BYLAWS of the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
CONNECTICUT, Inc.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, Inc.
was incorporated on October 16, 1924, in Hartford, CT.
AS ADOPTED BY THE STATE CONVENTION May 11, 1948
AND AS AMENDED BY THE CONVENTIONS OR COUNCILS OF
May 16, 2003 June 1, 2013
June 14, 2014

ARTICLE I
Name

Sec. 1. Name: The name of this organization is the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, Inc. hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVCT. The LWVCT is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

ARTICLE II
Purposes and Policy

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

Sec. 2. Nonpartisan Policy: The LWVCT will not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility: All recognized Connecticut Leagues and Members-at-Large are an integral part of the LWVCT. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVCT will be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership:
(a) Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age residing within Connecticut who join any local League within Connecticut or the LWVCT and who are in good standing will be Voting Members of the LWVCT and of the LWVUS;
(1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League or may become state Members-at-Large;
(2) individuals who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or may become state Members-at-Large;
(3) individuals who have been members of the League continuously for 50 years or more will be life members excused from the payment of dues.
(b) Associate Members. All others who join the League will be associate members unless the LWVCT Board creates one or more other membership categories for which such persons qualify.
(c) Other Members. The LWVCT Board may from time to time create other membership categories, including but not limited to Student Members. The rights, privileges, and duties of members of any such category will be defined at the time the category is created, and will be consistent with the policies and bylaws of the LWVCT and LWVUS.

ARTICLE IV
Interpretation

Sec. 1. Interpretation: All words of either gender herein may be read as either feminine or masculine. All words in the singular may be read in the plural, and all words in the plural may be read in the singular, where sense so requires. The word “director” may be read as “officer and/or director” where sense so permits.

Sec. 2. Successor Statutes: Any citation of any state or federal statute may be read as referring to the corresponding provisions of any subsequently substituted state or federal statute, whether such substitution results from amendment, renumbering, re-codification or any other cause.

ARTICLE V
Officers and Directors

Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office: The Board of Directors (hereinafter “the Board”) will consist of the officers of the LWVCT, at least two and not more than eight (8) other elected Directors, and not more than eight (8) appointed Directors. The elected members may appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding eight (8), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVCT. The terms of office of the appointed directors will expire at such time as the Board specifies. The chairs of the Nominating Committee and Budget Committee will serve on the Board ex officio.

Sec. 2. Election of Board Members:
(a) Each elected Board Member will be elected by the annual Convention, will take office on July 1 following her election, and will hold that office until the July 1 following the regular annual Convention two years after the Convention at which she was elected, or until her successor has been duly elected, or until her death or until she resigns or has been removed in the manner hereinafter provided.
(b) Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (a) directly above, whenever an office is held jointly by two individuals, one may be elected in an even-numbered year to serve a two-year term and one may be elected in an odd-numbered year to serve a two-year term.
Sec. 3: Enumeration of Officers, and Their Powers and Duties: The officers of the LWVCT may be a President or Steering Committee, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Any or all of these offices may be held by two or more persons who share the responsibilities of their office. The officers will have such duties as are usually performed by persons holding such offices, as are permitted by the laws of the State of Connecticut, and as are assigned and may from time to time be modified by majority vote of the Board; in years in which a Steering Committee is elected, the members of the Steering Committee will share such duties as would otherwise be exercised by a President or Co-Presidents. In any year in which there is more than one Vice President, the Board will determine the order of succession. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant and cannot be filled, the members of the Board will decide who will preside at any meeting of the LWVCT and/or of the Board, and will share the powers of supervision and management of the LWVCT. In the event that the office of Treasurer becomes vacant and cannot be filled, the members of the Board will elect one or more directors to sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes, and will share in the duties of fiscal management. In the event that the office of Secretary becomes vacant and cannot be filled, the members of the Board will decide who will take the minutes of the meetings of the Board.

Sec. 4. Power and Duties: The Board will have full charge of the property and business of the LWVCT, with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Convention. The Board will plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on selected governmental matters as adopted by the Convention. It will 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 LWVCT of finance programs requisite to further the work of the League as a whole, including transmission of funds toward the support of adequate state and national budgets. The Board will create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Sec. 5. Regular Meetings: There will be at least eight (8) regular meetings of the Board annually. The President will notify each member of the Board of all regular meetings by sending to each member’s last known post office address or email address, at least four (4) days before any such meeting, notice thereof, giving the time and place of the meeting. No action taken at any regular Board meeting attended by a majority of the members of the Board will 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.

Sec. 6. Special Meetings: The President may call special meetings of the Board, and will call a special meeting upon the written request of two members of the Board. Members of the Board will be notified of the time and place of special meetings in writing at least two days prior to such meeting. During a Convention, however, the President may, or upon the request of two members of the Board will, call a special meeting by announcing the special meeting from the podium and afterwards sending written notice to all Board members by mail, email or such other means as the Board may from time to time specify.

Sec. 7. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Board constitutes a quorum.
Sec. 8. Remote Participation in Meeting: Any one or more members, or all, of the Board may participate in a meeting by means of speakerphone, telephone conference call or similar remote communications allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means will be deemed “presence” in person at a meeting.

Sec. 9. Directors’ Consent Without A Meeting: If all the Board members severally or collectively consent in writing, whether conveyed by U.S. mail, facsimile or electronic transmission or comparable method, to any action(s) to be taken by the LWVCT, such action(s) will be valid corporate action(s) as though it or they had been authorized at a meeting of the Board. Unless such consents are ratified by a vote at the next meeting of the Board, the Secretary will file such consents with the minutes of the meetings of the Board.

Sec 10. Voting: At all meetings of the Board, each Board member has one (1) vote. Any act of a majority of the Board members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present at the time of the act will be deemed to be the act of the Board. If there is a tie vote, the motion under discussion will be deemed defeated.

Sec. 11. Compensation Of Board Members: Board members will serve without compensation, except that any Board member may be reimbursed by the LWVCT for ordinary and reasonable expenses actually incurred in the performance of his or her duties in the manner and to the extent that the Board will determine, consistent with the requirements of section 33-1092 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the LWVCT will provide no reimbursement for expenses or compensation other than those reasonable and necessary in furthering the LWVCT’s purposes. Board members may receive reasonable compensation for services performed in other capacities for or on behalf of the LWVCT pursuant to authorization by the Board, subject, however, to sections 33-1127 through 33-1130 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Sec. 12. Qualifications: No person will be elected or appointed or will continue to serve as an Officer or Director of the LWVCT unless that person is a voting member of the LWVCT.

Sec. 13. Vacancies: Any vacancy other than that of the President may be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board at a regular or duly called meeting of the Board.

Sec. 14. Resignations: The resignation of any Officer or Director will be in writing, whether conveyed by U.S. mail, facsimile or electronic transmission or comparable method, and will be effective on such date as the resigning Officer or Director may specify and the Board accepts, or, if no date is specified, will become effective at the close of the next Board meeting following receipt of the resignation by the Board, or if a date is specified but is not accepted by the Board, will become effective at such date as the Board may specify, provided, however, that the Board may not specify a date later than that specified by the resigning Officer or Director.

Sec. 15. Removal of Officers: The Board at a meeting duly noticed and held may remove any Officer or Director for cause by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those Board members present and
voting, provided that the notice of such meeting will include notice of the proposed removal. The Officer or Director sought to be removed will have no right to vote with respect to any such action.

ARTICLE VI
Committees

Sec. 1. Creation Of Committees: The Board may, by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of Board members present and voting, create one or more committees. In each case, the committee will be composed of one or more Board members and such non-Board members as the Board may approve, and each committee will have and may exercise such authority of the Board as may be delegated to it by appropriate resolution.

Sec. 2. Committee Rules: A majority of the members of any committee may fix its rules of procedure. All actions by any committee will be reported to the Board at a meeting succeeding such action and will be subject to revision, alteration and approval by the Board.

Sec. 3. Powers: A Committee will have such functions and may exercise such power of the Board as may be delegated lawfully and as provided in the resolution or resolutions creating such Committee or Committees; provided, however, that the creation of such Committee or Committees will not operate to relieve the Board, any individual director, or the officers of any responsibility imposed on such persons by law. Notwithstanding any provision of this Article or these Bylaws to the contrary, no Committee will have any power to:

(a) Fill vacancies on the Board;
(b) Adopt, amend, or repeal the Bylaws or certificate of incorporation;
(c) Amend or repeal any resolution of the Board;
(d) Approve a plan of merger; approve a sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all, or substantially all, of the property of the LWVCT; or
(e) Approve a proposal to dissolve the LWVCT.

Sec. 4. Vacancies: Vacancies on Committees may be filled by the Board or by the members of the specific committee, provided, however, that whenever a committee fills a vacancy, its decision will be subject to the approval of the Board.

Sec. 5. Minutes: Each Committee will keep minutes or written notes of its proceedings and report the same to the Board within a reasonable number of days after the adjournment of each committee meeting.

ARTICLE VII
Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the LWVCT will commence on the first of July of each year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support: Financial responsibility for the work of the LWVCT will be assumed annually as follows:
(a) Members who are enrolled in local Leagues will pay annual dues to the local League. Each local League will make a per member payment (hereafter PMP) directly to the LWVCT.

(b) Each Member-at-Large (hereinafter MAL) will pay annual dues to the LWVCT in an amount set by the Board.

Sec. 3. Budget: The Board will submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. This budget will provide for the support of the LWVCT and will state a PMP amount for each category of members. A copy of the proposed budget will be sent to presidents of local Leagues, Inter-League Organizations (hereafter ILOs) and MAL units at least one month in advance of the Convention.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee: The Budget will be prepared by a committee, which will be appointed for that purpose at least four months in advance of the Convention. The Treasurer will be a member of the Budget Committee but will not be eligible to serve as chair.

Sec. 5. Audit: The books of the Treasurer will be audited or reviewed annually by a certified public accountant and will be available in the files of LWVCT.

Sec. 6. Net Earnings: No part of the net earnings of the LWVCT will inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the LWVCT will be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes.

Sec. 7. Self-Dealing: The LWVCT will not engage in any act of self-dealing, as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax law.

Sec. 8. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution: In the event of dissolution of the LWVCT for any cause, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVCT will be paid to the LWVUS after the Board has paid or made provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the LWVCT at the time of the LWVCT’s dissolution. The LWVUS qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the U.S. Code, or, if it does not so qualify, to such other organization(s), organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes, as at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the U.S. Code, in such manner as the Board may resolve, so long as said resolution is consistent with these Bylaws and with the LWVCT’s Certificate of Incorporation. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVCT will be disposed of by an officer or employee of the LWVCT having possession of same to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the Board.

Sec. 9. Indemnification: LWVCT Board members and/or representatives will be indemnified against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party, or in
which they may become involved by reason of being or having been a Board member or representative, or any settlement thereof, whether the person is a Board member or representative of LWVCT at the time such expenses are incurred, except in those cases in which the individual is adjudged guilty of willful misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of duties. The foregoing right of indemnification will be in addition to and exclusive of all other rights to which the indemnified may be entitled. Indemnification will be up to the amount insured.

Sec. 10. Contracts: The Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the LWVCT, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Sec. 11. Loans: No loans will be contracted on behalf of the LWVCT and no evidence of indebtedness will be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Sec. 12. Deposits: All funds of the LWVCT not otherwise employed will be deposited from time to time to the credit of the LWVCT in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board may resolve.

ARTICLE VIII
Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call: A Convention of the LWVCT will be held annually, at a time and place determined by the Board. The President will send a first call to Convention to the presidents of local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units not less than three months prior to the opening date of Convention fixed in said call. Thereafter the Board may advance or postpone the opening date of the Convention by no more than two weeks. A final call for to the Convention will be sent by the President to the presidents of local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units at least one month before Convention.

Sec. 2. Composition: The Convention will consist of:
(a.) the delegates and/or the alternates chosen by the members through the local Leagues in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article;
(b.) the members of the Board of the LWVCT;
(c.) one delegate or alternate chosen by the board of each recognized ILO; and
(d.) one delegate or alternate chosen by the members of each recognized MAL unit in the state.

Sec. 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting: Each delegate must be a voting member of the LWVCT. Each delegate will be entitled to only one vote at the Convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting will not be permitted. The Convention will be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation: The members of the LWVCT who are organized into recognized local Leagues in the state of Connecticut will be entitled to voting representation as follows:
each local League will be entitled to at least two delegates; local Leagues having more than
50 voting members will be entitled to one additional delegate for every 25 voting members
or major fraction (13 or more) thereof. The record of paid, voting members as of the January
membership count deadline of the year in which the Convention is held, as reported to the
LWVUS, will determine the official membership count for this purpose. Delegates will be
chosen by the members through the local League.

Sec. 5. Powers: The Convention will adopt a program. It will elect officers and directors as
provided in Article V, section 2, of these Bylaws and, in odd-numbered years, the chair and
two members of the nominating committee. It will adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal
year and will transact such other business as may be properly presented. The President of
the LWVCT, or, in the President’s absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, will serve as Chair
of the Convention.

Sec. 6. Quorum: Twenty percent (20%) of the possible number of voting delegates other than the
Board members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the
Convention, provided that there is representation from at least one-third (1/3) of the
combined total of local Leagues and MAL Units.

Sec. 7. Observers: Non-delegate attendees will be considered non-voting observers.

ARTICLE IX
Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee will consist of either three members,
one of whom will be a member of the Board, or five members, two of whom will be
members of the Board. The chair, who will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of
the Board, and one or two members, who will not serve as members of the Board, will be
elected by the Convention. Nominations for these offices will be made by the current
Nominating Committee. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the
Convention. The other members of the Committee will be appointed by the Board
immediately after the Convention. Vacancies occurring in the Nominating Committee
will be filled by the Board. The President of the LWVCT or her designee will send the
names and addresses of the Nominating Committee to the president of each recognized
local League, ILO and MAL unit.

Sec. 2. Suggestions for Nominations: At least four (4) month prior to Convention, the chair of the
Nominating Committee will request, through the president of each local League, ILO and
MAL unit, suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled.

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from Floor:
(a) The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors and
the chair and one or two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee will be sent
to the local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units one month before the date of the Convention.
The report of the Nominating Committee will be presented to the Convention.
(b) In the event that the Nominating Committee makes one or more nominations less than
one month but more than fourteen (14) days before the Convention, the Nominating
Committee will send a report of such nomination(s) to the local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units when made, and may make such nomination(s) from the floor. (c) Immediately following the presentation of the Nominating Committee’s report and floor nominations, if any, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the Convention provided that the consent of the nominee has been secured. If the member has sent the name and qualifications of such nominee to the local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units at least 14 days before the Convention, the members may vote on such nominee at the Convention in accordance with Section 4 below. If the member has not done so, the nomination will be referred to the Nominating Committee, which will review the nomination and present the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting, at which time the Board will vote to appoint or refuse the nomination in accordance with Article V, Section 1, of these bylaws.

Sec. 4. Elections: The election will be by ballot, except that when there is but one nominee for each office it will be in order to move that the Secretary cast the ballot for every candidate. A simple majority of votes cast will be sufficient for the election of Board and Nominating Committee members.

ARTICLE X
Local Leagues, Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) and Member-at-Large (MAL) Units

Sec. 1. Local Leagues:
(a) Local Leagues are those Leagues within Connecticut that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.
(b) The Board will recommend to the Board of Directors of the LWVUS, hereinafter referred to as the national Board, that it recognize as a local League any group of members of the LWVUS in any community within the state, provided the group fulfills both state and national recognition requirements.
(c) In the event of recurring failure of a local League to fulfill these requirements, the LWVCT Board may recommend to the national Board that the national Board withdraw recognition from the local League or suggest reorganization of the local League into an MAL Unit. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn will be paid to the LWVCT. Funds held by a local League that reorganizes into a MAL Unit may remain with that unit.

Sec. 2. Inter-League Organizations:
(a) Members enrolled in local Leagues may organize Inter-League Organizations, (hereinafter referred to as ILOs), in order to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on county, metropolitan or regional governmental matters.
(b) The LWVCT Board will recommend to the national Board that such ILO be recognized provided they fulfill state and national recognition requirements.
(c) In the event of recurrent failure of an ILO to fulfill these requirements, the LWVCT Board will recommend to the national Board that it withdraw recognition from such ILO. All funds held by an ILO from which recognition has been withdrawn will be prorated among the member Leagues.

Sec. 3. Member-at-Large Units:
(a) The Board may authorize the establishment of MAL units at places of employment or in communities where the establishment of a recognized local League is not feasible. MAL units will operate within guidelines adopted by the Board.
(b) In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to guidelines for MAL units, the Board may withdraw approval of the MAL unit. All funds held by a MAL unit from which approval has been withdrawn will be paid to the LWVCT.

ARTICLE XI
Program

Sec. 1. Principles: The governmental principles adopted by the national Convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for adoption of a Program.

Sec. 2. Program: The Program of the LWVCT will consist of (a) action to implement the Principles and (b) those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study or concurrence and action.

Sec. 3. Program Selection: The Convention will select the governmental issues for concerted study or concurrence and action using the following procedures:
(a) To be considered for recommendation, local League boards, ILOs and MAL units need to make written recommendations for a new program proposal to the Board at least two months prior to the Convention. Any League that proposes the adoption or amendment of a state position by concurrence on the floor of the Convention will send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement, to the Board at the time the proposal is submitted.
(b) The Board will consider the recommendations and will formulate a proposed program which will be submitted to the local League boards, ILOs and MAL units at least one month prior to Convention.
(c) Non-recommended items will be reported with recommended items at least one month in advance.
(d) At Convention the Board will present its recommended program proposal at the first business session.
(e) Consideration of a non-recommended program proposal previously submitted to the Board requires an affirmative majority vote at the first business session.
(f) At a later business session an affirmative majority vote will be required for the adoption of the Program except that a two-thirds vote is required to amend or adopt a state position by concurrence on the floor of Convention.
(g) Program positions will be formally reviewed as to relevancy ten years after their adoption and every ten years thereafter. The results will be communicated to the membership and will be presented to the next Convention for: (a) reaffirmation of the position, (b) update, (c) restudy and restatement of position in whole or in part, (d) elimination of position in whole or in part.

Sec. 4. New Positions: New positions resulting from a study consensus or concurrence become effective upon adoption by the Board.
Sec. 5. Interim Board Action: When an important state issue emerges requiring swift action, which cannot wait until the next Council or Convention for program adoption, the Board may adopt an interim study or action priority by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board.

Sec. 6. League Action: Local Leagues, ILO’s, and MAL units may take action on state governmental issues only when authorized by the Board. They may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVCT and/or the LWVUS.

Sec. 7. Member Action: Members may act in the name of the LWVCT only when authorized to do so by the Board or its designee(s).

ARTICLE XII
National Council and Convention

Sec. 1. National Convention: The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the LWVUS office, will elect delegates to that year’s LWVUS Convention in the number allotted the LWVCT under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS. The delegates, one of whom will be the LWVCT President or a duly authorized alternate, must be voting members of the LWVCT.

Sec. 2. National Council: The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the LWVUS office, will elect delegates to that year’s LWVUS Council in the number allotted the LWVCT under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS. The delegates, one of whom will be the LWVCT President or a duly authorized alternate, must be voting members of the LWVCT.

ARTICLE XIII
Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised will govern the LWVCT in all cases where they are applicable and where they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV
Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any Convention, using the following procedures:
(a) Proposals for change will be submitted by any local League Board or MAL unit to the Board at least two months prior to Convention.
(b) All such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the Board will be sent to the presidents of local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units at least one month prior to the Convention.
(c) The presidents of local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units will notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. Failure of a League president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice will not invalidate amendments to the Bylaws.