



***WELCOME TO***

***CONVENTION 2021***

***SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021***

***VIRTUAL MEETING BY ZOOM***

*League of Women Voters of Delaware  
2400 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Clash Wing  
Room 1, Lower Level  
Wilmington, DE 19806-1311  
(302) 571-8948  
[www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org)  
[lwvde@comcast.net](mailto:lwvde@comcast.net)*

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and  
the confidence to participate.**

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## HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

The history of the League goes back to 1920, the year that women won the right to vote. Ms. Mabel Lloyd Ridgely was President of both the Delaware Equal Rights Association and the Suffrage Committee of Delaware. From these groups the League of Women Voters of Delaware was founded. The organization of this first League in 1921 with members from Dover, Middletown, Milford, Smyrna, Delmar, Georgetown, Newark and Wilmington led to the first annual convention in Wilmington at the Hotel DuPont in 1923 with Mrs. A.D. Wagner of Wilmington as President.

Some activities of this early League included voters service activities, work toward abolition of child labor and support of school construction in the state. There is also mention of a tour of new highways. In 1926 there were League directors from all three counties, but there is little more mention of the League later in the decade. There is some indication that the group lacked the organization needed to continue.

The League reappeared in Delaware in 1953 with the formation of the Newark League. Among charter members who organized Newark's League was Norma Handloff, who also served as the first president of the newly reformed state League in 1958, and later as Mayor of Newark.

The Greater Wilmington League was also founded in 1953 with Evelyn Lord as first president. She was the second LWVDE president, and later became a state senator. The Laurel League was formed in 1957 and reorganized as the Sussex County League in 1976. The Dover League was recognized in 1966. The Wilmington and Newark Leagues merged in 1994 to form the League of Women Voters of New Castle County.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) was established at a convention in Dover on March 29, 1958, with recognition given by the League of Women Voters of the United States. In preparation for becoming a state League intensive studies of local governments as well as one on state government were undertaken. The municipal studies were published. The first study was "An Evaluation of the Financial System of the State of Delaware." After study the following position was announced in April 1961: "Support of measures which promote the needs of a growing state."

The fiscal aspects of education became a separate study in 1961, and by 1963 LWVDE reached a position favoring equalization of school support and increased funding for state schools. In the summer of 1964 members of the LWVDE education committee worked hard in support of a school equalization bill. This was their first experience at successful lobbying with the General Assembly. The bill passed in the fall of 1964 and was signed by Governor Carvel with a line item veto of a section dealing with funds for school construction. Unfortunately, the state Supreme Court later declared the bill unconstitutional because of the veto. However, Elise Grossman, LWVDE education chairman, went on to serve for many years on the state Board of Education and helped to implement many reforms favored by the League.

In 1960 LWVDE instituted two enduring programs. The first was the *Voter's Guide*, a statewide candidate information supplement published for many years in cooperation with *The News Journal*. This was discontinued in 1998 when *The News Journal* decided to publish its own *Voters Guide*. However, the League continues to provide election information via VOTE 411.ORG, which includes an online voter's guide. The second is League Day in Dover, an annual event for League members and guests which includes a program on timely issues and a luncheon to which state legislators are invited.

In the 1960s and 1970s League studies on government structure and function included studies of election laws, the state constitution and the state legislature. Interest in the environment led to studies on water

and solid waste management. The League also studied the state correction system. During this period the LWVDE had a busy action program, with mixed success. A "sunshine" law to open up government functioning was passed with LWVDE support. A revision of the constitution came very close but failed to pass. After several years of hard work a limited bottle bill was passed by a coalition headed by LWVDE.

In 1976 LWVDE celebrated the national bicentennial by publishing *Delaware Government: All You Wanted to Know and Didn't Know Where to Ask*, under the editorial guidance of Liz Ryan. The book proved very useful and was revised and reprinted as needed. For this and other contributions Liz was named to the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. In 1999 a completely revised *Delaware Government* fourth edition was printed for us by Mellon Bank (now called Citizens Bank). In 2002 *Delaware Government* went on line and has again gone through a complete revision and can be accessed on the LWVDE webpage.

In 1977, the Delaware League began dispensing information about voting and government to all newly naturalized citizens of the state. To fund this and other citizen education projects the Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund was established in 1985 under the leadership of Terry Dannemann.

1995 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote. During this year the LWVDE received several awards: a House Concurrent Resolution from the state legislature, recognizing the League for its continuing commitment to voters service and citizen education; the Volunteer of the Year award from the Governor's office; and an award for leadership in the cause of civil liberties in Delaware from the American Civil Liberties Union.

During 1997-98 campaign financing became a target for reform by both LWVDE and the three local Leagues. We cosponsored, with the Pew Charitable Trusts, the LWV Education Fund and a coalition of other state organizations (including the YWCA, NAACP, and *The News Journal*), a statewide citizen caucus on campaign finance reform. This event took advantage of the interactive distance learning facilities at the University of Delaware. Also, prior to the 1998 elections the Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund for the first time modified its policy governing the invitation of candidates to participate in forums originating in a television studio.

Several LWVDE presidents besides Norma Handloff held positions in local and state government. These include Marcie Bierlein, June MacArtor and Jane Tripp in the executive branch, Ada Leigh Soles, Myrna Bair and Jane Maroney in the legislature, and Phyllis Laffey in the judicial branch. Among other members holding positions in the state government were Barbara Crowell, Family Court Judge; Bethany Hall-Long (now Lt. Governor), Deborah Hudson, and Earl G. Jaques, Jr., legislators. The League of Women Voters maintains its status as an important citizen group in Delaware, active in informing voters of their rights and responsibilities. The LWVDE continues to lobby the state legislature on many vital issues .

For the League of Women Voters 95th anniversary the state League held a celebratory dinner at Dover Downs and received a resolution from both houses of the General Assembly that recognized and honored the work that the League has done. The LWV of Delaware and New Castle County provided a workshop on Climate Change at the LWVUS Convention 2014.

On February 14, 2020, the LWV of Delaware celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters at the Rehoboth Historical Museum. A resolution from the General Assembly was presented and Dr. Cynthia Newton, the Chair of the Political Science Department at Wesley College spoke on "*From Civil Disobedience to the Ballot Box*," setting the stage for the League's centennial theme, "*Women*

*Power the Vote.*” A reception followed. In partnership with Dogfish Head Beer, Centennial Suds, crafted by women brewers was presented in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary at a virtual Happy Hour on August 26, 2020.

#### LWVDE PRESIDENTS

1958 - 61	Norma Handloff	1/87 - 9/87	Rita Smith
1961 - 62	Evelyn Lord	9/87 - 4/88	Liz Ryan
1962 - 63	Lorraine Olson	1988 -1993	Joann Hasse
1963 - 65	Grace Stirba	1993 -1995	Carole Walsh
1965 - 67	June MacArtor	1995 -1997	Cathy DeBovis
4/67 - 9/67	Doris Johnson	1997 -1999	Jackie Harris
9/67 - 71	Phyl Laffey	1999- 2001	Anita Puglisi
1971 - 72	Mary Field	2001- 2003	Letty Diswood and Nadyne Rosin
1972 - 74	Liz Ryan	2003-2005	Joyce Johnson and Sue Soltys
4/74 - 12/74	Jane Tripp	2005-2007	Christine Stillson and Letty Diswood
1/75 - 4/75	Liz Ryan	2007-2009	Rashmi Rangan
1975 - 76	Marcie Bierlein	2009-2011	Sandy Spence
1976 - 78	Kit Kallal	2011-2013	Carol Jones
1978 - 80	Ada Leigh Soles	2013-2015	Charlotte F. King
1980 - 82	Ruth Helm	2015-2017	Jill Fuchs
1982 - 84	Joyce Johnson	2017-2019	Joann Hasse
1984 - 86	Terry Dannemann	2019-2020	Carol Jones & Sue Claire Harper
4/86 - 12/86	Joann Hasse	2020-2021	Sandy Spence

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

10 am Zoom Check in

### BUSINESS MEETING

- 10:30 a.m. **Call to Order:** President, Sandy Spence  
**Keynote speaker:** Toni Zimmer, LWVUS Board Liaison  
**State President's Report & Memories of the late Carole Jones - Sandy Spence & Others**
- 11:00 a.m. **Report of Credentials Committee:** Letty Diswood  
**Introduction of our Parliamentarians:** Chandra Owens  
~~**Adoption of Emergency Bylaws changes to hold this convention virtually:** Jack Young (page 12)~~  
**Adoption of Order of Business** (page 5)  
**Adoption of Rules of Convention** (page 6)  
**Minutes 2019** (available in the office)  
**Proposed Bylaws Changes:** Sue Claire Harper, Linda Barnett, Les Stillson (page 13-23)  
**Treasurer's Report /Financial Position: 2020-2021:** Jill Izkowitz (page 9)  
**Proposed Budgets 2021-22 and 2022-23:** Les Stillson, Finance Chair (page 10-11)  
**Proposed and Adoption of Per-Member Payment** of \$11.00 for individuals and \$5.50 for each additional household member for FY 2021-22: Marj Johnson (pages 10-11)  
**Proposed and Adoption of Per-Member Payment** of \$11.00 for individuals and \$5.50 for each additional household member for FY 2022-23 Marj Johnson (pages 10-11)  
**Adoption of Proposed Budgets**
- 12:00 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**
- 12:30 p.m. **Call to Order:** Sandy Spence:  
**PROGRAM:** Linda Barnett explains need for re-adoption of current program at each convention.  
**Proposed and Adoption of change of wording, under State Government:** replace Reapportionment with Redistricting: Denise Davis (page 24)  
**Proposed and Adoption of Addition under State Government:** add the LWVUS position under Representative Government, Voting Rights – A Citizens Right to Vote: Letty Diswood (page 24)  
**Proposed and Adoption of New Consensus under State Government:** add Representative Government – Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems Position: Kim Wells (pages 28)  
**Proposed and Adoption of New Consensus under Social Policy:** add Education: Penny Deiner (pages 25)  
**Proposed and Adoption to replace Energy/Climate Change heading with Climate Change:** Peggy Schultz (page 26)  
**Proposed and Adoption of Continuing Study under Social Policy-Justice System:** Lori Yadin (page 24 - 25)  
**Proposed and Adoption of Continuing Study under Social Policy-Health Care:** Joann Hasse (page 25)  
**Proposed and Discussion and Adoption of the Program 2021-23:** Linda Barnett (pages 24-28)
- 1:45 pm- **Nominating Committee Report:** Martha Redmond, Nominating Committee (page 8)  
Nominations from the floor  
Election of Officers and Directors  
**Local League Presidents' Reports:** Gwendolyn Miller presiding  
**Directives to New Board**  
**Announcements** [including explanation of Mapping workshop]
- 2:00 pm Adjournment of Business Meeting  
**BREAK**
- 2:30 **Workshop on Mapping Your Community of Interest for Fair Maps - Delaware's Redistricting Project**

## ***PROPOSED CONVENTION RULES***

(The Convention will be held virtually by Zoom)

1. Admission: Admission to the convention shall be open to accredited delegates, alternates, observers, visitors and special guests. At plenary sessions, the credentials chair is required to report the number of voting delegates present. A delegate and her/his alternate cannot change places during the Convention, except as provided for in Article VIII, Section 3 of the League of Women Voters of Delaware bylaws.
2. Debate: Only delegates may vote. There shall be no absentee voting. Delegates wishing to speak give their name and the name of the League they represent. No delegate may have permission to speak twice until all who wish to speak on the subject have spoken once. A delegate may not speak for more than two minutes.
3. Motions: Each substantive motion not included in the Order of Business shall be put in writing, signed by the mover, and sent immediately to the secretary. **(For this Zoom meeting, the motion should be put in the Zoom “chat.”)** Motions and amendments which might change the action should be written and given to the secretary **(by typing into chat)**.
4. Minutes: Minutes of this convention will be read, corrected and/or approved by a committee composed of the presidents or delegates of at least two local Leagues.

## CURRENT STATE BOARD 2019-2021)

### OFFICERS:

President: Sandy Spence	(2020-2021)	(LWVSC)
1st Vice President: vacant	(2019-2021)	(LWVSC)
2nd Vice President: Linda Barnett	(2019-2021)	(LWVNCC)
Secretary: Kathleen Baker	(2019-2021)	(LWVSC)
Treasurer: Jill Itzkowitz	(2019-2021)	(LWVNCC)

### DIRECTORS:

Sue Claire Harper	(2020-2021)	(LWVSC)
Kyra Hoffner	(2019-2021)	(LWVKC)
Jack Young	(2019-2021)	(LWVSC)
Beverly Jackson	(2019-2021)	(LWVKC)
Coralie Pryde	(2019-2021)	(LWVNCC)
Les Stillson	(2019-2021)	(LWVKC)
Ellen Wasfi	(2019-2021)	(LWVKC)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Linda Barnett (NCC)  
Letty Diswood (NCC) Chair  
Penny Deiner (SC)  
Martha Redmond (LWVSC)  
Ellen Wasfi (KC)

### LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS or their designees serve on the state board

Mary Kay Egger, President, Kent County  
Marjorie Johnson, President, New Castle County  
Gwen Miller, President, Sussex County

### Activity/Portfolio Chairs:

Kathleen Baker & Penny Deiner– Education  
Linda Barnett & Penny Deiner - Education, Health Care, Pay Equity  
Lorraine Botticelli– New Citizen Coordinators  
Mary Ann Coe - Webpage Master  
Letty Diswood - Advocacy Corps Scribe  
Charlie Garlow & Coralie Pryde - Environmental Committee  
Jill Itzkowitz - Elections Chair & School Board Elections 411.org  
Joann Hasse - Health Care  
Kyra Hoffner - Coordinator for League Day meet legislators & Action Network  
Pat Petchel – Finance Committee member  
(Vacant) - PR & Social Media  
Julie Price-National Popular Vote/Elections  
Peggy Shultz, Land Use/Transportation and Energy and Climate Change  
Sandy Spence - Redistricting  
Les Stillson – Finance Chair  
Lori Yadin – Criminal Justice Chair  
Kim Wells-Vote411.org & Alternative Election Methodologies study chair.



# ***REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE***

## **OFFICERS:**

- **Presidents – Gwendolyn Miller** (2021-2023 (SC))
- **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President — Kathleen Baker** (2021-2023 (KC))
- **2nd. Vice President – Linda Barnett** (2021-2023 (NCC))
- **Secretary–Marj Johnson** (2021-2023 (NCC))
- **Treasurer: Jill Itzkowitz** (2021-2023 (NCC))

## **Directors:**

1. **Chandra Owens** (2021-2023 (KC))
2. **Charlie Garlow** (2021-2023 (SC))
3. **Denise Davis** (2021-2023 (SC))
4. **Lori Yadin** (2021-2023 (SC))
5. **Abbigail Frelich** (2021-2023 (NCC))
6. **Melody Taylor** (2021-2023 (NCC))

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Three elected and two appointed from the new board by the President, with consent of the board.**

1. **Pat Newcomb, Chair** (2021-2023 (SC))
2. **Letty Diswood** (2021-2023 (NCC))
3. **Ellen Wasfi** (2021-2023 (KC))

**Note: The newly elected president can appoint an additional six directors with consent of the board.**

**Bylaws: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors.**

## **Submitted by the Nominating Committee:**

**Letty Diswood, Chair (NCC)**  
**Linda Barnett (NCC)**  
**Penny Deiner (SC)**  
**Martha Redmond (SC)**  
**Ellen Wasfi (KC)**

**League of Women Voters of Delaware**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**4/30/2019, 04/30/2020, 04/30/2021**

	<u>April 30, 2021</u>	<u>April 30, 2020</u>	<u>April 30, 2019</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Checking/Savings	14,664.40	12,020.85	12,531.45
Accounts Receivable	452.71		1,555.13
Vanguard	26,897.73	18,191.52	14,584.02
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>42,014.84</b>	<b>30,212.37</b>	<b>28,670.60</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	304.80		252.30
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	304.80		252.30
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Board Restricted Net Assets	26,897.73	18,191.52	14,584.02
Grant/Don. Restricted Assets	5,978.90	3,689.23	
Unrestricted Net Assets	8,833.41	8,331.62	13,834.28
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	41,710.04	30,212.37	28,418.30
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>42,014.84</b>	<b>30,212.37</b>	<b>28,670.60</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc Proposed Budget  
2019-2020 and 2020-2021**

League of Women Voters of Delaware Statement of Activities			
Accrual Basis Budget Report Analysis for new budget 2021-2023			
Income	2021 - 2022	2022- 2023	Comment /questions
LWV revenue			
Reimbursement - Shared Expense	4,000.00	4,000.00	<b>Add \$540 for shared insurance</b>
Local League Dues \$11/5.5 @ mbr	3,600.00	3,600.00	
Fund Raising Events			
League Day in Dover - Attendee	2,250.00	2,250.00	<b>Event cost will increase</b>
League Day in Dover - Sponsor	750.00	750.00	
State Convention/Council	500.00	1,000.00	
Fund Raising			
DE Mass Mailing Members	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Grants	1,000.00	1,000.00	<b>New Citizens</b>
Restricted donations			
Other Donations	6,500.00	7,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21,600.00</b>	<b>22,600.00</b>	
Expenses			
Projects Expenses			
Fundraising paper folders, envelopes/stamps	250.00	250.00	
New Citizens Project w/ postage	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Vote 411	1,200.00	1,500.00	
Events Expense			
State Council/Retreat	500.00	1,000.00	
National Council/Convention	2,000.00	2,000.00	

League Day in Dover	3,000.00	3,000.00	<b>Event cost will increase</b>
Board & Administrative Comm.			
Board Tools & Expenses	100.00	100.00	
Affiliations & Contributions	200.00	200.00	
Advocacy	500.00	500.00	
Meetings & Workshops	200.00	200.00	
Office Operations			
Bulk Mail Permit ***	240.00	240.00	<b>rates increased</b>
All Postage Mailed	500.00	500.00	
Rent ***	2,300.00	2,300.00	
Internet and Phone ***	2,000.00	2,000.00	<b>Increase to \$2,000</b>
My Lo	650.00	650.00	

Some missing wait for excel file  
from Jill.

**LWVDE INC budgets submitted by the members of the Finance Committee:**

Lester Stillson, Chair - LWVSC); Les Stillson - LWVKC; Sue Claire Harper, Marj Johnson, Jill Itzkowitz, LWVDE Treasurer; Sandy Spence, President, (Ex-officio). The LWVDE Finance Committee is appointed by the president.

**AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD THIS CONVENTION VIRTUALLY was adopted by LWVDE Board in 2021.**

Whereas, a state of emergency exists in the State of Delaware arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic; and,

Whereas, Title 8 of the Delaware code authorizes the Board of Directors to adopt this emergency bylaw.

Resolved, that the LWVDE Convention to be held May 22, 2021, be, and hereby is to be, conducted by electronic transmission through the use of Zoom, and that all voting required at the Convention shall be by electronic transmission.

Further Resolved, that notice of the actions taken by this resolution be communicated to all LWVDE members by posting on the LWVDE website .”

**Authority for this approach:**

8 Del. C.

§110. Emergency bylaws and other powers in emergency [For application of this section, see 82 Del. Laws, c. 256, § 23].

(a) The board of directors of any corporation may adopt emergency bylaws, subject to repeal or change by action of the stockholders, which, notwithstanding any different provision elsewhere in this chapter or in Chapters 3 [repealed] and 5 [repealed] of Title 26, or in Chapter 7 of Title 5, or in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws, shall be operative during any emergency resulting from an attack on the United States or on a locality in which the corporation conducts its business or customarily holds meetings of its board of directors or its stockholders, or during any nuclear or atomic disaster, or during the existence of any catastrophe, including, but not limited to, an epidemic or pandemic, and a declaration of a national emergency by the United States government, or other similar emergency condition, irrespective of whether a quorum of the board of directors or a standing committee thereof can readily be convened for action. The emergency bylaws contemplated by this section may be adopted by the board of directors . . . .

§ 215 (e) If authorized by the governing body, any requirement of a written ballot shall be satisfied by a ballot submitted by electronic transmission, provided that any such electronic transmission must either set forth or be submitted with information from which it can be determined that the electronic transmission was authorized by the member or proxy holder.

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE, **INC** BYLAWS

(Revision pending approval at 05/22/2021 Convention)

The proposed changes are written using the following format:

- **Strikethrough** denotes words to be deleted.
- **Yellow highlights** denotes either edits for clarification or new wording.

### ARTICLE I NAME

**SECTION 1. NAME.** The name of this corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of Delaware, **Inc.** hereinafter **in these Bylaws** referred to as the ~~League~~ LWVDE. ~~This state League~~ **The LWVDE** is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States hereinafter referred to **in these Bylaws** as the LWVUS.

### ARTICLE II PURPOSES AND **POLICIES**

**SECTION 1. PURPOSES.** The purposes of the ~~League~~ **LWVDE** are:

**A.** To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.

**B.** To act on selected governmental issues.

**C.** The ~~League of Women Voters of Delaware~~ **LWVDE** is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the ~~League~~ **LWVDE** shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the League shall be attempting to influence legislation.

**SECTION 2. ~~POLITICAL POLICY~~ **POLICIES.****

**A. POLITICAL.** The ~~League~~ **LWVDE** shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

**B. GOVERNMENTAL.** The ~~League~~ **LWVDE** may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles and positions of the LWVUS and of the LWVDE.

**C. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION POLICY.** The ~~League~~ **LWVDE** is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and practice - with the LWVUS' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and ~~policy~~ policies of the League shall be eligible for membership.

### **SECTION 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP.**

A. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League **LWVDE** shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of 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 local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;

3. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

4. Those who are 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**

**SECTION 1. ENUMERATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICES.** The officers of the League **LWVDE** shall be a PRESIDENT, a FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, a SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, a SECRETARY, and a TREASURER. The term "president" shall also mean one of two elected co-presidents. They shall be elected by the Convention and shall hold office for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

**SECTION 2. THE PRESIDENT.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors unless she/he/**they** shall designate someone to preside in her/his stead. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President shall be, ex officio, a member ~~League of Women Voters of Delaware~~ **LWVDE** of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

**SECTION 3. THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.** The two Vice Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, resignation, disability, 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 elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. Any person succeeding to the Presidency to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the term for which her/his/**their** predecessor was elected. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

**SECTION 4. THE SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Conventions of the League **LWVDE**, and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall send a copy of the

Convention minutes to the state President and the League LWVDE office within sixty days of the Convention. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their elections. 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 her/his/their office.

## **SECTION 5. THE TREASURER.**

- A.** The Treasurer, or her/his/their duly appointed assistant, shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer will oversee any paid professional employed by the League to perform the bookkeeping functions of the League LWVDE. The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the Board at its regular meetings and an annual report within 120 days of year-end. The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the Board at its regular meetings and an annual report within 120 days of year-end.
- B.** The books of the Treasurer shall be independently reviewed at least biennially. ~~at the end of each term.~~ The Treasurer shall, with the President, sign all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the LWVDE Board.
- C.** If the office of Treasurer is vacated, the League Board LWVDE President shall assume the functions and responsibilities of that office until the President is able to appoint a new Treasurer

## **ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 1. NUMBER, MANNER OF SELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League LWVDE, six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors. The Directors shall be elected at each convention 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 a total of six at any time, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League LWVDE. The term of office of the appointed Directors shall expire at the conclusion of the Convention following their appointment.

**SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS.** No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this corporation unless she/he/they is a voting member enrolled in a local League of Women Voters in the State of Delaware. Three consecutive absences from State LWVDE Board meetings without reasonable cause shall be deemed a resignation from the Board.

**SECTION 3. VACANCIES.** Any vacancy, other than in the office of the President, may be filled until the next Convention by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

**SECTION 4. POWERS AND DUTIES.** The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the corporation, with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Convention. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the Convention. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues, for the carrying out of program and for promotion in the local Leagues of finance programs



requisite to further the work of the local Leagues as a whole. **There shall be an Advocacy Corps, the chairperson of which is appointed by the Board President.** The Board shall create and designate such **other** special committees, as it may deem necessary.

**SECTION 5. REGULAR MEETINGS.** There shall be at least six regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually to include meetings convened in March and April in preparation for the scheduled Council or Convention. The President shall notify each member of the Board of Directors of all regular meetings by email or by mailing to each member's last known post office address, at least one week before any such meeting, notice thereof, giving the time and place of 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 any irregularity in any notice actually received.

**SECTION 6. SPECIAL MEETINGS.** The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the request in writing or by email of three members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings by email, text, letter or telephone at least two days prior to such meeting. During a Convention the President may, or upon the request of three members of the Board, call a special meeting of the Board by handing the members of the Board a written notice of the time and place of such meeting.

**SECTION 7. QUORUM.** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

**SECTION 8. LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS.** Local League presidents or their designees shall have a vote at State Board meetings.

**SECTION 9. ELECTRONIC VOTING.** To facilitate prompt decision-making between Board meetings when delay seems inadvisable, an electronic vote of Board members may be taken. **The following procedures must be followed to assure that LWVDE is in compliance with Title 8 of the Delaware Code relating to electronic notice and voting:**

- A. The President deems a prompt decision is necessary;
- B. Sufficient background information is supplied to Board members to enable them to cast an informed vote;
- ~~C. Board members must send their electronic yea or nay vote to all Board members;~~
- C. Every Board member must be aware of the electronic yea or nay vote of every other Board member.
- ~~D. In accordance with Delaware Corporate law, All members of the Board must vote affirmatively for the proposed action for it to be approved.~~
- E. The vote, either yea or nay, shall be reaffirmed for recording purposes in the minutes at the next Board meeting.

~~**SECTION 10. ELECTRONIC MEETINGS.** Board meetings may also be conducted using electronic means of communication (e.g. Skype, conference call, etc.) as long as all Board members have been notified in advance, arrangements for participation have been made to be inclusive, and a quorum is expected to participate.~~

The following procedures must be followed to assure that LWVDE is in compliance with Title 8 of the Delaware Code relating to electronic notice and electronic meetings:

- A. Board meetings, including Convention and Council meetings, may be conducted using electronic means of communication (e.g. Skype, Zoom, conference call, etc.) providing all Board members, as well as LWVDE delegates attending Convention and Council meetings, have been notified at least two weeks in advance.
- B. Arrangements for participation have been made to be inclusive so that all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.
- C. A quorum is expected to participate.

## ARTICLE VI RECOGNITION OF LOCAL AND PROVISIONAL LEAGUES

**SECTION 1. STATUS.** Local and Provisional Leagues shall be established and operated as divisions or chapters of the state League LWVDE in accordance with the terms hereinafter set forth. Such status as divisions or chapters shall not, however, ~~derogate~~ deviate from the primary responsibility of the local Leagues to the LWVUS.

### SECTION 2. LOCAL LEAGUES.

- A. Local Leagues are those Leagues that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.
- B. The Board of Directors shall recommend to the National LWVUS Board that the National LWVUS Board recognize as a local League any group of members of the LWVUS in any community within the state provided the group meets recognition standards for local Leagues as adopted by the National LWVUS Convention
- C. In the event of recurring failure of a local League to meet recognition standards, the Board of Directors shall recommend to the National LWVUS Board that the National Board withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWVDE.

### SECTION 3. PROVISIONAL LEAGUES.

- A. Provisional Leagues are those Leagues that have been so recognized by the LWVDE.
- B. The LWVDE Board of Directors has a responsibility for the establishment of new Leagues. For this purpose, the Board may organize a group of citizens in a community in which no local League exists and shall recognize the group as a provisional League when it meets the recognition standards adopted by the National LWVUS Convention.
- C. The LWVDE Board of Directors shall withdraw recognition from a provisional League for recurring failure to meet the standards for recognizing a provisional League or for failure to progress toward recognition as a local League. All funds held by a provisional League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWVDE.

## 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 LWVDE Board of Directors. The chairperson and two members, who shall not be members of the LWVDE Board of Directors, shall be elected by the Convention. The current Nominating Committee shall make nominations for these offices. The Board of Directors shall appoint the other members of the Committee soon after the Convention. The Board of Directors shall fill any vacancy occurring in the Nominating Committee by reason of death, resignation or disqualification. The LWVDE President of the League shall send the name and address of the chairperson of the Nominating Committee to the President of each recognized local League.

**SECTION 2. SUGGESTIONS FOR NOMINATIONS.** The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall request, through the president of each local League, suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled. The president or secretary of such local League shall send suggestions for nominations by local Leagues to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee at least three months before the Convention. Any LWVDE member may send suggestions to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

**SECTION 3. REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR.** The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the chairpersons and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to the local Leagues one month before the date of the Convention. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Convention at its first meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee(s) shall have **has been** secured.

**SECTION 4. ELECTION.** ~~The election shall be in the charge of an Election Committee appointed by the president at the first meeting of the Convention. The election shall be by ballot, except that when there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be in order to move that the Secretary cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote shall constitute an election.~~

**When there is more than one nominee for any or all offices, the President shall, at the beginning of the Convention, appoint an Election Committee to be in charge of the election process at the Convention. A majority vote shall determine the election. When there is only one nominee for every office, the President shall move that the Secretary cast the ballot for every nominee.**

## ARTICLE VIII FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

**SECTION 1. FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of the LWVDE shall be July 1 to June 30.

### **SECTION 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. The new LWVDE President with approval of the newly elected LWVDE Board shall appoint the Finance Committee after the LWVDE Convention. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Finance Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as ~~chairman~~ chair.

- B. The Finance Committee shall provide ongoing fiscal oversight of financial transactions, including the following:
1. Planning and oversight of audits **the biennial review of the Treasurer's records.**
  2. Provide minutes of the quarterly Finance Committee meetings to the Board in regard to LWVDE fiscal affairs.
  3. Review all contracts including funded grants that will require funding by the LWVDE.
  4. Evaluate proposals for all non-budgeted acquisitions.
  5. Report to the Board concerning the fiscal impact of the contract, grants and acquisition.
- C. The budget shall be a responsibility of the Finance Committee working with the Treasurer and will be started at least four months prior to the LWVDE Convention.

**SECTION 3. BUDGET.** The Board shall submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing two years. A copy of the budget shall be sent to each local League President within one week following the regularly scheduled April **LWVDE** State Board Meeting in that year. The Finance Committee recommendation for the LWVDE **PMP per member payment (PMP)** for each year of the biennium will be included in the LWVDE board approved recommendation to the local League Presidents.

**SECTION 4. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS ON DISSOLUTION.** In the event of the merger or dissolution of the League for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time be owned or under the absolute control of the League shall be distributed at the discretion of the board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWVDE and its affairs, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national organization which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

**SECTION 5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT.** Each local League shall make an annual **PMP per member payment (PMP)** to the LWVDE in an amount to be determined by a three-fifths vote of those present and voting at the convention. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the payment determined by the Convention shall be made for the first member; a payment equal to one half the per member payment shall be paid for each other member. A local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for honorary life members.

## ARTICLE IX PROGRAM

**SECTION 1. PRINCIPLES.** The governmental principles adopted by the National **LWVUS** 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 LWVDE shall consist of:

- A. Action to implement the principles, and
- B. Those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

**SECTION 3. CONVENTION ACTION.** The Convention shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

- A. Local League Boards and the Advocacy Corps shall make recommendations for revisions to the a Program to the Board of Directors before the regularly scheduled March State LWVDE Board Meeting in the year in which the Convention is held.
- B. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed Program that shall be submitted to the local League Boards and the Advocacy Corps following the March State LWVDE Board Meeting and prior to each regularly scheduled local League Board meeting and Advocacy Corps meeting.
- C. Recommendations for changes submitted by local League Boards and by the Advocacy Corps shall be considered by the LWVDE Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled April meeting, and its final proposed Program shall be sent within one week to local League Boards and the Advocacy Corps.
- D. When revisions are made in recommended Program items, these items may not be voted on by the Convention in the same “session” in which they are proposed but may be voted on in a subsequent “session” of the same Convention, either on the same day or a subsequent one.
- E. A majority vote shall be required for the adoption of the Program proposed by the Board of Directors.
- F. Any recommendations for the Program submitted to the LWVDE Board of Directors at least two weeks before the Convention, but not proposed by the Board, may be adopted by the Convention provided that consideration is ordered by a majority vote of delegates in a “session” and provided that, in a later “session” of the Convention – either on the same day or a subsequent one – if meeting the proposal receives a 3/5 vote.
- G. Program items may be recommended for cooperative study. Cooperative studies are those that may not be researched by all local Leagues. The Study committee(s) shall act as the resource committee for all Leagues within the State. All local Leagues shall participate in the consensus arising from a Cooperative study.

**SECTION 4. COUNCIL ACTION.** Emergent issues arising between biennial Conventions may be adopted for study at Council providing that the proposed study:

- A. has been approved by the Board;
- B. an affirmative vote of all local League Boards shall have been reported to the LWVDE President;
- C. notice of the proposed vote at Council shall have been given to local Leagues at least two weeks prior to Council.

**SECTION 5. ACTION.** Members may act in the name of the ~~League of Women Voters of Delaware~~ LWVDE only when authorized to do so by the LWVDE Board of Directors. ~~of the League of Women Voters of Delaware.~~

**SECTION 6. LOCAL LEAGUE ACTION.** Local Leagues may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the LWVDE Board of Directors of the LWVDE. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by the LWVDE, and/or the LWVUS.

## **ARTICLE X CONVENTION**

**SECTION 1. PLACE, DATE, AND CALL.** A Convention of the LWVDE shall be held in odd numbered years between May 1 and June 15 inclusive, at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The President shall send a first call for the Convention to the presidents of the local Leagues in January of the year of the Convention. Thereafter, the Board of Directors may advance or postpone the opening date of the Convention not more than two weeks. A final call for the Convention shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least thirty days before the Convention.

**SECTION 2. COMPOSITION.** The Convention shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members through the local Leagues in the number provided for in Section 4 of this Article, and the members of the Board of Directors of the LWVDE.

**SECTION 3. QUALIFICATION OF DELEGATES AND VOTING.** Each delegate shall be a voting member enrolled in a recognized local League in the state of Delaware. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the Convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. One transfer of credentials per delegate is permitted. The total number of credentials transfers per delegation shall not exceed 10% (rounded to the nearest whole number) or one transfer, whichever is greater, of each local League delegation. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

**SECTION 4. REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION.** The members of the LWVUS who are organized into recognized local Leagues in the state of Delaware shall be entitled to representation as follows:

- A. Each local League shall have four delegates, one of whom shall be the President, or her/his/their designee.
- B. In addition, a League may have a delegate for the first 8 voting members and an additional delegate for each 8 voting members or major fraction (5 or more) thereof. The record in the LWVDE office has a record of the paid-up voting members for each local League as of January of the Convention year. This record shall determine the number of delegates from each local League eligible to attend the Convention as voting members. ~~membership for this purpose.~~

**SECTION 5. POWERS.** The Convention shall elect officers and directors as specified in Articles IV and V, shall adopt a budget and per member payment for the ensuing two years, shall consider and authorize for action a Program in accordance with Article IX, Section 3, transact such other business as may be presented.

**SECTION 6. QUORUM.** Fifteen voting delegates other than the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Convention, provided that there is representation from at least two local Leagues.

**ARTICLE XI  
COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1, PLACE, DATE, AND CALL** A council of the LWVDE shall be held in even numbered years between April 15, and May 31 at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The President shall issue invitations to the Council that shall consist of local League Presidents and Vice Presidents, or their designees, and the members of the Board of Directors of the LWVDE. The President may also issue invitations to other League members as deemed appropriate.

**SECTION 2, POWERS** The Council shall amend the budget if needed, give guidance to the Board on Program and methods of work, and hear and discuss local League concerns.

**ARTICLE XII  
NATIONAL **LWVUS** CONVENTION AND COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1. NATIONAL **LWVUS** CONVENTION.** The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to that Convention in the number allowed the LWVDE under the provisions of the **LWVUS** Bylaws. ~~of the LWVUS.~~

**SECTION 2. NATIONAL **LWVUS** COUNCIL.** The Board of Directors, at its meeting preceding the meeting of the Council of the LWVUS, shall elect delegates to such Council in the number allowed the LWVDE under the provisions of the **LWVUS** Bylaws. ~~of the LWVUS.~~

**ARTICLE XIII  
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

**SECTION 1. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.** The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

**ARTICLE XIV  
AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.** The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any Convention, using the following procedures:

- A. Proposals for changes shall be submitted by any local League Board or individual League members before the regularly scheduled March ~~State~~ LWVDE Board meeting.
- B. All amendments proposed by local Boards together with any recommendations of the Board shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues within one week following the regularly scheduled April ~~State~~ **LWVDE** Board meeting.
- C. The presidents of local Leagues shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. Failure of a local League president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the Bylaws

## **ARTICLE XIV INDEMNIFICATION**

**SECTION 1. Indemnification.** LWVDE shall indemnify directors, officers and employees made a party to any legal proceeding by reason of her/his/their service in that capacity unless it is established that:

A. The act or omission of such person giving rise to the proceeding was material and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty.

B. Such person actually received an improper personal benefit from her/his/their act giving rise to the proceeding, or

C. In the case of criminal proceeding, such person had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission giving rise to the proceeding was unlawful. LWVDE shall not however, indemnify a director, officer and employee in any proceeding brought by LWVDE against such person (or by such person against the LWVDE).

**SECTION 2. Reimbursement/Advancement of Expenses.** The LWVDE shall reimburse, and advance expenses to, any director, officer or employee made a party to any legal proceeding by reason of her/his/their service in that capacity incurs in defending herself/himself/their self in such proceeding if such person is entitled to indemnification under SECTION 1 of this Article.

**SECTION 3. Board Determination.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Article are intended to create legal obligations on LWVDE to indemnify and reimburse and advance expenses as set forth therein. The Treasurer shall not, however, disburse any monies or incur any obligations thereunder without the prior approval of the Board. If a director, the person seeking indemnification, reimbursement or advance of expenses shall not participate in the vote for approval.

**SECTION 4. Liability of Directors.** The LWVDE Board of Directors shall have no right, title, or interest in or to the property of the Corporation. Except as otherwise required by law, no director shall be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or obligations of the Corporation.

**SECTION 5. Insurance.** The LWVDE shall have the right to purchase and maintain insurance to the fullest extent permitted by law on behalf of its officers, directors, employees, and other agents, against any liability asserted against or incurred by any officer, director, employee, or agent in such capacity or arising out of the officer's, director's, employee's, or agent's status as such.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE RECOMMENDED PROGRAM  
FOR ADOPTION AT CONVENTION 2021 (pages 24-28)**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE, INC  
A SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATE PROGRAM 2021- 2023**

The Advocacy Corps recommends adoption of the current Program, Continuing Studies with the changes as marked (~~Deletions struck through~~; added language in **red font**; rationale/explanation *in italics*. and two new consensus positions

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

**Delaware General Assembly** - Support of measures to promote a more effective and responsive legislative branch of state government, including strengthening the committee system and use of the budgetary process to review and evaluate state programs.

**Ethics** - Support of ethics legislation in the areas of campaign finance, conflict of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying disclosure.

**Delaware State Constitution** - Support of a Constitution for the State of Delaware which would be confined to broad principles and would promote more efficient and responsive government.

**Public/Private Partnerships** - Support the use of public/private partnerships by governments in Delaware if a project can be better undertaken with public/private cooperation. Public input, careful controls and adequate safeguards need to be part of these partnerships.

**Reapportionment/Redistricting** - Support for an open unbiased process for ~~reapportionment and~~ redistricting with opportunities for public participation.

*Delete reference to Reapportionment, which refers to the President's reapportionment of Congressional seats among the states, based on changes in state population. No state action is involved.*

**Representative Government:**

**VOTING RIGHTS**

**Citizen's Right to Vote**

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

*Add the LWVUS position, given the importance of voting rights*

**Alternative Election Methodologies** ~~–New Continuing study item~~ ~~–LWVDE take up a broad overview study of~~ alternative election methodologies, with a goal of selecting for further study any of those methodologies that appear to have promise to improve the democratic process in Delaware. Such alternative election methodologies include Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV; also known as Instant Runoff Voting, or IRV), approval voting, and proportional voting (multi-representative districts). (Adopted convention 2019)

*This study has been completed and new full position is posted at the end of this listing.*

**SOCIAL POLICY**

**Justice System** - Continuing Study: A re-evaluation of Delaware's criminal justice system and the impact of the current policies and practices on society. (Action will continue to be taken under LWVDE current position.)

(Adopted at convention June 2017) The study is worded intentionally broad so that the study committee can start where its sees the most effective effort and timeliness.)

Support for the adoption of consistent policies which, within budgetary constraints, will permit the disposition of offenders in the best interests of society, the victim(s), and the offenders and their families.

We oppose mandatory sentencing.

We support the expansion of drug courts and mental health courts for all nonviolent offenders and the appropriate science based health and mental health treatment of all offenders.

**Family Court, Related State Programs for Children, Domestic Violence** - Support of uniformity in operation of the Family Court system; automatic expungement of certain juvenile records; state provided diagnostic services, care, education and treatment to age 21 for youths and young adults who have mental or physical illness or who are developmentally delayed or are substance abusers or abused/neglected; strong educational programs on the rights of victims of family violence.

**Before and After School Child Care** - Support for state government involvement in encouraging, establishing and/or supporting child care programs.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Support of equal access to quality public education for all students to reach their individual, fullest, potential as contributing citizens of our state, nation and world.

~~**Financing Public Education**—Support for methods of financing public education that will promote equal opportunity for quality education and improve both the local districts' and state's budgeting while maintaining a level of local control.~~

Support of methods of financing quality public education which are equitable, flexible, transparent, measurable, and effective.

### ***Rationale for program revisions:***

***The practice of delivering a quality education to Delaware Pre-K-12 students is in rapid transition. Changing pupil demographics and needs, evolving understanding and application of best practices, developments in public concern for the most vulnerable of Delaware's youth, and the role of health in schools and the community, compel the League to stand anew for education, equity, and opportunities for today's youth to reach their potential as contributing citizens of our state, nation and world.***

**Education - Continuing Study:** A study of the public education system in Delaware with special focus on financing, charter schools, and transparency and accountability to citizens. (*Adopted at convention June 2017*)

**Gun Control** - Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety. (LWVUS position applies)

**Health Care:** Continuing Study: A study of the financing and delivery of health care in Delaware. (*Adopted revision at convention June 2019*)

LWVDE also acts under the LWVUS health care position: "Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs."

### **End of Life Options**

Support for state laws that grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life and that such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying

and/or medical personnel. (Position adopted at April, 2019 state board meeting after concurrence with LWV Utah position.)

**Needle Exchange Programs** - Support for comprehensive needle exchange programs, which also offer education and referrals to appropriate services, as part of a public health effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

**Public School Libraries** - Support policies and funding for public school library media centers that promote their central role in providing equal opportunity for all children to achieve educational excellence.

## **ENERGY/CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

*Add the LWVUS position, given the importance of climate change.*

**Renewable Energy Portfolio** – Support for an increase in the percentage of renewable energy sources in Delaware’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) provided that they: have minimum environmental impact; use the best current technology as measured by reliability, proven effectiveness, and being state-of-the-art; have long range cost effectiveness including all net costs such as health and environmental costs, state and federal subsidies, and price stability. Support of measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the RPS.

Support aggressive increases, by increments, of the percentage goals of renewable energy resources of electricity sold in Delaware beyond the goal of 25% renewable energy resources by 2025, with increased goals for 2035 and 2050. (*Updated 6/2017*)

**Transmission and Distribution** – Support for maximizing the development and delivery of renewable energy to Delaware when designing and developing new transmission plans for the region. In addition to delivering reliable, adequate electric service to Delaware, the key factors to be considered in making a decision on any transmission plan/transmission enhancements are: Degree of environmental impact; Degree of utilization of the transmission for renewable resource power vs. fossil- fuel generated power; True cost, including all cost- externalities; Safety and security of the grid.

**Energy/Climate Change** – Support for an aggressive and comprehensive energy use/climate change plan for Delaware. Some key points that should be included:

Accelerate bringing new green businesses, jobs and industries to Delaware, and investigate emerging energy technologies. Set targets and a timetable for reducing Delaware’s total greenhouse gas emissions. Plan for extensive adaptation measures at all levels of government for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided---especially sea level rise.

Support increasing the currently recommended 2030 goal for reducing Delaware’s emissions of all greenhouse gases from 30% to a larger percentage, e.g., 40-45%, relative to 2008. A longer-term goal should be set and be significantly higher, e.g. 80% by 2050, relative to 2008. (*Updated 6/2017*)

Support public education and outreach; expand renewable energy and climate change in Delaware curriculum standards. As Delaware calculates energy costs, full life cycle analyses\* with all externalities\*\* must be included. Social and economic justice must be considered in implementing energy and climate change policy.

**The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)** involves pricing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from electricity generation in Delaware and eight other Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states. It uses a system of cap and trade, and now has a decreasing emissions cap of 2.5% per year. The League supports decreasing the RGGI cap by 5% per year, starting 2021 through 2030. *(Updated 6/2017)*

**The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)** is similar to RGGI in that it is a regional effort to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The League supports Delaware having an increasing price on carbon emissions from transportation fuels - especially on a regional basis - provided that some of that revenue is used to ease the burden on low-income families, such as offering gas stamps, or returning part or all of the revenue as a rebate to adult residents on a per capita basis; to promote walkable/bikeable communities; to be used for refurbishing transportation infrastructure; to stimulate research and innovation; to encourage vehicle energy efficiency; to provide additional electrical charging stations for hybrid and all-electric vehicles; to develop economic opportunities and create jobs. *(Updated 6/2017)*

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Support of policies that protect air and water quality, and reduce solid waste.

**COASTAL ZONE** - Support for Coastal Zone planning which considers the best possible outcome for people, the land, and the coastal environment.

**LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION** - Support of the regulation of growth and optimum use of land through comprehensive planning policy. Monitoring of land use policies and procedures and their relationship to human needs, population trends, transportation planning, and ecological and socioeconomic factors. Encouragement of continuing cooperation among governmental agencies.

Support of a balanced, intermodal transportation system interconnected with land use and based on interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination.

Support reducing transportation-generated greenhouse gas emissions by wiser land use planning and by enhancing public transit options.

Some key points that should be included:

Direct development towards growth zones, except for environmentally sensitive areas within those growth zones; assure availability of infrastructure, services and walkability before developing. - Build compact, or dense, development within established development areas in which pedestrians can safely and conveniently access services; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). - Modify Delaware's paratransit fee schedule to establish separate classifications for ADA\* and non-ADA\*\* service. - Reform the system to establish fairer pricing for non-ADA paratransit use. - Tighten eligibility requirements for all paratransit use in situations where the state has discretion. Establish a dedicated funding stream for public transit; explore a variety of funding sources.

**CRITICAL LAND AREAS** - Support for preservation and/or protection of certain critical areas (ecologically fragile estuaries and coastal areas, farmland, flood plain, aquifers, and natural areas); erosion and sedimentation controls; and coordination among all levels of government in decisions involving major facilities.

**FARMLAND** - Support of a farmland preservation program.

## **Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems Position**

*(elements in **bold italic** text are Delaware additions to the LWVUS position)*

### **Position in Brief:**

*Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.*

### **Position in Full:**

LWVDE promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices.

Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are *secure*, verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Maximize effective votes/minimize wasted votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- ***Discourage negative campaigning***
- Implement alternatives to plurality voting
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail

LWVDE believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policy-making bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards—that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).

***The League supports the implementation of Ranked-Choice Voting in elections for representation at all levels of Delaware government, including school board, municipal, county, state and national, for both primary and general elections.***

LWVDE supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.