

# Convention



## Let's check in



1.

Hello, this book belongs to:

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2.

Are you a League member?

YES

☐

NO

☐

NOT SURE

☐

**TIP:**

Only League members can participate in the voting process. If you want to vote but are not sure if your membership is up-to-date, email us at **info@lwvme.org**. If you are currently not a member but want to vote, then sign-up at **lwvme.org/Member**.



3.

What are you looking forward to the most during Convention?

*Check all that apply!*

☐

The speakers

☐

Catching up with my League community

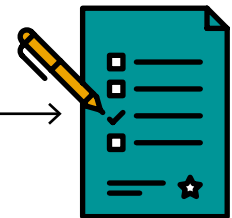
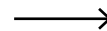
☐

Voting!



4.

Information is provided in this workbook on which League members will vote. The beginning of each voting section is marked with a yellow tab. The end of the section is marked with the teal paper and yellow pen icon.



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## TIP:

Sections that contain information that League members will vote on are in **bold** and have the vote icon next to them.



← Like this.



## Welcome from the 2019-2021 LWVME Board of Directors & LWVME Education Fund Board of Trustees

### **LWVME Officers**

Jill Ward, President  
Polly Ward, Vice President  
Christopher Hafford, Secretary  
Ann Luther, Treasurer

### **LWVME Directors**

Micky Bondo  
Pamela Cox  
Benjamin Gaines  
Susana Hancock  
James Kilbreth  
Lillias Martin  
Alison Smith

### **LWVME Education Fund Trustees**

Jill Ward, President  
Polly Ward, Vice President  
Chris Hafford, Secretary  
Ann Luther, Treasurer  
Micky Bondo, Trustee  
Pamela Cox, Trustee  
Benjamin Gaines, Trustee  
Susana Hancock, Trustee  
James Kilbreth, Trustee  
Lillias Martin, Trustee  
Alison Smith, Trustee

### **Nominating Committee**

Jill Ward, Chair  
Susanna Hancock  
Micky Bondo  
Parivash Rohani (Council of Local Leaders)  
Andrew Bossie (MCCE Action)  
Joyce Maker  
Betsy Sweet

### **Staff**

Anna Kellar  
Nadya Mullen  
John Brautigam  
Lado Lodoka  
Evan Tess Murray  
Jen Lancaster  
Will Hayward  
Lane Sturtevant  
Meg McCormick  
Fiona Keane



# Agenda

## FRIDAY, MAY 14

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Welcome from LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Q+A w/ Dr. Turner
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Local League meet and greet and Discussion of Vote411.org

## SATURDAY, MAY 15

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Welcome from Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and Greetings from Congressional Delegation
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Celebration of Centennial Success; President's Vision
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Plenary Session I Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Changes Presentation of Proposed Budget Presentation of Proposed Program Presentation of Nominated Slate
11:15 pm – 11:30 pm	Ann Luther Volunteerism Award Presentation
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch and Optional Breakout Sessions
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Action: fill out corporate contribution postcard
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Keynote: Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, in conversation with LWVME Youth Council
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Plenary Session II Discussion and Vote on Bylaws Discussion and Vote on Program Discussion and Vote on Budget Election of Board and Officers
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Closing and Adjournment
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Meeting of the new Board



### TIP:

If you experience any technical difficulties with Zoom during Convention, email Jen at [jen@lwvme.org](mailto:jen@lwvme.org) or text/call **859-753-0425**.

## Proposed Convention Rules

1. A motion to adopt these rules will be made at Plenary Session I. Amendments may be offered at that time and require a majority vote.
2. Admission to Convention is open to League members, guests, and interested parties.
3. Any member of the League of Women Voters may participate in plenary sessions and discussions.
4. Only members in good standing may vote.
5. The Secretary or the Operations Director shall report the number of members in good standing registered at the opening session and when directed to do so.
6. Members wishing to speak shall signal this by using the “raise hand” feature of Zoom. When recognized, members shall give their name and the name of their local chapter or the name of their town if they are a Member at Large.
7. Main motions and amendments of substantial length must be in writing and emailed to the Secretary or the Operations Director so they can be shared on the screen.
8. The proposed program shall be presented at Plenary Session I and moved for adoption by a State Board member. Questions for clarification and limited discussion are allowed at this time. Motions to amend shall be entertained at Plenary Session II.
9. Members may speak once on an issue and shall not speak a second time until everyone who wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so.
10. Rules of Convention may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a 2/3 vote.
11. Order of Business may be amended by a 2/3 vote.
12. Minutes of Convention shall be reviewed, corrected, and approved by the State Board at its soonest possible regular meeting.
13. Plenary sessions shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order.



A decorative graphic consisting of two concentric semi-circular arcs. The outer arc is a solid dark teal color, and the inner arc is a dotted yellow color. The title "Meet the Board" is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of these arcs.

# Meet the Board



**TIP:**

This is the proposed slate for the 2021-23 LWVME Board. New board members are highlighted in yellow.



**TIP:**

The Nominated Slate will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 10:00 AM.



**TIP:**

League members will vote on the Nominated Slate in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.



**Jill Ward**  
President  
(she/her)

📍 So. Portland

Jill currently serves as President of the LWVME and MCCE. Jill has been a League member since 2009 and has been involved with MCCE since 2008. She currently runs the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law at the University of Maine School of Law and consults on youth policy in Maine and nationally. She recently co-chaired a statewide task force on juvenile justice reform and was appointed by the Governor to the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group where she serves as chair. She will also be an adjunct faculty member at Maine Law this upcoming academic year teaching Juvenile Law in the fall and a practicum on changing laws in the spring. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University Law Center, Jill has always had a strong interest in civic life, public service, and advocacy. She returned to her home state of Maine in 2007 after more than 15 years' experience in the public sector, including senior policy positions with Girl Scouts of the USA, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC. Jill also worked in the U.S. Senate for Senators Paul S. Sarbanes (MD) and George J. Mitchell (ME). When not working or volunteering, Jill can be found running around with her boys, Michael, 14, and Nicholas, 11.



**Pamela Cox**  
Vice President  
(she/her)

📍 Bath

Pamela is a senior international finance, trade, economic development and policy leader with over 30 years' experience in the World Bank Group. During her three decades there, she held senior operating roles in East and South Asia, Latin America and Africa, where she managed multi-billion dollar portfolios and engaged with client governments at the highest levels. Pamela has deep expertise in management, project finance, including developing innovative financing and risk management instruments and implementing high profile infrastructure investments, as well as in public sector policy formation and government relations. She is also an independent trustee and audit committee member for Baillie Gifford Overseas Ltd. US mutual funds. Pamela earned an MA and PhD from the Fletcher School, Tufts University, where she studied development economics and received a Shell Fellowship to fund her dissertation research on energy issues in Senegal. She is a graduate of Reed College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her languages include French, Spanish and Portuguese. Pamela serves on the board of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, and chairs the Bath Backpack Program and the Board of the Chocolate Church Arts Center.

## Notes

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**Susana Hancock**  
Secretary  
(she/her)

📍 Freeport

Susana is a linguist and anthropologist focusing on geopolitics of climate change in the Arctic and Middle East. She holds three degrees from the University of Oxford, most recently earning her DPhil/PhD last year. She is the recipient of many national and international fellowships and honors. She is a former international elite rower and has coached both at the University of Oxford and now with Waynflete School in Portland. Susana is a coordinator for Democracy Maine's Outreach and Education and leads the Speakers' Bureau. This includes designing various educational curricula, which she has presented throughout Maine, and now around the world (thank you, Zoom!). She is multilingual and has delivered material in five languages. Susana has numerous and varied talents ranging from winning an international award as an amateur astrophysicist, performing as a concert cellist, and performing as a sleight of hand magician. She is on the International Council and leadership for the Association for Polar Early Career Scientists, is an expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and an Arctic consultant for the UN's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Additionally, she serves on a variety of local, state and international climate, policy and academic boards.



**Ann Luther**  
Treasurer  
(she/her)

📍 Trenton

Ann currently serves as Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Maine and MCCE. She served as President of LWVME from 2003 to 2007 and as co-president from 2007-2009. In her work for the League, Ann has worked for greater public understanding of public policy issues and for the League's priority issues in Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform, Voting Rights, Ethics in Government, Ranked Choice Voting, and Repeal of Term Limits. Representing LWVME at Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, she served that coalition as co-president from 2006 to 2011. She is active in the LWV-Downeast and hosts their monthly radio show, "The Democracy Forum", on WERU FM Community Radio. She was the 2013 recipient of the Baldwin Award from the ACLU of Maine for her work on voting rights and elections and is the namesake and 2017 inaugural recipient of the LWVME's Ann L. Luther Volunteerism Award. She joined the League in 1998 when she retired as Senior Vice President at SEI Investments. Ann was a founder of the MDI Restorative Justice Program, 1999 - 2000, and served on its Executive Board.

## Notes

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**Abusana Micky Bondo**  
(she/her)

📍 Portland

Micky is a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the mother of 5 children. She holds an M.S. in biochemistry, specializing in microbiology laboratory and is licensed in phlebotomy, Business Administration and Education. Prior to immigrating to the United States, she was a hospital administrator and Laboratory Technician Supervisor in DR Congo. In 2010, she was an interpreter/translator of French and Lingala at the Portland Public Schools and presently is Coalition Parent Leader Organizer for Portland Empowered, a platform for the Muskie School at USM which bridges the Public School, Parents, and Community members in order to create pathways for student success and to engage parents with their child's educational development. She is a co-founder of In Her Presence, an organization led by immigrant women to navigate the integration and Social justice process. She is also a member of the Board Directors of The Opportunity Alliance, member of the bureau Goal 1 at United Way GP and presents nationally and internationally at conferences as a member of the Speaker bureau at Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the largest Philanthropic Organization in New England that focuses exclusively to improve Education for minority students, champion of Student-centered Learning. In 2018, she was elected to the School Board of Education in Portland Maine for District 1.



**Benjamin Gaines**  
(he/him)

📍 Portland

Ben Gaines is an attorney based in Cumberland County with a practice focused primarily on elder law, nonprofit organizations, and election/political law. Before coming to Maine and beginning his legal practice, he spent over a decade working on political campaigns all over the country, from the Deep South to the Pacific Northwest. Preparedness and dedication are qualities Ben has cultivated throughout his career passionately holding his family and political beliefs close to his pursuits. With roots in local advocacy and leadership, he is committed to serving his community by working and volunteering with activist groups, including sitting on the Board of Directors for Maine League of Women Voters, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and Fair Election Portland.

**New!**



**Laura Christy Genese**  
(she/her)

📍 Falmouth

Laura is the Marketing and Communications Director for Girls Scouts of Maine. She served on the Steering Committee for the Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative, which inspired her to get more involved in advocating for voter rights. Laura is also a certified yoga, meditation, and pranayama teacher and in her spare time, enjoys providing tools for well-being to the next generation through local classes and workshops. Laura grew-up in Maine, leaving to attend Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut where she received her BS in Business and Marketing. After many years working in CPG marketing and advertising in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey, she moved back home to Maine to raise her family, and follow her heart advocating for girls and women in the non-profit sector.



**Chris Hafford**  
(he/him)

📍 Portland

**New!**



**Kalie Hess**  
(she/her)

📍 Augusta

Chris joined the board of MCCE in November 2016 and the LWVME board in July 2018; currently serving as secretary for both organizations. He works as the Director of Sales for Biddeford-based Banded Brewing Company. A dedicated volunteer, Chris has worked on many different political campaigns and initiatives throughout the years. Some of his activities include knocking on doors, calling undecided voters, and organizing petition and voter registration drives and other work for ballot initiatives. He believes that democracy is a living entity that must be nurtured and carefully tended so that it can grow and adapt to become more fully functioning for more individuals. Chris strongly believes that the fight to keep money out of politics is a bedrock issue of our entire political system.

Kalie is a public health professional and has worked in community and statewide public health efforts in Maine. She received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology with minors in French and Spanish from the University of Maine and her Master of Public Health degree from the University at Albany. Her career has focused on health equity and improving health outcomes for underserved people in Maine — and so much of our health and wellbeing is political. For that reason, and many more, Kalie is passionate about ensuring that people can vote. Kalie ran for state senate in 2020 and, despite not winning the race, helped energize and mobilize voters by establishing a broad coalition to support the campaign. She advocated for Augusta to not consolidate voting locations in order to ensure equal access to the polls and personally reached out to several thousand voters because she believes the best ideas come from all of us. She has volunteered to collect signatures for ranked-choice voting, supports clean elections, and is eager to see the national popular vote become reality.



**Lillias Martin**  
(she/her)

📍 Thomaston

Lillias, a retired teacher, has been a member of the Midcoast LWV since 2017. She graduated from St. Mary of the Woods College and received a Master's Degree from Drexel University. In her teaching career, she served as a Team Leader of school staff and Chair of the district-wide Literacy Curriculum Team, responsible for curriculum development, selection, and implementation, as well as staff development and training through state and national educational initiatives such as the Common Core. She was a longtime board member of Trekkers, a teen mentoring program, and continues to volunteer and substitute teach at local schools. She is also the representative for the LWVME Council of Local Leaders.

**New!**



**Melissa Hanley  
Murphy**  
(she/her)

📍 Scarborough

Melissa has been a member of LWVME since the 1980s when she moved to Maine after marrying a South Portland native, whom she met at the University of Michigan Law School, and joining Perkins Thompson, a Portland law firm. Her legal practice has centered on advising for-profit and non-profit real estate owners, developers and lenders in governance, as well as operational and transactional, matters. Her involvement with the League waxed and waned with the demands of her legal career and child-rearing, but she is a past Board member of the Portland Area League of Women Voters and the LWVME Education Fund, which she assisted in forming. Melissa has been an active volunteer in Scarborough as a past member of the Scarborough Housing Alliance and the Open Space Committee and as the incorporator and a founding Board member of the Scarborough Education Foundation and Scarborough Baseball Boosters. Melissa is passionate about protecting voting rights and encouraging voter participation. One of her favorite LWVME activities is registering new voters at naturalization ceremonies and in schools.



**Alison Smith**  
(she/her)

📍 Portland

Alison has been a League member since the 1980s, and it was through the LWVME that she first got involved in Clean Elections. She was one of 1,100 Mainers who volunteered to collect signatures in 1995 to put the question on the ballot and has worked on Clean Elections in either a volunteer or professional capacity ever since. Today she serves on the League's Program Committee and Money in Politics and Advocacy teams. She values not just the League's policy and voter service work, but its important role in civic engagement and leadership development. The League provided Alison with a civic education and the opportunity to make a difference, and she is committed to strengthening our organization so that all Mainers can find and fulfill their roles as active citizens. Democracy works best when we all participate!



**Polly Ward**  
(she/her)

📍 Yarmouth

Polly joined the League of Women Voters of Maine in 2012. She is currently Vice President of the LWVME and MCCE. Polly is also a member of the Portland Area League of Women Voters and serves as Treasurer for the LWVPA. She moved to Maine in 1981, and retired in 2010 from a long career in the public sector, working primarily in human resources. She has served as Deputy Commissioner for the Maine Department of Education, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services for the Maine School Management Association, for the South Portland School Department as Business Manager, and in human resources for Portland Public Schools.



The Nominated Slate will be presented in Plenary Session I at 10:00 AM.

League members will vote on the Nominated Slate in plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.



## LWVME Past Presidents

### 1920s

1920-22	Mabel Connor
1922-24	Roselle Huddilston
1924-26	Gertrude Bates
1926-28	Mrs. L. C. Rollins
1928-30	Mrs. W. L. Hayden

### 1930s

1930-34	Mrs. Paul Chapman Savage
1934-35	Mrs. Herchel E. Peabody
1935-39	—
1939	Mrs. J. Martin DeShon
1939-47	—

### 1940s

1947-49	Virginia Lamb
1949-52	—

### 1950s

1952-53	Ruth Forbes
1953-55	—
1955-57	Jean Sampson
1957-59	Jean Orr

### 1960s

1959-61	Ann Ward
1961-63	Margaret Woodbury
1963-67	Whit McEvoy
1967-69	Madeline Freeman

### 1970s

1969-71	Willabelle Zabel
1971-73	Nancy Masterton
1973-74	Shirley Knowles
1975-77	Dolores Vail
1977-78	Kathy Weibel
1978-79	Mary Ellen Maybury

### 1980s

1979-81	Alice Johnson
1981-84	Penny Harris
1984-88	Marlee Turner

### 1990s

1988-91	Jane Saxl
1991-94	Marion Holshouser
1994-95	Alvin Moss
1995-99	Sally Bryant

### 2000s

1999-2001	Sarah Walton
2001-03	Janice Carpenter
2003-07	Ann Luther
2007-09	Barbara McDade & Ann Luther

### 2010-2020s

2009-15	Barbara McDade
2015-present	Jill Ward



# Meet the Staff



**TIP:**

Want to reach out to a staff member about an issue or with a question? You can look up emails at [www.lwvme.org/Staff](http://www.lwvme.org/Staff).



**Anna Kellar**  
(they/them)  
Executive Director

**Staff Role:** Reports to Board via President. Hires and manages other staff. Drafts budget. Public representative of Democracy Maine/LWVME/MCCE to press, partners, donors, etc. Manages grants and major donors. Active member of advocacy team and lobbyist, oversees project managers of other project teams. Coordinates election coalition. Serving as Board President and interim campaign manager for Fair Elections Portland organization/campaign. 40% of time on development, 30% management, 30% project work and other external relations.

**Bio:** Anna grew up in Maine before earning a BA in Political Science from Yale University and a Masters in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics. Their experience with democracy and anti-corruption campaigns in Eastern Europe and Central Asia makes them all the more committed to preserving and strengthening civil society and grassroots democracy in Maine. Anna started working at MCCE in 2014 as an organizer on the Clean Elections Initiative. They ran for the state legislature as a Clean Elections candidate in 2016. In 2017, Anna was appointed as the first joint Executive Director for MCCE and the League of Women Voters of Maine.



**Nadya Mullen**  
(she/her)  
Operations Director

**Staff Role:** Staff support for Executive and Governance Committees. Keeps our organizations running smoothly. Responsible for office management, maintaining accurate database and membership records, financial management (including accounts receivable, accounts payable, and reporting), supporting grant reporting, managing HR and payroll, managing contracts, and helping with creating organizational and program budgets in collaboration with the ED and Development Director.

**Bio:** Nadya is a returning Maine native delighted to be home and actively supporting nonpartisan democracy efforts in Maine. She spent 18 years living in the UK, working primarily in higher and further education, and most recently as Administrative Officer for the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her background in not-for-profit administration and organizational transformation serves her well at the League and MCCE.



**Jen Lancaster**  
(she/her)  
Communications Manager

**Staff Role:** Works to increase the profiles of Democracy Maine/LWVME/MCCE with the public, provides consistent messaging and branding clarity, ensures constituents receive information, and increases engagement with program events, products, etc. Supports local Leagues as needed. Primary manager for email, social media, printed materials, websites. First contact for press.

**Bio:** Jen hails from the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. She's worked in public libraries, and has done communications work in the fields of environmental education & sustainability, city government, and higher education. She served as an AmeriCorps VISTA for 3 years in the London Ferrill Community Garden, a radical space where members grew healthy and free food for the community. She has a B.A. in English from Transylvania University and a M.A. in French from the University of Kentucky.



**Evan Tess Murray**  
(he/him/they/them)  
Education and  
Engagement Projects  
Manager (EPPM)

**Staff Role:** Staff support for Program Committee. Supports volunteer leadership on project teams for Voter Guide, Voter Engagement, Election and Local Observation, RCV and Civic Education, etc. Leads program design and evaluation processes, works closely with other staff to ensure projects have the operational, technical and volunteer support necessary to succeed. Supports Youth Council.

**Bio:** Evan Tess is a Mainer with a degree in sociology from USM who spent ten years on the other side of the US and came back in 2019. Their nonprofit and educational experience in equity and inclusion led them to the League and MCCE, where they can work to ensure that everyone has equal access to our government. They've been delighted to revisit their 20-year-old political roots in Maine, where they first learned what civic engagement means.



**Will Hayward**  
(he/him)  
Advocacy Program  
Coordinator

**Staff Role:** Supports the volunteer leadership of the advocacy team and subcommittees. Coordinator for Voting Rights and Structural Reform subcommittees. Manages grassroots advocacy strategy for voting rights, money in politics and structural reform. Host and coordinator for election webinar series. Conducts policy development and research as needed.

**Bio:** Will is a Virginia native who has worked in advocacy on a variety of issues including juvenile justice reform, worker's rights, and foreign policy. In 2019, he worked as an organizer on a political campaign in the Shenandoah region of Virginia. He received a Masters in Global Policy Studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and is excited to apply his background and interest in civic engagement and strengthening democracy to LWVME and MCCE.



**Lado Lodoka**  
(he/him)  
Program Director

**Staff Role:** Leads outreach in immigrant communities, and Neighbor to Neighbor program. Facilitates Immigrant Housing Coalition. Represents DM in Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition and Coalition on Racial Equity. Supports project managers for Voter Engagement and Voter Guide project teams and Fair Elections Portland.

**Bio:** Lado holds a BA in Political Science from USM and a Masters in Community Development Policy and Practice from UNH. Prior to joining MCCE, he worked for the Kansas Department for Children and Families as Regional Refugee Coordinator and Program Consultant for Employment Service Provider Agreement. Lado leads the League and MCCE's voter engagement and advocacy work in immigrant and low-income communities.





**Lane Sturtevant**  
(they/them)  
Organizer

**Staff Role:** Staff support for Membership & Volunteer Committee and Council of Local Leagues. Supports local Leagues and state project teams (with a particular focus on national popular vote campaign), coordinates intake for new volunteers, and leads outreach in areas of the state without robust local League infrastructure (South Thomaston-based).

**Bio:** Lane is a Vermonter who came to Maine for college and never left. They have worked at nonprofit organizations in Lewiston and the Midcoast in youth programming and education roles. Most recently, they served as a youth coordinator for OUT Maine, an organization supporting and empowering LGBTQ+ youth in rural Maine. Lane has a B.A. in anthropology from Bowdoin College. They are excited to combine their passion for an equitable democratic process with their love for Maine communities in this organizing role.



**Meg McCormick**  
(she/her)  
Leader of Maine  
Student Votes

**Staff Role:** Meg currently serves as the Maine Director of the Campus Election Engagement Project, as well as the Director of the Maine Students Vote initiative. The objective of both efforts is to expand Maine's youth democratic participation, close the youth vote gap, and instill a lifetime commitment to civic engagement in Maine's youth. She continues to work collaboratively with the LWVME.

**Bio:** Meg has supported civic engagement efforts in Maine and New England since 2016. Previously, as the Director of Programs at Maine Campus Compact, she designed and managed community and civic engagement projects across Maine and New England. Before moving to Maine, she helped establish Northwest Indian College's department of service-learning and then co-founded the Institute of Indigenous Foods and Traditions. In this capacity, Meg worked with 28 tribes in Washington on food policy campaigns and revitalizing tribal food systems. In 2019, Meg founded the Maine Students Vote initiative — a nonpartisan effort to expand student voting and democratic engagement on Maine colleges and universities. Meg also supports the Campus Election Engagement Project and works with campuses in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont on institutionalizing election engagement.



**Fiona Keane**  
(they/them)  
Democracy Reform  
Organizer

**Staff Role:** Provides support to organizing and grassroots teams in our efforts to ensure passage of the For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 1) and other pro-democracy reforms in the U. S. Congress. Focuses on recruiting, training, and supporting Democracy Maine volunteers for phone and text banks.


**Bio:** Fiona is a Massachusetts native who now calls Maine home. They graduated from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania with a B.A. in American Studies and have spent their post-college career working on Democratic campaigns. Fiona started out as a field organizer for Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign in New Hampshire. They then went on to work with the Maine Democratic Party's Senate Democratic Campaign Committee to help elect Mainers to the state senate. Fiona is thrilled to be joining the LWVME and MCCE as a Democracy Reform Organizer.

# LWVME Proposed Budget 2021-2023

	LWVME Budget* — Vote	For Reference — Combined Democracy Maine c4+c3
<i>Estimated starting cash on hand:</i>	56,600	146,983
<b>Income:</b>		
Individual Donors	121,800	623,700
Membership Dues	73,656	73,656
Grants	76,775	846,275
Other - Maineshare		6,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>328,831</b>	<b>1,696,614</b>
<b>Expense:</b>		
Staff Salary and Benefits	125,630	1,226,298
Consultants**	41,400	155,400
Overhead and Administration	5,078	59,083
Program Expenses	15,233	177,248
Per Member Payment	32,128	32,128
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>219,468</b>	<b>1,650,156</b>
<b>Net:</b>	109,363	46,458
<b>Reserves:</b>		161,267

\* This budget represents the operating budget of the League of Women Voters of Maine. The combined budget includes this budget, plus the budgets of the LWVME Education Fund, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and MCCE Action.

\*\*Consultants include accounting, lobbying, legal, web and print design etc.



The Proposed Budget will be presented in Plenary Session I at 10:00 AM.

League members will vote on the Proposed Budget in plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.



# Our Vision



**TIP:**

This is our program direction for 2021-23. The Proposed Program will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 10:00 AM.



**TIP:**

League members will vote on the Proposed Program in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

# Proposed 2021-2023 Program

Sustain emphasis on the Making Democracy Work agenda:

**Making Democracy Work: engaging and informing voters, protecting and improving elections, and fighting big money in politics.**

As we look ahead to the 2022 elections, the 2023 legislative session, and beyond, we anticipate further work to modernize Maine’s elections, including the implementation of online voter registration, and developing the systems to increase voter participation and support more secure and convenient voting by mail, while maintaining strong in-person voting options. We will work for the National Popular Vote, including through referendum if necessary. We will observe the redistricting process and take every opportunity to advocate for equity and fair representation. We will continue to advocate for expanded Ranked Choice Voting in state and local elections, and for additional money-in-politics reforms that increase the power of small donors, and reduce corporate influence.

Through both our policy objectives and our daily organizing, we support Mainers to be active participants in our democracy. Our mission begins and ends with empowered and engaged people — this is both our ‘means’ and our ‘end.’ We prioritize the groups who have been most excluded from political power, including black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), young, and low-income Mainers. Many of our supporters, once empowered, go on to lead their own efforts outside of our mission work.

One New Topic Proposed for Study to Determine New Policy Positions for LWVME:

For 2021-2023, the Board of Directors is proposing one topic for study over the next year. We also are asking the convention for non-binding feedback on other potential study topics for future years.

## Consensus Program:

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Maine proposes a study on lowering the voting age in Maine to 16 for statewide elections as well as allowing municipalities to lower the voting age for municipal elections.

## Notes

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The Proposed Program will be presented in Plenary Session I at 10:00 AM.

League members will vote on the Proposed Program in plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.



## How Does the League Determine Its Positions?

The League of Women Voters uses studies to determine public policy and programming. The League cannot take action without a position and cannot formulate a position without some form of study by the national League or a state or local League. Because the League studies all sides of each issue and approaches new policy based on evidence and the public interest in a nonpartisan way, the organization has developed a respected reputation and voice in American politics.

### What is a study?

League studies follow a consensus model based on education, readings, and discussion. A study committee appointed by the Board designs the study, including scope, process, and timeline. Once the Board approves the study design, the Committee compiles study materials and creates the Consensus or Concurrence questions. Then, facilitated study meetings are arranged with chapters and members so that any member can participate even if they are not affiliated with a local League.

### Consensus and Concurrence

There are two forms of study: Consensus and Concurrence. A **Concurrence study** is based on a study or policy done by or adopted by another state League. The resources may be adapted from the original study, and the Concurrence question is a vote on whether or not to adopt the policy developed by the other chapter. This may be done by the Board on its own authority, or it may be done by engaging the entire membership.

A **Consensus study** is one that starts from scratch. If neither LWVUS nor any other chapter has an official position on a topic, a Consensus study is conducted to formulate new policy. League members read the study material, discuss and debate the questions, and decide the outcome.

The decision is not by simple majority or vote — it is the “overall sense of the group and a judgement about whether member understanding and agreement have been achieved.”

The goal is for the new position to reflect as broad a portion of the membership as possible.

### What does this mean for you?

All LWVME members (any League members in Maine) are urged to participate in the study by:

- + Voting on the proposed topics at Convention.
- + Volunteering for the Study Committee.
- + Participating in the study (or studies). This includes reading the program material, participating in discussions, and answering study questions.
- + Volunteering for study-related tasks.

# Our Vision

Through both our policy objectives and our daily organizing, we support Mainers to be active participants in our democracy. Our mission begins and ends with empowered and engaged people — this is both our ‘means’ and our ‘end.’ Our training and educational programs serve both our own members, our issues, and the wider community. Success is demonstrated when many of our supporters go on to lead their own efforts on the issues they care about. Each of our programs has roles for experienced volunteers and newcomers, and at least one way for local Leagues to connect. We all learn and grow together by tackling the challenges facing our communities.

Our programs reflect our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice. We prioritize efforts to ensure that the most underserved and marginalized among us have as much voice in our democracy as the most well-served and advantaged. We recognize that Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), young and low-income Mainers, and people with disabilities, among others, continue to face higher barriers to voting and civic engagement. We must directly confront racism and systemic oppression at every opportunity, including within our own practices and institutions, and support leadership by BIPOC Mainers and other disadvantaged groups.

Our programs also reflect our commitment to meaningful and measurable impact. We are committed to research and evaluation, and bringing both academic and learned experiences into the process of program development. Wherever possible, we collect data and chart our progress

against quantitative and qualitative measures. We also measure the health of Maine’s democracy in our biennial State of Democracy report.

Our advocacy focus continues to be making democracy work at the national, state and local level. We advocate for policies including voting rights, more representative government, reducing the influence of big money in politics, and fighting for the freedom to vote. Flagship priorities in this biennium include national popular vote, banning corporate contributions, and passing online voter registration.

In the 2020 election, we served more than 250,000 voters with information through our voter guides, hotlines, public service announcements (PSAs), door-to-door canvass, text bank, webinars, and community partnerships. We will continue to grow and refine these voter education and get-out-the-vote programs, with a focus first on local elections and the 2022 midterm and gubernatorial elections.

We also have a great opportunity to bring voter engagement to the local level with community-based civic education. Municipal and county governments make decisions that deeply impact racial equity and inequity, and yet those elections and institutions are poorly understood by the public and receive little attention from most state organizations. The work goes beyond encouraging voting; a well-functioning democracy rests on an educated and engaged populace. Observation of elections and local government processes is another new area that has the potential to strengthen local democracy and engage more

“The League stands for the rights of all people to be active participants in their government. We educate voters, empower people to participate in civic life, and advocate for policies that strengthen our democracy.”

people. Of course, by continuing to grow our grassroots network in off-election years, we will be well positioned for effective voter engagement in 2022 and 2024.

Another exciting area of growth is our youth programming, including Maine Students Vote and our Youth Council. We are supporting young leaders as they develop project goals for civic education and relational organizing. We will strengthen the youth-led structure of our new Youth Council, while developing intergenerational cooperation and respect. The Youth Council is currently planning programs to encourage engagement in local politics, learn moderation and facilitation skills, become trained in political advocacy, and create speaking opportunities for council members. We will also foster connections between high school and college students, high school teachers and college professors and administrators, and League members who can bring decades of experience in local activism. Our education and outreach team is also developing curricula and lesson plans to support civic education inside and outside the classroom.

Despite the many challenges of 2020, a silver lining has been the increased opportunity for collaboration and connection with outside organizations across geographic boundaries. There is potential for transformative work to come from these relationships and shared mission spaces if we do not force advocacy and engagement into the traditional channels. Achieving true democracy will require both greater voice and representation for underrepresented communities within institutions,

and for the institutions of our democracy to be transformed with equity in mind. This applies both within the League and in the wider world. While we missed being with our communities and serving voters face to face in 2020, we've found that the transition to digital spaces has allowed local leaders from different regions to share information and build community, and has made participation more accessible for many. At the same time, we are conscious of the digital divide, and the barriers that technology can create for other community members. As we launch a hybrid model, we have to provide different times, formats, and locations for our programming in order for it to be successful — and we have to bring the resources we create out into the community and not wait for them to come to us.

Our League is entering its second century at a time when our democracy is being tested. We can see the extremes everywhere. The 2020 election had record turnout — and an unprecedented breach of the peaceful transition of power. Voting rights are being rolled back in states around the country — and a historic reform bill is on the brink of transforming voter access, redistricting and campaign finance nationwide. In this time of flux, we have to act bravely in our state and communities. We will defend our hard-won rights and keep breaking down barriers of injustice as we focus on the democracy we want to live in. Our League programs must rise to this challenge, and we can do it, if we all pitch in and do it together.

## Program Plan 2021-2023

Our six Program Areas are: Advocacy, Council of Local Leader Programs, Outreach & Education, Youth Engagement, Voter Guides & Publications, and Democracy Observation

### ADVOCACY

Teams	Projects	Leadership	Local League program opportunities
Money in Politics Team	+ MCEA Support + Corporate/Foreign Contribution Bans + Municipal Public Funding	Anna Kellar	+ Local money in politics research & advocacy + Engage local legislators + Host presentations + Advocacy at the local level
Voting Rights and Election Advocacy Team	+ Online Voter Registration + Modernization & Funding for SoS + Audits	Will Hayward & Ann Luther	+ Engage local legislators + Advocacy at the municipal level
Structural Reform Team	+ RCV + Semi-Open Primaries	Will Hayward, Deb McDonough, & John Brautigam	+ Local RCV advocacy + Engage local legislators + Advocacy at the local level
National Popular Vote Campaign	+ Grassroots Lobbying + Public Education + Legislative Advocacy	Lori Calderone & Will Hayward	+ Host presentations + Engage local legislators + Host trainings + Host book clubs
Grassroots Advocacy Training & Communication	+ Yearly Maine Legislator Series + Guides for testimony, LTEs, district meetings + Legislative Scorecard + Skill sharing with other advocates	Organizing Team	+ Hold training opportunities + Engage local organizations
Federal Advocacy	+ H.R. 1 & H.R. 4 + D.C. Statehood	Anna Kellar	+ Hold presentations + Gather local members to take action together
Studies	+ Non-Citizen Voting? + Voting Age? + Electing Constitutional Officers?		+ Join study leadership & contribute research + Host consensus meetings

## COUNCIL OF LOCAL LEADERS PROGRAMMING

Team	Projects	Leadership	Local League program opportunities
Council of Local Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Local election PSA materials</li> <li>+ Technology and Communications support</li> <li>+ Deliberative democracy — “fast, fun, and fair” training programs</li> </ul>	CLL members, with support from Lane Sturtevant and other staff as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participate in CLL trainings and programs</li> <li>+ Communicate needs and replicable successes to CLL</li> <li>+ Craft local issue conversations using facilitation training</li> </ul>

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Teams	Projects	Leadership	Local League program opportunities
Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Speakers’ Bureau</li> <li>+ Community-Based Civics Ed</li> <li>+ Moderator Training</li> <li>+ Student Government Reform Pilot</li> </ul>	Evan Tess Murray, Susana Hancock, & Lado Lodoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Join the Speakers’ Bureau</li> <li>+ Give presentations locally</li> <li>+ Work on curriculum development</li> <li>+ Take the training</li> </ul>
Curriculum Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ RCV Curriculum</li> <li>+ Civics Ed Curriculum</li> <li>+ Presentation Library</li> <li>+ Needs Assessment</li> </ul>	Susana Hancock & John Brautigam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ (Develop curricula)</li> <li>+ Test content</li> <li>+ Connect with community organizations</li> <li>+ Build relationships with local high schools</li> </ul>
Direct Voter Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Neighbor to Neighbor</li> <li>+ Business-based voter outreach</li> <li>+ Voter Registration &amp; Events</li> <li>+ Friend to Friend Relational Organizing</li> </ul>	Evan Tess Murray, Lado Lodoka, & Peg Balano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Coordinate League members to join a N2N canvass</li> <li>+ (Volunteer for N2N)</li> <li>+ Hold voter registration drives</li> <li>+ (Do F2F training)</li> <li>+ Convene a F2F training</li> <li>+ GOTV activities</li> </ul>



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Teams	Projects	Leadership	Local League program opportunities
High School Engagement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Youth Council</li> <li>+ Youth Organization Outreach</li> <li>+ School-Based Outreach</li> </ul>	Evan Tess Murray & Kari Sides Suva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Invite Youth Council to league events and meetings</li> <li>+ Collaborative events with youth</li> <li>+ (Mentor youth council members)</li> <li>+ (Recruit high school students for the youth council)</li> <li>+ Build relationships with local high schools and youth organizations</li> </ul>
Maine Students Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Fellowships at Universities</li> <li>+ Campus Engagement Plans</li> <li>+ Civic Ed curriculum support</li> </ul>	Evan Tess Murray & Meg McCormick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Collaborate on on-campus educational events</li> <li>+ Local civic ed for student voters</li> <li>+ Collaborate on election protection and GOTV projects</li> </ul>

## VOTER GUIDE AND PUBLICATIONS

Teams	Projects	Leadership	Local League program opportunities
Voter Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Statewide Voter Guide</li> <li>+ Vote 411</li> <li>+ MYVC Brochure</li> <li>+ Voter Resources on the Website</li> </ul>	Evan Tess Murray Jen Lancaster, (Seeking additional state leaders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Candidate outreach</li> <li>+ Issue research and writing</li> <li>+ Distribute/promote guides locally</li> <li>+ Create local voter guides</li> <li>+ Add local election info to vote 411</li> </ul>
Toolkits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Guide to Local Civic Involvement</li> <li>+ Forum in a Box</li> <li>+ GOTV in a Box</li> <li>+ Book Club in a Box</li> </ul>	Evan Tess Murray, Susana Hancock, & Lane Sturtevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participate in development of guides</li> <li>+ Develop local programs that use the guides</li> <li>+ Provide feedback and improvements</li> <li>+ Suggest new guides needed</li> </ul>
Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ State of the Democracy Report</li> <li>+ Money In Politics Series</li> <li>+ Election Reports</li> </ul>	Jen Lancaster, Ann Luther, John Brautigam, & Anna Kellar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Host presentation on release of report</li> <li>+ Produce report on topic of local interest</li> </ul>

## ELECTION OBSERVATION/PROTECTION

Teams	Projects	Leadership	Local League program opportunities
Polling Place Observation	+ Observer Corps + Election Observation Training	Evan Tess Murray & Will Hayward	+ Become trained election observer + Observe and report on local elections
State Process Observation	+ Redistricting Observation	Will Hayward & Penelope Hamblin	+ Research and communicate community concerns
Local Democracy Observation	+ Local Observation Training + Best Practices for Local Observation	Evan Tess Murray & Will Hayward	+ Create local observation plan for your area + Observe local processes and report back
Voter Protection	+ Voter Hotline + Help ME Vote FB Group	Evan Tess Murray & Will Hayward	+ Volunteer to staff the hotline + Promote hotline ahead of local elections

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



# Local League Reports



Members of the Bangor Area League of Women Voters helped Bangor Parks and Recreation with park maintenance by picking up trash along the banks of the Kenduskeag Stream. Usual pursuits of this group include voter registration, candidate forums, advocating for voters, voter education and delving deep into issues, however, when several members noticed trash while walking in Bangor, the group decided action was needed. A phone call to Parks and Recreation set in motion one of the group's fall activities. The group continued working in Bangor parks throughout the fall.

Bangor League members book discussion group met monthly at a local restaurant until the pandemic changed the meetings to Zoom sessions. Some of the titles discussed included *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz; *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America: A Recent History* by Kurt Andersen; *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson; and *The Curse of Bigness: Antitrust in the New Gilded Age*, by Tim Wu. The group also held a "wine and whine" by Zoom with UMaine political science professor, Amy Fried after the November election. Her analysis was pertinent and members' questions focused the discussion to what happened in Maine.

The book discussion and trash pickup were not the group's only activities. Members moderated local candidate forums, registered voters at schools, through the Bangor Housing Authority, and at Nationalization Ceremonies, volunteered at the polls and distributed the League's Voter Guides. It also co-sponsoring programs including celebrating Women's Suffrage with the Bangor Public Library; and programs on voter suppression with the Maine Multicultural Center.





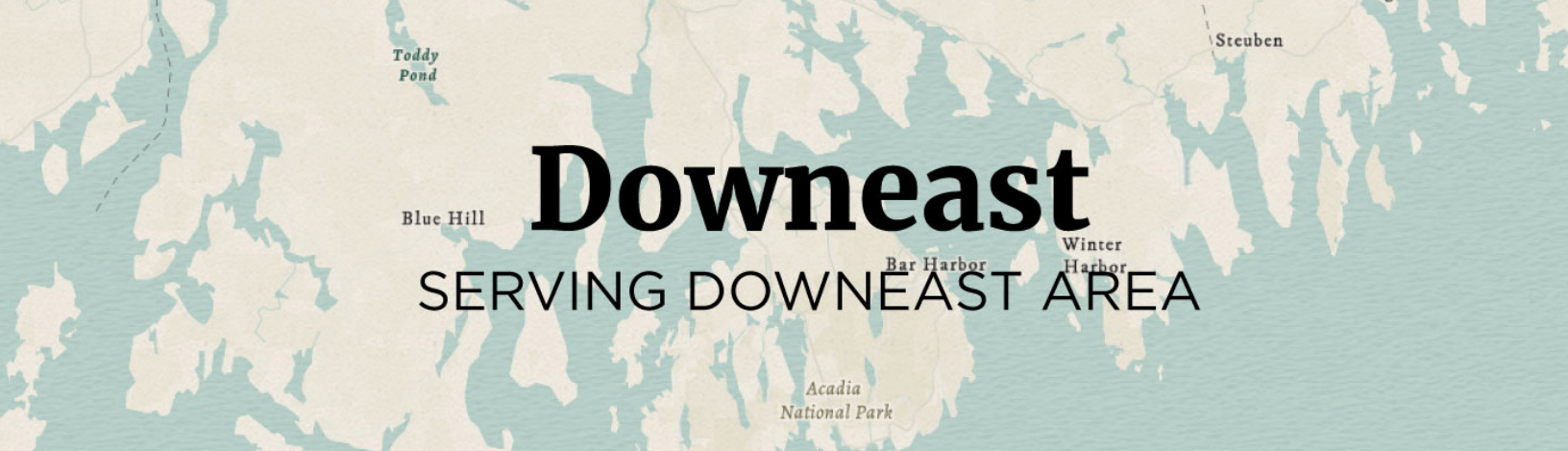


Since the last LWVME biennial convention, the Capital Area League has done the following:

- Conducted voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies and area high schools
- Participated in the “Citizen’s Initiative” consensus study
- Participated in “Host/Moderator/Facilitator” training with Sue Robins
- Purchased and posted “VOTE” reminder signs before elections in Senate District 14
- Attended and represented the LWVME at the “Suffrage Centennial Tea” at Blaine House
- Sponsored “The Struggle for Women’s Suffrage: Revisiting Our History, Rededicating Our Future” presentation by Ann Luther
- Held a “Meet and Greet” tea at a member’s home
- Participated in establishing and launching the Council of Local Leaders
- Attended and staffed the registration table for the LWVME’s “Advocacy Day” at the Maine State House
- Participated on the Council of Local Leaders
- Appointed a “Membership Coordinator”
- Contacted all town and city clerks in Senate District 14 to inform them that the LWVME would send election observers to the polls for the special election
- Conducted online “Candidate Forums” for House Districts 81, 83, 86 and Senate District 14, moderated by former State Sen. Roger Katz and Chuck Cohen, retired Hearing Examiner for the Maine Public Utilities Commission
- Participated in “Local Government Observation” introductory training



The League of Women Voters of the Capital Area hosted a number of virtual candidate forums for the November election. It was a great way to meet local candidates, hear what they had to say on the issues, and ask questions.



### **“Democracy Forum” (DF) Radio Broadcast:**

This is the signature project of LWV -Downeast. The DF airs at 4 p.m. on the third Friday of each month on WERU-FM 89.9 community radio (weru.org). Founded in 2004, the DF was heard monthly only during years with presidential elections until 2017 when we began broadcasting the third Friday of every month. We present nationally recognized and Maine-based guests in conversation on important topics of participatory democracy with a Maine perspective. In 2018 the show *Immigration: Can We Live Without It?* was awarded First Place in the Public Affairs category by the Maine Association of Broadcasters. In mid-March 2020, we seamlessly adapted to a pandemic protocol using ZOOM meeting technology to pre-record the shows, expanding the opportunities and flexibility for scheduling guests. (We lost the listener call-in feature but maintain connection to the listening community with email.) As of April 2021, DF programming can also be heard in Southern Maine and beyond at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month on WMPG 99.9 FM community radio (wmpg.org). WERU and WMPG are longstanding sister stations, and the League of Women Voters Downeast appreciates the opportunity to participate in this broadcast partnership.

### **Community Conversations:**

Between September 2019 and March 2020, we hosted a monthly series of Saturday luncheon meetings open to the public where guests presented topics of general interest. The November 2019 talk featuring Maulian Dana, “Decolonizing Thanksgiving,” broke all records and packed the room, with nearly 70 people in attendance. Our final meeting in the series was a birthday party for the League in March 2020 featuring our own Anna Kellar. And there was a birthday cake. COVID restrictions ended our in-person activities right after that meeting, but over the winter of 2021, we launched a new Let’s Talk program on the Zoom platform on some Saturdays at noon, featuring informal conversations on topics of interest, sometimes including a guest expert.

### **Also:**

We produced four candidate forums for Maine legislative races in the fall of 2020 using Zoom technology. We distributed well over 1,000 Voter Guides in November. And our Book Group continues meeting monthly, more or less, on Zoom. We are very much looking forward to meeting in person again soon.





League of Women Voters-Midcoast’s focus during the last two years has been registering voters and supporting the development of our league. In-person meetings, voter registration drives, partnering with local organizations for film and speaker presentations, and preparing to celebrate the Suffrage Centennial — all took place prior to the Coronavirus shutdown of in-person events.

Once our leadership and members became familiar with Zoom, meetings resumed. Online meetings enabled us to expand our membership beyond the physical limitations of our rural area. Developing technical skills opened the possibility of presenting guest speakers and videos, such as the NPV film Winner Take All, with presenter Lori Calderone.

As the election neared, members were involved with Youth Votes and voter registration efforts at local high schools and other socially distanced local opportunities. We organized an online candidate forum for two seats in the Maine State Legislature, and distributed Voter Guides. Our leadership team sent LWV VOTE masks to our members.

More recently a series of speakers including Emanuel Pariser — of Youth Work Makes the Booth Work, Kari Suva — of the LWVME High School Youth Voter Engagement project, Evan Murray of LWVME, and Youth Council member Vivian Burnham have presented information and their experience with youth activism and civics education.

Midcoast members are reading and discussing Jesse Wegman’s *Let the People Pick the President*.







At the start of the 2019-20 season, LWVPA was poised for an exciting year ahead, with lots of events planned. Highlights focused on Centennial celebrations, including co-sponsoring the Women in Harmony Concert: The Right to Vote in January. This wonderful event, held in a large church filled to overflowing, included WIH singers in period costumes, videos and songs of the period. Our suffragist cutout was there so folks could have their pictures taken. And League members met for dinner afterwards.

As plans halted in March of 2020 with Covid-19, our view turned to the Presidential election. We participated in the Youth Votes! program, coordinating with high schools and colleges to send out voter registrations and absentee ballot requests to eligible new voters. We mailed out the League's 'Vote' masks to our members. Moderator training was a priority, and our own Sue Robins held a successful online training in September that focused on election forums.

All events that followed were online via Zoom. We held book discussions on climate change and diversity. We enjoyed presentations by the Citizens Climate Lobby on the carbon dividend, by Thorn Dickinson on the New England Clean Energy Corridor, from LWVME's National Popular Vote Planning Committee, and the work of the Maine Climate Council's recommendations to the legislature, by Cassandra Rose.

PA members participated in LWVME's statewide study for "Citizens' Initiative and People's Veto Referenda." We are currently setting up the Vote411 online voter guide for the Portland Charter Commission election and our Observation Corp members will be there on June 8.

We would love to have our LWVPA members get involved with any of our future events, so email us at [portland@lwvme.org](mailto:portland@lwvme.org) with questions or suggestions. We are especially looking for help with media outreach for our Facebook and website pages.

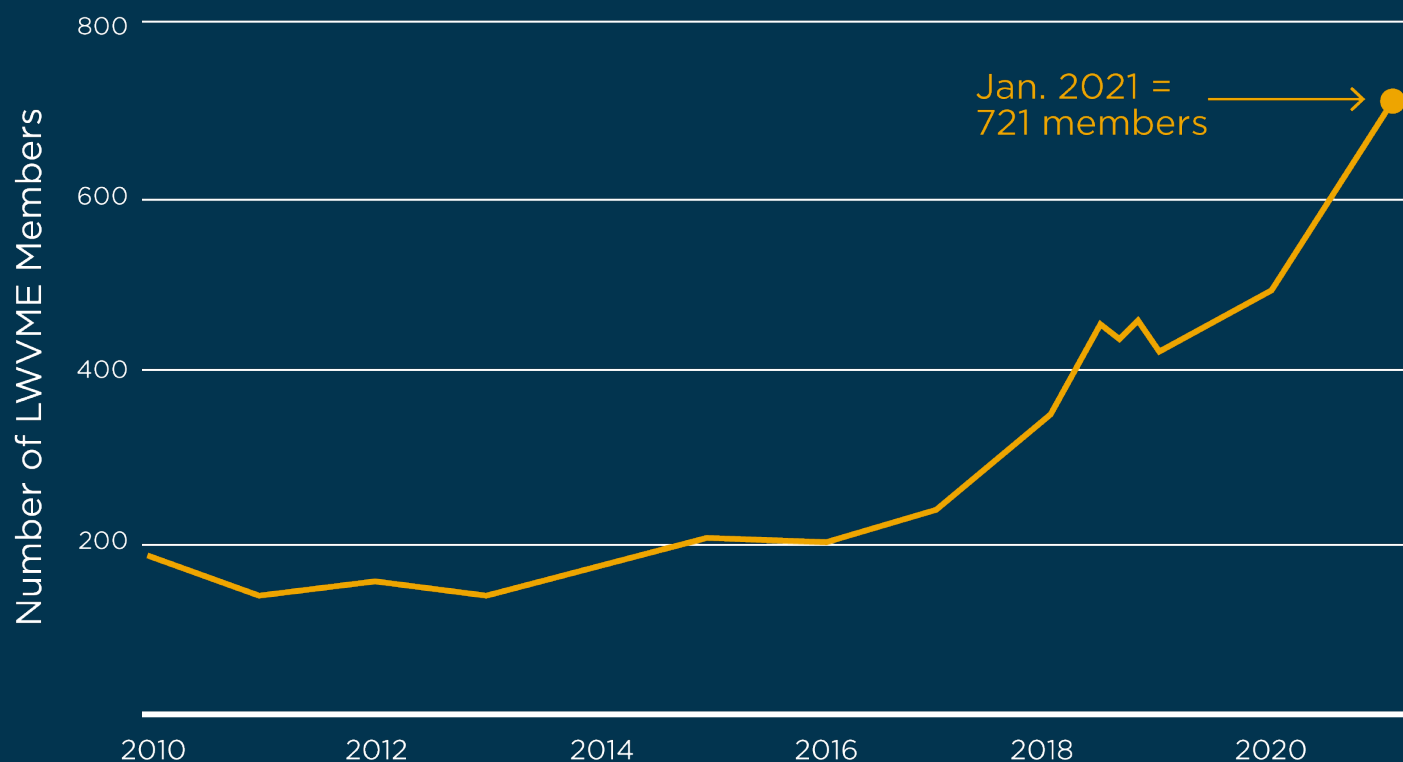




## Membership Reports

	LWVME	Portland Area	Brunswick Area	Downeast	Member At Large
January 2007	252	92	65	49	46
January 2008	216	76	54	52	34
January 2009	184	66	54	31	33
January 2010	184	63	43	31	47
January 2011	140	47	38	33	22
January 2012	155	53	42	24	36
January 2013	140	57	22	30	31
January 2014	170	77	22	32	39
January 2015	205	92	27	38	48
January 2016	200	83	31	39	47
January 2017	235	107	37	41	50
January 2018	345	137	48	57	103
January 2019	421	167	66	74	114
January 2020	490	184	58	75	173
January 2021	671	283	54	92	242
March 2021	712	304	68	98	242

**Number of LWVME Members from 2007-2021**

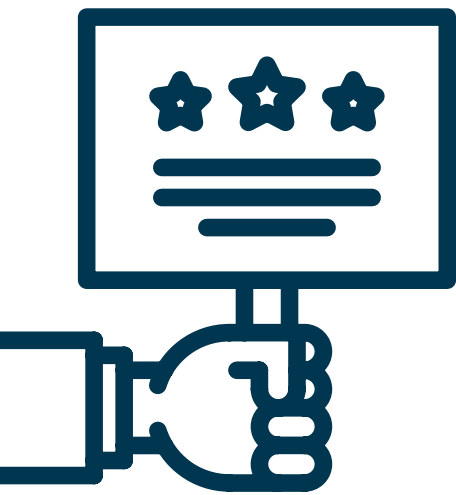


## Membership Reports: New Leagues included as Members at Large

	Bangor	Midcoast	Capital Area	York County	Machias	Belfast	Lewiston	Piscataquis
January 2007								
January 2008								
January 2009								
January 2010								
January 2011								
January 2012								
January 2013								
January 2014								
January 2015	15							
January 2016	15							
January 2017	12							
January 2018	21	28						
January 2019	23	50						
January 2020	20	38	20	25	3	7	3	
January 2021	23	64	44	30	0	13	5	9
March 2021	23	66	53	32	4	15	6	9



# Advocacy Reports



From the second session of the 129th Maine State Legislature through the first regular session of the 130th, the League has monitored bills in the priority areas set by the Board:

- + Voting Rights
- + Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform
- + Election Methods & Administration
- + Ethics & Disclosure
- + Freedom of Information
- + Good Government

Our Advocacy Committee now includes volunteers Nadine Bangerter, Beth Bandy, Sue Ellen Bordwell, Amelia Brown, Lori Calderone, Gina Coppens, Liza Dewitt, Penelope Hamblin, Jody Huntington, Chelsea Lane, Ann Luther, deb McDonough, Marna Miller, Briauna Norman, Gerri Palmer, Matt Schaeffer, Joseph Skalecki, Alison Smith, and Janet Williams; along with staff members Allison Briggs, John Brautigam, Will Hayward, Bob Howe, Anna Kellar, Jen Lancaster, Lado Ladoka, and Lane Sturtevant.

We typically follow over 90 titles in each legislature out of the 1700 titles (or more) that are considered. We typically present testimony on around 50 bills between the League and MCCE. At the same time, we are actively supporting the democracy agenda of our national League at the federal level, including the For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 1), the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4), the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (statehood for the

District, HR 51), and redistricting reform at the state level as part of a broad national campaign.

During the spring of 2017, we initiated a weekly email update on important legislative hearings and a schedule of upcoming proceedings entitled “Action Under the Dome.” This e-blast now goes to over 4,000 list subscribers every Monday. It serves two purposes, both alerting people to action in our priority areas, and helping people learn about the legislative process by tracking how bills become law.

On March 3, 2020, Maine conducted its first presidential primary election since 2004 thanks in part to the work of the League. Following our study of primary election systems (2017-2018), the League advocated strongly for Maine to replace the presidential caucuses that had been used since 2008, and we won! Shortly thereafter, the second session of the 129th Legislature was abruptly curtailed when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Several bills we were still working on were left in a state of suspended animation and ultimately died through inaction.

The League immediately pivoted its advocacy efforts toward the conduct of COVID elections, advocating through the Governor’s Office and the Office of the Secretary of State for measures that would preserve safe in-person voting while encouraging strong voter participation by absentee ballot. This work continued through the November





election. The League convened and led a coalition of voter rights advocates that later became known as Modernize Maine Elections (MME). Working with this powerful group, we were instrumental in promoting absentee voting to the point where over 60% of ballots were cast absentee in the November election. Among the successfully adopted strategies that we promoted were these: deployment of secure drop boxes in over 250 towns; additional time for advanced processing of absentee ballots; and online ballot tracking through the Office of the Secretary of State. We hoped that the SOS would provide a central online repository of drop box locations, but when that wasn't possible, we crowd-sourced it ourselves, providing access to a GIS map with photos and other information about voting hours during the November election. During this period, we also launched our first Election Observer programs. Our report on the November election can be found online here [bit.ly/PostElectionReport](https://bit.ly/PostElectionReport).

After a tumultuous year in American politics, as Democracy Maine, we released the second edition of the report, *State of Maine Democracy*, that assesses the health of the state's government and democracy. The first edition was released in April 2020, just after the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect to update this much-cited report every two years going forward. Read the 2021 edition here: <http://bit.ly/StateMEDemocracy>.

After the November election, the Legislature convened under COVID restrictions, but it was far from business as usual. Legislative committees have

been conducting public hearings and work session via Zoom, with live video access for public viewing on YouTube. The full legislative body has had only two session days since they got going — March 30 and 31 — with no expectation that they will meet again before the end of April. Included below is a summary of action during the second session of the 129th Legislature (January to April, 2020) and the first session of the 130th Legislature (still in progress). To read more about the bills summarized below and the other bills where the League has been active or to read the League's testimony, go to [www.lwvme.org/VotersElections](http://www.lwvme.org/VotersElections).

### Voting Rights

Beginning in 2017, the League, among many other groups, supported Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). LWVME testified, "This one improvement will make registering easier for Maine people, will reduce the potential for errors in the voting rolls, and will ultimately save money and time at all levels of the election process." The bill failed to pass in 2017 over opposition from the Office of the Secretary of State. We supported the bill again when it was reintroduced as LD 1463 in 2019 with sponsorship from the Speaker of the House and broad coalition backing. We were pleased when the bill was enacted in June, 2020, and look forward to implementation in 2022.

Our highest priority bill for 2021 is a complement to AVR — Online Voter Registration (OVR). The pandemic has reinforced more strongly than ever the importance of offering voters a chance

to register without the requirement to make a trip to the town office. We believe that OVR will modernize voter registration to make it more accessible, secure, and efficient. This is another policy change that has been introduced several times before, but this year, for the first time, we have the support of the Secretary of State and the Maine Town and City Clerks Association. We are very hopeful that this bill (LD 1126) will pass this session for enactment in late 2023.

We are once again supporting a bill (LD 1155) to provide election transparency and audits. We first introduced this bill in the 128th Legislature (2017) with sponsorship from then-Senator Shenna Bellows. We tried again in 2019. We hope the third time will be the charm, especially since Sen. Bellows is now Secretary of State Bellows and is supporting the bill from her new position. We know that the most significant election threats that we face are active efforts to undermine the credibility of election results by both domestic and foreign actors. LD 1155 will address those threats by providing for election audits, more transparency about election processes enabling more public inspection, and more data collection and reporting on election issues.

Finally, in the voting rights arena, in 2020 we adopted a new position by concurrence with Connecticut in favor of efficient, affordable high-speed internet. Using the new position, we endorsed the “Yes on 1” campaign, a bond issue to invest in broadband. That measure passed by referendum in July, 2020.

At the same time, we remain vigilant, defending against efforts to roll back Maine’s strong, inclusive voter laws, opposing photo ID requirements at the polls, opposing felon disenfranchisement, and opposing roll-backs on no-excuse absentee voting. Many states are fighting similar threats; we hope to continue to prevail.

### **Absentee Voting and Vote-by-Mail**

Maine has had no-excuse absentee voting since 1999. Since then, the number of absentee ballots cast has grown from about 10% in 2000 to over 30% more recently. The COVID elections of 2020

shattered all records, with over 60% of ballots cast absentee in November. The success of absentee voting last year has renewed calls to expand vote-by-mail to include universal vote-by-mail. In March, 2020, we published Universal Vote-by-Mail Analysis, which recommends that any vote-by-mail system preserve the array of choice currently available to Maine voters, including same-day registration and in-person voting. Between 2020 and 2021, we have advocated proceeding cautiously to modernize Maine’s election systems and infrastructure to lay the foundation for increased convenience voting by absentee ballot, stopping short of all-mail voting.

We have also continued to support a constitutional amendment to permit true early voting in Maine, although our efforts continue to be frustrated by the super-majority requirement for this measure to advance to voters for ratification.

### **Election Methods**

Following the 2018 completion of our study on candidate selection systems/primary elections, we used our new positions to support legislation in both the 129th and 130th that would permit unenrolled voters to participate in primary elections, also known as semi-open primaries. That bill failed to emerge from committee in 2019; as LD 231, it is still being worked at this writing in 2021 (LD 303 is an identical bill).

The League is also part of a coalition that is hoping for Maine to join the National Popular Vote interstate compact. If passed by enough states to commit 270 votes in the Electoral College, this measure would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill failed very narrowly in the 129th Legislature; it is being introduced again in the 130th and is one of our highest priorities.

The League has continued to be actively involved in supporting Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for elections in Maine. Through the legislative wrangling at the end of 2017, through the people’s veto campaign in June of 2018, and through the initial implementation for RCV in the primary and



general elections of 2018, the League has opposed measures to repeal or curtail the use of RCV, we have supported constitutional amendments to permit the use of RCV in state general elections currently prohibited under the Maine State Constitution, and we have supported the implementation of RCV through rulemaking and election observation. During the 129th Legislature, we supported RCV for use in presidential primaries, and one of our top-priority bills was a constitutional amendment to permit RCV in gubernatorial general elections and state legislative races. That bill did not come close to the 2/3 majority needed to pass the Legislature, but we are supporting a similar measure again in 2021. We also supported the successful 2020 effort to expand RCV in Portland to include city council and school board races.

### Clean Elections

The League has continued to support the Maine Clean Election Act and other money-in-politics reforms. During the 129th and 130th Legislatures, funding for the upcoming Clean Election cycles seems assured. In 2019, our priority money-in-politics bill was LD 54, which we hoped would extend the ban on lobbyist contributions to legislators during the legislative session to a year-round ban, and would cover contributions to candidates as well as sitting legislators. Although this had strong support from the public and within the legislature, powerful forces drastically weakened the measure during the committee process, and the version of the bill that passed and got signed into law was a lot weaker than we had hoped. In 2021, two of our highest priority bills would reduce the influence of corporate money in elections: LDs 194 and 479 restrict the role that foreign-owned corporations can play in referenda elections; and LD 1417 would prohibit corporate contributions to state candidates and leadership PACs. At this writing, we are working hard for passage of both, watchful as always of the “powerful forces.”

### Racial Justice

In 2020, we joined the Coalition on Racial Equity (CORE). With our coalition partners, we have

supported the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations, and we have testified in favor of racial impact statements (LD 2), which was enacted in March, 2021.

You can read more about these bills by entering their LD number at <http://legislature.maine.gov/bills>.

In December 2016, “Impact on Issues” was published for the first time. Updated following each biennial legislative term, this document now describes LWVME advocacy work on priority issues from 2007 through the end of the second session of the 129th Maine State Legislature. To read “Impact on Issues,” visit: [www.lwvme.org/Impact](http://www.lwvme.org/Impact).



## LWVME Education Fund Reports

After our last Convention, the League of Women Voters of Maine created a position specifically to coordinate voter education and engagement projects, the Education and Engagement Projects Manager. This commitment to focusing on our role in inviting more people to participate in our democracy, and making sure they have good information when they do, has led to an unprecedented amount of work supported by the Ed Fund. Existing programming continues — the League is known for its voter guides and voter registration efforts, and that will remain central to what we do. Additionally, we've expanded with a door-to-door canvass effort, relational organizing training, and a focus on youth engagement.

### Voter Guides

The League continued to produce and distribute the *Easy-to-Read Voter Guide*. In 2019, we worked with the Portland Area League to cover Portland's mayoral race, distributing nearly 10,000 guides. In 2020, we secured funding to mail more than 84,000 guides directly to voters, and between mail and volunteer distribution, we delivered about 105,000 voter guides into people's hands before the general election. The print guide was limited to English, but we made it available in an accessible digital format in Arabic, French, Portuguese, Somali, and Spanish. The print guide is popular and well-received; people let us know every election how helpful they find it.

We also continued to produce and distribute our *Make Your Vote Count* booklets. Our Neighbor to Neighbor project made excellent use of them in reaching out to New Americans. Due to its popularity and to increase language accessibility, we made these booklets available in Arabic, English, French, Somali, and Spanish. In face-to-

face contacts with New Americans, we found them effective at helping overcome language barriers. We even found that some people asked to take one in English, as well as their first language, so that they could use them to practice English. At this point, these booklets are serving more than their original purpose — they let us connect meaningfully with people we might otherwise miss.

Even before 2020 made us take so much of our work online, we were expanding our digital resources. We made use of Vote411.org, the online voter guide created by the national League, for Portland's municipal election in 2019, then for the presidential primary in March and the state primary in July of 2020. For the general election in 2020, we called on volunteers to help us create guides to cover not only federal and state races, but county and municipal ones as well. Ultimately, we included 819 candidates in 417 races. We covered 86 municipal ballot initiatives and 82 municipal races in more than 50 municipalities. More than 14,000 people accessed the online guide.

### Voter Registration

The League is well-known for our voter registration efforts. Between schools, naturalization ceremonies, public events, and our Neighbor to Neighbor door canvass, we registered 1,696 new voters in 2019 through the start of 2020. With the beginning of the pandemic, our registration efforts were largely put on hold, but the Youth Engagement Project Maine Youth Vote team was able to partner with Swing Left and implement an innovative mail registration project. The concept was to partner with high schools to mail a complete voter registration kit, including instructions, to every eligible student, and to ask town clerks to accept the envelope from the school as proof of residence. They tested it in the spring of 2020. Over the summer, they expanded the program with local League support, working with 24 schools and mailing 907 students the materials. While we aren't able to track how many of those students ultimately registered and voted, youth turnout was

higher than ever in November 2020; this is one of many projects that might have contributed. Local Leagues also identified the greatest needs in their communities, and worked in partnership with food banks, churches, libraries, and other organizations that serve marginalized people to provide voter registration support.

We also developed a formal version of our voter registration training, to ensure that volunteers would know how to help people register to vote, and presented the training several times both online and in person. A recorded version is available on our website, and we continue to use our voter registration training to make sure our Neighbor to Neighbor canvassers are well prepared. As in-person registration events begin to pick up, we will continue to make sure League volunteers are experts at assisting people with the ins and outs of registering to vote.

### **Direct Voter Education & Engagement**

Beginning in the fall of 2019, we spoke on voting rights, voting access, and ranked-choice voting frequently. From community organizations to college classes, we were a sought-after resource, with members of the staff generally serving this purpose. However, as the 2020 general election grew closer, the number of requests increased so much that we struggled to keep up. We created a Speakers' Bureau, a list of people willing and able to speak on a variety of topics, including but not limited to, voter engagement. Originally part of the Youth Engagement Project, the Bureau has over 50 members of all ages, and in its first month, members gave 41 talks. The Speakers' Bureau meets every other week; we offer public speaking workshops to members so that they can become more confident speakers. Topics have included accessibility over digital platforms, how to craft a professional introduction, and how to handle conflict as a speaker.

Fall 2019 also saw the launch of our Neighbor to Neighbor door canvass. This grew out of the work of a single staff member who perceived a need, and was developed in partnership with housing providers, immigrant community organizations,

and volunteers. Neighbor to Neighbor canvassers go door to door in low-income neighborhoods and areas with a high percentage of immigrants, helping people register to vote, giving out *Make Your Vote Count* booklets, assisting with absentee ballot requests, and explaining the voting process. Our canvassers knocked on nearly 4,000 doors, had nearly 2,000 substantive conversations, registered 124 people to vote, and assisted 319 voters with requesting an absentee ballot. By design, we canvass one or two weekends per month around the state, and more frequently in the weeks before an election. However, like much of our in-person work, Neighbor to Neighbor had to be put on hiatus for most of 2020. We did knock on a few doors and left literature just before the general election. However, as of spring 2021, Neighbor to Neighbor is back in operation, and as vaccination rates increase we expect to be able to expand it again.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, we were faced with many challenges; most of our programming was designed around face-to-face voter contacts. We shifted focus to relational organizing, a model that asks people to reach out through their personal networks, and created our own workshop, which we called Friend to Friend. We've trained more than 50 people in this form of engagement, and shared our Friend to Friend workshop with other organizations as well. Relational organizing is the most effective way, other than a door canvass to engage voters; people get involved when they're invited to by a trusted messenger. Even once we're able to bring our face-to-face programming back at full strength, this workshop will continue to be a useful tool.

We ran large-scale informational texting campaigns in 2020, encouraging people to vote early and absentee because of worries about the pressures of a high-turnout election during a pandemic. We texted more than 80,000 voters with absentee and GOTV messaging. While we were far from the only organization spreading this message, ultimately our combined efforts were successful: a record number of Mainers (more than half!) voted absentee in 2020. We also ran a coordinated public information campaign via radio, newspaper, and social media advertisements, ultimately reaching over 900,000 people with our messages.

## Youth Engagement

With the start of the pandemic, we were no longer able to do voter registration drives in schools, and created the Youth Engagement Project, a team of dedicated volunteers, to try to come up with ways we could continue to meaningfully engage youth. That team has since created several projects, including Maine Youth Vote, the Speakers' Bureau, and the Youth Council. The Youth Engagement Project continues to work to build connections with schools, educators, and youth organizations, as well as to invite, support, and mentor youth.

The Youth Council is a group of young people (up to age 20) who are interested and engaged in democracy work. They originally came together just before the 2020 general election as part of our work to get out the youth vote, and at that point had 47 members. They're led by a steering committee of 7 youth leaders who create the programming for the Council's monthly meetings. Those programs have included skill-building, informational sessions on legislation, organizing to get out the vote, and conversations about intergenerational activism.

Another collaboration that grew throughout 2020 was our connection with Maine Students Vote, an organization that supports college students, faculty, and staff in increasing voter engagement on campuses. 2020 was a particularly challenging year, with campuses closed and uncertainty about when they would re-open, but Maine Students Vote was a valuable partner, and has since become a more formal part of our Democracy Maine collaboration. We hope that the Youth Engagement Project, Maine Students Vote, and Neighbor to Neighbor will mean that we're connecting with a diverse group of young people and serving as a consistent resource and support as they transition into adulthood.

## Election Protection & Voter Information

One of the many challenges of 2020 was public uncertainty about the strength, security, and validity of our elections. We identified a League role in this work and brought on an organizer to recruit and train a corps of election observers, as well as to help recruit new poll workers and connect them

with their town officials. For the 2020 general election, we had 104 trained observers in 163 polling places across the state, with at least one in each county, for 314 total observations. Our nonpartisan observers were generally well-received by election officials. We are continuing to train observers for statewide elections, and working to develop local observer corps as well.

In the run-up to the general election, we also attempted to meet the needs of voters who had questions and concerns by creating very accessible, informative resources, including a Facebook group and a phone/text hotline. We were able to assist many voters who were unsure when they could vote early in person, what form of ID they would need to register, or who had similar questions. Long lines for early voting led to calls from people who wanted to make sure they had the right documents in hand before standing in line for an hour or more. As more and more towns installed ballot dropboxes, we began to field calls asking if specific towns had them. In response to this need, we created an interactive dropbox map. With the help of volunteers, we have a searchable map that currently includes 237 Maine towns. If the town has a dropbox, we have a picture of it, as well as its address; we also included the hours that town offices were open for early voting. We intend to continue to update the dropbox map moving forward.

## Conclusion

In 2019, we had plans for programming that would meet voters where they were, connecting specifically with marginalized groups that were the least likely to vote. The events of 2020 made all of that programming more difficult and forced us to innovate. We tried new approaches — like Maine Youth Vote — and helped people adjust to a digital world with our Friend to Friend workshop. We responded to public concerns about election security by training and deploying nonpartisan observers. And finally, we created new programs that will help us continue to make democracy work.



# Centennial Report

Heading into our 100th anniversary year, the League set ambitious goals to celebrate through action: facing the challenges of the 2020 election and making democracy work for all voters. While we didn't get to spend as much time celebrating together in person as we'd have liked, we did get to have a great day at Advocacy Day in Augusta, and a party with the special beers and cocktails made for us by Banded Brewing, Yes Brewing, and Maine Craft Distillery.

## Centennial Fund:

\$1,014,000 raised! We directed over \$300,000 of these funds into 2020 voter turnout and education projects. This campaign will also support our advocacy and engagement efforts in our next biennium and allow us to set ambitious future program goals.

## Membership:

Membership grew by over 250 people! At our last Convention, we had 498 members. We are now at 712, more than 250 up since last convention!

## Impact:

Our 100th year was also an election year, so we did what the League does so well, preparing voters to vote through thousands of conversations with voters at their doors, over 1000 voters registered, 100,000 voter guides distributed, and more. We reached 250,000 Maine voters with good quality, non-partisan voter information in the 2020 election — see the Ed Fund report on page 41 for more information.

## Hard Won, Not Done: The 19th Amendment and the Quest for Suffrage for All!

We also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. We are fiscal sponsors and Steering Committee members for the Maine



Suffrage Centennial Collaborative, a group of diverse organizations from across the state dedicated to commemorating this historic anniversary with original stage productions, concerts, lectures, museum exhibits, and so much more — [www.mainesuffragecentennial.org](http://www.mainesuffragecentennial.org).

LWVME board member Ann Luther presented her talk “The Struggle from Women’s Suffrage: Revisiting Our History, Rededicating Our Future” twelve times, to audiences from Biddeford to Machias. Developed with major contributions from League member, Sheila Kirby, the talk is available here on YouTube if you missed it:

[bit.ly/LutherPresentation](https://bit.ly/LutherPresentation).

The Centennial will wrap up in 2021, with several postponed events taking place, including the dedication of plaques commemorating Maine’s suffrage leaders, including several never-before-recognized women of color.

# Financial Report of the League

	LWVME Actual	Democracy Maine Actual (c4)	Democracy Maine Budget (c4)
	July 2019 - March 2021	July 2019 - March 2021	2019 - 2021
Opening balances at start of reporting period	17,717.37	19,187.91	46,450.00
<b>Income</b>			
Grants	22,500.00	45,000.00	98,754.00
Donations	30,193.38	47,923.38	171,137.00
Dues	54,200.00	54,200.00	60,380.00
In Kind*	17,487.09	32,568.33	
Other	1,220.00	1,220.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>125,600.47</b>	<b>180,911.71</b>	<b>330,271.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Operations	19,811.61	28,041.54	101,000.00
Professional	32,737.61	34,594.00	43,300.00
Salaries & Benefits	20,824.41	39,047.78	193,255.00
PMP - Local and National	34,594.48	34,594.48	36,477.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>107,968.11</b>	<b>136,277.80</b>	<b>374,032.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>17,632.36</b>	<b>44,633.91</b>	<b>-43,761.00</b>
Closing balance at end of reporting period	35,349.73	63,821.82	2,689.00

\* Includes salaries forgiven by MCCE

# Financial Report LWVME Education Fund

	LWVME Ed. Fund Actual	Democracy Maine Actual (c4)	Democracy Maine Budget (c4)
	July 2019 - March 2021	July 2019 - March 2021	2019 - 2021
Opening balances at start of reporting period	44,211.46	93,252.26	89,635.00
<b>Income</b>			
Grants	308,225.00	795,085.00	697,092.00
Donations	186,773.35	385,000.52	250,493.00
In Kind*	160,781.93	210,427.93	
Other	2,100.00	6,833.38	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>657,880.28</b>	<b>1,397,346.83</b>	<b>947,585.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Operations	159,822.10	426,867.50	130,400.00
Professional	52,850.93	199,923.11	99,300.00
Salaries & Benefits	178,872.41	729,291.16	759,732.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>391,545.44</b>	<b>1,356,081.77</b>	<b>989,432.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>266,334.84</b>	<b>41,265.06</b>	<b>-41,847.00</b>
Closing balance at end of reporting period	310,546.30	134,517.32	47,788.00

\* Includes salaries forgiven by MCCE

## Speaker Bios



**Deborah Turner**, MD, JD, serves as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF).

Dr. Turner received her BS from Iowa State University and her MD from the University of Iowa where she completed her Residency in OB-Gyn. She completed her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Institute in Houston Texas. She practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, enhancing university programs at the University of Nebraska, University of Iowa, and the Medical College of Wisconsin teaching residents and students. She also served the private sector bringing her specialty to Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, IA, Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City, IA, and Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. In July 2015 she left active practice to become Vice President of International Programs Medical Programs of The Outreach Program. She participated in twelve medical missions to Tanzania since 2011 and worked with Singida's Medical Center, Outreach's Children's Feeding Centers, and Rotary International. She received her JD from Drake University in 2007. She has served as Associate Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States since 2016.



**Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg** is the director of The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.

CIRCLE is a nonpartisan national research institute that focuses on youth civic and political learning and engagement. CIRCLE uses its expansive portfolio of research initiatives, tools for practitioner organizations, educators and other civic stakeholders, and reports to advance equity-centered policy and practice in the civic sector. With a background in positive youth development and community psychology she sees research can be a powerful tool to address inequity in opportunities for civic learning and participation at all levels of society. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University, with an emphasis on child and adolescent, and positive youth development and serves on multiple boards and advisory committee of groups and initiatives that work to improve conditions and quality of democratic education and engagement. When not working, Kei enjoys spending time with her three school aged children, and growing vegetables and fruits to feed her family in her garden at her home in Lowell Massachusetts.



## Speaker Bios — LWVME Youth Council



**Ava Baeza**, is a determined and passionate Latina activist who is engaged in forming coalitions to promote student welfare and systemic change in our society. “I am a senior at Camden Hills Regional High School and am the Co-President of Maine Teen Advocacy Coalition (MTAC). Additionally, I have been working with the League of Women Voters as a panelist, a leader of the Youth Council, Steering Committee, and as an Intern.”



**Vivian Burnham**, is a senior at Marshwood High School in South Berwick, Maine. “I plan to concentrate my studies in college around global relations and political science to follow the trajectory of being a diplomat or potentially a politician. My other academic interests include biology, art history, and creative writing. I also dabble in visual and performance arts. I am a founding member of The League of Women Voters of Maine Youth Council (I also belong to the LWVME Speaker Bureau) and Youthwork Makes the Boothwork (where I became a youth poll worker in the 2020 presidential election). I belong to Steering Committees of both groups and operate as a youth voter rights advocate. I also participate in organizations and events relating to environmental, civil rights, and mental health advocacy.”



**Lilliana Frantz**, is a senior at Casco Bay High School in Cumberland County. “I first became interested in politics as I was nearing the age of 18 because I knew that voting was a given right that I should take advantage of this privilege. If I was going to be 18 by the general election, I could vote in the spring primaries. In my junior year, I did a public policy presentation on expanding the right to vote. Through that presentation, I learned about voter suppression and other reasons why only 49.3% of the voting-eligible population voted in the 2018 election. That presentation helped me realize how important it is as a teen to get involved in politics to help increase the youth vote.”



**Grace Tetreault**, is a first-year at Morse High School in Bath, Maine. When she is not volunteering for the League of Women Voters, she enjoys embroidering face masks, sailing, rowing, reading Jane Austen, meeting new people, volunteering, and debating. She is interested in foreign policy, journalism, medicine, and political science.

A large, stylized rainbow graphic composed of concentric semi-circular bands in shades of purple, magenta, and yellow, with a dotted line following the inner curve.

# Bylaws



**TIP:**

Changes to the LWVME bylaws are in red. Phrases or words that will be removed have a line struck through them. Like this: ~~this line will be deleted~~.

Noteworthy changes are noted in the margins.



**TIP:**

The Bylaws will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 10:00 AM.

League members will vote on the Bylaws in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE  
(As amended, May 18, 2019)

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Maine, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVME or as the League. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND POLICY**

Sec. 1. Purpose. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Maine are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Policy Policies. The policies of LWVME are

1. Political Policy. LWVME shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The LWVME is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principal and in practice – with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

This is new. ➤

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

- a.) Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of their the local League; and the state Leagues of their place of joining and of the League of Women Voters of the United States; ~~(1) individuals 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 fifty years or more shall be honorary life members excused from payment of dues. Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled as full or part time with an accredited institution.~~
- b.) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

**Notes**

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of LWVME shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected by the Convention to hold office until the conclusion of the next regular biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected or appointed and qualified.

Sec. 2. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the State Board and at Convention; may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. The President or other designated officer shall also serve as

the Registered Agent of the Corporation.

Sec. 3. Vice-President. The Vice-President 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 the Vice-President is unable to serve in this capacity, the Board shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice-President shall perform such duties as the President and the Board may designate.

Sec. 4. Secretary. The Secretary, or a duly appointed assistant, shall keep minutes of Conventions and meetings of the State Board. The Secretary shall co-sign with the President all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall supervise the charge and custody of all funds of LWVME, the deposit of such funds in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors, and the keeping and maintaining of adequate and correct accounts of LWVME's properties and business transactions; shall render reports and accountings as required; and shall have other such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board or these Bylaws. The books of LWVME shall be reviewed annually by a firm or individual appointed by the Board.

#### ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. Numbers, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors of LWVME, hereinafter referred to as the State Board, shall consist of the officers, not more than ten (10) elected Directors and not more than ~~six (6)~~ seven (7) appointed directors. At least three (3) of the elected Directors shall be chosen from a list provided by MCCE Action, a Maine nonprofit corporation, and one (1) shall be chosen from a list provided by the Council of Local Leaders. The membership elects the elected Directors at Convention to serve until the conclusion of the next regular biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected Directors shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding ~~six (6)~~ seven (7) as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. ~~One of the seven appointed Directors shall be recommended by the Steering Committee of the Youth Council.~~ The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors, ~~except that the term of the Youth Council member of the Board shall be one year.~~

Sec. 2. Qualifications. All elected or appointed officers and directors of this organization must be voting members of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

Sec. 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy, other than the office of President, may be filled until the next convention by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

Sec. 4. Powers and Duties. The State Board shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Convention. The State Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state and governmental matters as adopted by the Convention. It shall accept the responsibility, delegated to it by the League of Women Voters of the United States, for the organization and development of

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Sec. 5. Executive Committee. The State Board may appoint an executive committee consisting of no fewer than four members of the board. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it and shall report on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the State Board.

Sec. 7. Special Meetings. The President may call special meetings of the State Board and shall call a special meeting upon written request of three members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings at least six days prior to such a meeting, provided however that during a Convention the President may, upon request of three members of the Board, call a special meeting of the Board by giving personal notice to each member of the Board.

Sec. 9. Quorum. A majority of the members of the State Board shall constitute a quorum. Any one or more members of the board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Sec. 11. Removal. The Board of Directors may, by vote of a two-thirds majority of the directors then in office, remove any director for cause. Such cause may include, but not be limited to, continuing absence from board meetings without excuse, failure to complete assigned duties, jeopardizing the reputation of the League, or lack of

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cooperation with the Board. Prior to the vote, the director shall receive written notification and opportunity to address the board.

**ARTICLE VI: RECOGNITION OF LOCAL LEAGUES AND AUTHORIZATION OF MEMBER-AT-LARGE UNITS.**

Sec. 1. Local Leagues.

- a.) Local Leagues are those Leagues which have been so recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States.
- b.) The State Board has 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.

Sec. 2. Member-At-Large Units. The State Board may authorize Units composed of members-at-large, which shall operate under the guidelines established by the Board.

**ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of LWVME shall be from July 1 through June 30 of each year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support.

- a.) Members who are enrolled in local Leagues shall pay annual dues to the local League. Each local League shall make a per member payment to the League of Women Voters of Maine, the amount of such a payment to be determined by Convention by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting. Each local League shall also make a per member payment to the League of Women Voters of the United States.
- b.) The League of Women Voters of Maine shall make a per-member payment to the League of Women Voters of the United States for state Members-At-Large.

**Notes**

Sec. 3. Budget. The Board shall submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing two years. This budget shall provide for the support of the League of Women Voters of the United States as well as for LWVME. A copy of the budget shall be received by all members at least two weeks in advance of the Convention.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee of at least five (5) members including the Treasurer who shall be appointed by the State Board for that purpose at least four months in advance of the Convention. The Board shall designate a chair of the Budget Committee. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair. At least two of the appointments made by the State Board to the Budget Committee must be from a list of persons provided by MCCE Action.

Sec. 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution for any cause of the League of Women Voters of Maine, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the League of Women Voters of Maine shall be paid to the designated successor organization within the State of Maine or to the League of Women Voters of the United States. 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 League of Women Voters of Maine shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such

## Notes

person, organization, or corporation, for such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the State Board of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

### ARTICLE VIII: CONVENTION

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A Convention of the League of Women Voters of Maine shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the State Board. The President shall send a first call for the Convention to the Presidents of the local Leagues not less than three months prior to the opening date of such Convention fixed in said call. Thereafter the State Board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention by not more than two weeks.

Sec. 2. Composition. The Convention shall consist of members and guests in attendance.

Sec. 3. Voting. Only members of the League of Women Voters of Maine may vote at Convention.

Sec. 4. Powers. The Convention shall consider and authorize for action a program, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget for the ensuing two years, vote on any proposed bylaw changes, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Sec. 5. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members registered at the Convention, provided that there is representation from a majority of the existing local Leagues and MAL Units.

### ARTICLE IX: COUNCIL OF LOCAL LEADERS

Sec. 1. Composition. The Council shall be composed of the Presidents of the local Leagues and Chairs of the Member-at-Large units and/or their designees.

Sec. 2. Purpose. The Council of Local Leaders, hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall provide ongoing support for local League development and the development of local League leadership. The Council shall

- a.) facilitate communication among local League organizations and between these organizations and the State Board,
- b.) by December 1, 2019, recommend a program and budget for the remainder of the biennium. Thereafter, no later than December 1st of each even-numbered year, recommend a program for the next biennium, including a budget,
- c.) participate in the State Board and Nominating Committee as described in Article V. Board of Directors and Article X. Nominating Committee of these bylaws, and advise the State Board of additional strategies and opportunities to strengthen local Leagues and Member-at-Large Units and expand the number of local organizations.

This is new.



### ARTICLE X: YOUTH COUNCIL

Sec. 1. Composition. Anyone 20 years of age or younger may join the Youth Council. Any Youth Council member who wishes to remain on the Youth Council upon reaching their 21st birthday may do so.

Sec. 2. Purpose. The mission of the ~~high school engagement project~~ Youth Council is to help build a culture of youth civic engagement with a focus on voter participation and



- a.) participate in the work of the LWVME Board by joining committees or teams determined by the Steering Committee of the Youth Council.
- b.) facilitate communications between the Youth Council and the State Board.



## Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.

Sec. 2. Suggestions for Nominations. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall request, through the President of each local League and chairs of MAL units, suggestions of nominations for officers and directors at least two months before Convention. Any member may send suggestions to the chair of the Nominating Committee at any time up to two months before Convention.

Sec. 4. Elections. A majority vote of the Convention shall constitute an election.

Sec. 1. Principles. The Principles are concepts of government supported by the League. Principles are adopted and amended by the national Convention and supported by the League as a whole. Principles constitute the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.

Sec. 3. Study Selection. The Convention shall select the proposals for a state study

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using the following procedures:

- a.) The State Board shall consider all proposals for a program of study submitted to it by local league boards, Member-At-Large units and members at least two months prior to the Convention.
- b.) The State Board shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed program of study which shall be submitted to the members at least four weeks prior to Convention.
- c.) Recommendations for changes submitted by local League Boards, MAL units and individual members and received by the State Board at least two weeks before the opening of the Convention shall be considered by the Board prior to the Convention. Upon consideration, the Board may revise the proposed program of study prior to Convention.
- d.) A majority vote shall be required for the adoption of the program of study proposed by the State Board.
- e.) Any recommendations for the program of study submitted to the State Board at least two months before the Convention, but not proposed by the Board, may be adopted by the Convention provided consideration is ordered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote and the vote on adoption comes in a separate plenary session. Adoption of any program element not recommended by the Board requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Sec. 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of Maine only when authorized to do so by the State Board of the League of Women Voters of Maine. The Board may adopt and publish operating procedures for granting such authorization.

Sec. 5. Local League Action. Local Leagues may act on state governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the State Board. The Board may adopt and publish operating procedures for granting such authorization. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by the League of Women Voters of Maine.

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### **ARTICLE XIII: NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL**

Sec. 1. National Convention. The State Board, 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 under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 2. National Council. The State Board, at its meeting preceding the meeting of the Council of the League of Women Voters of the United States, shall elect delegates to such Council in the number allowed under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

### **ARTICLE ~~XIII~~ XIV: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE ~~XIV~~ XV: AMENDMENTS**


Sec. 1. Amendments. Any proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be adopted if

- approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at Convention using the following procedures:
- a.) Proposals for change may be submitted by any local League Board or any member of the League to the State Board at least two months prior to Convention.
  - b.) All such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the Board shall be sent to the League members at least four weeks prior to the Convention.

#### **ARTICLE XVI: PROTECTION OF DIRECTORS: INDEMNIFICATION**

Sec 1. Limitation of Liability. No Director shall be liable to the Corporation except for his or her own acts or omissions in bad faith. No Director shall be personally liable for any obligation or liability incurred by the Corporation or by the Directors. The Corporation shall alone be liable for the payment or satisfaction of all obligations and liabilities incurred in carrying on the affairs of the Corporation.

Sec 2. Indemnification. The Corporation shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless any and all officers and directors of the Corporation, their agents, successors and assigns from and against any claims, demands, lawsuits, damages, liabilities, loss, costs or expenses (including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs), judgments, and settlements asserted against them by reason of the fact that they are or were a Director or Officer of the Corporation, except that no indemnification shall be provided for any person with respect to any matter as to which that person shall have been finally adjudicated in any action, suit or proceeding not to have acted in good faith. The foregoing rights of indemnification shall, in the case of the death or incapacity of any Director or Officer inure to the benefit of their heirs, estate, executors, administrators, conservators, or other legal representatives.



The Bylaws will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 10:00 AM.

League members will vote on the Bylaws in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

### **Notes**

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## The legacy of the League of Women Voters is **bold**.

Today, the League stands for the rights of all people to be active participants in their government. We educate voters, empower people to participate in civic life, and advocate for policies that strengthen our democracy.

**Follow us on social media!**

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