

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of North Carolina 39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Saturday, May 3, 2025

9:20 am - Plenary Session 1 - Business meeting of League of Women Voters of North Carolina Inc.

The Convention was called to order by LWNVC President Jennifer McMillan Rubin. Rubin introduced the parliamentarian, Liz Guthridge and timekeeper, Marian Lewin. She recognized the convention planning committee. The first order of business was the credentials committee report.

Credentials report: The number of Leagues represented is 11 out of 13, number of delegates present 59 out of 69 delegates registered including the 9 members of the LWNVC Board.

Motion #1 - Sandra Mowell, Chair of the Credentials committee moved the adoption of the credentials report. Motion carried. A quorum is present.

Rubin noted the proposed rules for the convention were printed on pages 9 and 10 of the convention workbook and asked if there were any objections to the rules. There were no objections.

Motion #2 - The question is on the adoption of the proposed convention rules as printed on pages 9 and 10. Motion carried.

Rubin noted one correction to the convention agenda: the order of the awards and the keynote speaker for the evening banquet will be reversed and asked if there were any objections to that change or any other changes to the agenda. There were none.

Motion #3 - The question was on the adoption of the convention agenda as corrected. Motion carried.

With all of the administrative items involved in commencing the convention duly approved the next item of business was committee reports. LWNVC Treasurer, Mary Thompson was introduced to present the Treasurer's Report on pages 15 and 16 of the convention workbook. The report included the balance sheets to LWNVC Inc. and LWNVC Advocacy through the end of February 2025 and the LWNVC Advocacy Budget as approved by the board March 2025. There were no questions for clarification.

Tiffany Canaday, chair of the bylaws committee presented the report of the bylaws committee.

Motion #4 - On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, Canaday moved to adopt the amendment pertaining to the new unified membership and elimination of per member payment as presented on page 17 of the convention workbook.

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Motion #5 - On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, Canaday moved to adopt the amendment pertaining to Notification/response Times for Convention and Council as presented on pages 17 and 18 of the convention workbook.

In addition, on behalf of the bylaws Committee Canaday withdrew the proposed amendment pertaining to additional duty for officers as presented on page 18 and withdrew the proposed amendment pertaining to a wording change as presented on page 18 of the convention workbook.

Rubin recognized Porscha Lopes, Granville County to present the Budget report on behalf of Budget Chair Rebecca Klase who was unable to be present. Lopes presented the budget for LWVNC 2025-2027 as printed on page 19 of the convention workbook. She summarized the reasons for each line item. There were several questions for clarification and Treasurer Thompson answered on behalf of the Budget Committee.

Motion #6 On behalf of the budget committee, Porsche Lopes moved to approve the LWVNC Inc. budget as presented on page 19 of the convention workbook.

Rubin recognized Sandra Mowell, chair of the program committee. S. Mowell presented the proposed program and Issues for Emphasis for LWVNC 2025-2027.

S. Mowell briefly noted the process for program planning as well as noting the statewide teams process for the concurrences which are being proposed.

Motion #7 On behalf of the program committee, Sandra Mowell moved adoption of the proposed concurrence on citizens' initiative to be added to the Representative Government position as printed on pages 28 and 29 of the convention workbook.

Motion #8 On behalf of the program committee, Sandra Mowell moved the adoption of the proposed concurrence from the Public Education team to update the Public Education section of the Social Policy position as printed on pages 33, 34 and 35 of the convention workbook.

Motion #9 On behalf of the program committee, Sandra Mowell moved to affirm and retain the remainder of LWVNC's public policy positions as printed on pages 26 thru 38 of the convention workbook.

Mowell continued the report by reading the proposed Issues for Emphasis.

Motion #10 On behalf of the program committee, Sandra Mowell moved adoption of the Issues for Emphasis as printed on page 39 of the convention workbook.

Rubin reminded the delegation that any debate or motion to amend the items proposed this morning and the vote to adopt them will take place in Sunday morning's plenary session.

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Rubin recognized Ernest Mowell, chair of the nominating committee to present the slate of officers, directors and nominating committee members for 2025-2027.

E. Mowell presented the slate as printed on page 20 of the convention workbook. Jennifer McMillan Rubin - president, Marian Lewin - 1st vice president, Regan Aduddell- 2nd vice president, Mary Thompson- treasurer, Suzanne Fisher- secretary and Tiffany Canaday, Claudia Kozintez, Velvet Scoggin and Cheryl Tung as directors. In addition, E. Mowell wanted to be clear that Jo Nicholas, Moore County has been nominated for the chair of the Nominating Committee, and Ernest Mowell has been nominated for one of the two elected slots for the Nominating Committee. The second slot is empty at this time. Rubin asked for nominations from the floor for the officers, directors and nominating committee members. Jo Nicholas nominated Suzanne Elsberry, Charlotte-Mecklenburg for the nominating committee. Elsberry accepted the nomination and made a brief statement.

Rubin reminded the delegation that the vote on the L WVNC slate for officers, directors and nominating committee members is on the agenda for the business meeting on Sunday.

Per the convention rules Nicholas appointed an Action Motions Committee. Regan Aduddell to chair with members Cheryl Tung, Wake and Peggy Crawford, Moore County and Sally Stubbs, ODC.

The business portion of the morning's plenary session concluded at 10:10 am.

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Jennifer McMillan Rubin reconvened the business meeting at 9:28 am.

Credentials Report: The number of Leagues represented is 10 of 13. Number of delegates present is 56 out of 69 registered, including 9 members of the L WVNC board of directors.

Motion #11 On behalf of the credentials committee, Sandra Mowell moved the adoption of the credentials report. Motion carried. A quorum was present.

Rubin outlined the method for discussion and noted each motion would have a specified time limit for discussion and amendment. Brought forward for debate and vote were:

Motion #4 Bylaws Committee moves to adopt the amendment pertaining to the new unified membership and elimination of per member payment as presented on page 17 of the convention workbook.

Motion carried.

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Motion #5 - Bylaws Committee moves to adopt the amendment pertaining to Notification/response Times for Convention and Council as presented on pages 17 and 18 of the convention workbook.

Motion carried.

Motion #6 The budget committee moves to approve the L WVNC Inc. budget as presented on page 19 of the convention workbook. Motion carried.

Brought forward for debate and vote:

Motion #7 The program committee moves adoption of the proposed concurrence on citizens' initiative to be added to the Representative Government position as printed on pages 28 and 29 of the convention workbook.

Motion carried by the two-thirds majority vote required.

Motion #8 The program committee moves the adoption of the proposed concurrence from the Public Education team to update the Public Education section of the Social Policy position as printed on pages 33, 34 and 35 of the convention workbook.

Motion carried by the two-thirds majority vote required.

Motion #9 The program committee moves to affirm and retain the remainder of L WVNC's public policy positions as printed on pages 26 thru 38 of the convention workbook.

Motion carried.

Motion #10 The program committee moves adoption of the Issues for Emphasis as printed on page 39 of the convention workbook.

There was a good deal of discussion on the wording of the Issues for Emphasis beginning with the opening statement "L WVNC will continue the Campaign of Making Democracy Work with these issues for emphasis:"

Jana Albritton, Lower Cape Fear made a motion (#11) to strike the Campaign of Making Democracy Work... and insert Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy by pursuing the following... The motion was seconded. Rubin called for discussion. Several delegates spoke in opposition to this amendment and several delegates spoke in support, while several delegates attempted to further wordsmith the statement without speaking in favor or against the amendment or putting their proposed changes in writing. The secretary was presented with six additional wording changes in writing proposed from the delegation. The chair of the convention, the chair of the action motions committee and the parliamentarian tried to combine all of these proposals into one statement that the delegation might reach consensus on. Time expired and was extended by consensus. The statement Chair Rubin read and asked the delegation to vote on **"L WVNC will continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work as well as Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy and by pursuing the following Issues for Emphasis:"** **Motion carried.**

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The next item to consider was the wording for the Voting Rights section that appears immediately after the above statement.

Jana Albritton, Lower Cape Fear made a motion (#12) to reword the statement as follows: Work diligently to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation. The motion was seconded. Rubin called for discussion. There were three delegates speaking in opposition and one delegate speaking in support of the motion. The time expired and was again extended by consensus. **The motion failed.**

Maureen Galvin, ODC made a motion (#13) to change ...fight voter suppression/requirements to ...fight requirements that lead to voter suppression. The motion was seconded. Rubin called for discussion. One delegate spoke against the change. **Motion failed.**

There were no proposed changes to the Public Education section. **Judy Lotas, Dare County made a motion (#14) to strike the current section and replace it with “Vigorously support the affirmation of the Equal Rights Amendment and ensure historically marginalized groups’ rights to education, healthcare, reproductive care, and economic opportunities.** The motion was seconded. Rubin called for discussion. Two delegates spoke in favor of the amendment, one delegate spoke against and one delegate spoke against the specific changes and asked for time to write another version for consideration.

Mary Rocca, Moore County made a motion (#15) to change the section to read: Support efforts to dismantle systemic inequalities, oppose actions harmful to marginalized communities’ rights to education, healthcare, reproductive care, and economic opportunities, and vigorously support the affirmation of the ERA. Lotas did not object to this motion being substituted for her motion. There being no further discussion, Rubin called for the vote. Motion carried.

Ellen Reckhow, ODC made a motion (#16) to add Representative Government as an issue for emphasis with this wording Promote government that is open, accountable, ethical, and responsive to citizens. The motion was seconded. Rubin called for discussion. Marian Lewin asked for a ruling from the parliamentarian if the motion was in order. Guthridge ruled the motion in order. Time expired again and the delegation voted by consent to extend the time further. Two delegates spoke in opposition to the motion. **Motion failed.**

Suzanne Elsberry, Charlotte-Mecklenburg made a motion (#17) to add Election of the President/Vice President as an issue for emphasis with this wording Support the LWVUS One Person/One Vote campaign for the direct election of the President/Vice President. Rubin called for discussion. One delegate spoke against the motion. **Motion failed.**

There was now a vote for Motion #1 adoption of the Issues for Emphasis as amended. Motion carried.

The next order of business was the election of officers, directors and nominating committee members for LWVNC Inc. 2025-2027 as presented on page 20 of the convention workbook.

The delegation voted to elect the recommended slate.

The delegation voted to elect the nominee from the floor for the Nominating Committee, Suzanne Elsberry, Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Rubin recognized outgoing director Rebecca Klase and outgoing Secretary Sandra Maddux Mowell for their service. Rubin asked if there were any directions to the new board. Ernest Mowell, Henderson County encouraged continuation of the Regional Meetings.

Rubin made some closing remarks and then asked Sara Baysinger, LWVNC to make any announcements that had been received. Baysinger asked the delegates to take a few moments to fill out the evaluation form for the convention and requested a group photo of the delegation when we adjourned. There being no further business, Rubin adjourned *sine die* at 11:10 am.