

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES BYLAWS May 19, 2026

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVOP. 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 South Carolina (LWVSC)

Article II. Purposes and Policies

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVOP are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policies.

The LWVOP shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

The LWVOP is fully committed to ensuring full compliance—in principle and in practice—with LWVUS's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policy.

Article III. Membership

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

Section 2. Types of Membership. Voting members. Citizens at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues and state Leagues and the LWVUS: (1) those who live within the 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 League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

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

Section 3. Renewal. Membership lasts for one year after joining or renewing.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Election and term. The officers of the LWVOP shall be a president, a president-elect, or co-presidents, or a management team, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall take office on July 1 following their election.

The president shall be elected for a one-year term.

The president-elect shall be elected for a one-year term and shall automatically succeed to the office of president for a subsequent two-year term. The president-elect shall serve as a voting member of the board of directors during their president-elect term.

Co-presidents may serve in lieu of a single president. To ensure continuity and mentorship, co-president terms are staggered so that one co-president is always in their first year of service while the other is in their second. One co-president shall be elected in an even-numbered year and one in an odd-numbered year, each serving a two-year term. The co-president in their first year of service shall be considered the co-president-in-training, gaining experience under the guidance of the senior co-president.

The secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. The vice president and treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The vice president, secretary, and treasurer shall each serve two-year terms.

Section 2. President. The term president shall refer to the president, a co-president, or any member of the management team as appropriate to the circumstances. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; and shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such usual powers of supervision and management that pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. If a co-president or management team member resigns before the term expires, the remaining president or management team member will take over the duties of president for the remainder of the term of office.

Section 3. President-Elect. The president-elect shall assist the president in carrying out the duties of the office, serve as a voting member of the board of directors, and prepare to assume the presidency. The president-elect shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. Upon the conclusion of the president-elect term, the president-elect shall automatically assume the office of president.

Section 4. Vice President. The vice president shall, in the event of the absence, disability, or death of the president, co-presidents, or management team, possess all the powers and

perform all the duties of that office and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

Section 5. Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the board of directors and the annual meeting. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Section 6. Treasurer. The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the board. The treasurer shall present statements to the board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the annual meeting.

Article V. Board of Directors

Section 1. Numbers, manner of selection and term of office. The board of directors of the LWVOP shall consist of six elected officers, eight elected directors, and not more than eight appointed directors. Four of the elected directors shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding eight, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVOP. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year. Terms of all officers and directors shall expire on June 30 of the appropriate year. One of the appointed directors shall be the webmaster, and one shall be the immediate past president if they are not elected to a two-year term as a director. The president-elect shall serve as a voting member of the board of directors by virtue of their office.

Section 2. Vacancies. A vacancy occurring in the board of directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of a board member other than the president may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. Three absences from board meetings during a year without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation. The board shall determine the validity of the reason.

Section 3. Powers and duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 4. Meetings. There shall be at least eight regular meetings of the board of directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon written request of five members of the board.

Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Membership meetings. There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Annual meeting. The annual meeting of the membership shall be held in the second quarter of the year, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- elect officers and directors, including the president-elect, and the chair and two members of the nominating committee;
- adopt a budget; and
- transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum. One-fourth of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting of the LWVOP.

Section 4. Electronic meetings and voting. Official action and meetings may take place by electronic means, including online meeting platforms such as Zoom. Voting shall be conducted by electronic polling methods integrated into the online meeting platform. The board may elect to conduct votes by an electronic equivalent of a show of hands where it is preferable to record the vote of individual members. Reasonable care must be taken to ensure security and the ability of members to participate. Meetings may be a combination of online and on-site means. In cases where a time-sensitive decision is required between scheduled meetings, the board may conduct votes by email, provided that all board members are notified and give reasonable opportunity to participate. Results of any such vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the next board meeting.

Article VII. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the board of directors. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. The other members shall be appointed by the board of directors immediately following the annual meeting. Any vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by the board of directors. The nominating committee shall be responsible for nominating candidates for all

elected offices, including the president-elect. Nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, including the president-elect, directors, and the chair and two members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members 30 days before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections. The 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. In-person absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. Members participating in the annual meeting by approved electronic means as provided in Article VI, Section 4, shall be eligible to vote by electronic polling methods and shall not be considered absent for the purposes of this section.

Article VIII. Program

Section 1. Authorization. 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.

Section 2. Program. The program of the LWVOP shall consist of those governmental issues chosen for study and action.

Section 3. Action by the annual meeting. The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- (a) The board of directors shall consider recommendations for the local program proposed by the Program and Action Committee after receiving recommendations from voting members during the January program planning meeting. The board of directors shall receive recommendations 60 days prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- (b) The proposed program shall be sent to all members 30 days before the annual meeting.
- (c) A majority vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption.
- (d) Program recommendations submitted by voting members 60 days prior to the annual meeting but not recommended by the board of directors may be considered by the annual

meeting provided that (1) the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and (2) the annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

(e) Changes in the program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least 14 days prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is discussed and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

(f) If LWVOP has studied a local issue and adopted a position that might be applicable to other local Leagues in the state, LWVOP shall appropriately reword the position so that it would apply to other local Leagues and recommend it to the state board for concurrence by submitting it to the state board at least 56 days before the state convention.

Section 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVOP only when authorized to do so by the board of directors.

Article IX. Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal year. The fiscal year of the LWVOP shall commence on the first day of July each year.

Section 2. Dues. Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy.

Section 3. Budget. A proposed budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the board of directors to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee, consisting of at least one non-board member, shall be appointed by the board of directors at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting to prepare a proposed budget to be sent to all members 30 days before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be a member of the budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Section 5. Distribution of funds and dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVOP, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVOP shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) after other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVOP shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable, or educational use and purposes as the board in its absolute discretion may designate, provided that such disposition shall be consistent with the tax-exempt status of the LWVOP and applicable state and federal law.

Article X. Delegates to State and National Meetings

Section 1. Selection of delegates. At a board meeting at least 30 days before the date on which the names of the delegates must be submitted to the national or state office, the board of directors shall select delegates to the respective council or convention in the number allotted to the LWVOP under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of South Carolina.

Section 2. Alternates. The board of directors shall select alternate delegates in the event that a selected delegate is unable to attend. Alternates shall be selected at the same meeting as delegates and shall serve in the order in which they are selected. If a delegate is unable to attend, the first available alternate shall assume the delegate's place.

Article XI. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. 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

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided that the proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Emergency Amendments. In the event that the LWVUS or LWVSC requires local bylaws to be updated to remain in compliance, the board of directors may adopt such amendments by a two-thirds vote of the board, provided that the proposed amendments are submitted to all board members in writing at least 14 days in advance of the vote. Any such emergency amendments shall be reported to the membership at the next general membership meeting and shall be subject to ratification by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at that meeting.

Adopted May 18, 2018. Amended May 17, 2022; May 16 2024; and May 19, 2026.