

BYLAWS of the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of New Hampshire. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

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

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

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 local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS;

(1) 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 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

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 the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected by the Convention and shall hold office until the conclusion of the next biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Sec. 2. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors unless she/he shall designate someone to preside in her/his stead. She/he may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. She/he shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. She/he 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.

Sec. 3. The 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 of Directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of Convention, Councils, and of meetings of the Board of Directors. She/he shall notify all officers and directors of their election. She/he shall sign with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to her/his office.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer, or her/his duly appointed assistant, shall collect and receive all moneys due. She/he shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse the same only upon the order of the Board of Directors. She/he shall present periodic statements to the Board at its regular meetings and an annual report to the Convention or Council. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited annually within three months of the end of the League's fiscal year.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors.

Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, up to six (6) elected directors, and not more than six (6) appointed directors. The elected directors shall be elected by the Convention and shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding six (6), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors.

Sec. 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this corporation unless she/he is a voting member enrolled in a local League of Women Voters in the state of New Hampshire or is a member-at-large of the state League.

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

Sec. 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors 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 instruction of the Convention. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program on state governmental matters as adopted by the Convention. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States for the organization and development of local Leagues, for the 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 Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary. Chairpersons of special committees shall become non-voting members of the Board during the functioning period of such committees.

Sec. 5. Regular Meetings. There shall be a minimum of four (4) regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President shall notify board members of all regular

meetings at least one (1) 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 the failure of any member or members of the Board to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received.

Sec. 6. Special Meetings. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall call a special meeting upon written request of five (5) members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings at least six (6) days prior to such meeting, provided however, that during a Convention the President may or, upon request of five (5) members of the Board, shall call a special meeting of the Board by handing the members of the Board a written notice of the time and place of said meeting.

Virtual special meetings, via email or telephone, may be called by the President or her designee when time is of the essence to take action. The President or her designee shall contact all members of the Board of Directors, via either email or telephone, to call the meeting, giving the agenda and stating a beginning and ending time long enough to allow all members to participate. Replies from two-thirds (2/3) of the board members, via email or telephone, shall constitute a quorum. Seconds shall not be required for motions. The meeting would end at the specified time unless formally extended.

Results of the virtual meeting shall be recorded in the minutes of the next actual board meeting.

Sec. 7. Quorum. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

Recognition of Local Leagues

Sec. 1. Local Leagues. Local Leagues are those Leagues which have been so recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The Board of Directors shall recommend to the National Board that the National Board recognize as a local League any group of members of the League of Women Voters of the United States, provided the group has fulfilled the requirements for local Leagues as adopted by the national Convention.

In the event of a recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill recognition requirements, the Board of Directors shall recommend to the National Board that the National Board withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds and written records held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be turned over to the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire.

ARTICLE VII

Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall be from July 1 to June 30 each year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support. Financial responsibility for the work of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall be assumed annually by the local Leagues. Members-at-large shall pay dues directly to the state Treasurer.

Sec. 3. Budget. The Board shall submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing two years. This budget shall provide for the support of the State League. A copy of the budget shall be sent to each local League President at least one month in advance of the Convention or Council.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee, which shall be appointed for that purpose three (3) months in advance of the Convention or Council. The Treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the Budget Committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Sec. 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution, for any cause, of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned or under absolute control of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of the United States after the Board of Directors has paid or made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned or under the control of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization, or such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire.

ARTICLE VIII

Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The President shall send a proposed date for the Convention to the members not less than four (4) months prior to the date of the Convention. Thereafter, the Board of Directors may advance or postpone the opening date of the Convention by not more than two (2) weeks. A final call for Convention shall be sent to members at least one (1) month before Convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The Convention shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members through the local Leagues in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article, the Presidents of the local Leagues or an alternate in the event the President is unable to attend, and the members of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire.

Sec. 3. Qualification of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate shall be a voting member of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the Convention even though the delegate may be attending in two (2) or more capacities. Absent or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation. All members registered at Convention will be voting delegates. This policy is to be reviewed annually by the State Board and amended at the discretion of the Board.

Sec. 5 Powers. The Convention shall consider and authorize for action a Program, shall elect officers and directors, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Sec. 6 Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered and voting, provided there is representation from at least a majority of Leagues.

ARTICLE IX

Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the interim year between Conventions, approximately twelve (12) months after the preceding Convention, at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. A formal call shall be sent by the President to the members at least one (1) month before a Council meeting. Special meetings may be called in the event of extreme emergency.

Sec. 2 Composition. The Council shall be composed of all League of Women Voters of New Hampshire members attending the Council. All LWVNH members in attendance will be considered voting delegates.

Sec. 3. Powers. The Council shall give guidance to the Board on Program, methods of work, and budget as submitted by the Board of Directors. The Council is authorized to change the Program only in the event of an emergency: 1) notice of proposed changes shall have been sent to the Presidents of the local Leagues at least two (2) months in advance of the meeting of the Council; and 2) the change is adopted by a two-thirds vote. The Council shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year and shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the Board.

Sec. 4. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered and voting, provided there is representation from at least a majority of the local Leagues.

ARTICLE X

Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, one or two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chair, who shall not be a member of the Board of Directors, shall be elected by the Convention.

Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors immediately after Convention. One or more of the appointed members of the committee may be members of the Board of Directors. Any vacancy occurring in the Nominating Committee by reason of death, resignation or disqualification shall be filled by the Board of Directors. The President of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall send the name and address of the chairperson of the Nominating Committee to the President of each recognized local League.

Sec. 2. Suggestions for Nominations. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall request through the President of each local League, suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled. Suggestions for nominations by local Leagues shall be sent by the President or Secretary of such local League to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee at least three (3) months before the Convention. Any member may send suggestions to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Sec. 3. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors and the chairperson and two (2) members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent

to members one (1) month before the date of the Convention. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented early on the day of 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. Nominations by Petition. Nominations for the Nominating Committee and officers and directors of the Board of Directors may be submitted by petition of ten (10) League members to the Board of Directors no later than one (1) week prior to the date of Convention. The consent of such nominees shall have been obtained prior to submission and their names and identifications and qualifications shall be announced to convention delegates by the petitioners no later than the morning of Convention.

Sec. 5. Election. The election shall be in the charge of an Election Committee appointed by the President. The election shall be by ballot, except that when there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be in order to move that the Secretary cast the ballot for every candidate. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE XI

Program

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

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire shall consist of action to implement the Principles, and those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Sec. 3. Program Selection. The Convention shall select the governmental issues for concerted study and action using the following procedure: the Board of Directors shall formulate a proposed Program, which shall be submitted to the members at least one (1) month prior to the Convention. Recommendations for change submitted by local League Boards and received by the Board of Directors at least one (1) month before the opening of Convention shall be considered by the Board prior to the Convention, at which time the Board may change the proposed Program. A majority vote shall be required for the adoption of continuing study or support items. Three-fifths (3/5) vote will be required to adopt any new item or expanded study of a current item, proposed by the Board of Directors.

Any recommendation for the Program submitted to the Board of Directors at least one (1) month before the Convention, but not proposed by the Board, may be adopted by the Convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote. The proposal must receive a three-fifths (3/5) vote to be adopted.

Sec. 4. Council Program Consideration. The Council may change the program as provided in Article IX.

Sec. 5. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire.

Sec. 6. Local League Action. Local Leagues may take action on governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, the position taken by the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire.

ARTICLE XII

National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to the Convention in the number allowed the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 2. National Council. The Board of Directors, no later than 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 the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE XIII

Parliamentary Authority

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

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any Convention, using the following procedures: Proposals for change shall be submitted by any local League Board of Directors or by the state Board of Directors at least two (2) months prior to Convention. All such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the Board shall be sent to members at least one (1) month prior to the Convention.

Last Amended:

State Board, by direction of LWVUS Convention June 2016 (article III);

State Council May 2014;

State Convention May 31, 2011;

State Convention May 2, 2009;

State Convention May 5, 2007;

State Convention 2005;

State Convention 2003;

Quad State 2000;

25th State Convention, May 17, 1997.