

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

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

**League of Women Voters of Delaware invites all members to its biennial  
CONVENTION, SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021  
Meeting will be held virtually by Zoom  
10:30 am – 3:30 p.m.**

**No experience required to become a delegate! Join us for an informative and productive day.**

**Registration link:** <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/event/lwvde-biennial-convention>.

- **Business meeting 10:30 am • Workshops • Luncheon on your own**
- **Business meeting 12:30 pm; Local Presidents highlights of year; • Adjourn 3:30 pm**

At our LWVDE conventions every two years, we come together to take care of the business of the League. We elect state board members and officers, pass a budget, adopt policy positions, and amend bylaws. It's also a time to reflect on how we can become better citizens . . . how we can engage in the process of government. So join us on May 22 to take care of business, and take part in our decision-making process.

**Sandy Spence: My President's Letter** is brief because my tenure has been brief, only since our elected President, Carol Jones, sadly left this earth in December 2020. We all mourning her.

Another reason for brevity is that the information in this newsletter about our upcoming biennial Convention is particularly important, and I'd prefer that you spend time reading it thoroughly instead of any thoughts I might add.

We have lots of business to conduct. In addition, we will be having some virtual speakers including our national Board member Toni Zimmer, former President of the LWV of New Jersey. We're also planning some workshops to engage you. More details will be coming very soon. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: MAY 22.

**The Business of Convention 2021 includes:**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; ADOPTION OF: PROPOSED PROGRAM 2021-2023,  
PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES and PROPOSED BUDGET(S) for 2021-22 AND 2022-23**

**Registration Information, RSVP by Wednesday, May 19**

**Registration: No charge. We need you to register and let us know which league you belong to for the delegate count. Call or email your local League president (listed on next page) and let her know that you will be a delegate or visitor. After you register you will receive a link to the convention. To Register:**  
<https://my.lwv.org/delaware/event/lwvde-biennial-convention> .

If you are a nominee for a state board position and not currently serving on that board, you are encouraged to represent your local League as a delegate. All League members are welcome to be a delegate or visitor.

Note: If you are a current state board member and also serve on a local League board, please register as a state board delegate. This will enable the local Leagues to send a local League delegate in your place. (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1 **Registration**)

**Current State Board: Sandy Spence** - 302-841-2882 cell sandyspence325@gmail.com

**LWVKC: Mary Kay Eggers** - 302-697-9430 Camdenmke1@comcast.net

**LWVNCC: Marj Johnson** - 765-2081 H marj@comcast.net

**LWVSC: Gwendolyn Miller** - 215-850-5535 grybm@outlook.com

You can also leave a message at 302-571-8948, the LWV Office.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### OFFICERS Terms (2021 - 2023)

President: Gwendolyn Miller (SC)  
1st Vice President: Kathleen Baker (SC)  
2nd. Vice President: Linda Barnett (NCC)  
Secretary: Marj Johnson (NCC)  
Treasurer: Jill Itzkowitz (NCC)

### DIRECTORS Terms (2021 – 2023)

Chandra Owens (KC)  
Denise Davis (SC)  
Abbigail Frelich (NCC)  
Charlie Garlow (SC)  
Melody Taylor (NCC)  
Lori Schulman Yadin (SC)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE Terms (2021 - 2023)

(An additional two members will be appointed from new board by president with consent of board)

Pat Newcomb. Chair (SC)  
Letty Diswood (NCC)  
Ellen Wasfi (KC)

Two additional nominating committee members will be appointed from the state board. **Local League presidents** or their designees serve on the state board. The state president can appoint an additional 6 directors)

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Letty Diswood, Chair (NCC), Linda Barnett (NCC), Penny Deiner (SC), Martha Redmond (SC), Ellen Wasfi (KC)

## KATHLEEN BAKER – 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT



Kathleen Baker, artist, educator and activist, was a Teenage Republican in York, PA; as editor of the school newspaper she instigated participation in the Vietnam War Moratorium of 1969. Earning a B.A. in French and German Languages and Literatures from University of Pittsburgh in 1973, she began work in Washington, DC, serving as National Coordinator of the Alliance for Volunteerism under Chairperson Dorothy Height from 1979 to 1981, assisting Harry Hogan in the Alliance's National Service advocacy among scholars and Members of Congress, and sitting on the national judging panel for the U.S. Conference of Mayors' All-America Cities award program.

Moving to Alexandria, Virginia, she was named Artist in Residence, producing research and interpretive programs for the City's history museums. She founded the professional company, Opera Americana, which worked to acclaim in the Capital region from 1986 to 1996. A volunteer for the Bernie Cohen and Marian Van Landingham campaigns in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1989 she served as a Doug Wilder delegate to the Virginia Democratic Convention. A National Board Certified Teacher – Early and Middle Childhood Music -- in Arlington and Alexandria, Public Schools, Kathleen helped her students create original operas on subjects in science, mathematics and social studies. Recipient of numerous grants for her opera and cross-curricular work, she was twice a Fellowship recipient--for study of Mozart, and study of the Mississippi Delta-- from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In the Rehoboth Beach area following retirement in 2010, Kathleen volunteered for Read Aloud Delaware and helped organize Socrates Café at Rehoboth Library. As President of her Condominium Association, she initiated a successful advocacy project with Sussex County officials and DeIDOT to vacate an easement for a road over the main street of the community, with the solution approved in the DeIDOT Capital Transportation Plan for FY 2026. Kathleen was honored

(Continued on page 3 **Nominations**)

*(Continued from page 2 Nominations)*

as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2015 as Founder of the Alexandria Arts Alliance, Founding Chair of the Alexandria – Caen (Normandy, France) Sister Cities Program, and Conductor of the All-City [youth] Chorus, among other contributions to the life of the City.

Kathleen has been active as Education Chair with the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice. She succeeds Sherry Chappelle as leader of the Browseabout Book Club in Rehoboth Beach. The late Carol Jones recruited her to the LWVDE in 2018. She has served on the Advocacy Corps since January, 2019 and as State Secretary 2019-2021. Kathleen chairs the League of Women Voters Education Portfolio since October, 2020.

#### **LINDA BARNETT- 2ND VICE PRESIDENT**



Linda joined the LWNCC in the summer of 2015. She currently is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the State Board and is also an active member of the Advocacy Corps, where she is serving as chairperson. Linda is also active in the American Association of University Women and is Financial Officer of the AAUW Wilmington Branch. Linda has lived in Delaware since 1978 and worked for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services as a planner for over 35 years. She and her husband made a variety of locales home prior to settling in Delaware – including Gainesville, Florida; Los Angeles; Flagstaff, Arizona; and Omaha, Nebraska (moves prompted by her husband’s career as a Sociologist and then Professor of Law).

#### **DENISE A. DAVIS, DRPH, MPA – DIRECTOR**



Dr. Denise Davis is a retired public health researcher and program specialist with extensive experience and management skills within a variety of health care and academic settings. Positions she has held include Project Director, Senior Program Officer, Senior Policy Analyst, Researcher, and Deputy Director for foundation-funded national projects and Adjunct Instructor. In these various roles, her responsibilities have included broad project management and program evaluation, portfolio management and administration, research and report creation, proposal review and assessment, grant and article writing, curriculum development and instruction, and spearheading special projects.

Dr. Davis earned her Dr.PH from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in health policy and administration, an M.P.A. in public policy, planning and administration from New York University, and a B.A. from Ithaca College in Allied Health.

#### **ABBIGAIL FRELICH - DIRECTOR**



**Abigail Frelich** is a Senior Project Manager at Nemours Children's Health System, and has served in various operational roles for most of her career. She is adept at bringing multiple teams together and helping them communicate and work together to create value and improve processes. Her educational background in languages and literature manifests in her ability to 'translate' between disparate groups to help them find common ground and alignment of purpose. Abby is passionate about learning, and is actively pursuing an MBA in Organizational Leadership at Wilmington University. She has overcome her fear of public speaking by presenting to global audiences on the topics of organizational project management, education, and change management.

*(Continued on page 4 Nominations)*

(Continued from page 3 *Nominations*)

She serves on the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters of New Castle County, and is a co-leader for the Nemours Women @ Work (W@W) Associate Resource Group. When she's not leading teams and changing the world, Abby can be found reading, gardening, fishing, taking part in community events, and spending time with her family.

### CHARLIE GARLOW - DIRECTOR



Charlie Garlow was invited to join LWV by his wife Joan Flaherty who joins Charlie in several charitable causes, mostly environmental efforts, but also the suffragists' movement and voter registration in Sussex County. Charlie serves in the LWV DE Advocacy Corps and is a registered lobbyist for the League.

Joan and Charlie also organize Green Drinks, a monthly environmental seminar and serve as co-chairs of the Citizens' Climate Lobby in Lower DE. Charlie is the President of DEEVA, the DE Electric Vehicle Association, a CASA volunteer and a future DE Read Aloud volunteer, as soon as the pandemic allows. Charlie served as a Clean Air enforcement attorney at Headquarters EPA in Washington DC for almost 30 years. He served as an Assistant Attorney General in his home state of West Virginia and as a Legal Aid attorney in New Jersey. Blessed by three wonderful daughters, Charlie is surrounded by feminists and joins them in their/our continuing efforts for justice for women, and justice for all.

### JILL ITZKOWITZ – TREASURER



**Jill Itzkowitz** was born a red diaper baby in Brooklyn, New York, where her family was very active in the labor and civil rights movements. She attended the University of Delaware and received a masters degree in political science. Jill then worked 30 years for JPMorgan managing technology projects. After retiring from JPMorgan, Jill began to pursue interests that were important to her. She joined the LWVNCC in 2017, and became a board member in 2018. Currently, Jill is chair of the LWVDE elections committee, manages Vote411, and is the state treasurer. Jill is also an avid tennis player, and a bridge life master.

### MARJORIE JOHNSON - SECRETARY



Marj grew up in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, went to Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa and graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh. She worked for 42 years in pediatric physical therapy and truly loved her job. Marj retired in 2006 and has been busy ever since! She is a long-time member of Concord Presbyterian Church, serving on several boards and teaching adult education. She has volunteered with Literacy Delaware teaching English as a second language. Marj attends classes at Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning and plays in the band and flute choir there (when it was able to meet!) and is active in DelPHR (Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights).

She has just finished her second term as President of the Board of the New Castle County League of Women Voters, and serves on the state board, the advocacy corps, and the state finance committee. Marj loves music, travelling and working in the garden and is looking forward to a trip to Antarctica in December. She is blessed that her daughter and her family live close by. She has two grandsons, one finishing his sophomore year at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and the other a rising 8<sup>th</sup> grader at PS DuPont, having spent 7<sup>th</sup> grade at home in virtual instruction.

(Continued on page 5 *Nominations*)

**GWENDOLYN MILLER - PRESIDENT**



Gwendolyn Miller's experience with the League of Women Voters (LWV) began in August 2018, when she joined the Observer Corps and, in that capacity, observed local school board meetings. She next helped organize school board candidate forums and ultimately became a board member. In 2019, she was elected President of the League of Women Voters of Sussex County, Delaware (LWVSCDE).

As president of the LWVSCDE, her goals included advancing the LWVUS's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiative at the local level by educating League members about racial issues, diversity, equity, inclusion, racial microaggressions, and unconscious bias.

Gwendolyn further realized this goal in 2020 when she became the League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee chair. In this position she created and facilitated the LWVDE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awareness Workshops. Her commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion further expanded to the national level, where she serves on the LWV DEI Committee.

Mrs. Miller was awarded her Bachelor of Arts degree from Case Western Reserve University as well as Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. After teaching and performing for several years, she received her Master of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, Applied Psychology and Human Development Division. She also holds a Certification in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. Mrs. Gwendolyn Miller is the founder of Addressing Racial Microaggressions, LLC, and frequently serves as an expert witness on issues regarding discrimination, racial microaggressions and unconscious bias. She is also the Head Program Instructor for Northwestern University, Leading Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program.

Currently, Mrs. Miller serves as a Steering Committee member and chairs the Education Committee of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice. Mrs. Miller also serves on the advisory board of the Indian River School District and Delaware's Lt. Governors Behavioral Health Consortium.

**PAT NEWCOMB – NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR**



Pat Newcomb moved to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in 2017, having spent her working life as high school math teacher, commercial credit loan officer and small business development center director. She has a BA from Rockford College (IL), MA from The Ohio State University, and MBA from Georgetown University. Pat joined LWV Sussex County in 2018 and has co-chaired the Membership Committee and served as Board Member. She is also a member of the Zoom Advisory Group and the Education Portfolio of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps. In addition to LWV, Pat volunteers for CAMP Rehoboth and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice. She is active in three different philosophy discussion groups and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Pat looks forward to future travel opportunities. She enjoys sunny beach days, long beach walks and life with her partner and two excellent cats.

**CHANDRA B. OWENS - DIRECTOR**



A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Chandra Owens is as a Program Manager for the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Partnership and Public Engagement as the 1890 Liaison for Delaware. She works with all levels of government and community organizations to promote the programs and services to the farming and non-farming USDA customers as well as seek out candidates for opportunities with internships and federal employment. She is a wife and mother of four dynamic children and balances her time and energy for the betterment of her community for a brighter future for them.

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(Continued from page 5 *Nominations*)

Chandra is currently the Second Vice President of the League of Women Voters Kent County DE and has been a member since 2015. She received her Bachelor of Science in Agronomy & Crop Science from Auburn University, and her Master of Business in Organizational Leadership from Wilmington University.

Chandra has gained experience in training nonprofit board of directors, equitably distributing valuable information to customers, internal and external. She has been the manager of people, programs, property for over 28 years with the USDA in 3 different states. She has served and led on state and national projects with members from across the country; to planning a national conference for employees to coordinating a statewide environmental contest for high school students.

### **MELODY TAYLOR - DIRECTOR**



Melody has served as a committed fair housing and civil rights advocate for 20 years providing education and advocacy in the Mid-Atlantic region. She has an expansive career working with non-profit, human rights state and federal agencies including her work in program, policy development, and strategic planning for private and government entities. Melody also has a passion in working with children where she established a camp for young women- *Me, Myself and I*.

She is a graduate of Delaware State University, Senior Fellow for Excellence in Government, certified in Diversity and Inclusion and recently completed Harvard's Executive Leadership for Government program.

### **ELLEN O. WASFI – NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER**



A native New Yorker, Ellen Wasfi graduated from Barnard College with a joint major in sociology and history, and received an M.A. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She spent a year as a Fulbright scholar in Merida, Venezuela and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. She worked as a research consultant for the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the US Senate-House Joint Economic Committee where she authored two studies on the US aid program in Latin America. She made her home in Yonkers, NY, Washington, DC, Honolulu, HI, Basrah, Iraq, and Chevy Chase, MD, before moving to Dover in 1980. She has been a board member of the League of Women Voters of Kent County for 40 years and served as its president for over 15 years. She has moderated the LWVKC and LWVDE Candidate Night debates and initiated the Dover League's monitoring of Resident Advisory Council Elections at sites of both the Delaware and Dover Housing Authorities. She also contributed to the Delaware Housing Coalition's Tenant Council Election Manual.

She chairs the Dover League of Women Voters International Relations Committee, has moderated its Great Decisions discussion program on global issues, and has taught courses on foreign policy to Dover public school teachers under the Capital School District's in-service program. She has represented the Dover League as a delegate to a United Nations Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations. In 1992-95, she was appointed to the State of Delaware Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks Commission which was assigned the task of reviewing and updating the State's elementary and secondary school social studies education program.

She has served on the Capital School District's Diversity Committee and has been a facilitator and administrator for Study Circles on Racism and Race Relations in Kent County. She was on the organizing committee of Kent County SURJ (Stand Up for What's Right and Just), former Governor Russell Peterson's statewide effort to reform Delaware's criminal justice system with special emphasis on rehabilitation and eliminating minimum mandatory sentencing for non-violent drug offenders. She has been awarded the Central Delaware NAACP Community Service Award and the DEMCO (Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization) Shofar Award for public service. In 2010, the League of Women Voters of Delaware honored her with its Flame of Democracy Award. She was appointed by the Dover City Council to the Dover Human Relations Commission where she served as Commissioner for over 10 years. (Continued on page 7 *Nominations*)

## LORI SCHULMAN YADIN - DIRECTOR



Lori Schulman Yadin is an Educator whose work and research focuses on human development, nature, and condition. Her academic and professional training is in the field of Experiential Education, Mindfulness Practices, Leadership and Relationship Coaching, Retreat and Dialogue Facilitation.

Lori uses her understanding of lived and generational experiences and their positive and negative impact on decision making as a foundation in all forms of her vocation. Her degrees from Prescott College and George Washington University, professional certifications from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, the Greater Good Science Center at University of California, Berkeley, and Facilitator Training from Parker J. Palmer at the Center for Courage & Renewal has provided Lori with deep roots and a passion for Social Justice. Lori has held numerous Board of Director positions with non-profit organizations whose mission and vision align with her value of repairing the brokenness in our world by engaging in change-making conversations and actions.

In her free moments, Lori enjoys time in her garden, antiquing, working on her 100-year-old Farmhouse, taking long walks with her dogs, and writing poetry. She has a published book, *Moving through life – doors and thresholds of past, present & future* that examine the trauma of ambiguous loss, grief, and new promise. Lori's greatest joy is found when with her six children and grandchildren. She was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and now calls Milton, Delaware home.

## LETTY DISWOOD - NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Letty was born in Paraguay to European parents who left Germany and England during the early part of World War II. She moved to England in 1960, and immigrated to the United States, New York State, in 1964. She is a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a Bachelor of Arts. During her League career she has had numerous positions in the LWVNCC: Criminal Justice committee chair, secretary, director and vice president position to president of the Greater Wilmington League, (later merged with Newark to LWVNCC). On the state level she was Co-president with Christine Stillson and then Nadyne Rosin, vice president with administrative responsibilities, and Advocacy Committee chair. She has also served as secretary to DelCOG for many years and has been a board member since the organization was created. Letty has been the office manager for many years and has seen a transformation in all forms of communication and office tasks increasing overall administrative efficiency.

Letty's hobbies and interests include walking, listening to all kinds of music, and camping. She still is a member of an archery club in PA, and misses her motorcycle touring. She is married to Larry, who is a retired engineer and takes pictures at League events and does a wonderful job editing them for publication in the state, local newsletters and on the League website.

Historic marker honoring Dover's Mabel Lloyd Ridgely who was president of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association in 1919-1920, and in 1920 became the first president of the Delaware League of Women Voters

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation <https://ncwhs.org/projects-and-partners/william-g-pomeroy-foundation/> in conjunction with the National Votes for Women Trail ([nvwt.org](http://nvwt.org)), has approved and paid for a historic marker honoring Dover's Mabel Lloyd Ridgely. Mrs. Ridgely was president of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association in 1919-1920, and in 1920 became the first president of the Delaware League of Women Voters.

The marker dedication date is still to be determined. The LWVDE membership is invited to the dedication. The planning committee members are: Judge Susan Del Pesco, and Marsha White, Esq. and Anne M. Boylan Professor of History (Emerita), University of Delaware

The Board recommends adoption of the current Program and Continuing Studies with the changes as marked (~~Deletions struck through~~; added language in **red font**; rationale/explanation *in italics.*)

**Under State Government:**

~~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.

*Added from 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 just been completed.*

**Under SOCIAL POLICY**

**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*)

**Under: ~~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.*



LWVDE has achieved a new consensus position on Electoral Systems that includes support for ranked-choice voting in Delaware. The new position is below, and see -----<<MyLO article link>> for more information about the work of the LWVDE Alternative Voting Methodologies Study team."

## **LWVDE Alternative Voting Study Team Consensus Report**

### **April 24, 2021**

#### **Consensus Meetings**

The LWVDE Alternative Voting Methods Study Team conducted three consensus meetings in April 2021 to ask the Delaware League membership, **“Should the League of Women Voters of Delaware adopt its own position on electoral systems? And should that position include support for one specific alternative voting method, ranked-choice voting?”**

One daytime, one evening, and one weekend meeting were scheduled, and all three were held by Zoom web conference. Invitations, background information and consensus questions were sent to all Delaware League members two weeks ahead, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, with a second invite/reminder email to all members on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The sessions were moderated by Study Chair Kim Wells.

#### **Consensus Summary**

Through the meetings and email responses, the membership reached consensus on the following points:

- 1. LWVDE should have its own position on electoral systems.**
- 2. Our position should incorporate the full LWVUS position.**
- 3. We should add some Delaware-specific clauses of our own.**
- 4. One of the Delaware-specific clauses should express support for ranked-choice voting (RCV).**

The proposed new position is shown in the next section of this document. Delaware-specific clauses are shown in ***bold italic*** text. In addition to those clauses, support was shown for two more bullet items that we did not achieve consensus on: [*The League supports electoral methods that...*] “*Are easy to use, understand, and administer*” and [*...that...*] “*Reduce the influence of money in elections*”. Members in the Tuesday consensus meeting were split on the former and against the latter. Saturday’s group supported the ease-of-use clause and were split on the money one. Members in the Wednesday consensus meeting supported both. Since we came to different conclusions, consensus was not achieved, and those bullet points are not included in the Study team’s proposed new position provided below.

#### **Proposed New LWVDE Consensus Position on Electoral Systems**

Based on consensus meetings held with the membership in April 2021, the LWVDE Alternative Voting Study team recommends the following consensus position for adoption in Delaware:

#### **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

*(Continued on page 10 Electoral System Position)*

(Continued from page 9 *Electoral System Position*)

- 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.

### Links to the LWV of Delaware Convention 2021 to be held Saturday, May 22, 2021

#### **Proposed Budgets for 2021-2022 & 2022-2023**

- There is no increase in the per-member-payment (PMP).
- [Budget PDF](#)

#### **Proposed Program Changes**

- [Proposed program changes](#)

**Bylaws #2:** Changes from Bylaws approved at 2019 Biennial Convention. The bylaws were reviewed extensively this year and include a number of updates and additions: [Link to PDF](#) of proposed changes.

#### **Proposed Bylaws Amendment to hold this Convention virtually.**

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.

**Nominations for Offices and Directors:** [List of Nominees](#)

**Note: Convention Book** will be emailed to you along with the website link, closer to the date of the Convention.

# Delaware Districts with School Board Elections in 2021



(graphic reflects most recent data as of April 5, 2021)

Don't forget to vote on **May 11** for school board elections. You can review your candidates by going to <https://www.vote411.org/>.

You can spread the word by sharing out last action alert <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/article/school-board-elections>.

I like to thank Linda Barnett, Marjorie Green, Kim Wells, Liz Carlisle, and Barb Hedges Goetti for their help. If you are interested in assisting with Vote411 please contact Jill at [jillitzkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com)

## ELECTIONS

The elections committee issued an action alert for HB75 - no excuse absentee voting <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/action-alert/increase-voter-participation>. Please contact your legislator if you had not done so. We also testified in favor of HB30 - changing our state primary date to coincide with the Presentational election in April: ([https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/Delaware/same\\_day\\_registration\\_position\\_paper\\_2019\\_rev.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/Delaware/same_day_registration_position_paper_2019_rev.pdf)) and SB5 - automatic voter registration. In addition, we joined the Delaware Voting Rights Coalition to advocate for voting reforms <https://www.aclu-de.org/en/our-work/delaware-voting-rights-coalition>. If you are interested in joining the elections committee, please contact Jill at [jillitzkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com).

## LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

*League Days forums are posted on <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/>*

- Funding of Public-School Education with perspectives on the education equity lawsuit settlement and local impacts.
- Elections/Voting to learn about the past 2020 election and upcoming voting bills
- Offshore Wind Power heard from experts on various aspects of an offshore wind project for Delaware
- Criminal Justice: Fines and Fees presented the campaign to end Debtors' Prisons in Delaware by eliminating poverty as an element of criminal punishment.
- Fair Maps/Redistricting presentation by experts.

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Twitter provides a quick digest of the nation's leading headlines, while Facebook gives us an open forum where we discuss the important issues of the day. All posts and points-of-view are welcome as long as our nonpartisan and inclusive policies are being respected.

To join Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware and send us a "friend request." To join Twitter, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

### CALENDAR

Friday, May 4, 2021 10 – 11:30 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE.</b> Regular committee meeting. Contact Peggy Schultz, Co-chair at <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a> to attend.
Monday, May 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon	ZOOM meeting	<b>LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.</b> Regular committee meeting. Contact Peggy Schultz, Co-chair at <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a> to attend.
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS Meeting.</b> Regular 2nd Wednesday meeting of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (legislative lobby group). For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnett <a href="mailto:lujchocdog@hotmail.com">lujchocdog@hotmail.com</a> .
Saturday, May 22, 2021 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.	ZOOM Meeting	<b>LWVDE BIENNIAL CONVENTION 2021</b> At our LWVDE conventions every two years, we come together to take care of the business of the League. We elect state board members and officers, pass a budget, adopt policy positions, and amend bylaws. It's also a time to reflect on how we can become better citizens . . . how we can engage in the process of government. So join us on May 22, and take part in our decision-making process. Preregister for this free event <a href="https://my.lwv.org/delaware/event/lwvde-biennial-convention">https://my.lwv.org/delaware/event/lwvde-biennial-convention</a>
Wed. May 26, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE.</b> Regular committee meeting. Contact Lori Yadin and preregister at in advance for this meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91011831899">https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91011831899</a> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> Regular committee meeting. Contact Jill Itzkowitz <a href="mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com">jillitzkowitz@gmail.com</a> if you would like to attend.

**League of Women Voters of Delaware**  
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