such other duties as the president or co-presidents and board shall direct.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an annual audit of the books; and at the direction of the board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Selection, Qualifications and Term. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVOA, six (6) directors elected at the annual meeting and not more than seven (7) directors appointed by the board. All board members shall be voting members of the LWVOA. The elected directors shall serve for a term of two (2) years, with three (3) directors elected in even-numbered years and three (3) elected in odd-numbered years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The appointed directors shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting.

Sec. 2. Vacancies. Any vacancy, other than the presidency, occurring on the board of directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled until the next annual meeting, from a list of names submitted by the nominating committee, or nominations from the membership. Approval will be by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. Three (3) consecutive absences from a board meeting of any member without valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Sec. 3. Powers. The board shall manage and supervise the business affairs and activities of the LWVOA subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall select delegates to state convention and council and to the national convention. It shall accept responsibility for local issues and such matters as the national or state board may delegate to it. It shall have the power to create special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform other duties as specified in these bylaws.

Sec. 4. Executive Committee. If a decision is required before the next scheduled board meeting, the president or a co-president may call a meeting of the executive committee. The members of the executive committee shall consist of the president or co-presidents, the vice presidents, secretary and treasurer. At least four members of the executive committee must concur in the committee's decision. Any action taken by the executive committee shall be presented to the board of directors for ratification at their next meeting.

Sec. 5. Meetings. At least six regular meetings of the board shall be held annually. The president or a co-president may call special meetings and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five (5) members of the board. Electronic communications shall be an acceptable alternative to meetings for decisions of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Any electronic decision shall be ratified at the next face to face meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of the LWVOA shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

Local Units

Sec. 1. A unit may consist of the League members in a municipality, a group of municipalities, a school district, or a defined neighborhood or group with a common interest. A municipality is defined as a city, township, or village within Oakland County.

Sec. 2. Units may have a Chairperson and may carry out voter service, membership recruitment and local action.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Sec. 1. Membership Meetings. In addition to the annual meeting, at least three meetings of the membership shall be held annually. A special membership meeting may be called by the board or by a request of ten (10) voting members. Written notice of the special meetings shall be sent to the membership at least two weeks in advance.

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between April 15th and June 30th, the exact date to be determined by the board. Notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to all members one month prior to date selected for the annual meeting. The annual meeting shall adopt a local program for the ensuing year; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget; and transact such other business as may properly come before it. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Sec. 3. Quorum. All business meetings must have a quorum. At least five (5) percent (5%) of the voting membership, provided that a minimum of three (3) municipalities are represented, shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the LWVOA. A business meeting is defined as a meeting at which there is election of officers, adoption of program, adoption of the budget or amendment of the bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five (5) members representing at least three (3) different communities. The chair and two (2) members shall not be members of the board, and shall be elected by the annual meeting. Immediately after the annual meeting the board shall appoint two (2) of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

Sec. 2. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers, directors, and the chair and two (2) members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the members one (1) month before the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented again at the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sec. 3. Election. Election shall be by ballot. If there is only one nominee for an office, it may be by voice vote. A majority of those present and eligible to vote shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE IX

Principles and Program

Sec. 1. Principles. ~~The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state and local program.~~ **The Principles are concepts of government supported by the League and are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program. They may be amended by the convention in the same way as program is adopted under Section 2 of this Article.**

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the LWVOA shall consist of action to implement the principles and those local governmental issues chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and action as follows:

A. Voting members may make recommendations to the board at least two (2) months before the annual meeting.

B. The board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the members at least one (1) month before the annual meeting.

C. Program items recommended by the board shall be adopted by a majority vote at the annual meeting.

D. Program recommendations submitted to the board at least two (2) months before the annual meeting but not proposed by the board may be considered by the annual meeting provided that the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote. The annual meeting may adopt the item by a 2/3 majority vote of those present.

E. If the program item relates solely to one unit, the issue shall be adopted or rejected by majority vote of the voting members present who live within the unit, with the concurrence of the other members present.

Sec. 3. Changes in Program. Changes in the program may be made provided that information concerning the proposed change is sent to all members at least two (2) weeks before the general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and that final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Sec. 4. Program Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVOA only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVOA, the LWVMI, and the LWVUS.

ARTICLE X

Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVOA shall be from July 1st to June 30th of the following year.

Sec. 2. Dues. Annual LWVOA membership dues will be \$10 above the combined amount for LWVMI and LWVUS required PMP (Per-Member-Payments) for individual members and one-half of the individual member amount for household. Student dues will be \$0 until January 31, 2021. Annual dues shall be payable July 1st. Any member who fails to pay dues within three (3) months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Sec. 3. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the board of directors at least two (2) months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the budget committee.

Sec. 4. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the board of directors to the annual meeting for adoption. A copy of the propose budget shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting.

Sec. 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVOA all moneys and securities owned by or under the control of the LWVOA shall be paid to the LWVMI after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property, whether real, personal, or mixed, owned or under the control of the LWVOA shall be sold or disposed of to any person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE XI

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 not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the voting members present at the annual meeting, using the following procedures:

A. Proposals for change shall be submitted to the board of directors at least two (2) months prior to the annual meeting.

B. All such proposed amendments, together with the recommendations of the board of directors, shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting.