

BYLAWS of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette

As amended at the May 2011 Annual Meeting

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Indiana.

ARTICLE II - Purposes and Policy

Section 1, Purposes: The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2, Policy: The League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette may take action on federal, state, and local measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section 1, Eligibility: Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall not be denied on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or familial status.

Section 2, Types of Membership: The membership of the League of Women Voters shall be composed of voting members and associate members. Voting members shall be citizens of the United States and at least 18 years of age. Voting members may hold family memberships which include at least two eligible members residing at the same address in common household. Those who have been members of LWVUS for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues. Associate members shall be all other members.

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

Section 1, Number, Selection and Term of Office: The Board of Directors shall consist of the five officers of the League, three elected directors and not more than five appointed directors. Up to three directors shall be elected each year to replace those whose terms are expiring. If possible one or two of those elected should serve two-year terms. Others will serve one-year terms. All terms begin July 1. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding five, as they deem necessary to carry out the

work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire July 1.

Section 2, Qualifications: Only a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of the organization.

Section 3, Vacancies: Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from Board meetings of any member shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 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 it, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5, Meetings: There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon written request of five members of the Board. Any League of Women Voters member may attend Board meetings.

Section 6, Quorum: A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V - Officers

Section 1, Enumeration and Election of Officers: The officers of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette shall be a president, an organizational vice-president, a program vice-president, a secretary, and a financial coordinator. The president shall be elected for a term of one year by the general membership at an annual meeting and take office July 1. The organizational vice-president, program vice-president, secretary, and financial coordinator shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an annual meeting and take office July 1. The organizational vice president and secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and the program vice-president and financial coordinator shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 2, The President: The president:

- a) shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors;
- b) may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes in the event the treasurer is unable to perform these duties;
- c) shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee;

d) 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;
e) shall be the authorized spokesperson for the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette.

Section 3, The Vice-Presidents: The two vice-presidents, in the event that the president is unable to perform the duties of the office, shall possess all powers and responsibilities of that office and such other duties as the president and Board may designate, for a period of no more than sixty days. By the end of this period the board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy.

Section 4, The Secretary: The secretary:

- a) shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League, excluding unit meetings, and of all meetings of the Board of Directors;
- b) shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board, and shall perform other functions that may be pertinent to the office.

Section 5, The Financial Coordinator. The financial coordinator:

- a) shall supervise the treasurer who records receipts and expenditures, pays approved bills and PMPs (per member payments), and prepares and presents the books for audit;
- b) shall serve on the budget committee;
- c) shall coordinate the financial drive.

ARTICLE VI – Financial Administration

Section 1, Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette shall commence on the first day of July of each year.

Section 2, Dues: The amount of dues for all membership categories is determined by the voting members at the annual meeting during budget adoption. Dues are payable July 1. Any member who fails to pay dues shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3, Budget: A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors for adoption at the annual meeting. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4, Budget Committee: The budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed for that purpose at least two months before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the budget committee. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

Section 5, Distribution of Funds on Dissolution: In the event of the dissolution of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the League of Women Voters of Greater

Lafayette shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of Indiana, after state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. 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 Greater Lafayette shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable, or educational use and purposes as the Board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

Section 1, Membership Meetings: There shall be at least three meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2, Annual Meeting: An annual meeting shall be held on a date to be determined by the Board of Directors. Fifteen percent (15%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. At the annual meeting the voting membership shall:
adopt a local program for the ensuing year, starting July 1
elect officers and directors, and a chair and two members of the nominating committee
adopt an annual budget
establish the annual dues
transact such other business as may properly come before it

Section 3, Board Meetings: (See Article IV, Section 5)

ARTICLE VIII - Nominations and Elections

Section 1, Nominating Committee: The nominating committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The non-Board members shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations of the two non-Board positions, one of whom shall be designated chair, shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other member, who shall be a Board member, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at their first meeting following the annual meeting. The members of the nominating committee shall serve a one-year term beginning July 1. Any Vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to the nominating committee by any member.

Section 2, Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor: The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the date of the annual meeting. Immediately following presentation of such report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, providing the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3, Elections: The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX – Principles and program

Section 1, Principles: The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for the adoption of the Program.

Section 2, Program: The program of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette shall consist of:

action to protect the right to vote of every citizen
those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3, Action by the Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations formulated through discussion or submitted to the Board in writing by the members at least two months prior to the annual meeting, and shall develop a proposed Program.

The proposed Program shall be sent to members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

A majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of each subject in the proposed Program.

Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the annual meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the annual meeting provided that:

The annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote of voting members present.

The annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote of voting members present.

Section 4, Changes in the Program: In the case of altered conditions, changes may be made provided that:

Information regarding the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed. Final action by the membership is taken at the succeeding meeting.

Section 5, Member Action: Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized in advance to do so by the president.

ARTICLE X - National Convention, State Convention and Council

Section 1, National Convention: The membership of the Board of Directors, at a meeting

