



2025 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Sustaining Collective Power





Hello, this book belongs to: _____

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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.



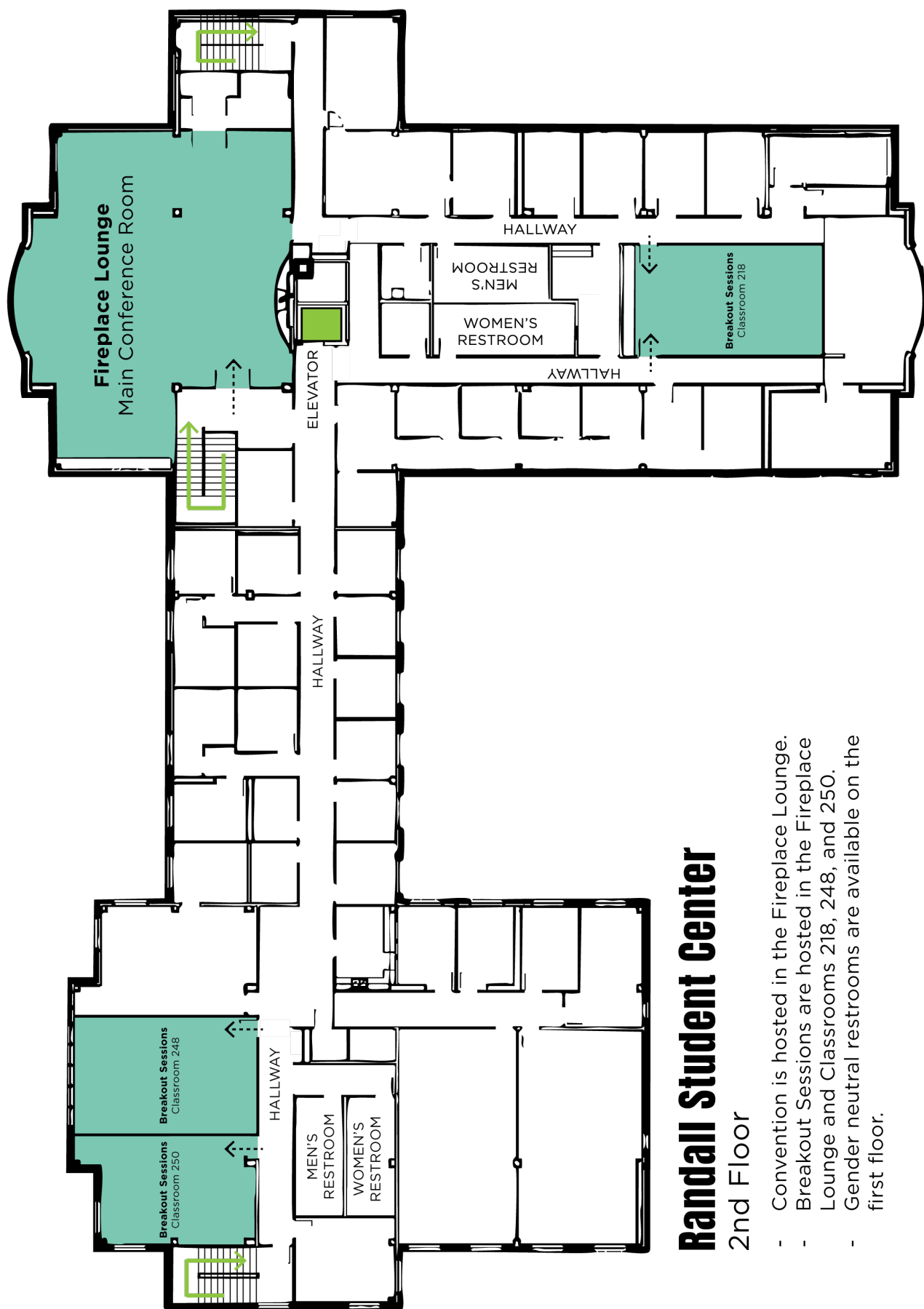
← Like this.



TIP:

Information is provided in this workbook on which League members will vote. The beginning of each voting section is marked with a yellow tab.







Randall Student Center

2nd Floor

- Convention is hosted in the Fireplace Lounge.
- Breakout Sessions are hosted in the Fireplace Lounge and Classrooms 218, 248, and 250.
- Gender neutral restrooms are available on the first floor.

AGENDA FOR CONVENTION

9:30 am - 10:00 am	 Check-in period for in-person attendees
9:45 am - 10:00 am	 Check-in period for Zoom attendees
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Welcome from Anna Kellar
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Plenary Session I Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Changes Presentation of Proposed Budget Presentation of Proposed Program Presentation of Nominated Slate — <i>Quick Break</i> —
11:15 am - Noon	Breakout Sessions I • Vote16 and Intergenerational Organizing • Relational Organizing and Voting Rights • Local Government 101 • Anatomy of an Advocacy Campaign
Noon - 1:05 pm	Lunch
1:05 pm - 1:20 pm	Ann Luther Volunteerism Award Presentation Nadya Mullen Award Presentation
1:20 pm - 2:05 pm	Keynote Address with Shay Stewart-Bouley — <i>Quick Break</i> —
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Breakout Sessions II • Vote16 and Intergenerational Organizing • Relational Organizing and Voting Rights • Local Government 101 • Anatomy of an Advocacy Campaign — <i>Quick Break</i> —
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Plenary Session II Discussion and Vote on Bylaws Discussion and Vote on Program Discussion and Vote on Budget Election of Board and Officers
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Closing and Adjournment



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.

Notes

SPEAKER BIOS



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Shay Stewart-Bouley is the executive director of Community Change Inc., a Boston-based anti-racism organization that also works in Maine. Shay is also the creator of the award-winning site, Black Girl in Maine Media, where she blogs on matters of race and aging. Over the years, Shay's work has been featured in a number of national publications and anthologies, including Yes Magazine and The Huffington Post. She also wrote for many years for the now-defunct Portland Phoenix as the "Diverse City" columnist. Shay is a former TedX speaker and former Portland Charter Commissioner. A Chicago native, Shay has called Maine home since 2002, and holds degrees from DePaul University and Antioch University New England.



LaJuan Allen is the Executive Director of Vote16USA and a nationally recognized leader in youth civic engagement and expanding youth voting rights. With a deep commitment to empowering young people in democracy, he has been at the forefront of efforts to lower the voting age and ensure youth voices are heard in the political process.

Prior to leading Vote16USA, LaJuan served as the Director of Policy & Partnerships for the City of Providence, where he played a key

role in shaping and implementing policies on education, equity, and civic participation. His work included leading youth-centered initiatives, strengthening partnerships with community stakeholders, and advancing policies that expanded opportunities for young people to engage in government. He also worked closely with the city's COVID-19 recovery office, helping to implement critical programs to support communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

A first-generation college graduate, LaJuan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/Public Policy and Sociology from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and later obtained a Master's in Public Policy with a concentration in Education Policy from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. His leadership extends beyond Vote16USA, he serves on the boards of Providence Promise, and the Diversity & Inclusion Professionals, advocating for racial justice, educational equity, and civic empowerment.

With a passion for democracy and a track record of policy innovation, LaJuan continues to drive forward the movement to expand youth voting rights and ensure young people have a meaningful stake in shaping their futures.

DOWNLOAD ON THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

To maximize opportunities to learn and grow new skills, we are hosting two breakout sessions in the morning and afternoon (11:15 AM and 2:15 PM, respectively). Each session will have four workshops to choose from. Pick two that interest you the most. At the back of this booklet, you will find blank pages for notes!

PICK TWO WORKSHOPS THAT YOU WANT TO ATTEND:

1.) Vote16 and Intergenerational Organizing

With LaJuan Allen, Executive Director of Vote16USA

How can empowering young people strengthen democracy for all? This workshop explores the Vote16 movement to lower the voting age for local elections and how it intersects with powerful intergenerational organizing strategies. Join us for a dynamic conversation on building inclusive civic engagement, fostering youth leadership, and working across age lines to create lasting change.

- ☐ I want to attend in the morning.
- ☐ I want to attend in the afternoon.
- ☐ Not interested in this workshop.

2.) Relational Organizing and Voting Rights

With Evan Murray, LWVME Civic Engagement Director

We hear “talk to your friends and family” a lot — this workshop will help you create a plan for how to do this effectively and efficiently. In this time, you’ll create your own scripts, decide who you should reach out to, and set yourself goals for the number of people you’ll contact. Relational organizing is really a word for drawing on the strength of our personal networks to get information out and bring people in, and this year we need to draw on this strength to defeat voter suppression at the ballot.

- ☐ I want to attend in the morning.
- ☐ I want to attend in the afternoon.
- ☐ Not interested in this workshop.

3.) Local Government 101

With Deb Paredes, LWVME Organizer

The League has prepared a nonpartisan guide to working with Local Government. This educational session will first review the very basics of how Maine communities govern themselves. Participants will gain a better understanding of chartered versus unchartered communities, how cities and counties are governed, how statewide representation is set up, and more. After that, the details of how you can participate will be addressed: as a community volunteer, as a learner, and as a leader.

- ☐ I want to attend in the morning.
- ☐ I want to attend in the afternoon.
- ☐ Not interested in this workshop.

4.) Anatomy of an Advocacy Campaign

With Al Cleveland, LWVME Advocacy Director, and Youth Council fellows

This workshop will focus on the nuts and bolts of issue advocacy campaigns. We will learn how to run a legislative or electoral campaign through big idea visioning to policy enactment. This workshop will include all the visible and invisible steps in a campaign, including research, power mapping, coalition building, and more.

- ☐ I want to attend in the morning.
- ☐ I want to attend in the afternoon.
- ☐ Not interested in this workshop.

MEET THE NOMINEES

Thank you to the outgoing board for their service and dedication to the League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME). We appreciate their guidance and expertise over the last few years. We're excited to present the slate for the 2025-27 LWVME Board. Check out their bios and learn more about the slate on which we are voting during Convention.



TIP:

The Nominated Slate will be presented in Plenary Session I at 10:15 AM.



TIP:

League members will vote on the Nominated Slate in Plenary Session II at 3:15 PM.

President



Jill Ward
(she/her)

📍Portland

Jill served as President of the LWVME and MCCE from 2015-2023. Jill has been a League member since 2009 and has been involved with MCCE since 2008. She is the founding director of the Maine Center for Youth Policy and Law and an adjunct professor at Maine Law and consults on youth policy issues in Maine and nationally. From February 2023 to December 2024, Jill served as Senior Policy Advisor in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown Law, 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 at a soccer field, in an ice rink, or at a ballpark cheering on her boys, Michael, 18, and Nicholas, 15.

Vice President



**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. Having now retired, her legal career 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. In addition to the LWVME and Democracy Maine Boards, Melissa serves on the Boards of two other Portland area nonprofits. She 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.

Secretary



Benjamin Gaines
(he/him)

📍 Brunswick

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 Elections Portland.

Treasurer



Ann Luther
(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.



Joann Bautista
(she/her)

📍 Brunswick

NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Joann Bautista is an associate director with the Bipartisan Policy Center's Elections Project. Before joining BPC, Joann was deputy secretary of state and policy advisor for the Maine Department of the Secretary of State under Secretary Shenna Bellows. Joann played an integral role in shaping and implementing the department's legislative goals and priorities; frequently met with elected officials, advocates, and other stakeholders; and collaborated with federal and state partners on election and motor vehicle matters. Prior to that role, she was the advocacy director at Preble Street, a statewide organization in Maine that provides services to those experiencing homelessness, hunger, or poverty, and previously worked for the ACLU of Maine. Joann holds a B.A. in Journalism and International Studies from the University of Iowa and a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.



Maya Eichorn
(she/her/they/them)

📍 York

Maya is an Emerson College student and a York County Community College graduate. She uses she/her or they/them pronouns. Since starting with the League as an intern in the summer of 2022, she has become very involved in working with the League on all levels. She sits on the National League's 2024-26 nominating committee. She was also chosen for the Student Learn Students Vote Coalition's 2025 Advisory Board. When she's not in League meetings or studying for a test, Maya enjoys sewing and creating hand-bound journals for her friends.



Tanya Emery
(she/her)

📍 Bangor

NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Tanya Emery is the Development Director at the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA), the state's broadband office, where she spearheads economic and workforce development and policy initiatives. With a keen focus on leveraging technology to drive economic growth, Tanya played a pivotal role in shaping Maine's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) strategies, which are bringing over \$271 million to Maine for broadband deployment. Her efforts now concentrate on utilizing technology to empower economic development, particularly within Maine's traditional industries. A proud native of Maine, Tanya earned her degree in Political Science with honors from Trinity College, where she was distinguished as a President's Fellow. Beginning her career with a telecommunications startup allowed her to live and work across the United States, launching new markets and locations as the company grew. Tanya returned to Maine to raise her children near family, a return home that allowed her to pursue her passion for economic development. She worked as a local and regional development leader in Maine for over two decades before joining MCA in October 2022. Tanya is currently a member of the board of directors of the Maine Real Estate & Development Association. Previous board service included the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce, Penobscot Theatre Company, Fusion: Bangor, Eastern Maine Community College Foundation, and she was an elected member of the school board of Regional School Unit 22, serving Hampden.



Susana Hancock
(she/her)

📍 Freeport

Dr. Susana Hancock is an interdisciplinary polar climate researcher with three graduate degrees from the University of Oxford, whose work encompasses both social and natural sciences. A former international elite rower, she now meets her athletic cravings by skiing across polar ice sheets and glaciers, during which she collects data in conjunction with global institutions. Susana was President of APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) from 2022-2023, and one of the founders of the UArctic Next-Gen Science Diplomats. She further expanded her science-policy background as the Science Manager for Arctic Basecamp, where she brought climate urgency into the business community at the World Economic Forum and through UN processes, and has been involved with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Susana is now the Global Mountains Director at the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative. She is part of the global Ambition on Melting Ice Secretariat, where she works to liaise between mountain communities, mountain cryosphere science, and international policymaking. Through these roles, she regularly participates in high-urgency meetings and summits with global governments, advising foreign and environment ministers on climate science, mitigation, and adaptation needs and pathways. Susana is also a regular columnist with the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, writing on climate and climate policy. As part of the League of Women Voters, Susana helped establish the Speakers' Bureau and has designed civic education curricula used in public schools. She has represented the National League at two UN Climate summits, COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in Dubai, and has represented the Maine League at the National Council and the Convention.



Judi Lyles
(she/her)

📍 Ellsworth

NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Judi Lyles has worked in a variety of nonprofit, academic, and health care settings. Her experience includes research and evaluation design; health promotion and community relations; and program development, implementation, and management. Her academic work focused on interpersonal and organizational communication, psychosocial medicine, and patient-centered interviewing. Judi first joined the League in the late 70s when living in Bangor and rejoined after she and her husband retired to Ellsworth in 2017. She is active in the LWV-Downeast and sits on the boards of two community nonprofits.



Belviga Mpolo
(she/her)

📍 Portland

NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Belviga hails from Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, and has lived in Portland for nearly a decade. She holds an Associate Degree in Human Services from Southern Maine Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Southern Maine. She is currently a case manager at Catholic Charities of Maine where she helps newly arrived refugees integrate into the community by helping them navigate everything from school enrollment to transportation to keeping current with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), to cultural orientation. She speaks French, Lingala, and Kituba in addition to English, and has worked closely with the immigrant population in various supportive roles, both as an employee and as a volunteer. Before earning her degrees, Belviga worked as a Certified Residential Medication Aide at several local social service agencies. In 2023, Belviga joined the League's Neighbor to Neighbor program, canvassing in Portland, Westbrook, and South Portland to encourage civic participation and provide nonpartisan information about the voting process. She is passionate about the League's mission and hopes to strengthen our work, especially among new Mainers.



**Alex Newell
Taylor**
(she/her)

📍 Southwest
Harbor

A lifelong summer resident, Alex made the permanent move to Maine in 2019. After a career in education and non-profit management, Alex turned her attention to the political landscape after the election of 2016. She was a founding member of Women's March Florida, and served as the Vice President of the state Executive Board. In 2018, Alex was the Deputy Director of Voter Engagement for the Second Chances Florida/Amendment 4 campaign, which successfully passed with 64.5% approval. Amendment 4 restored voting rights to 1.4 million people with previous felony convictions- the largest increase in US voting access since the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Currently, Alex works as a community organizer for National Nurses United, with a focus on healthcare justice. Until recently, she was the Executive Director of Summer Festival of the Arts, an arts education nonprofit serving Mount Desert Island. Alex is a graduate of the New Leaders Council and a magna cum laude graduate of Emory University. She lives in Southwest Harbor with her two kids, husband, and dog.



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!



**Tobin C.
Williamson**
(he/him)

📍 Westbrook

Tobin Williamson is the Senior Partnerships & Policy Manager with the Refugee Advocacy Lab, a state & local policy and advocacy-focused organization housed at Refugees International. Previously, he served as the Advocacy & Policy Manager for the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition. Earlier in his career, Williamson served in two U.S. Congressional Offices and two Consulates General. Williamson earned a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina. Outside of work, he also serves as a Board Member for the World Affairs Council of Maine, is part of the Aspen Institute Strategy Group's Rising Leaders Program, and was in the 2023 cohort of Leadership Portland. He lives in Westbrook with his wife Kate, their cat, and their horse. In his spare time, you can find him somewhere on a hiking trail, reading a couple of books, watching soccer, trying new coffee shops, or planning his next international trip(s).

NEW BOARD MEMBER!



Alex Wu
(any pronouns)

📍 Scarborough

Alex Wu is currently a high school senior from Scarborough, Maine. They enjoy all matters of civic engagement work, from voter registration and referendum signature collection to lobbying legislators and canvassing. Alex joined the LWVME in 2023 and has since joined countless projects of voter engagement. Alex knows the inherent power that youth hold in democracy. Whenever there are movements leading social change across the country, youth are at the forefront. That leadership and commitment to progress is why youth voices are so important. They hope to use their leadership and community organizing skills towards making legislative spaces more equitable for youth. They are currently working on the Vote16 bill that the LWVME youth advocacy group has put forth (and will hopefully pass) in the Maine 132nd legislative session.

NEW MEMBERS FOR APPOINTMENT (TWO-YEAR TERMS):



Lisa Bradley
(she/her)

📍 Bar Harbor

NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Lisa recently retired from Federal government service after 32 years, during which time she was dedicated to supporting public safety and national security objectives. She served in leadership roles around the world and domestically. Lisa also grew up living abroad, and loves international travel. Retirement has afforded Lisa the opportunity to focus on other passions, such as serving in volunteer roles in her new community. She started volunteering for the LWV Downeast in 2024 and recently joined the Board of Directors for YWCA MDI after being involved in many of their volunteer activities over the past year. She actively participates with the Mid-Coast Forum on Foreign Relations and continues to work as an independent contractor for the Federal government. Lisa is thrilled to be living in Bar Harbor where the proximity to Acadia National Park allows her to enjoy frequent hiking, running, and biking adventures. She and her husband Chuck moved to Bar Harbor in January 2024.



Mary Pat Donnellon
(she/her)

📍 Old Orchard Beach

NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Mary Pat has been a volunteer with the League of Women Voters since moving to Maine full-time in 2022. She enjoys working with Maine Students Vote and the committee registering new voters and naturalization ceremonies and in schools. Mary Pat is semi-retired from her career in technology, having served executive positions for several companies including vice president of marketing at Blackbaud and chief revenue officer of CallRail. She is currently a Senior Advisor for Susquehanna Growth Equity, advising their portfolio companies on go-to-market strategy. Since moving to Maine, Mary Pat has expanded her volunteer efforts, serving on the Board of Advisors of Best Buddies, the Board of Directors of Hope Acts, Vice Chair of the Old Orchard Beach Conservation Commission, and as a member of Portland Rotary Club. Mary Pat and her husband Tim are enjoying life on the beach, and are adapting to Maine winters surprisingly well. She likes spending as much time as possible with their three adult children, reading, running and exploring the outdoors.

YOUTH COUNCIL APPOINTMENT (ONE-YEAR TERM):

To be determined.

Notes

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
2015-2023	Jill Ward
2023-2025	Pamela Cox
2025	Susana Hancock (<i>Interim</i>)

Notes

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.



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 is the Executive Director of Democracy Maine, a hybrid organization that brings together the League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and Maine Students Vote. 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 early career focused on democratic transitions and anti-corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. At Democracy Maine, Anna has led successful legislative and ballot initiative campaigns to expand Ranked Choice Voting and small donor funding programs, pass the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and modernize Maine's election and voter registration systems. They live in Portland Maine (when they are not traveling to write about figure skating competitions).



Jen Lancaster
(she/her)
Communications Director

Staff Role: Reports to ED. 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's taught French at the college level, English abroad in France, and piano to younger students. She has a B.A. in English and French from Transylvania University and a M.A. in French from the University of Kentucky.



Jill Packard
(she/her)
Operations Director

Staff Role: Reports to ED. 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.

Bio: Jill Packard has been running nonprofits and small businesses for over twenty years. Jill is passionate about rural communities, our capacity to connect, and how our values shape our systems. Their work advocating for underserved communities led to wanting to do deeper work to support the organizations that have their feet on the ground. Jill holds a BA in Political Science and an MS in Environmental Studies where she focused on education, American government, sustainable communities, and connective capacity. Jill and her family moved to the Highlands area of Maine in 2007 and they can't imagine living anywhere else.



Evan Murray
(he/him/they/them)
Civic Engagement
Director

Staff Role: Reports to ED. 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 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.



Al Cleveland
(they/them)
Advocacy Director

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. Conducts policy development and research as needed.

Bio: Al Cleveland is a seasoned organizer with a decade of experience in progressive advocacy and campaigns. They have worked to close youth prisons, build public power, strengthen democracy, and support LGBTQ youth. Al has lived in Maine since 2018 where they first started as an organizer with the League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.



Deb Paredes
(she/her/they/them)
Organizer

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Staff support for Membership & Volunteer Committee and Council of Local Leagues. Supports local Leagues and state project teams (with a particular focus on local government), coordinates intake for new volunteers, and leads outreach in areas of the state without robust local League infrastructure.

Bio: Deb is an educator, organizer, and facilitator based in rural mid-coast Maine, Penobscot Territory. They settled in Maine in 2016 to attend UMO for their BA in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. During this time they have organized and worked towards reproductive rights, Indigenous sovereignty, racial justice, climate and environmental justice, outdoor access for underrepresented communities, and decolonial movement building. Deb is passionate about community and supporting marginalized identities and youth in practicing decolonial community work.



Emilia Toth
(she/her)
Youth Programs
Coordinator

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Manages programs, events, and development for Youth Programs. Connects with students across Maine on college campuses and high schools. Supports youth outreach and engagement project teams. Helps to manage the LWVME Youth Council.

Bio: Emilia has lived in Maine since 2022 and recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a BA in Women and Gender Studies and a BA in English. She started as an intern with Maine Students Vote, where she found a passion in organizing and working with young people to create a better future for all. Emilia became involved in community organizing and advocacy in high school, when she lived in Nashville, TN. Now a proud New Englander, she is devoted to supporting the next generation of youth leaders and creating opportunities for students to participate in civic engagement work.

Notes

[illegible]

LWVME PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2027

LWVME Budget* —
Vote

For Reference —
Combined C3 and C4

<i>Estimated starting cash on hand:</i>	\$3,270.13	\$40,656.13
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Income:

Individual Donors	\$84,000.00	\$840,000.00
Membership Dues	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
Grants	\$106,500.00	\$1,065,000.00
Corporate Sponsors	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00
Other - Mainesshare		\$6,000.00

TOTAL INCOME:

249,770

2,016,656

Expense:

Staff Salary and Benefits	\$148,419.62	\$1,454,196.20
Consultants**	\$19,640.00	\$196,400.00
Overhead and Administration	\$2,216.58	\$22,165.80
Program Expenses	\$19,949.22	\$199,492.20
Per Member Payment		

TOTAL EXPENSE:

\$190,225.42

\$1,872,254.20

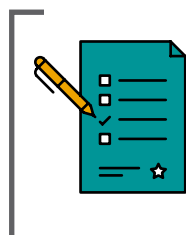
Net:

\$59,544.71

\$144,401.93

* 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 Maine Students Vote.

** Consultants include Accounting, Lobbying, Legal, Translation, Database, etc.



The Proposed Budget will be presented in Plenary Session I at 10:15 AM.

League members will vote on the Proposed Budget in Plenary Session II at 3:15 PM.

OUR VISION



TIP:

The Proposed Program will be presented in Plenary Session I at 10:15 AM.



TIP:

League members will vote on the Proposed Program in Plenary Session II at 3:15 PM.

PROPOSED 2025-2027 PROGRAM

Sustain Collective Power:

We will continue our efforts under our core mission of Making Democracy Work: engaging and informing voters, protecting and improving elections, fighting big money in politics, and advancing equity and racial justice.

We will continue to press for reforms that make our state and local governments more representative and more accessible to Maine people. However, as we face unprecedented threats to our democratic norms and institutions, we must focus our efforts to defend against those threats and address them head-on.

In 2025, voters will be asked to approve changes to Maine's voting processes that are anathema to our mission: imposing a voter

ID requirement and restricting and imposing barriers to absentee voting. Our efforts will be focused on educating voters and defeating this Citizens' Initiative and other voter suppression efforts as they arise, including fighting dis-and misinformation.

We reaffirm our existing policy positions (available at lwvme.org/policies), including those adopted since our last Convention: (i) Concurrence with Pennsylvania League of Women Voters position on the judiciary; (ii) Vote 16; and (iii) Proportional Ranking Choice Voting. No new studies are proposed at this time as we focus our efforts on threats to democracy posed by voter suppression initiatives, dis-and mis-information, and the unique threats to democracy emerging in the digital sphere.

Notes



MISSION AND THEORY OF CHANGE

Program Plan for 2025-27

The League stands for the right 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. We center the values and tactics of community organizing; empowered and engaged people are both our 'means' and our 'end'.

We enter this biennium under the cloud of a constitutional crisis. Our civil rights and our deeply-held belief in democracy are under attack. The League of Women Voters of Maine refuses to comply with authoritarian actions. We uphold the right to due process, freedom of speech, and free and fair elections, and stand in solidarity with those whose rights have been violated.

We acknowledge the full truth of our history including many ways our highest principles contrast with the lived experiences of many Americans. We are proud of the progress Maine has made in recent years to enshrine voting rights and expand civic participation. Nonetheless, far too many Mainers are estranged from their government and the decision-making processes that impact their lives. Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), young, rural, and low-income Mainers, and people with disabilities, among others, continue to face disproportionate barriers. Our programs and goals reflect the commitment to equity and inclusion in all aspects of our democracy.

As we enter our next biennium we recommit to the principle of government of, by, and for Maine people, and pledge to direct our energies to building a more perfect democracy.

OUR NORTH STAR GOALS FOR MAINE'S DEMOCRACY

- 1. Everyone Votes:** Approach 100% voter turnout
- 2. Everyone Participates, and Everyone's Participation Matters:** Ensure everyone has the skills, knowledge, and opportunities for meaningful participation in democratic self-governance, and that government is responsive to all voices.
- 3. Everyone Means Everyone:** Reduce and work to eliminate inequities in voter turnout and public participation.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR 2025-2027

To increase equitable voter turnout and civic participation, we need to reduce systemic barriers to voting, improve access to clear, nonpartisan information, and build a supportive culture of engagement within communities.

[1.] Advocating for a Better Democracy — Advocacy as a Means and an End

a.) Leadership development and organizing - the advocacy team and subcommittees, youth advocacy team, lobby days, Under the Dome newsletter, training programs, legislative scorecard, and supporting partners in advocacy.

b.) Our policy goals:

- + Voting Rights: defend existing rights, including defeating 2025 voter suppression Citizens Initiative, improve proactive voter education, lower the voting age to 16
- + Money in Politics: protect and expand Clean Elections, improve disclosure, strengthen contribution limits, advocate for fair taxation
- + Structural Reform: Ranked Choice Voting, National Popular Vote
- + Racial Justice: tribal sovereignty, racial impact statements, legislator compensation

[2.] Voter Education and Engagement

a.) Our flagship voter education program, the printed Easy-to-Read Voter Guide, and the Vote411.org website are used by Mainers to learn about how to register and vote, to see what will be on their ballot, and to read candidate questionnaires and nonpartisan descriptions of ballot initiatives. Working closely with local leagues, we will cover every

municipal election held in the state through Vote411.org.

b.) Candidate and Issue Forums: A local League program supported by LWVME as needed.

c.) Voter Engagement / GOTV

- + Voter Registration (naturalization ceremonies, schools, prisons, etc)
- + Neighbor to Neighbor (a door-to-door voter engagement program in low-income housing)
- + Support to partners in developing GOTV plans

[3.] Election Protection and Combating Disinformation

We conduct election observation and protection activities to increase public confidence in our elections and identify areas for future voting process improvements.

a.) Election Observation: By sending trained volunteers to observe on Election Day, we have been able to report on the voting process and resolve issues as they arise.

b.) Voter Hotline: We also will staff a voter hotline, where trained volunteers can answer questions and help resolve barriers to voting.

c.) Misinformation: The most effective way to combat misinformation and disinformation about our elections is to share accurate information. In addition to our main voter education activities, we are also training and supporting our members to spread positive messages in their networks. We will conduct training on effective messaging and relational organizing, as well as creating easy-to-share content for distribution on social media.

[4.] Youth and School-Based Programming

With our sibling organization, Maine Students Vote, we provide a suite of services to middle, high school, and college students, teachers, and administrators. These services include specialized curriculum and lesson plans around ranked-choice voting, local government, and other Maine-specific civics topics; voter registration and registration training in partnership with student organizations; speakers and workshops on voting and civics topics; and membership in the League's Youth Council.

a.) Youth Council and High School Interns

- + The Youth Council and youth advocacy team bring together teenagers from around the state who have an interest in activism and making a difference in their communities.
- + The core Youth Council leadership is made up of LWVME High School Interns, who plan peer educational events, manage communication with the wider Youth Council, and build their civic leadership skills. We are committed to funding and supporting at least three interns in the fall, spring, and summer.

b.) College Engagement Fellows

- + We hire and supervise 3-5 college fellows who lead voter engagement efforts for their peers.

c.) Youth Engagement Team (YEP)

- + The YEP team consists of adult allies who are passionate about building stronger civic education opportunities for youth. This team publishes an educator newsletter, builds strong relationships with schools across the state, develops new resources for teachers, and coordinates with local leagues to run voter registration drives in high schools.

[5.] Local Government Engagement

Local governments make many crucial decisions that impact Mainers' everyday lives and future well-being. However, local elections have low turnout, most people know very little about local government roles and systems, and local organizing efforts are siloed. Compounding the problem, there is no central source for local election information. We are using aspects of our specific

programming outlined above to increase local civic engagement, and additionally:

a.) Support local league chapters as a locus of voter education and advocacy at the municipal and county level

b.) Use our Guide to Local Government to hold community discussions and workshops

c.) Expand the Guide with resources about town meetings, charter commissions, and more

d.) Providing educators with lesson plans on local government and how to make an impact on local issues; connecting municipal governments, students, and teachers in active programming.

Notes

[illegible]

Local LEAGUE REPORTS

BANGOR

The Bangor Area League met monthly to get updates on league matters, plan activities, and hold a book discussion. The group met weekly for walks in the greater Bangor area. The book discussions and the walks were used as outreach to encourage new members. Two members participated in Advocacy Day in February 2023. A membership drive was held at the Orono Brewing Company in September 2023. Members picked up and distributed voter guides over a two-week period in October 2024. A Public Forum for Bangor City Council and School's Committee candidates was held in early October 2024. The members provided voter registration at three naturalization ceremonies held in 2023 and 2024.

DOWNEAST

Our monthly radio show, the Democracy Forum, continues to be the centerpiece of Downeast activities. Between July 2023, and June 2025, we produced 21 shows featuring



national and local guests in conversation on topics concerning participatory democracy in Maine. All of these shows are available as podcasts or archived at WERU.org.

Members of the League Downeast meet weekly on Zoom to discuss the planning of the radio show, League news, League initiatives, and other activities.

Among the newer projects are lunchtime quarterly meetings to which all LWV members are invited. These occur in a hybrid format (Zoom and in person) and include League business

followed by a guest speaker on a topic of local interest. Recent topics have included Local News and Democracy, Local Action on Climate Change, and Voting Rights and the Integrity of Elections.

Another very successful program has been the organization of candidate forums, usually with the sponsorship and participation of local newspapers. We did four legislative forums in the fall of 2024; and we did local forums in the spring of 2024 and 2025 for Bar Harbor and Trenton.

Our book club continues to meet monthly.

Downeast activity around voting continues. With the help of the state League, in 2024 we distributed over 1,000 voter guides and assisted in collating information for Vote411. Observers fanned out to polling places around Hancock County to attest to the smooth conduct of elections. Many town clerks were thanked for their role in safe, free, and fair elections.



HIGHLANDS REGIONAL

The Highlands Regional LWVME meet monthly, either via Zoom or in-person when the weather is good. Members also attend many LWVME webinars, committee and CLL meetings, and trainings. The members of Highlands Regional have also been busy with a number of activities:

- + In collaboration with Kari Suva, we sent emails to educators in all the high schools in Piscataquis and Somerset Counties to encourage student interns and educators' subscriptions to the Civic Digest.
- + Each summer, Highlands Regional members set up a booth at a local fair. In July 2024, we had a booth at the Guilford River Fest. Our booth activity featured a spinning wheel, with 12 civics categories. In each category participants were given a statement and asked to rate it as Fact or Opinion. It led to some wonderful conversations and was a huge hit, especially with kids.
- + In September, League members facilitat-

ed a candidate forum at the Milo Town Hall for candidates running for a seat in the Maine House, District 31.

- + Also in September, a member gave a lunchtime presentation to the Piscataquis Retired Teachers Association about the work of the LWVME and the November ballot questions.
- + In October, we distributed 250 copies of the League's excellent Voter Guides throughout our area. Several members worked to register students to vote at Bangor High School.
- + In January, members facilitated a presentation/discussion of Making Democracy Work at Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft, with 10 attendees.
- + Highlands Regional members met for two consensus meetings: Voting Age 16 moderated by Lane Sturtevant and pRCV moderated by Deb Paredes.
- + In February, several Highlands Regional members attended Advocacy Day in Augusta.



PORTLAND AREA

The Portland Area league has 172 current members who are involved in a variety of activities at the local and state level.

At the local level, the activity with the largest number of participants is the Tabling Committee whose 70+ members register new voters at Naturalization ceremonies, schools, and public events. In 2023-2024, LWVPA registered 374 citizens and this year, 2024-2025, we have

currently registered 200 new voters at 14 Naturalization ceremonies. With an idea to expand voter registration activities to retirement communities, LWVPA conducted a successful training session at Oceanside Retirement Community. At the event, we helped residents complete change of address voter registration and apply for on-going absentee ballots.

Another voter service in which LWVPA members took part was Vote411 when members emailed and called town clerks and candidates and completed information on the Vote411 website. In addition, we contributed funds to support the advertising of this public service. Out in the community, we distributed the Guide to Local Government, which we supported financially. And in September, we hosted a meet and greet at the Atrium retirement community where we shared information on the League, on voting and on community involvement.

A particularly important part of our work is sponsoring and supporting Meet & Greets and candidate forums in Portland area communities, in anticipation of local and state elections. In May, members are working with the town of Falmouth for a Town Council Meet and Greet. For all members and local communities, we offer a forum training model and kit, "Forums in a Box" available at www.lwvme.org/membersresources under the Resource tab. Also available is an interactive "Election Event Training", which was developed by an LWVPA member, and is found under the Training tab.

In addition to our community activities, our Book Committee organized a successful book discussion on Zoom reviewing Heather Cox Richardson's "Democracy Awakening" with 60

participants working in small groups and later summarizing together.

In support of the LWVME advocacy team, LWVPA members reached out to government representatives on key issues on the state and federal level by phoning, emailing, and writing postcards. We also made and distributed our own buttons: Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport.



Looking toward the future, LWVPA strongly believes in educating Maine high school and college students in the importance of civic engagement. Thus, we established a scholarship in the name of our long-time member, Anne Schink. Each year, we award this scholarship/ internship to a high school or young person interested in working and learning about the League and becoming civically engaged.

For past contributions to league activities, annually we select an LWVPA member as the recipient of the Emily Farley Fund Award, a member

who has exemplified service and dedication to the ideals of the League. This year we recognized the dedication and service of retiring PA Board President, Peg Balano. We also want to recognize longtime board members Barbara Kaufman, Carol Carpenter, Barbara Kaufman, Elaine DiGiovanni, Kim Matthews, and Cathie Crute.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

May 2025 total includes members marked as: new, current and grace

	LWVME	Portland Area	Brunswick Area	Downeast	Member At Large	Bangor
January 2007	252	92	65	49	46	
January 2011	140	47	38	33	22	15
January 2015	205	92	27	38	48	20
January 2019	492	190	57	75	170	22
January 2020	657	273	54	89	241	20
December 2021	623	233	54	86	250	28
December 2022	598	251	51	97	199	28
April 2023	593	253	50	92	198	22
May 2025	635	251	65	108	211*	27

*This number includes the local regions listed below.

	Midcoast	Capital Area	York County	Machias	Belfast	Lewiston	Highlands Regional
January 2015							
January 2019	38	20	24	4	7	2	
January 2020	62	42	30	1	11	4	9
December 2021	60	42	26	6	12	5	9
December 2022	56	35	25	2	11	4	7
April 2023	50	43	25	0	14	5	9
May 2025	39	33	30	3	14	4	11

VOLUNTEER REPORT

Leadership Ladder

Volunteer Leader*	25
Super Volunteer^	83
Volunteer^	238
Prospect	44,193
Total Volunteers	346

*Manually updated, includes chapter leaders, team leads

^Automatically calculated based on activity type/counts, YTD

Breakdown of members vs. volunteers

Members only	Volunteers only	Both	Total Engaged
509	208	138	855
59.53%	24.33%	16.14%	

Total Members (M) 647
Total Volunteers (V) 346

% M who are also V 21%
% V who are also M 40%

REPORTS

ADVOCACY REPORTS

From the second session of the 131st Maine State Legislature through the first regular session of the 132nd, 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
- + Racial Justice & Equity
- + Gun Safety Reform

Our Advocacy Committee included regular volunteers: Ben Gaines, Ann Luther, Deb McDonough, Matt Schaeffer, Alison Smith, and John Brautigam, plus new volunteer Sarah Stadler; along with staff members, Allyson Gardner, Will Hayward, Anna Kellar, Jen Lancaster, Al Cleveland, and Deb Paredes.

Will Hayward served as the Advocacy Director until the summer of 2024. He was instrumental in uplifting League policies in coalitions and working to pass the National Popular Vote bill. Al Cleveland has succeeded Will and currently serves as the League's Advocacy Director.

Additionally, we have seen an explosion of youth interest in advocacy. Allyson Gardner, the former director of Maine Students Vote, would coordinate testimony with the League's Youth Advocacy Team, which act independently and can freely testify on bills which interest them. Our youth advocates were passionate about gun safety reform, trans and LGBTQAI+ rights, and lowering the voting age.

We typically follow over 100 titles in each legislature out of the 2,000 titles (or more) that are considered. We present testimony



on around 50 bills between the League and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. At the same time, we are actively supporting the democracy agenda of our national League at the federal level.

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 4,700 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.

Voting Rights

The League worked tirelessly to pass Online Voter Registration (OVR). The system went



live in early 2024, with very few issues reported on rollout. It allows voters to register with either a Maine driver's license/ID or with a valid Social Security Number. As online voter registration becomes a familiar part of Maine's election process, we will continue to promote its usage and advocate for more dynamic API features so that, for instance, online voter registration can be offered on devices such as tablets at public events.

Photo ID requirements have gathered momentum around the country, and in Maine, bills are introduced in nearly every session to require that photographic ID be presented at the polls in order to vote. A new citizen's initiative effort launched in 2024 with substantial backing and organization. This effort includes extremely strict ID requirements and significant curtailment of absentee voting. The measure will now appear on the November 2025 ballot. The League has joined the "Save Maine Absentee Voting" coalition and will work to inform Mainers about this voter suppression referendum.

Absentee Voting and Vote-by-Mail

In 2023, the League and a broad coalition of pro-voting groups backed legislation to expand ongoing absentee voting access to all Mainers (LD 1690). This legislation, which became law without the governor's signature, will go into effect for the beginning of 2026, ensuring that all voters will have access to the ongoing absentee voting system for all of that year's elections. The League is especially hopeful that this change will increase

turnout in local elections. We will monitor its implementation to ensure the ability to apply for ongoing absentee status is as easy as possible.

Election Methods

The League worked in 2022 to pass a bill expanding the number of municipalities that could pursue Ranked Choice Voting, LD 859. It allows for non-charter municipalities to use RCV or other election methods, a freedom municipalities with charters already enjoyed.

The success of expanding RCV in Westbrook inspired further work around local RCV. The League is also working on the ground in Lewiston to establish local RCV. This campaign is in the preliminary stage with volunteers gathering petition signatures. Meanwhile, our efforts to institute RCV for legislative and gubernatorial general elections, with or without a constitutional amendment, are continuing.

In 2024, the National Popular Vote was passed into law, 17 years after the first NPV bill was introduced in the Maine Legislature. Following an intensive effort by the League and a broad coalition of allies, LD 1578 became law without the governor's signature. As of the summer of 2024, an attempted people's veto effort appears unlikely to succeed. Following enactment in Maine, the NPV compact was up to 209 electoral votes, only 61 away from the 270 needed to become effective.

Clean Elections

In the 131st session (2023-24), the legislature came very close to passing an expansion of the Maine Clean Elections Act for the first time since its historic enactment in 1996. This bill (LD 1966) would have expanded access to candidates for District Attorney (DA). To our knowledge, this would be the first program in the nation to include DAs. The bill failed to cross the finish line, and we revamped this effort in the 132nd Legislature (2025-26) with a bill, LD 1787, that is currently making its way through the legislative process. This bill expands clean elections to sherriff, DA, and county commissioner races.

The 131st Legislature was also marked by the unfortunate repeal of the newly-enacted corporate contribution ban. The ban on corporate contributions to legislators and leadership PACs went into effect Jan 1, 2023, and there was quickly a backlash from the regulated community. Powerful forces in the Maine Legislature combined to roll back this critical reform.

Due to a combination of confusing guidance from the Ethics Commission and misunderstanding by national donors, the ban was thought to not allow contributions from national PACs to the caucus PACs (despite the intention to exempt caucus PACs from the ban). This, combined with a deep reliance on leadership PACs, led to a repeal bill, LD 726, introduced by Republican Senator Jeff Timberlake, that was quickly supported by many legislative Democrats and organizations which contribute to the caucus PACs.

MCCE opposed the repeal, and was able to secure an instruction to the Ethics Commission to propose new bill language for 2024 which would allow a more narrowly-constructed ban on contributions to legislators and leadership PACs. The Ethics Commission did bring forward this report, but no bill was introduced during the 131st legislative session.

Racial Justice

During the 131st Legislature, LWVME also supported a bill that increased the overall pay for legislators. As a consequence of the inadequate compensation for state legislators,

many Mainers are barred from pursuing this form of public service. Inequalities in wealth and income levels mean that poor and working class Mainers, young Mainers, women, and Mainers of color are less likely to be able to afford to serve than older white men. Increasing legislative pay will increase equity. LD 1155 was signed into law and will go into effect in the 132nd Legislature. LD 1155 increases legislator salaries to \$25,000 (formerly \$10,815) in the first session and \$20,000 (formerly \$7,725) in the second session.

And finally, the LWVME opposed LD 618 in the 131st Legislature, a bill that sought to prohibit, in any curriculum, the study of Critical Race Theory, social and emotional learning and diversity, and equity and inclusion. The bill countered the League's overall mission of encouraging participation in government, understanding public policy issues, and supporting a broad education. The keys to an informed electorate and a functioning democracy are that all citizens receive a broad and comprehensive education. To establish an outright ban on understanding selected parts of our shared histories, as was proposed in this bill, is to decrease that understanding and deny some aspects of our history. The League opposed LD 618, it did not receive a favorable report in Committee, and it died in the Senate.

During the 131st and 132nd Legislatures, the LWVME continues to follow guidance from CORE and the Wabanaki Alliance.

Following the examples from previous Legislatures, another tribal sovereignty bill was put forth in the 131st Legislature, LD 2007. The bill was pared down to mostly cover criminal jurisdictions and recognize the Penobscot Nation's authority to regulate their drinking water. This bill was signed into law and restores critical tribal rights, but it is far from tribal sovereignty. The League of Women Voters of Maine will continue to advocate for the full recognition of sovereignty for the Wabanaki tribes.

Gun Safety and Reform

The League of Women Voters has held the position since 1990 that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major

health and safety threat to its citizens. Gun safety has long been an issue important to the League.

LWVME joined the Maine Gun Safety Coalition in 2024. Collaboration with this coalition, and our Youth Advocacy Team, guided LWVME's gun safety advocacy work in the 131st Legislature. Following the shooting event in Lewiston, and frustrated with a lack of legislation to curtail future violent shooting events, Mainers showed up in record numbers.



The League participated in a State House rally in January 2024, where hundreds of concerned citizens descended on the halls to demand common sense reform. Hundreds more submitted testimony in public hearings, causing one public hearing to span over two days. Our youth leaders submitted testimony on the following bills and were vital to supporting the advocacy team in these efforts.

Youth Advocacy

Last year, we also established the League's first Youth Advocacy Team. This group of five passionate student leaders developed testimony writing workshops, trained 80 of their peers, and tracked 72 bills during the first session of the Maine Legislature. Their work laid the foundation for LWVME's new legislative Gun Safety Subcommittee.



In 2025, our Youth Advocacy Team is working to lower the voting age to 16, with an endorsement from the League of Women Voters. We conducted a rigorous two-year study that concluded in 2023 and adopted a position that supported lowering the voting age. A bill, LD 1446 was submitted in the 132nd Legislature that would lower the voting age to 16 for state and municipal elections. They mobilized their peers to get testimony on the record for the public hearing and are ready to lobby their legislators on this issue.

LWVME EDUCATION FUND REPORTS

We worked to engage voters broadly, using various tactics to connect with voters in as many ways as possible, particularly with people less likely to vote. We created both paper and digital voter guides, published information about how to vote in ten languages, canvassed in 15 different towns with a higher population of low-propensity voters, and expanded our youth outreach in high schools and colleges. Here's our impact.

but also were encouraged to share with librarians. We worked with three libraries, Bangor, Lewiston, and Portland, to ensure delivery to almost every library across the state thanks to their Interlibrary Loan System. We prioritized broad distribution, ensuring that most libraries in the state, adult education programs, colleges, and a variety of community organizations and public locations received copies. Local League members were an invaluable part of distribution. We can't do this work without their support. Demand was high. Our print guide reaches people without (or limited) internet access and people who are less comfortable using an online guide.

It also serves as a visual reminder of the upcoming election.

Digital Voter Guide

We have published an online voter guide using the League of Women Voters' Vote411 database for several years. We launched a new "Adopt a Town" program to encourage volunteers to regularly look up their town's election news and report back so that this vital information could be included in Vote411.



Print Voter Guide

Our statewide, easy-to-read voter guide is familiar to many people, and we frequently hear how useful it is. Formatted as a tabloid-style newspaper, it contains general information about how to vote, and for the 2024 election, included a quick guide to the ballot questions and profiles of any candidates for U.S. Congress and U.S. President. Candidates are asked to answer questions about their goals and priorities.

In 2024, we printed and distributed 50,000 guides. We partnered with the Maine Library Association and developed election toolkits that were available for the general public,

We employed Deb McDonough part-time in the fall to assist with data entry and error checking of Vote411, which was absolutely invaluable. Without her work, staff support for the print guide would have been much more difficult to accomplish.

Sponsorship

For several election cycles now, the League has solicited sponsorships from corporations, nonprofits, and other organizations to fund our voter guides. We display their logo on voter guide materials, in print and digitally, which emphasized the sponsor's support for quality, nonpartisan election information.

In 2024, we collaborated with eight organizations/corporations.



How many accessed our materials?

Our coverage was comprehensive. Everyone in Maine could find every race on their ballot at Vote411.org. As a result, we had 33,480 people access it.

Our Vote411 coverage represented 3.5% of registered voters in the state, with usage higher in some communities than others. Usage was highest in communities with a strong League presence and where we have focused our organizing efforts.

New Voters

Through our Neighbor to Neighbor program, we knocked on several hundred doors in Gorham, Winham, Portland, Westbrook, and South Portland. We focus on low propensity voters and immigrant communities. We share voter information in 10 languages and answer any questions.

Local Leagues accomplish incredible work by staffing naturalization ceremonies and registering new voters. In 2024, 25 volunteers helped 351 new citizens to register to vote at their ceremony, roughly half the total number of new citizens, which is consistent. It's hard

to predict what this will ultimately look like in 2025, with legal residents being threatened with deportation, but as long as people

are becoming naturalized citizens, our volunteers are committed to being there to give them the opportunity to register to vote. League volunteers are proud to provide this service and enjoy it a great deal.

Conclusion

2024 was an intense year, with a high-salience election driving many people to volunteer their time with us.

New volunteers

expressed interest so often we began doing weekly volunteer orientations to make sure they knew who we were; we used that time to explain nonpartisan work, invite them to join the League, and funnel them toward a project. These orientations are still ongoing. New volunteers brought enthusiasm and gave us a significant amount of their time and energy, as did our existing members and volunteers.

In addition to these programs, we were highly in demand to help with informational panels and speaking engagements, train staff and volunteers from other organizations, and provide our election toolkit materials. One of our goals is to both be and be perceived as a reliable information source, and we are seeing the result of succeeding in that work. In particular, organizations within the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition and Rev Up coalition seek us out when they have questions or concerns about democracy and voting.



FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE LEAGUE

	LWVME Actuals	LWVME Budget	Democracy Maine Actuals	Democracy Maine Budget
	July 2023 - March 30, 2025	2023 - 2025**	July 2023 - March 30, 2025	2023 - 2025**
Income				
Donations	\$51,470	\$100,000	\$469,311	\$615,000
Dues & PMP Revenue	\$82,178	\$50,000	\$82,178	\$50,000
Grants	\$151,608	\$84,173	\$818,690	\$841,730
In Kind	\$105		\$2,745	\$60,000
Other*	\$4,184		\$30,172	\$6,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$289,545	\$234,173	\$1,403,095	\$1,572,730
Expense				
Salaries & Benefits	\$54,127	\$115,248	\$875,892	\$1,137,481
Consultants	\$1,395	\$11,800	\$147,082	\$102,100
Operations	\$3,364	\$15,209	\$20,829	\$61,745
Program Expenses	\$30,273	\$45,626	\$187,461	\$185,235
Dues Paid - Local and National	\$49,860	\$18,000	\$49,860	\$18,000
Other				
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$139,018	\$205,883	\$1,281,123	\$1,504,561
NET INCOME	\$150,526	\$28,290	\$121,972	\$68,169
Restricted funds for chapters included above:				
Bangor	\$407			
Brunswick	\$0			
Capital Area	\$392			
Highlands Regional	\$116			
Midcoast	\$304			
TOTAL	\$1,220			
Restricted funds for fiscal sponsorships included above:				
NE Leadership Conference			\$2,378	
LWVPA Education Fund			\$348	
TOTAL			\$2,725	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE 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~~.

**TIP:**

The Bylaws will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 10:15 AM.

League members will vote on the Bylaws in Plenary Session II at 3:15 PM.

As amended ~~June 3, 2023~~ May 31, 2025

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. Policies.

a) Political Policy. LWVME shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

b) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.

The LWVME is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

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 local League, and state Leagues ~~of their place of joining~~ and of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS): (1) ~~Those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large.~~ Those 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. ~~†~~; (4) 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.

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~~ League.

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 may~~ co-sign with the President all contracts and other instruments when ~~so authorized directed~~ 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 fifteen~~ (15) elected Directors and not more than ~~seven five~~ (7-5) 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 At least one (1) of the elected Directors 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 ~~seven (7) five~~ (5) as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. ~~At least~~ one of the ~~seven five~~ 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 local Leagues, for carrying out of program, and for the promotion in the local Leagues of finance programs requisite to further the work of the League as a whole, including transmission of funds toward the support of an adequate national budget. The State Board shall be responsible for approving any budget deviations during

the two-year budget cycle. The State Board shall have the power to ~~appoint an executive committee and~~ create and designate such ~~special~~ committees as it may deem necessary. The State Board shall appoint ~~Board members to Trustees to the League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund, consistent with the bylaws of the LWVME Education Fund and shall appoint those same persons to the Board of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, Board members to Democracy Maine~~ a Maine nonprofit corporation.

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

Sec. 6. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least four regular meetings of the State Board annually. The President shall notify each member of the Board of all regular meetings at least one week before any such meeting giving the time and place of the meeting. No action taken at any regular Board meeting attended by three-fourths of the members of the Board shall be invalidated because of failure of any members of the Board to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received.

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. 8. Absences. In the event a member of the State Board is absent from two consecutive regular meetings of the State Board, without excuse, that office shall be declared vacant.

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. 10. Informal Action by State Board. Any action required or permitted by law to be taken at a meeting of directors may be taken without a meeting if endorsed by a majority of voting members of the State Board after reasonable notice. Such notice must be by electronic or written means setting forth the action to be taken. ~~The endorsement may consist of a vote by email pursuant to the Policy on Making Decisions Between Board Meetings.~~

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 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~~ policies 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 shall pay annual dues in accordance with LWVUS policy except those who have been members for 50 years or more are life members and are excused from the payment of dues. 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.~~ Members shall pay annual dues in accordance with LWVUS policy except those who have been members for 50 years or more are life members and are excused from the payment of dues.

Sec. 3. Budget. The Board shall submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing two years ~~as prepared by the Executive Committee~~ as prepared by the Executive Committee. 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 comprising the members of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director and the Operations Director, 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~~ 4. 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 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.~~

ARTICLE IX: 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 Youth Council is to help build a culture of youth civic engagement with a focus on voter participation and promoting democracy. Our vision is that Maine youth are informed about and engaged in our robust democracy even before they are eligible to vote. As part of this work, the goal of the Youth Council is to build a diverse group of youth across Maine who are passionate about the importance of voting and civic involvement in our democracy. The Youth Council will:

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.

ARTICLE XI: Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.

a.) The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the State Board, two of whom shall be members of the State Board. The Board shall designate a chair of the Nominating Committee. ~~At least one (1) member of the Nominating Committee shall be selected from a list provided by MCCE Action and one (1) member shall be selected from a list of interested candidates provided by the Council.~~ The President of the League of Women Voters of Maine shall send the names and addresses of the nominating committee to each recognized League, and MAL Unit.

b.) Any vacancy occurring in the Nominating Committee by reason of death, resignation or disqualification shall be filled by the State Board.

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. 3. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers and directors shall be submitted to League members four weeks before the date of the Convention. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Convention during the first plenary session of the Convention. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

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

ARTICLE XII: Program

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. 2. Program. The program of the League of Women Voters of Maine consists of (a) action to protect the right to vote of every citizen, (b) adopted positions upon which action is taken, and (c) those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study, leading to a position and action.

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

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 XIIIIV: 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: 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 League** except for ~~his or her~~**their** own acts or omissions in bad faith. No Director shall be personally liable for any obligation or liability incurred by the **Corporation League** or by the Directors. The ~~League Corporation~~**League** shall alone be liable for the payment or satisfaction of all obligations and liabilities incurred in carrying on the affairs of the **Corporation League**.

Sec 2. Indemnification. The **Corporation League** shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless any and all officers and directors of the **Corporation League**, 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 League**, 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.

Notes

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Our legacy 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!



info@lwmme.org
www.lwmme.org