

# DEMOCRACY ME

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE  
MAINE CITIZENS FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS  
MAINE STUDENTS VOTE



# LINGO, JARGON AND ACRONYMS, OH MY!

## Frequently Used Jargon

**ACTION:** Promoting the League's positions on local, state, and national public policy to government officials, the media, and the public.

**ACTION ALERT:** A request to members, often by email or social media, from LWVUS or the state League to take action in support for a League position.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Year-end business meeting of some mature local Leagues to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaws changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the coming year. In Maine, our Leagues' fiscal years end in June.

**CONSENSUS:** The collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representing the membership as a whole, after study and discussion of an issue. This is not the same as a vote of the majority, nor does it need to be a unanimously held opinion.

**CONCURRENCE:** Adoption of a position by one League of the position on an issue reached by another League. Concurrence is achieved by the consensus of members in a local, state or national League chapter agreeing to concur with a sister League. Concurrence can also be achieved by a vote of the board and ratified later by members at Convention.

**CONVENTION:** A state or national League meeting held in alternate years at which delegates elect officers and directors, adopt program, make bylaws changes, and adopt a budget. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention; local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention. National convention is in June in even numbered years; State Convention is in May or June in odd numbered years.

**COUNCIL:** Council is a traditional gathering of League leaders in the Convention off-years. National Council is still held in odd number years, with delegates typically limited to two per state League. Some state Leagues also hold Councils, but Maine does not.

**COUNCIL OF LOCAL LEADERS:**

Established by the LWVME bylaws adopted in 2019 with representatives from each local League, the Council provides ongoing support for local League chapter development and for development of local League leadership. The Council convenes periodic statewide membership meetings and provides a framework for established and emerging leaders to work closely with the LWVME Board to have an impact on our mission.

**DEMOCRACY MAINE:** Democracy Maine is a collaboration between the League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and Maine Students Vote. It is a framework for our overlapping outreach efforts to improve elections, protect and engage voters, and reduce the influence of big money in politics. Democracy Maine provides shared infrastructure while the League, MCCE, and MSV retain their own corporate and brand identities.

**EDUCATION FUND:** The affiliate of the national, state, or local Leagues that receives tax-deductible contributions to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

**H-ELECTION:** The IRS election of a (c)(3) organization that allows the organization to use 25% of its total expenditures for lobbying.

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:** A person who has been a member of the League for 50 years or more, who is granted lifetime membership without dues obligation.

**MAL:** Member-At-Large, a member who is not enrolled in a local League, but who is a member of the state and national Leagues.

**PMP:** Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid by local Leagues to our state and national affiliate on behalf of each member, currently \$32 to LWVUS, \$15 to LWVME.

**POSITION:** A statement of the League's stance on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the board and used as a basis for action.

**PRINCIPLES:** Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. Membership in the League is open to all who endorse the [Principles](#), and the Principles constitute the authority for adoption of programs at all levels.

**PROGRAM:** Selected governmental issues chosen by members at each League level (local, state, and national) for study and action. Examples at LWVME include Voter Information and Engagement, Advocacy, and Election Protection.

**PROGRAMS:** Plans for speakers, discussions, or other activities at League meetings.

**SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE:** Only the League president or their designee is authorized to speak for the League. Members are encouraged to take action on League topics as individuals without reference to their League affiliation. Action on federal issues is directed by our national affiliate. Action on state issues is directed by our state League. Action on local issues is directed by local chapters.

**VOTER GUIDE:** Nonpartisan publication giving candidate qualifications and positions on selected issues, as well as explanations of ballot questions.

**VOTER ENGAGEMENT:** Year-round activity to help people be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voter service activities.

**VOTING MEMBERS:** All League members who are residents of the U.S. and at least 16 years old.

**501(c)(3):** An IRS designation for nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt as determined by the IRS. Being a 501(c)(3) organization means that donations to those organizations are tax-deductible. Donors do not pay taxes on their donations. Many foundations and other grantors require recipients to be 501(c)(3). Lobbying and candidate campaigns are restricted for 501(c)(3) organizations.

**501(c)(4):** An IRS designation for nonprofit social welfare organizations. These organizations are not operated for profit and pay no taxes, but donations to a 501(c)(4) are not tax-deductible to the donor. 501(c)(4) organizations are permitted to lobby and engage in candidate campaigns.

# FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

<b>CCB</b>	— Corporate Contribution Ban	<b>MFOIC</b>	— Maine Freedom of Information Coalition
<b>CFR</b>	— Campaign Finance Reform	<b>MIP</b>	— Money in Politics
<b>CLC</b>	— Campaign Legal Center <a href="#">[link]</a>	<b>MLA</b>	— Maine Library Association
<b>CLL</b>	— Council of Local Leaders, an entity of the League of Women Voters of Maine	<b>MME</b>	— Mainers for Modern Elections. We are a member of this coalition.
<b>CORE</b>	— Maine Coalition on Racial Equity. We are a member of this coalition.	<b>MPA</b>	— Maine People’s Alliance
<b>CSME</b>	— Center for Secure and Modern Elections, a national organization with whom we collaborate. <a href="#">[link]</a>	<b>MVN</b>	— Maine Voices Network, a 501c3 civic engagement table of which Democracy Maine is a member.
<b>CTCL</b>	— Center for Tech and Civic Life, a national organization with whom we collaborate. <a href="#">[link]</a>	<b>MSV</b>	— Maine Students Vote, one of the Democracy Maine partner organizations.
<b>DEIM</b>	— Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Membership, a committee of our board.	<b>MSEA</b>	— Maine State Employees Association
<b>DFAD</b>	— Declaration for American Democracy, a national coalition with whom we collaborate via LWVUS. <a href="#">[link]</a>	<b>NPV</b>	— National Popular Vote
<b>DRM</b>	— Disability Rights Maine	<b>PMP</b>	— Per Member Payment, League assessment by while Local Leagues support State and National based on size.
<b>EC</b>	— Ethics Commission	<b>RCV</b>	— Ranked Choice Voting
<b>IOI</b>	— Impact on Issues, a League publication on our history of advocacy.	<b>RTR</b>	— Rachel Talbot Ross, current Speaker of the Maine House
<b>JMJU</b>	— Just Maine Just for Us, youth led coalition partner. <a href="#">[link]</a>	<b>SOD</b>	— State of Democracy, a report of Democracy Maine
<b>LTE</b>	— Letter to the Editor	<b>SOS</b>	— State of the State
<b>LD</b>	— Legislative Document (i.e., a bill before the Legislature)	<b>UVBM</b>	— Universal Vote by Mail
<b>LR</b>	— Legislative Record number	<b>VR</b>	— Voting Rights, as in the Voting Rights Subcommittee
<b>MCCE</b>	— Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, one of the Democracy Maine partner organizations.		
<b>MCEA</b>	— Maine Clean Election Act		
<b>MCEF</b>	— Maine Clean Election Fund		
<b>MEA</b>	— Maine Education Association		

# LEAGUE ABBREVIATIONS

- LWVME** — League of Women Voters of Maine
- LWVUS** or **LWV** — League of Women Voters of the United States
- LWVPA** — League of Women Voters of the Portland Area or LWV-Portland Area (also LWV Pennsylvania, but not around here).
- LWVBA** — League of Women Voters of the Brunswick Area; this chapter has been folded into the Portland Area League.
- LWVMC** — League of Women Voters of Midcoast; also LWV-Midcoast
- LWVDE** — (not Delaware) League of Women Voters of Downeast; also LWV-Downeast
- LWVCA** — League of Women Voters of the Capital Area; also LWV-Capital Area
- LWVHR** — League of Women Voters of Highlands Regional; also LWV-Highlands Regional

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

There are 23 joint legislative committees (joint = Senate and House members are appointed to the committees and represent multiple political parties) within the Maine Legislature, but these are the committees where Democracy Maine's priority bills, and where all of the bills that we follow, are assigned.

- AFA** — Appropriations and Financial Affairs
- CJPS** — Criminal Justice and Public Safety
- EDU** — Education and Cultural Affairs
- JUD** — Judiciary
- SLG** — State and Local Government
- VLA** — Veterans and Legal Affairs

# NEWSPAPERS

- BDN** — Bangor Daily News
- PPH** — Portland Press Herald
- LSJ** — Lewiston Sun Journal
- KJ** — Kennebeck Journal