

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TANANA VALLEY



Annual Meeting

May 11, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING GUIDELINES

Meeting Guidelines set meeting procedures which are not covered in the bylaws, or in some cases the guidelines are summaries of provisions in the bylaws. They are adopted at the beginning of the meeting but may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a 2/3 vote. The latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will control the general conduct of the meeting except where superseded by the bylaws or these meeting rules.

The Voting Body at this meeting consists of the members of the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley present and voting. The bylaws require that a voting body of 15% of the membership be present to constitute a quorum at the annual meeting.

Motions: All members may introduce motions. Main motions or amendments of substantial length will be introduced in writing. After written motions have been introduced, please hand them at once to the secretary.

Debate: Upon recognition by the chair, please state your name and make your statement in favor or in opposition to the motion. A member who desires to speak more than once to a question will please wait until others have had opportunity. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

Procedure for Program Adoption: Following presentation of proposed program, brief questions for clarification will be entertained, but no debate will take place at this time. Motions for consideration of non-recommended items may be made at the time allowed in the agenda. Presentation and debate of such motions shall be limited to 5 minutes. A member may request that the board give its reasons for not recommending items. This statement shall be limited to 3 minutes. A majority vote will place a non-recommended item before the meeting. Adoption will require 2/3 vote. Recommended items may be amended by majority vote; however, an amendment which changes the scope or changes the intent shall be treated as a non-recommended item. Recommended items shall be adopted by majority vote.

Budget: The budget will be adopted after the program has been adopted in order to accommodate any unexpected changes required by the program.

Elections: After the report of the Nomination Committee, the floor shall be opened for further nominations. A member may be nominated for any office provided prior consent to serve has been obtained from that member. When there is only one candidate for each office or seat, a member may move those nominations be closed and the secretary shall be directed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. If this motion is passed by the meeting, the chair shall declare the nominees elected. Amended 1990, 2006

60 YEARS! Milestones of the First Five Years

2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the organization of our local chapter of the League of Women Voters. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* archives document well its formation and early years. The first mention of the League in Fairbanks was a notice in September 1964 announcing a visit from Mrs. Harold Pearson, a past president of the Seattle League of Women Voters, who was traveling to Fairbanks on a mission from the national LWV. The announcement advised readers that Mrs. Pearson could be contacted at the Travelers Inn by any women who might be interested in learning more about the League. Mrs. Pearson also visited Juneau to spur the formation of a chapter in the capital city. Soon afterwards there was a report of a Fairbanks first gathering convened by Mrs. Betty Holyfield and Miss Laura Nicholson, who was described as a sociology professor at the university and who had been active in LWV in Arizona. (News-Miner, Sept. 16 and 25, 1964)

This first visit to Fairbanks was so successful that in October 1964 the News-Miner covered the return of Mrs. Pearson to Fairbanks. and the early meetings of the group including an organizational meeting at which Ann Rabinowitz was elected provisional president . Some of the first board members continued to serve in leadership positions in the Tanana Valley League for the next 25 or 30 years, including Irene (Mrs. Leonard) Peyton. Mary Jane Fate, the late mother-in-law of Senator Dan Sullivan, who was a founding member. Mrs. Troy Pew was chosen as first elected president of the group, and Mrs. Herman Slotnik followed her within the first year. Martha (Mrs. John) Roderick of the existing Anchorage League offered consultation services to the new group.(News-Miner, March 6, and Oct. 17, 1965)

In its second month of operation, the new 45-member group sponsored what we now call a Hot Topic forum in which citizens could ask questions of officials of the new, controversial North Star Borough. The earliest meetings were held in members' homes and, to accommodate the size of the group, they met in three separate installments at three different locations. The newspaper's description of the group sounds familiar to us now:

The purpose of the league is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in governmental affairs. Members do not study just for study's sake, but after learning the pros and cons on a topic, the league will make a stand on a subject. The organization is nonpartisan and does not endorse any political candidate. (News-Miner, Nov. 30, 1964)

After a full year of operation in 1965, the 60-member Fairbanks League was certified as an official chapter of the League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Harold Pearson returned to Fairbanks to give the group its official benediction from the national organization. (News-Miner, Dec. 9, 1965)

According to the News-Miner, the formation of the Fairbanks group, paralleled the organization of a Juneau League. The creation of these two Leagues along with the already established Anchorage chapter meant that Alaska would qualify to form a statewide League. Reports in 1967 document the first meeting of the new Alaska League, headed by Mrs. Avrum Gross, mother of Juneau politician, Al Gross. At that meeting, Shirley Gordon, now Fairbanks' only centenarian member, was elected as a state board member. Alaska was the last state to form a state organization. (News-Miner, Nov. 17, 1967)

In 1966, the two-year old Fairbanks League sent Irene Peyton as its representative to the national convention where the focus was on relations with the People's Republic of China and water resources, while the League planned to continue its attention to tax rates, "loyalty/security," and—much like today--apportionment in state legislatures and self-government for the District of Columbia. For the local League that year the focus was on a study of the Municipal Code of the new borough, with emphasis on the responsibilities of the borough assembly and the school board.(News-Miner, June 11, 1966)

In October 1966, the Fairbanks League collaborated with the American Association of University Women to sponsor a forum for state legislature candidates on one of the local commercial television stations. (News-Miner, Oct. 7, 1966)

The first state convention was held October 13 and 14, 1967 in Juneau with representatives from all Alaska chapters in attendance.(News-Miner, Oct. 11, 1967)

At the 1968 Tanana Valley Fair, League was already offering a straw poll at their fair booth, a custom that is now a fixture at the Fair. In addition to voting for candidates for federal and state office, fairgoers could indicate whether they supported or opposed a "pre-registration" for Alaska elections. The proposed deadline for registration was 2 weeks before an election. At that time, Alaska was one of only two states that did not register voters for elections. (News-Miner, Aug. 15, and Sept. 28, 1968)

In 1969, the North Star League of Women Voters, as it was called then, was studying reforms to the Electoral College. (News-Miner, Oct. 8, 1969), a topic that after 60 years is still a priority of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The long view is not a problem for an organization that was founded

as the culmination of a 70-year struggle to achieve the vote for women in the form of the Nineteenth Amendment.

--Sue Sherif



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

While the League of Women Voters appreciates and welcomes new members, our efforts would not be possible without our continuing members. We would like to take the opportunity this year to recognize some long-standing members to our local league. Each of the members listed has been with the League for over 25 years, and in that time has paid dues, made monetary contributions, donated many hours of their time, served on the board, and in many other ways helped our league continue to grow.

--Mary Galvan

Ruth Benson
Leslie Conner
Donna Dinsmore
Christy Everett
Shirley Gordon
Jean James
Ken Kokjer
Ginny McDowell
Karen Parr
Jennifer Schmidt
Sue Sherif
Sylvia Slotnick
Valerie Therrien
Carol A. Varner
Linda Witt
Alison York

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- Available to Members Via Email

“Democracy is not a spectator sport.”

-- Marion Wright Edelman

	MEETING AGENDA - May 11, 2024	
12 Noon	Call to Order	Marna Sanford
	Establish Quorum	
	Adoption of Agenda	
	Adoption of Meeting Guidelines	
	Honoring 25+ Years of Membership	Mary Galvan
12:10 pm	SPEAKER: Carol Gray, UAF faculty, human rights lawyer "War Crimes by Israel & Hamas and the Law of Genocide"	Intro- Marna Sanford
12:40 pm	Approval of Minutes - 2023 Annual Meeting	Diane Lyon
	Establish of Minutes Review Committee	
12:45 pm	BOARD REPORTS - Highlights	
	Presidents Report	Marna Sanford & Sue Sherif
	Treasurer's Report	David Weissman
	Membership Report	Jean James
	Diversity Committee Report New Website LWVUS Council	Helenmarie Matesi Shari George
1:10 pm	Proposed Program for 2023-2024	Marna Sanford
	Proposed Budget for 2023-2024	Budget Committee
	Proposed Bylaws Amendment	David Weissman
	Nominating Committee Report / Floor Nominations / Election	Nomination Committee
1:25 pm	Old and New Activities for 2024-25	Sue Sherif
	STATE REPORTS	
	LWVAK Presidents' Report	Alex Koplin (written)
	LWVAK State Convention Report	Sue Sherif (written)

	LEAGUE REPORTS - Oral Highlights	
1:45 pm	Future of LWVTV Book Group	Sue Keller
	A Look Back at This Last Year	All
2:00 pm	Appreciation of Officers and Board	Marna and Sue

MINUTES OF LWVTV ANNUAL MEETING- MAY 14, 2023

League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley Annual Meeting - May 20, 2023

Meeting called to order at 11:35 a.m. Hybrid version

Present in person: Diane Lyon, Cathy Hanks, Ann McCann, Jean James, Linda Witt, Ramon Galvan, Ellen Mannion, Mary Galvan, Shari George, Mary Lee Guthrie, Joan Soutar, Phyllis Darrah, Bernardo Hernandez, and Janna Miller.

Present via Zoom: Sue Sherif, Helenmarie Matesi, Leone Hatch, Margaret Soden, Marna Sanford. Quorum established, 18 present.

Opening statement given by Co-President Sue Sherif. She referred attendees to the Guidelines printed on the inside cover of the Annual Meeting Book.

Motion made by Mary Galvan, seconded by Shari George to adopt the Agenda. No objections, motion passed.

Motion by Jean James, seconded by Marna Sanford to adopt the annual Meeting Guidelines. No objections, motion passed.

Sue stated we have no Parliamentarian for this meeting so we will self-regulate. Note: As done in 2022, due to Zoom, if no objections to a motion are made, it is considered passed.

Guest Speaker, James Brooks of the Alaska Beacon

James talked about this year's legislative session. In his opinion it seemed to function more smoothly. There was a fight over the PFD, but it was resolved fairly quickly especially compared to prior years. The session produced a balanced budget without using savings. Problems were resolved more pragmatically, perhaps because a third of the legislators are new this year.

They budgeted \$3 million for deconstruction of the Polaris as well as money for UAF construction, and \$7.5 million for childcare grants. Fairbanks legislators were effective. They will be called back in October for a Special Session to flesh out a long-term plan, though James is not optimistic it will happen. Next session will be in an election year. There were several Election Reform bills (none with any real support) and a permanent increase for school funding didn't pass this year - maybe next year?

Q&A

Q. Why do you think attempts at Election Reform did not get very far? What would it take to get them more interested? **A.** The bills were so large, it's hard to put everything into one bill. It's too

big, too complicated, and they disagree on what's the most important issue to fix - stiffer penalties for fraud, same day voter registration, Ranked Choice Voting, etc.

Q. Why isn't there more interest in increasing taxes on mining? **A.** Even a really steep increase doesn't add much. Revenue target is \$1.3 billion. Big levers are sales tax, income tax, motor fuel tax. Many are against taxes in principle. PFD reduction is more regressive than a sales tax. Republicans are willing to agree to a tax if there is a spending cap.

Q. Is there any way to get dark money out of elections? **A.** That would require a US Constitution Amendment. At the State level there is no limit on individual donations. Possibly a ballot measure. There are lots of lobbyists in Juneau who probably killed the tax bills. James commented that the Bill for Legislative Pay raises looked prearranged to him.

Q. Do you think the Ranked Choice Voting bills have real legs? Should we be more worried? **A.** Don't believe the repeal bills is going to pass - there is not broad interest, and it would never advance in the Senate. If it goes to a Ballot Measure (they're already gathering signatures) it will be a close vote.

James is working on "did RCV deliver on its promises?" Did the legislature work better together as a result of RCV?

James explained the Alaska Beacon is part of States Newsrooms, which is nonprofit, donation funded. It is available to anyone, focused on policy and counteracting rumors. The Beacon has a staff of 4, their job is to make sure legislation does what it was intended to do. James can be reached at jbrooks@alaskabeacon.com (and is rumored to be quite the colorful dresser).

Thanks to James for his time and input.

Motion by Ann McCann, seconded by Bernardo Hernandez to approve 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. No objections, motion passed.

Minutes Review Committee - Shari George, Mary Lee Guthrie and Ramon Galvan volunteered.

BOARD REPORTS - Due to time constraints, chairs asked to report on top 2 items for the year.

Co-President's Report

Sue: Impressed with the amount of collaboration with other groups in particular Daily News Miner and KUAC. Thousands of dollars-worth of advertising from DNM. Looking forward to more in-person activities.

Janna: we continued with Ranked Choice Voting training, and we became a 501(c)3.

Treasurers Report

Sue reports David is travelling, Mary Galvan is our bookkeeper. We can collect questions and ask David upon his return. The 2022-2023 budget was reviewed, and some line items explained.

Jean James questioned why our payment to LWVUS was not showing? Mary Galvan said it's possible the check was not cashed.

In the past we budgeted for advertising, but DNM contributed instead. Should it be shown under In-Kind? Since they never established the amount, we can't really count. Jean James feels it's important to include it somewhere. Sue will look into this. Explanation given on Restricted Funds now that we're a 501(c)3. What are Restricted Funds? Mary Galvan explained a donor can restrict what their donation is for, so we must honor their request.

Membership Report - Jean James reported we have 102 members as of January 31 (same as prior year). As of May 1, we have 107 members. Everyone will be sent a Directory via email. Please email Jean with any changes or corrections.

LWVUS Report - Shari reports LWVUS is anticipating a national membership, so dues will go to LWVUS, then \$ back to States, then to Local. We'll be required to use their membership system. The % hasn't been determined yet, the goal is to get more \$ to local clubs and States. Still waiting on details.

Diversity Committee Report - Helenmarie Matesi reported on the Get Out the Vote Rally which had very diverse collaboration. It was simultaneous with Anchorage. Trying to reach disenfranchised voter groups. She invites us to look for Calls to Action.

Proposed 2023-2024 Program - Sue reminded us 30 years ago today the National Voting Registration Act was passed, with LWV being a big part of the success.

We reviewed our positions at our January and March meetings as well as conducting online surveys. It was recommended our local positions be reaffirmed:

General Local Government, Planning & Zoning, Boards, Commissions & Committees, Conflict of Interest, Nondiscrimination, Road Service Area.

It was also recommended we develop a local position on Civics Education. Members Gayle Garrigues and Ellen Weiser are working on a proposal.

Motion by Jean James, seconded by Bernardo Hernandez to accept the 2023-2024 Program.

Discussion included a recommendation that we adopt a local position if LWVAK doesn't. No objections, motion passed.

Activity priorities: approximately one third of the membership responded to the survey with Candidate Forums, Hot Topics, and Borough Assembly Radio ranked highest.

Proposed Budget for 2023-2024 presented.

Motion by Ellen Mannion, seconded by Linda Witt to accept the dues structure. Jean James explained the distribution of dues (\$32 to LWVUS, \$10 to LWVAK and balance of \$18 to LWVTV. No objections, motion passed.

Motion by Mary Galvan, seconded by Shari George to accept the budget as presented. Jean James explained the differences due to new 501(c)3 status. Membership donations have been high the past few years and expenditures down due to COVID. She also explained the PMP calculations.

Shari George explained the recommendation for a Social Media Consultant. Our online presence is pretty low, and we have been trying to keep up. A consultant will help us get started, get a “unanimous consent” message out there. The Board voted for a one-time cost to get us on platforms, show us how to maintain and how to create content that will attract younger members. LWVAK is upgrading their web presence, not sure of the cost. We also will need to follow cloud storage capability for LWVTV. Janna is researching better, safer, more accessible storage. LWVAK uses IONOS which currently is being paid by a member’s son. They are looking to move to a different content management platform currently used by Juneau and Anchorage which would allow for better internal support.

No objections, motion passed.

Proposed By Laws Amendment

Motion by Mary Galvan seconded by Shari George to amend our By Laws to change the start of our Fiscal Year to July. The change was suggested by Treasurer David Weissman so that our Fiscal Year follows our Annual Meeting. Our membership year will continue to start October 1 (for simplicity since there is a possible change to national membership so a change could be moot),

Nominating Committee

Slate of Officers presented by Helenmarie Matesi

President	Marna Sanford/Sue Sherif
Vice President	Helenmarie Matesi
Secretary	Diane Lyon
Board Member	Mary Galvan
Board Member	Phyllis Darrah
Board Member	Janna Miller
Board Member	Bernardo Hernandez

Nominating Committee 2023-24: Carol Ann Varner and Mary Lee Guthrie (Third member appointed by the Board.)

No nominations from the floor. *Helenmarie Matesi moved, Shari George seconded we accept the Slate of Officers as presented.* No objections, Slate of Officers elected unanimously.

Public Education Topics

The Board will review suggested topics from the member survey.

There will be a “Meet Up” BBQ on Sunday, July 23 from 1:00 - 4:00 at Pioneer Park, Moose Pavilion. More to follow.

State Reports

Sue Sherif reports there is an ACLU case in which LWVAK is one of the plaintiffs to cure absentee ballot issue, Arctic Village Council vs Alaska Division of Elections.

LWVAK 2023 - hybrid worked very well. LWVAK President’s Report is in the Annual Meeting booklet.

Shari George will be the State delegate to LWVUS Council in June 2023 in Las Vegas.

LWVTV LEAGUE REPORTS

See pages 27-34 of the Annual Meeting book for written reports.

Shout out to Sue Sherif for organizing our Mining Forum. Huge task, well done!

Volunteer Opportunities - please see the signup sheet and volunteer!

Sue gave thanks to her annual meeting committee members, Janna Miller, Mary Galvan, and Shari George.

Thanks to Janna Miller for serving as Co-President this past year.

Sue introduced incoming Co-President Marna Sanford. Marna is excited to be here. She appreciates LWVTV’s team effort and feels supported. Welcome Marna!

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Lyon, Secretary

“The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society. We must use it” John Lewis

BOARD REPORTS

Presidents' Report - 2023-24

2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Fairbanks chapter of the League. The new chapter was born out the tumultuous formation of the new North Star Borough and a concerted effort of the national League to grow new Leagues in Alaska and Hawaii.,

Almost 60 years later, the current membership of 102 carried on a full year of activities aimed at emerging from the pandemic years with a more visible presence to our members and in the community. Toward that end, in the summer of 2023 we had tables at all big community outdoor events: the NAACP Juneteenth celebration. the Midnight Sun Festival, the Golden Days celebration, and our usual booth at the Tanana Valley Fair. Our fair booth featured our traditional straw poll where Fair goers could weigh in on whether the borough and city governments should be unified and whether the Borough should move to a vote by mail system for local elections. At the booth two glass cylinders were filled with jellybeans to demonstrate graphically the number of eligible Borough voters vs. the much smaller number of voters who voted in the last local election (less than one in 5).

This fall our League was asked to tally and certify the results of contract ratification votes for two school district unions, a service that we had performed regularly in the past.

The October local elections brought out some members to street corners to wave VOTE signs and even more members were involved in our candidates forum that was organized by LWVTV and co-sponsored by the local newspaper and our public radio station.

Board member Gayle Garrigues served as an appointed member of the FNSB Salaries and Emoluments Commission. Although not in code, by tradition, a representative of the League has served in the nonprofit seat of that body.

Three members continue to serve on the criminal justice committee of the NAACP,

In addition to our two program planning meetings, this year we added two social events to our calendar: a summer family picnic and a November get-together to which new members and

people who had expressed interest in League at our summer events were especially invited was billed as Cans, Bans, and LWV Fans. The Fall event combined a canned food drive with some League information and a banned book trivia contest in which the prizes were actual banned books. Members of our chapter gathered petition signatures for the Campaign Against Money in Politics, a state ballot proposition that aims to restore campaign finance limits in Alaska.

Shari George deserves special recognition for her dogged and determined work with Marcus Varner, our web site sponsor, and his team to make 2024 the year we introduced [our chapter's brand-new website!](#)

We continued our effort to collaborate with other nonprofits and donated to and publicized the works of our Northern Alaska Kids Voting. Our decades-old book discussion group continued to meet monthly despite the year-long closure of its usual venue, the public library.

In April, we collaborated with KUAC-FM to host a forum, Voting by Mail : A Community Conversation. Our guest speakers were Jamie Heinz, Anchorage Municipal Clerk, and Joyce Anderson, Anchorage LWV board member and member of the Anchorage election commission when Anchorage transitioned to their voting by mail system for local election. Also participating were our Borough and City of Fairbanks clerks, April Trickey and Dani Snider. A recording of the event is linked on our website.

In April we organized a KUAC-FM radio debate on the Borough May 7 special election, a tax-cap related ballot proposition to support local school funding. We produced an on-line voters guide . Both the voters guide and a recording of the radio debate are available on the website.

--Sue Sherif and Marna Sanford, Co-Presidents



Treasurer's Report – David Weissman, Treasurer

To be distributed to members separately.

Membership Report

On January 31, 2024, the LWVTV had 102 members. As of May 5, 2024 we still have a total of 102 members. Membership decreased from 107 members in our prior membership year. One member passed away and several moved or graduated. Our current LWVTV membership year is October 1 through September 30th which is different from our fiscal year.

With a cutoff date of January 31, the League of Women Voters of the US tracks our membership numbers to determine the Per Member Payment (PMP). The PMP is currently set at \$32 per primary member. The additional household member PMP payment is \$16. The LWVAK PMP payment is \$10 per primary member, \$5 per additional member and zero \$ (0) for students.

Membership Year, which is currently October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024:

Life Members	4
Primary members	78
Additional Members	15
<u>Student Members</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Members	102

Upcoming changes: In 2025, the League of Women Voters National will be changing how new memberships and renewals will be made. Memberships will be primarily handled at the national level. The LWV National selected ChapterSpot as the new membership platform They consider this change: *A more streamlined joining process will facilitate the engagement of more members, through local, state, and national websites and through national membership campaigns.*

Additional information will be forthcoming closer to the end of the calendar year.

-Jean James, Membership Chair

Diversity Committee Report

The Diversity Committee has as its goals increasing the diversity of our membership and keeping abreast of issues relating to equity and equality that ultimately affect voting and peoples' ability to vote. We do this by maintaining a visible presence in many communities and networking with the Fairbanks BIPOC, LGBTQs and other marginalized communities and agencies. The committee was formed in 2017 after an incident in Charlottesville, VA. We often act in response to current events, the climate within our community, and our world at large in accordance with league bylaws and position statements. At times we do not respond to discriminatory practices or

occurrences as an organization, but part of our focus is to share information that exists within marginalized communities and goes otherwise unnoted, so that our membership has the choice to respond, testify etc. as they see fit.

We report monthly at executive board meetings and welcome news of issues happening in the many subcultures that make up our community. We invite any of our members to participate and share.

During the last year, League members continued to staff a table at Juneteenth, publicized A Day of Remembrance of Missing and Murdered Indigenous individuals and AAUW's transgender understanding series. Three members continue to serve on the NAACP's criminal justice committee.

--Helenmarie Matesi



LWVTV Website Re-Design / New Address www.lwvalaska.org

We took on updating our website with enhanced content and new technology to support it. Our longtime benefactor and technology guru, Marcus Varner (elder son of LWVTV member Carol Ann Varner) and his team, took on the task of porting the content from our previous site into a completely new software system, setting up templates and a navigation system and creating new content along the way. Our new site conforms to LWV of the United States requirements and is designed to complement the new LWV of Alaska website (<https://www.alaskalwv.org>). It is

compatible with smartphones, tablets and desktop computers and meets ADA standards. There were many phone calls (Marcus lives in Florida), emails, and texts at all hours to make the new site a reality. Marcus also gave in-person training when he was visiting his family earlier this year. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Marcus since he has paid for and supported our site both with technology and personal help for over 20 years. He also paid for and supported the LWVAK site for over 20 years until the development of the new state site.

-- Shari George

LWVUS Council

Every two years the LWV of the United States hosts a **Council** gathering of all Leagues. The Council is designed to focus on internal organizational issues and discuss directions of the League. There is no voting on League positions, programs or focus areas which is done every two years at the National **Convention**. In 2023, Shari George (LWVTV) and Cari Zawodney (LWV Anchorage) attended Council representing Alaska. Council concentrated on four core areas that will move the League forward: advancing a clear strategic focus, building a more inclusive culture, creating more interaction among leagues, and increasing capacity through programmatic funding. Aided by the results of the League-wide field survey, our discussions centered on several key areas: the business model (dues, donations, and revenue structure), data (understand data required to operate and build responsiveness), functional specifications of a membership system, and growing League capacity (focused on building at state and local levels). The key take-aways - there will be a new, national membership system that coordinates with local and state leagues coming in early 2025 (stay tuned for more on this after the General Election), state and local Leagues will receive more programmatic funding from the national League, and League has publicly announced a moonshot goal of abolishing the Electoral College by Constitutional amendment (the direct popular vote for electing the president has been the League's position since 1970, in the near term, League is supporting the National Popular Vote Compact).

--Shari George

Proposed Program for 2023-2024

Our annual programming planning meetings are convened to discuss where we should put energy in the next year. Our main purposes are education and advocacy. Our organization's

activities support representative government, natural resources, and social policy. This year, in addition to two online surveys of the membership, we held meetings in January and March to examine our positions and formulate our program proposals for 2023-24. LWV advocacy stems from our existing positions as well as careful study and development for new positions.

LWV of the United States

At our January program planning meeting, we agree to support adding a proposed national position on Local News to the agenda of the 2024 League of Women Voters Convention agenda. In an online poll, the board also voted to support League of Women of Vermont in their campaign for an addition to the position on privatization to include health care services. Both Leagues plan to bring these positions to the floor should they not be recommended by the LWVUS board .

It was also suggested that the LWVUS should develop a position the operation of the US Supreme court. League of Women Voter US staff said that the request would have to be more specific and focused, for example, SC ethics, selection, term limits, number of justices, etc.

LWV of Alaska

Through an online Survey Monkey poll and our January virtual program planning meeting, we looked at the 18 LWVAK positions and reaffirmed 15:

- Capital Budget Process
- Constitution - Amending by Initiative
- Constitutional Convention
- Alaska's Statutory Initiative Process
- Voter Registration
- Land Disposal
- Land Use
- Career Education in the Schools
- Child Care and Early Childhood
- Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Bullying
- Education Legislative Process and Procedure
- Youth and Adolescent Needs
- Landlord-Tenant Relations
- School Finance
- Judicial Appointment and Retention

We recommended that three positions be reviewed at the state level:

- Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure
- Election Processes and Procedures
- Energy.

The first two of these positions were in the process of being revised, and these revisions have been ratified and are viewable in revised form on the LWVAK website: www.alaskalwv.org .

Shari George and Jennifer Schmidt volunteered to work on a review and possible revision of the Energy position, and the LWVAK continues to support a review. At the LWVAK state convention, there were volunteers from other chapters to work with Shari and Jennifer

Our recommendations for emphasis in activities at the state level were:

Ranked Choice Voting

Civics Education.

Monitor Election Processes and Procedures Legislation.

At our Annual Meeting, we will vote to ratify these recommendations or amend them.

Local Positions Review

We reviewed the local positions via an emailed survey. (View the LWVTV positions at:

<https://www.lwvalaska.org/our-work/lwvtv-positions/>)

Recommendations for Current Local Positions

All six positions be reaffirmed:

General Local Government

Planning and Zoning

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Conflict of Interest

Road Service Area

Nondiscrimination

The state League is working on a civics education position, a topic that we considered for a new local position last year, so it may not be necessary for our chapter to develop one as well. The state civics education study is available for review now.

Recommendations to the Annual Meeting

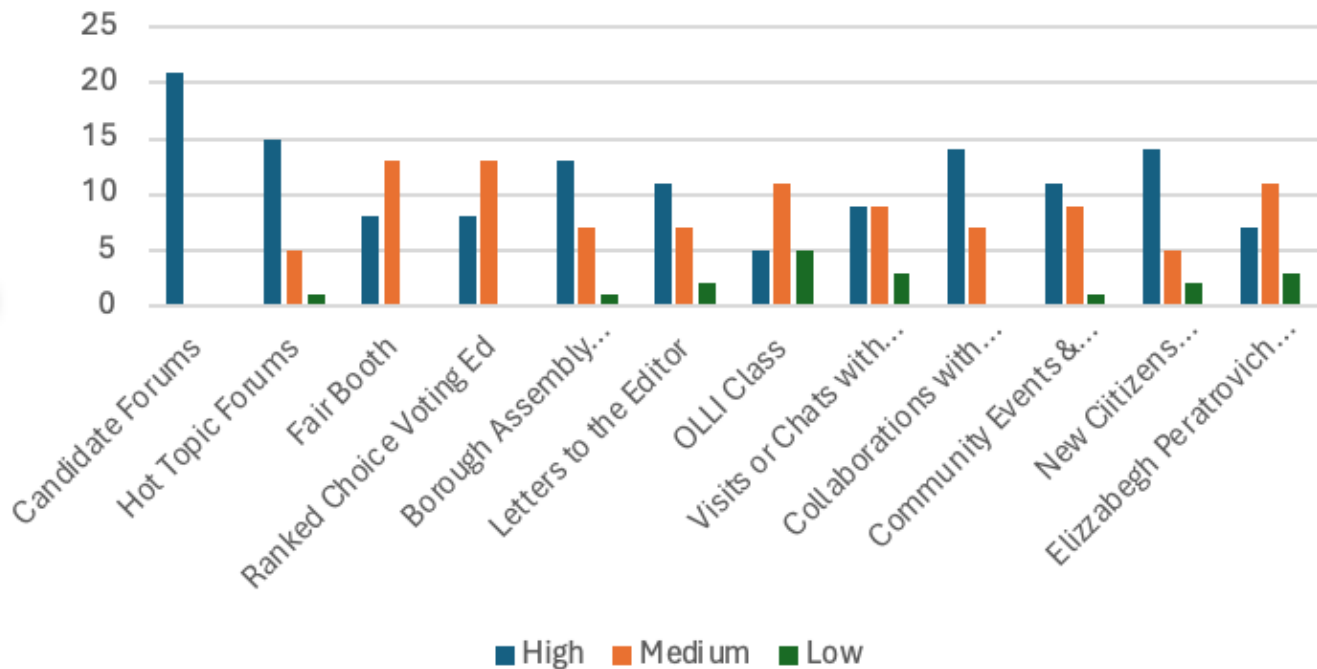
We reaffirmed all six local positions .

At our May annual meeting, we will look for a motion to adopt these recommendations.

LWVTV Activity Priorities for 2024-25

Instead of a local program planning meeting, we conducted an emailed survey for members to indicate their priorities of current activities, and the results based on input from just 21 members are displayed in the charts that follow. The survey asked members to rate the importance of our current activities, so that the Board can prioritize activities based on membership interest and to weigh in on what public education forums they think we should offer.

ACTIVITY PREFERENCES 24-25



Candidate forums, hot topic forums, the borough assembly broadcast sponsorship, collaborations with other groups, and new citizen registrations were the most highly rated activities again this year.

In 2023, we brainstormed ideas about how to strengthen our League by examining the activities we sponsor and engage with and came up with these ideas:

- More social and face-to-face activities now that pandemic is apparently over.
- More opportunities for prospective and new members to learn about League and its activities at community events.
- More outreach to high school and college students
- More use of social media to connect with the general public and members.

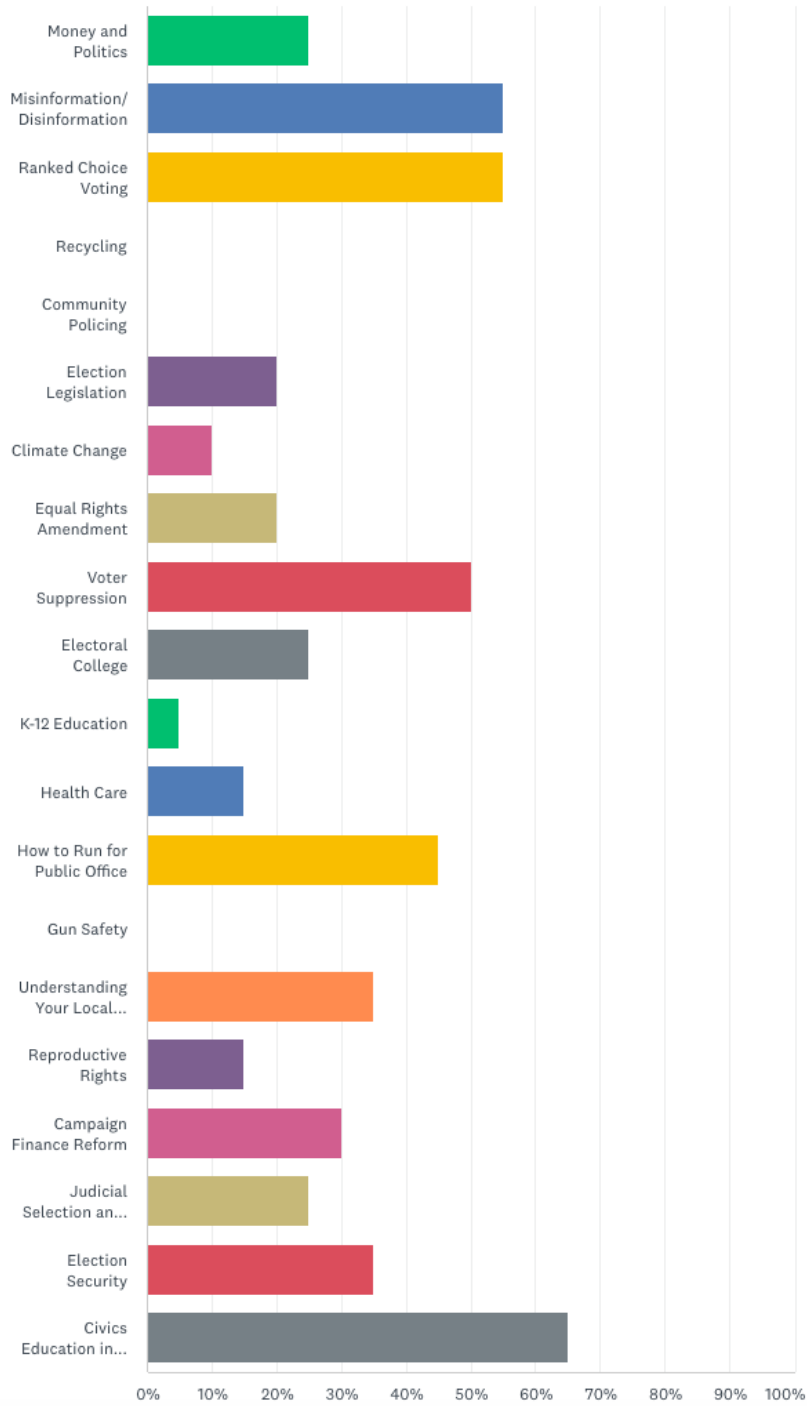
In our 2024 activities we have tried to plan events in accordance with these ideas, but we need new ideas from members about how to engage more members beyond the LWVTV board and a few stalwart, always-ready volunteers.

We will look for your ideas at the annual meeting but will take them via email anytime as well.

In the March online survey, we also asked members to rate topics for future voter education activities:

Possible Topics for Public Education - Check Your Five Top Choices

Answered: 20 Skipped: 1



LWVTV ACTIVITIES 2023 - 2024

JUNE

NAACP Juneteenth Celebration Booth - Voter Registration and Information
Midnight Sun Celebration - Voter Registration and Information

JULY-AUGUST

Pioneer Park Summer Social
Golden Days Celebration
Tanana Valley Fair - Straw Poll, Voter Registration
Back-to-School Table for FNSB Teachers 1

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Back-to-School Table for FNSB Teachers 2
Election officiating for NEA and ESSEA
Letter to the Editor - Local Elections and Forum
Get Out the Vote Sign Waving for October Municipal Elections
Registered Voters at West Valley High School Candidate Debate
Local Candidate Forum with KUAC-FM and Fairbanks Daily News Miner

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Cans, Bans, and LWV Fans Social Gathering
Signature Gathering Campaign Against Money in Politics
Letter to the Editor Campaign Finance Reform Petition

JANUARY

Annual Program Planning Meeting I - National and State Issues (via Zoom)

FEBRUARY

New Website Online

MARCH

Program Planning Meeting II - Local (via Zoom)
Letter to the Editor- Kids Voting Support and Civics Education Week

APRIL

Voting by Mail : A Community Conversation
League of Women Voters Alaska Annual Conference -Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and via Zoom)
Letter to the Editor about Special Election
LWVTV Voter Education Broadcast and Online Voters Guide

MAY

Annual Meeting (In person and via Zoom) May 11

YEAR ROUND

Sponsorship of KUAC broadcasts of FNSB Assembly
Book Discussion Group - Monthly via Zoom except for August and December
Representation or attendance at Salaries and Emoluments Commission,
Collaboration with Diversity Council, NAACP, Get Out the Native Vote, and AAUW
Action Alerts on Local, State, and National Issues

LWVTV Website www.lwvalaska.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvtv.org/>

***“The ballot is stronger than the bullet”
--Abraham Lincoln***

Proposed Budget for 2023-2024

4/12/24

LWVTV FY25 proposed budget

	<u>FY 24 Budget</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget</u>	comments
Income			
Total Donations	\$5,050	\$10,300	FY24 x 1.05 + \$5K major donation
Total Membership Dues	\$5,000	\$5,250	FY24 x 1.05
Fundraising	\$500	\$100	
withdrawl from checking		\$2,205	to balance budget
investment interest	\$60	\$100	from a CD
Total	\$10,610	\$17,955	
Expense			
Bank Fees	\$0	\$60	
Member Events	\$500	\$500	
Paypal fees	\$170	\$200	
Sponsor KUAF FNSB Mtgs	\$850	\$900	
Room rental	\$100	\$750	
storage unit		\$1,026	\$85.50/month
advertisement		\$750	news miner, extra KUAC, etc
Copies	\$800	\$300	
PO Box	\$300	\$300	
Postage	\$100	\$100	
Supplies	\$50	\$300	
Miscellaneous Expense	\$200	\$150	try to reduce by careful questions
Website maintenance	\$300	\$0	per Shari- no expense
Zoom Subscription	\$160	\$175	
Board development	\$0	\$500	
Booth Prizes, printing misc expen	\$200	\$400	
Fair Booth & other booths	\$600	\$1,000	State fair, Golden days, Solstice, Juneteenth, etc
Education Projects	\$2,000	\$2,500	examples like kids voting, public information forums, debates, etc
LWVUS PMP	\$2,624	\$2,624	due 6/30/25
LWVUS council expenses	\$2,500	\$3,500	delegate entrance fee, travel, etc
LWVAK PMP	\$820	\$820	
LWVAK convention expenses	\$1,000	\$750	delegate entrance fee, travel, etc
Insurance	\$310	\$350	
Total Expense	\$17,584	\$17,955	
In-Kind Donation	trying to keep to a minimum, turn in		
In-Kind Professional Services	you receipts		
KUAC restricted fund as of 3/31/24		\$2,930.03	
Education restricted fund as of 3/31/24		\$4,833.96	
As of 4/9/24 Northrim checking		\$18,005	
As of 4/9/24 PayPal		\$98	
**North Rim Bank CD		\$10,000	
Total available cash on hand		\$28,103	

Prepared by the Budget Committee—The LWVTV Board with David Weissman

Proposed Membership Dues 2024-25

Membership fees for FY:

Individual member: \$60

Family members: \$90

Student member: \$0

Motion: Adopt the membership fees for FY2023-2024 as shown

Motion: Adopt the FY2023-2024 Projected Budget

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

PROPOSED LWVTV BYLAW CHANGE 2024

Current Bylaw

ARTICLE VI-Financial Administration

Sec.3. Budget. A balanced budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for adoption. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Proposed Bylaw

ARTICLE VI-Financial Administration

Sec.3. Budget. A balanced budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for adoption. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole. ***The board has the authority to reallocate budget amounts during the fiscal year.***

Bold = recommended change

Rationale:

“Mary Galvan and I strongly recommend we update our by-laws to allow the board to change our budget within the fiscal year. With the LWVUS contemplating changing the entire membership payment structure, we may need to revise our budget. As of now we can't.”

Proposed by David Weissman, Treasurer

Motion: Adopt the revision to Article VI Sec. 3 Budget of the bylaws as presented.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominated for Election on May 11, 2024. Brief biographies will be available before the meeting.
(Nominations can also be made from the floor)

Position	Nominee	Term
President	Leadership Committee	24-25
Vice President	Janna Miller	24-25
Treasurer	David Weissman	24-26
Board Member	Leah Williams	24-26
Board Member	Gayle Garrigues	24-26
Board Member	Jessica King	24-26
Board Member	Helenmarie Matesi	24-26
Nominating Committee	Deborah Ryan	1 Year
Nominating Committee	Linda Joyce Hall	1 Year

Continuing

Past President	Sue Sherif	24-25
Secretary	Diane Lyon	
Board Member	Mary Galvan	23-25
Board Member	Phyllis Darrah	23-25

Appointed	Jean James (Membership)	24-25
	Shari George (Webmaster)	24-25

Board Rep	Helenmarie Matesi	1 Year
Nominating Committee		

Submitted by:
Nominating Committee for the 2024 Annual Meeting
Mary Lee Guthrie
Helenmarie Matesi
Phyllis Brush Darrah
Carol Ann Varner

Call for Nominations from the Floor

Action: Elect the nominees by ballot, or instruct the Secretary to cast the ballot for every nominee if all are unopposed. (Bylaws Article VIII, Sec. 3)

Brief Biographies of Nominees

Gayle Garrigues, born and raised in Alaska, has lived in Fairbanks since 1987. She has been a member of the LWVTV since 2019 and a board member since 2020. Gayle is a retired state prosecutor.

Jessica C. King was raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and graduated from West Valley High School. She has earned a B.S. in Mathematics from the Fort Valley State University and completed a Secondary Education Licensure program with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She currently works as a Higher Education Counselor with the Department of Defense. Inspired by her mother, Virgie M. King, she continues to run the African-American Student Leadership Conference; and remains involved in the Fairbanks community through the Fairbanks Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, the NAACP, and the League of Women Voters.

Helenmarie Matesi was born into a civil rights activist family in St Louis Missouri. She holds degrees in Early Childhood and Adult Health programs. In 1976 Helenmarie settled in Fairbanks and that has been her primary home ever since. Her working life has been spent teaching both children and adults. She has lived in the bush, loves the great outdoors and now in retirement is practicing metalsmithing. In addition, Helenmarie serves on the executive board of the Fairbanks Chapter of the NAACP and leads the Diversity Committee for the LWVTV.

Janna Miller decided to become involved in local democracy after reading Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* and having her eyes opened to what a unique, precious form of government we are fortunate to live under. She has enjoyed supporting the League's efforts to educate voters on a wide variety of topics, as well as the opportunity to meet a vivacious, inspiring group of League members has served on the board and as co-president of our League.

David Weissman is a retired engineer and has served as volunteer treasurer for several nonprofits. He has always been interested and involved in the voting process, serving as a poll worker here and in Pennsylvania.

Leah Berman Williams is a professor of mathematics at UAF and a former borough assembly member.

STATE BOARD REPORTS

LWVAK Presidents' Report

State League Report for 2023-2024:

- The state website came online on October 1, 2023. <https://alaskalwv.org/> If you haven't seen it, please do.
 - We sent out *The Voter* three times this year.
 - We collaborate with LWV of Maine to bring you Digital Democracy, in which experts, along with LWV members from Maine and Alaska, join to learn more about this critical issue.
 - Lunch with the League, (L/W/L) is a Zoom event featuring speakers from around the state and discussions among league members about our positions and voter engagement.
 - This year we donated to Anchorage Youth Vote <https://www.anchorageyouthvote.org/> Who were presenters at a National Convention on anti-bullying this past October in Memphis.
 - The state league completed a gun safety study and civics education study. These groups were composed of the following members: Gun Safety: Therese Lewandowski (CKP), Barb Jewell (CKP), Sandy Garity (CKP), and Jan Caulfield (Ju). The Civic studies members were Judy Andree (Ju), Marjorie Menzi (Ju), Ellen Weiser (TV), Margo Waring (Ju) and Douglas Mertz (Ju). The state league will be sending their position statements and the study out to each league so they can look at them and give the State Board feedback as we consider it as a new state position.
 - Our twice-monthly legislative newsletter covers what is going on in state government and highlights League of Women Voters positions so members can advocate on these issues. Judith Mitchell (Ju) has been a champion for this publication.
 - We joined Vote 411, <https://www.vote411.org/> Vote 411 is the election site for LWVUS and many state leagues. For the November 2024 election, we will offer a state-of-the-art platform for information on elections and candidate guides for all national elections. We will also cover the open primary in August. With Vote 411 we will have a voter guide for the 40 house districts. If anyone is interested in being involved with this program send me an email at akoplin907@gmail.com, and I will put you on our list.
 - In addition to our ongoing efforts, the state league will continue to support ranked-choice voting, (RCV), and open primaries. Additionally, we will focus on educating voters on the integrity and security of the State's voting process. We also will emphasize Civics education. Finally, we will work on maintaining the public perception of the LWV of Alaska as a non-partisan organization. We will continue to advocate for legislation in support of our 18 state positions supported by LWVUS, <https://alaskalwv.org/official-positions-and-bylaws-page-national-and-local/>
- I want to thank all our members. You belong to a group of extraordinary people. You belong to a group who overcame incredible barriers to earn the right to vote. Our challenges are different now, but as important as ever and we will continue to carry out our mission.
- Alex Koplin President LWVAK

STATE CONVENTION

April 27-28 were the dates for the LWV Alaska State Convention this year. For the second year it was held in a hybrid format with local chapter in-person meetings linked by a Zoom and with virtual attendees. This year the Homer Public Library served as the Online With Libraries (OWL) host. Following last year's successful format, the Saturday session featured speakers and discussions beginning with a memorial to the late national president, Dr. Deborah Turner. Dr. Turner herself appeared

via a video she recorded for League members just days before she died in January in which she promoted the idea of making 2024 the Year of the First Time Voter. Leah Edwards, our LWVUS liaison, and past LWVAK President Judy Andree gave moving remembrances of the dynamic leader.

Carol Beecher, director of the Alaska Division of Elections, gave a clear view of the security measures that the state takes to ensure safe and secure elections, and later discussion brought several members to suggest that a similar presentation be made widely available to Alaskan voters to combat the widespread distrust of our election process and inspired others to think of ways that League AK could add to the campaign to diminish voter mistrust. Juli Lucky of Alaskans for Better Elections spoke of the campaign to repeal open primaries and ranked choice voting and presented finds about voter satisfaction with the ranked choice process. Despite some court cases against the sponsors of the repeal petition, the ballot measure is on track to appear on the 2024 general election ballot. Bruce Botelho gave an overview of the Campaign to Keep Money Out of Politics, an effort to re-establish campaign contribution limits after a recent court decision overturned Alaska's campaign finance legislation. He reported that the aim now is to work toward a mid- September 2024 deadline to submit adequate campaign signatures to put a campaign finance ballot proposition on the ballot in 2024. A graduate of LWV Anchorage's Youth Vote Program gave an impassioned and personal presentation about the impact that participation in AYV had for her and other teens. She is now back as a co-coordinator of the program.

A lunchtime discussion at each site and amongst the virtual participants focused on expectations about turnout for the 2024 elections, and what the League and individual members can do to make sure that people feel it is still worthwhile to vote.



The business meeting on Sunday, where Jean James, Helenmarie Matesi, and Joan Soutar represented LWVTV as delegates, saw all 18 state positions were reaffirmed, but including two newly revised ones (Election Processes, Campaign Finance) and a vote to continue to work for a review and possible revision of the Energy position. LWVTV members Shari George and Jennifer Schmidt, who had volunteered to work on the review were able to recruit some additional volunteers from the rest of the state.). Two new

state studies have been completed: Civics Education and Gun Safety. Those studies have been distributed to the membership statewide via email and each chapters' members and board will determine whether the proposed positions should be adopted. It will take three chapters' agreement for the proposals to be recognized as state positions.

Priority areas for the League in Alaska were approved:

- Educating voters on the integrity and security of the State's voting processes including Ranked Choice Voting
- Civics Education
- Maintaining the public perception of League of Women Voter of Alaska as a non-partisan organization.

Elected at the meeting were:

President: Leadership Team (sanctioned by LWVUS and to be developed by the new state board)

Vice President: Marianne Mills (Juneau)

Past President: Alex Koplín (Kenai)

Secretary Sandy Garity (Kenai)

Board members: Judith Mitchell (Juneau), Heather Arnett (Anchorage)

Continuing Board members: Gail Knopf (Kenai), Gayle Garrigues (Tanana Valley), Treasurer: Shirley Pitz (Anchorage)

Appointed board members are Shari George (Tanana Valley), Therese Lewandowski (Kenai), Sue Sherif (Tanana Valley)

The format and location of the 2025 convention was deferred to later discussion.

--Sue Sherif

LWVTV REPORTS

Book Discussion Group

The LWV of Tanana Valley Book Group met monthly June 2023 to May 2024 except for August and December. Meetings are the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 11:30. Sue Keller and Joan Soutar led the group this year.

We met in person at Raven Landing, thanks to arrangements made by Linda Witt. Each month about 5 people have attended meetings for lively discussion.

League members and nonmembers are welcome to attend book group meetings, including spouses.

We provided a PDF to all Book Group members of books read from 2003 to 2024: 193 books total.

Following are the books discussed this year:

JUNE 2023--Selected books

JULY-- *White Identity Politics*, Ashley Jardina, 2019.

AUGUST--no meeting

SEPTEMBER-- *The Train to Crystal City*, by Jan Jarboe Russell. 2015.

OCTOBER--*Profiles in Ignorance: How American Politicians Got Dumb and Dumber*, by Andy Borowitz. 2022, 320.

NOVEMBER-- *The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us to Loathe Government and Love the Free Market*, by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway. 2023.

DECEMBER--no meeting

JANUARY 2024-- *The Woman They Could Not Silence*, by Kate Moore. 2021, 560 pp.

FEBRUARY--*Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*, by Jane Mayer. 2016..

MARCH--*Eisenhower: The White House Years*, by Jim Newton. 2012, 480 pp.

APRIL--*Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*, by Judith Heumann. 2020.

Book group future

Because one member is leaving town and others are unable to attend, our numbers are dwindling. We do need more members to make it worthwhile to continue the group. We are open to changing the meeting day and time, and to modifying book choices and discussion styles. We plan to go back to meeting in the Noel Wien Public Library when they reopen in June 2024. When we met on Zoom in 2021-2022, more locals attended as well as some out-of town members.

Limited plan for 2024

JUNE--*Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*, by Hans Rosling. 2018, AND *Let America Be America Again*, by Langston Hughes. 1936.

JULY--*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. 2020.

--Sue Keller

Membership Events

Summer Social

LWVTV took advantage of a beautiful smoke free July Sunday to add smoke to the Fairbanks air in the form of a BBQ. About twenty league members attended the gathering at Pioneer Park. They enjoyed hotdogs and potluck in the summer sun, while discussing of league matters. This

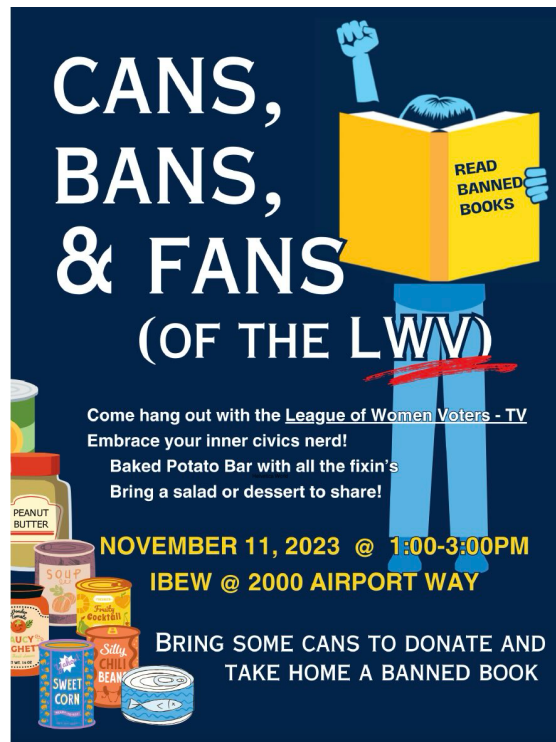
event was a chance for long-time members and new members to get to know each other in person.

--Mary Galvan

Cans, Bans, and LWV Fans

One goal of the LWVTV Board in 2023 was to hold more social events. On November 11, 2023, we hosted “Cans, Bans, & Fans (of the LWV)” at the IBEW office. Attendees were asked to bring a donation to IBEW’s competitive canned food drive. Members (and their guests) were entertained with some fun and informative trivia regarding banned books (Most banned book in the US? 1984 by George Orwell). Along with door prizes there was a baked potato buffet, and everyone left with a banned book, and hopefully, a new friend.

--Diane Lyon



Voting and Equal Rights Activities

Juneteenth

June 17 was a gorgeous day to celebrate Juneteenth (Freedom Day) at Bernice Allridge Park. Organized by the Greater Fairbanks NAACP, LWVTV members Shari

George, Bernardo Hernandez, Ellen Mannion and Linda Witt were there enjoying the community support, music, food, and fun. We talked to participants, registered voters, and provided information on running for office and voting in Alaska. Juneteenth will be celebrated on June 15 this year; we'll be there.

--Shari George

Election Activities

Back to School Table

We were on hand on August 11 and September 1 at Teacher Professional Development Days to provide current and new educators with what they need to know to vote. We offered new registrations, changing addresses, upcoming election day information and information on the State of Alaska Division of Elections.

Officiating at Union Elections

LWVTV was asked to work at two union elections, a service that we in past years have provided for other nonprofit organizations who look to League to provide impartial, nonpartisan service. A team of members tallied and certified the votes for contract ratification votes for NEA Fairbanks and ESSEA, the district support workers.

High School Outreach

Several LWVTV members were on hand at West Valley High School on September 21 to register new voters. The table was set up to coordinate with the day that students hold their candidate forum featuring FNSB School District School Board candidates. This is a nice opportunity to meet young people who are starting their journey into civic engagement and supporting voting and keeping a working relationship with schools.

Borough Candidate Forum

We held a Local Candidate Forum on September 22, 2023, at the FNSB Assembly Chambers in collaboration with the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* and KUAC FM. Candidates FNSB Assembly, and the FNSB School Board answered questions posed by LWVTV members Tim Ellis from

KUAC and Jack Barnwell of the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*. Once again, we were lucky to have full participation from the candidates. Phyllis Darrah was the moderator and Bernardo Hernandez and Christy Everett served as timers. League members Karen Brauser, Shari George, Valerie Therrien, Frida Shroyer, Mary Galvan, and Mary Lee Guthrie greeted the candidates and audience, registered voters and helped the forum run smoothly. There was a good-sized audience in person and a larger radio audience thanks to the KUAC-FM broadcast. A recording was available on KUAC FM and also was linked from the LWVTV website. The *News-Miner* provided generous support through contribution of numerous ads in the paper.

--Sue Sherif



Public Education Activities

Summer Solstice Festival

The LWVTV set up a booth at the Downtown Summer Solstice Festival on June 24, 2023. The main objective of the booth was to make more people aware of the League and to broadcast our mission to the community. In addition, we worked to register new voters, enlist more volunteers, advertise upcoming local elections, and answer any questions people had about voting. Our booth was open from 12 noon to 12 midnight. We were able to borrow a canopy from the Guys Read Gals Read Non-Profit Organization, which helped make our booth look official. There were

thousands of people at the festival and hundreds of people passed our booth. We registered 12 individuals and talked to dozens more who stopped to chat. Several people expressed interest in the League. Those who worked at the booth included David Wiseman, Ellen Wiser, Marna Sanford, Cathie Hanks, Mary Lee Guthrie, Jennifer Schmidt, Margaret Soden, Diane Lyon. Special shout out to Diane who worked nearly 5 hours at the booth until 12 midnight. Diane also made many phone calls to request help at the booth. Thank you, Diane! We will participate again on June 22.

--Bernardo Hernandez

Golden Days Festival

About 30,000 folks enjoy the Golden Days Festival and LWVTV was there, too. It was our first time hosting a tent at this downtown Fairbanks event. With a prime spot next to the fountain in Golden Heart Plaza, three shifts of league members were available to answer questions about the League of Women Voters, ranked choice voting and local voting and elections.

We plan to participate again this summer on July 20.

--Mary Galvan and Shari George

Tanana Valley State Fair

The League had another great year hosting a booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair. The fair was held July 28 through August 6, 2023. Throughout the 10-day period the booth was fully staffed. However, it should be noted that some members of the LWVTV took several time slots to ensure the booth was always staffed. It was the second year that we did not have a space provided to us under the sponsorship of the University Political Science Department. Due to no state-wide election last year and the timing of the local candidate filing deadlines, a candidate straw poll was not possible. The Board instead devised two poll questions; one about whether or not the borough should pursue a universal ballot delivery, or vote by mail system, and another about whether or not the city of Fairbanks and North Pole should consolidate with the borough.

One of the highlights of the booth was a display provided by Mary Lee Guthrie. She prepared two glass cylinders with candy in it that illustrated the very low percentage of election turnout in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The display was extremely graphic and caught the attention of many passersby. Get Out the Native Vote contributed colorful I VOTE buttons and other get out

the vote paraphernalia. The fair booth was a great success, and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers. It could not possibly happen without you!
--Bernardo Hernandez and Marna Sanford



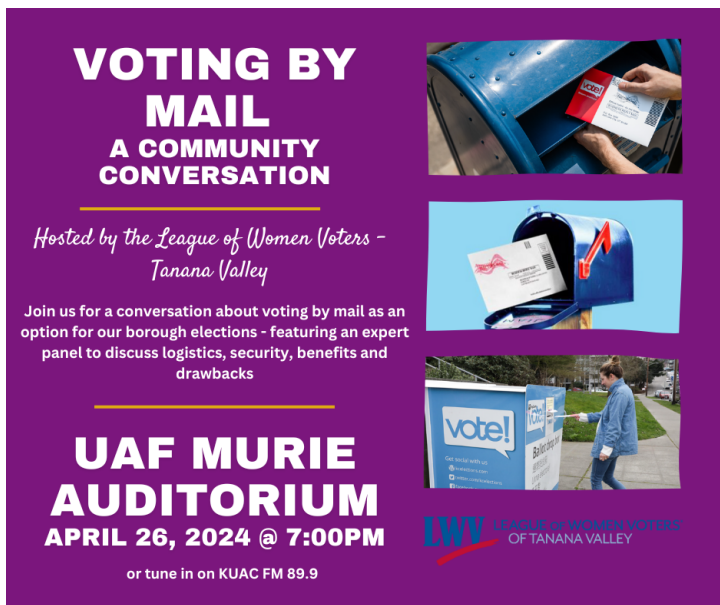
Voting by Mail : A Community Conversation

Planning began in January for a committee led by Marna Sanford to present a public forum on the possibility of voting by mail for local elections. The responses to our Fair straw poll question on

the topic indicated that there was interest amongst fairgoers in considering the method already adopted by Anchorage and Juneau for municipal elections.

On April 26, the community forum sponsored by League and KUAC-FM was held in Murie Auditorium at UAF. Jamie Heinz, the Anchorage Municipal Clerk, and Joyce Anderson, an Anchorage League member and elections expert, traveled from Anchorage to speak. April Trickey, the FNSB Borough Clerk described research that she had carried out almost decade ago to check the feasibility and provide background for an ordinance that was introduced, but was defeated, perhaps in part because the only two speakers at public testimony were opposed, including one person speaking for our League chapter! Danyelle Snider, the City of Fairbanks City Clerk also attended. April Trickey emphasized that if this method of voting were to be pursued now that it should include involvement from the two city governments as well. She indicated that space for a secure place to store and handle the volume of mailed paper ballots would also be a cost consideration for adoption. The live audience had a number of questions for the speakers. The broadcast was recorded and is available on KUAC or through a link on the LWVTV webpage.

--Sue Sherif



VOTING BY MAIL
A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Hosted by the League of Women Voters - Tanana Valley

Join us for a conversation about voting by mail as an option for our borough elections - featuring an expert panel to discuss logistics, security, benefits and drawbacks

UAF MURIE AUDITORIUM
APRIL 26, 2024 @ 7:00PM
or tune in on KUAC FM 89.9

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TANANA VALLEY



Borough Special Election Voter Education

When the Borough called for a May 7 special election on short notice on the question of allowing an adjustment of the tax cap to allow an additional \$10,000,000 contribution to local schools, LWVTV quickly arranged a radio debate for both sides of Proposition A with KUAC-FM. The live broadcast, which featured Morgan Dulian speaking for the YES side and Joshua Church for the NO, was moderated by member Molly Sherman, who also arranged for a timer. The broadcast was recorded and made available through links on the KUAC and LWVTV websites. Also online was a voters guide featuring wording of the ballot proposition, 1-page statements by both sides, and a link to the Borough Clerk's special election voter information page.



FNSB Salaries and Emoluments Commission

Board member Gayle Garrigues was appointed to the Borough Salaries and Emoluments Commission and served for the winter term. The Borough reserves a seat for a community nonprofit representative, and although that seat is not reserved for a LWVTV representative, it has been a decades-long tradition that the Borough seeks an LWVTV member to fill that spot.

New Storage Unit

The LWVTV owes Carol Ann Varner great thanks for many of her contributions to our League, not least of which is decades of storage and maintenance of League materials, including our banners, supplies, and the handy suitcases she donated and devised for us to take to public events. This year she retired from that service but organized, labelled, and created inventory lists for all of our possessions in order that we could relocate them to a rented storage unit at Blue Moose storage company. The unit is accessible to board members, and there is a sign-out and -in system that will attempt to assist in keeping us as organized as Carol Ann did for so many years!

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY AND OTHER GUIDELINES

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, politically active organization. While we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate, we welcome members of all political parties and independents to our membership. We also take action on government measures and policies in the public interest. Because League membership is made up of highly motivated and active people, it is sometimes difficult for League members and for the public to separate an individual member's commitment to League's nonpartisan policy and the individual's personal commitment to a party or issue. To avoid potential conflicts, this policy statement was adopted by the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley.

Interpretation of individual policies may be made by the Board. The Board may wish to advertise its nonpartisan policy.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

It is an advantage for the League to have politically active members. All League members must take responsibility for clearly differentiating between their personal opinions and League positions. They shall not distribute League material at the same time as material for a party or candidate.

- a. Non-Board members are encouraged to participate fully in the party of their choice at all levels of activity.
- b. Board members shall not undertake any action which will cause the League to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party.
 1. Board members may not hold the offices of chair, vice chair, treasurer or secretary of party district or state committees, or hold the office of national committeeperson.

2. Individuals on the Board (except President, Vice President, Treasurer and Voter Service Chair) may consider accepting other party offices with the concurrence of the Board.

CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

League members are encouraged to participate in political campaigns and to run for election to office. The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

a. Board Members

1. May not run for elective office including such local offices as mayor, borough assembly, city council or school board.
2. May not serve as campaign chair or treasurer for any of the positions listed above.
3. With the exception of the President, Vice President and Voter Service Chair, may campaign for a ballot issues on which the League has no position.
4. May not be associated publicly with ballot issues in opposition to League positions.
5. May run for nonpartisan elective offices such as charter commissions and delegate to a constitutional convention.

b. The President, Vice President, and Voter Service Chair

1. May not endorse, publicize, nor work for any local, state, or national partisan candidate.
2. May not campaign for ballot issues on which the League has no position.
3. May not hold or actively seek an elective office.
4. May not have an official position in a party organization, or in an organization endorsing candidates for public office.
5. May not participate conspicuously in campaigns for individuals in such a way as to publicly identify the League member with said individual. This includes but is not limited to the display of yard signs, bumper stickers and buttons for a candidate.
6. May not contribute conspicuously to any candidate or party in such a way as to identify the League member with said individual.
7. May not publicly speak at party organization meetings (Attendance and voting for precinct officials are encouraged.)
8. May not carry a petition for a candidate, or for an issue on which League has no position, or a conflicting position.
9. May not host or take an active part at an event or rally for candidates of one party. (Attendance is encouraged.)

PUBLIC BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

If the League is asked to recommend someone to represent League on a commission, that person must speak for League and be accountable to the Board. If not asked for a recommendation, League may wish to recommend individuals for certain commissions. The

Board should determine in each case whether the person will speak as an individual or for the League. Even if a commission member represents the League, the Board is not bound to support the recommendations of the commission. In all cases where individuals represent League, whether on a commission or giving testimony, the Board should be sure that the individual understands League's position on the issue.

COALITIONS

League may join coalitions while taking action on any issue, at the discretion of the Board. If the coalition endorses candidates or becomes involved in other issues as well, the Board may issue a statement disassociating itself from those aspects of the coalition.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

- a. A dues notice will be sent to each member one month before renewal date. If there is not a response, at least one additional notice will be sent.
- b. Lapsed Membership - There may be a grace period at the discretion of the Board but a nonpaying member shall not remain on the membership roll beyond one day before the date on which the League of Women Voters US collects membership data for Per Member Payment purposes. The Membership Chair or a designated Board member will attempt to make personal contact with the lapsed member and discuss a dues waiver, if appropriate.
- c. Dues Waiver- A dues waiver may be given at the discretion of the Board for any interested parties on limited income who wish to participate actively in League work. Names of interested parties may be submitted by any League member to the membership chair who shall bring them before the Board for confirmation of waiver.
- d. Household Membership - When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the dues shall be the full amount for one member and one-half the amount for each additional member.
- e. New Citizen Introductory Member - As a means of actively involving new citizens in the governmental process, League (the membership chair) may give a free one-year membership to new citizens who show interest in League.

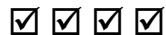
Adopted 1979; Last amended May 2021

POSITION STATEMENTS – LWV OF TANANA VALLEY

General Local Government

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes that local government is needed to protect the rights and needs of residents, and to provide services for the common good. A sample of services that local government delivers includes public education, public libraries, planning, platting and land use regulation, transportation systems, water and air pollution control, economic development, waste disposal, and animal regulation. Local government should be accountable to the people in the performance of functions, exercise of powers and use of resources.



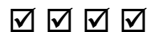
Adopted 1968; Revised 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017; Revised 2018 adopting new wording; Reaffirmed 2019, 2020; recommended for review 2021, 2022 (members noted differences between city and borough powers), 2023.

Planning and Zoning

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes that a comprehensive Land Use Plan is essential to ensure orderly development, save green spaces, plan for future public facilities and to encourage industrial and business growth in specifically designated areas. Regulatory measures to maintain the Plan must:

- Provide for periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide for citizen input before any changes to the Plan take effect.
- Ensure cooperative planning between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the School Board on future school needs and locations of schools.
- Provide for environmental review of any new facility which will draw heavy traffic or have a large parking area.
- Ensure that the integrity of the Plan will not be compromised by frequent small changes or variances.



Adopted 1969; Revised 1979, 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes in the participation of citizens in their government. Appointed boards, commissions and committees serve as liaisons between the community and their elected officials. As such, they should be reflective of the composition of the community with adequate representation from both urban and rural areas. Selection procedures for boards, commissions and committees should be standardized and advertised to encourage the widest possible citizen participation. The names of current board, commission and committee members should be published periodically.

☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

Adopted 1979; Reaffirmed 1986; Revised 1988; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017, 2018; Revised 2019; Reaffirmed 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Conflict of Interest

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley supports clear and concise conflict of interest legislation to govern all councils, assemblies, boards, commissions and committees. Such provisions should contain:

- A clear definition of what constitutes conflict of interest.
- A procedure for members to declare conflict of interest.
- A procedure by which the body decides if conflict of interest does exist and the extent of disqualification in each case.
- A provision that all declarations of conflict of interest and all pertinent discussion must be reflected in the minutes.

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Adopted 1978; Revised 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

Road Service Area

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley supports the following policies regarding service areas:

- All citizens in the Borough should be able to form, or be included in, a road service area for their neighborhood.
- Borough costs for administration of road service areas should be borne by the residents/property owners within those areas. Each service area should pay a basic flat fee, plus an additional fee which would vary according to the amount of service required.

- To make consolidation of road service areas more attractive, differential tax rates within service areas should be considered when there are differences in population density, property valuation, lot size, soil conditions or service philosophy.
- To ensure that service areas will function in an efficient, responsive and accountable manner it is essential that procedures and regulations be enforced consistently.

☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

Adopted 1986; Revised 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Revised 2000; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016; 2017 - 2018 under review for clarification; 2019 recommended for revision; 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 continued review.

Nondiscrimination

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes that equality of opportunity is foundational to the spirit of the Republic. We are committed to diversity, equality and inclusion in principle and in practice. We oppose discrimination whether based on race, color, religion, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military service, ethnicity or national origin. We support equal rights under federal, state and local laws. We endorse ordinances and legislation that guarantee equal justice under the law in employment, housing and realty, credit, public places and services, public accommodation and education. Such laws and ordinances promote social equity while rejecting prejudice, bigotry, and oppression. They strengthen our community and help society in creating a more perfect democracy.

☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

Adopted 2020; Reaffirmed 2021, 2022, 2023.

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.”
 – Larry J. Sabato

ANNUAL CALENDAR AND BYLAWS SUMMARY-LWVTV

Terms of Office	
2 years	Secretary, Treasurer, Elected Directors
1 year	President, Vice President, Appointed Directors
Odd-numbered years	Election of Secretary
Even-numbered years	Election of Treasurer
Annual Timeline	
4 times per year	Minimum number of meetings with membership
9 times per year	Minimum number of meetings of the Board
February 1	Membership count for purpose of determining quorum
January or February	Board appoints bylaws committee (3 mos. before Annual Meeting) Board appoints budget committee (2 mos. before Annual Meeting)
February or March	Deadline for voting members to make recommendations to Board about Program
April 1 [old]/ July 1 [new]	Fiscal year begins [Bylaws change approved to July 1 [5-20-23, awaiting IRS approval 5-11-24]
April 1 - May 30	Annual Meeting held
30 days before Annual Meeting	Call to Annual Meeting including proposed program, proposed budget, nominating committee report, proposed by-laws changes
2 wks. before Annual Mtg	Changes to proposed program
Annual Meeting	Election of officers. Select local issues for study or action. Annual report of the Treasurer. Election of ½ the Board. Report of the Nominating Committee. Membership vote on proposed budget. Membership vote on bylaws changes.
Close of Annual Meeting	Terms of new officers begin. Terms of appointed directors expire. Appointment of one non-elected member to nominating committee (may be later)
Board meeting before National	Board selects delegates to national conference or national council (alternating years)
Meeting before State	Board selects delegates to the state conference
30 days before membership expiration	Treasurer sends renewal notices.

BYLAWS – LWVTV

ARTICLE I

Name

Sec.1. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley (LWVTV). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Policy

Sec.1. Purpose. The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley is 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.

Sec. 3 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The League is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. Membership is open to all who support the principles of the LWVUS. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation or expression, ability status, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

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. The membership of the League shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

- a. Voting members shall be those citizens at least 16 years of age who are enrolled in the League at the local, state, or national level and whose dues are not delinquent; members who have been enrolled in the League for 50 years or more shall be Life members and shall not be required to pay annual dues.
- b. All others who enroll in 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 Tanana Valley shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Past President. The President and Vice President shall be elected to a term of one year, and the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for terms of two years. All directly elected officers shall be elected by the General Membership at an Annual Meeting, and all officers shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The President and Vice President shall be elected annually. If the Nominating Committee recommends and the membership so approves,

the President position may be held by two Co-Presidents. The Past President is not elected but is the immediate past president available to serve.

Sec.2. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President may 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.

Sec.3. Vice President. The Vice President shall endeavor to gain familiarity with the President's duties and responsibilities. The Vice President shall, in the event of absence, disability or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the President and the Board.

Sec.4. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Annual Meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all officers and directors of meetings of the Board and 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 the office.

Sec.5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due and shall be the custodian of these moneys, depositing them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and disbursing the same only upon the order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present quarterly statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 6. Past President. The Past President shall serve as a consultant to the President and advisor to the Board regarding League policy and procedure. The Past President shall be a voting member of the Board.

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, the most recent Past President able to serve, six elected directors, and not more than six appointed directors. One-half of the elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members may appoint such additional directors as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The term of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Sec.2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley.

Sec.3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors by reason of 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 a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation. Said Board member will be notified in writing that their resignation has been assumed.

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 same, 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. Duties of the Historian will be assigned to an elected board member, an appointed director or an off-board member. The Historian shall keep an ongoing record of the activities of the League.

Sec.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 the written request of five members of the Board. The meetings may be held in person, virtually using Internet-based teleconferencing services or by telephone. Board members may vote in person, using electronic means or by telephone.

Sec.6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 7. Records. The Board shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of its proceedings and of any committees having authority of the Board of Directors and shall keep a record of the names and addresses of its members entitled to vote.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Sec.1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley shall commence on the first day of July each year.

Sec.2. Dues. Annual dues, as determined at the Annual Meeting, shall be payable on October 1st for continuing members, or at the time a new member joins. Annual dues cover the period October 1 - September 30. Dues for a new member joining after January 31 shall have their membership extended into and through the following membership year. Dues shall be set for the following categories:

- a. Individual membership.
- b. Household membership for two or more members residing at the same address.
- c. Student membership for high school, college or trade school students enrolled at least half time.
- d. Life Members for members who have been enrolled in the League of Women Voters for 50 years or more and who shall not be required to pay annual dues.
- e. New citizen introductory member.
- f. The Board may issue scholarships for persons unable to pay the annual dues.

Sec.3. Budget. A balanced budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for adoption. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Sec.4. Budget Committee. A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as the Chair.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Sec. 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four General meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The official Call to Annual Meeting shall be sent to all members one month prior to the date of the meeting.

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 1st and May 30th, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- a. adopt a Local Program for the ensuing year,
- b. elect officers and directors and members of the Nominating Committee,
- c. adopt an adequate budget that specifies the amount for dues, and,
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

The Annual Meetings may be held in person, virtually using Internet-based teleconferencing services or by telephone. Voting members may vote in person, using electronic means or by telephone.

In the event of a local, state, or national emergency the Board of Directors may suspend the Annual Meeting until such time as the emergency is lifted and the meeting may be properly scheduled and notification to the members made. The Board shall make all effort to schedule the Annual Meeting as soon as it is feasible. Suspending the Annual Meeting shall require a two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 3. Quorum. Fifteen percent of the Voting Membership shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley. The number of voting members for quorum purposes shall be the number fixed by LWVUS for Per Member Payment purposes in January of the current calendar year.

Sec. 4. Special Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The Chair and one member, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these officers shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other member shall be appointed by the Board of Directors following the Annual Meeting. 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 this committee by any voting member.

Sec. 2. Report of 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 one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. Election. 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 shall constitute an election. Voting members may vote in person, using electronic means or by telephone. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX

Program

Sec. 1. Authorization. The adoption of governmental issues for concerted study and action by the National Convention and action constitutes the authorization for the adoption of the same issues by League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley. The adoption of State governmental issues for concerted study and action by the State Convention constitutes the authorization for the adoption of the same issues by League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley. No additional authorization shall be necessary at the local level.

Sec. 2. Local Program. The local Program of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley shall consist of the Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities as hereinafter defined:

- a. The Current Agenda shall consist of such current local governmental issues as the membership shall choose for concerted study and action.
- b. The Continuing Responsibilities shall consist of those positions on local governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act.

Sec. 3. Program Selection. The Annual Meeting shall select the local governmental issues for concerted study and action using the following procedures:

- a. Voting members may make recommendations to the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. The Board of Directors shall consider recommendations and formulate a Proposed Program that shall be sent to all members one month prior to the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors
- d. Any recommendations for the Program submitted to the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote. Adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.
- e. Changes in the Program because of altered conditions may be made, provided that information of any proposed change shall have been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting. Adoption of the Program change shall require a majority vote.

Sec. 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

National Convention and State Convention

Sec. 1. National Convention/Council. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the National Convention/Council at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the National Office. The number of delegates shall be that allotted to the Tanana Valley League by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 2. State Convention. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the State Convention at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the State Office. The number of delegates shall be that allotted to the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley by the League of Women Voters of Alaska.

ARTICLE XI
Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. The rules contained in the most recent revision of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII
Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting called by three-fourths majority of the Board, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Sec. 2. Bylaws Committee. A committee to review the Bylaws shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Adopted 1964; Last amended 2021



Photo: Bernardo Hernandez

LWV OF ALASKA POSITION STATEMENTS

Available online at the League of Women Voters of Alaska website <http://www.alaskalwv.org> .

Government

1. CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska favors public disclosure of campaign contributions of money, goods, or services, as well as the disclosure of financial interests of public officials, both elected and appointed. All disclosure reports should be received, compiled and published by an independent commission, which should have final responsibility for monitoring and enforcement. The League also favors limitations on the length of political campaigns, the time allowed for fund raising, the amount of contributions and, notwithstanding the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Buckley v. Valeo*, the amount of expenditures.

The goals of a campaign system should be:

1. To ensure the public's right to know.
2. To combat corruption and undue influence.
3. To enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.
4. To promote citizen participation in the political process.

"To enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office" reflects two distinct concerns: First, that differences in candidates' personal wealth and other financial resources not be a necessary consideration in seeking public office; and, second, that insofar as possible there be an equalization of opportunity for challengers and incumbents.

Adopted 1968; Revised 1991; 2024; Reaffirmed each year at LWVAK Convention.

2. CAPITAL BUDGET PROCESS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that prudent capital spending by the State of Alaska requires realistic budget preparation, clear project definition, use of standardized criteria for determination of need, and public involvement. In order to promote the judicious management of the capital budget process and capital projects, the League supports the following:

- * Establishment and implementation of consistently applied statutory criteria for defining and prioritizing all proposed capital projects;
- * Recognition and documentation of the effect of capital expenditures on the operating budgets and bonding capabilities of state and local governments;
- * Public understanding of and involvement in the capital budget preparation process;
- * Financial participation by local governments in the funding of requested capital projects;

* Utilization of a single procedure for the proposal and evaluation of potential capital improvement projects; and

* Accountability for the expenditures of capital funds in accordance with public and legislative intent.

Any spending limit should be in statutory, not constitutional, form and be based on the future availability of funding for the operation and maintenance of state-financed capital improvement projects.

Adopted 1985; Reaffirmed each year at LWVAK Convention.

3. CONSTITUTION, AMENDING BY INITIATIVE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska opposes amending the Alaska Constitution by initiative.

Adopted 1998; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that a constitutional convention should not be held at this time.

Adopted 1982; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

5. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that the Alaska legislative system should be responsive, representative, accessible, efficient, and accountable. We feel that the legislative structure, which would best accomplish this goal, contains the following elements.

* Measures to facilitate the budgetary process;

* Clearly delineated procedures for legislative committee action and treatment of legislation during all states of the process.

* Conference committee and free conference committee deliberations that are open, judicious, germane and subject to public notice.

* Caucus should be open with exception of circumstances involving prejudicial and personnel matters.

* Procedures followed which maximize consolidation of effort between the two houses of the Legislature.

- * Easy availability to information for the public concerning legislative activities and ease of access for public participation in the legislative process.
- * Procedures that enhance operational effectiveness including clear enforcement of rules.

Adopted ??; Revised 1993; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

6. ALASKA'S STATUTORY INITIATIVE PROCESS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports the existing initiative process and makes the following recommendations:

- Initiatives should be voted on only at General Elections, not special or primary elections.
- Support change that requires simplicity and clarity of the wording of initiative questions with a "yes" vote to indicate in favor of the measure and a "no" vote to indicate opposition to the measure.
- Support disclosure on each initiative petition of the name(s) or group(s) that is paying the gatherer and how they are paid, such as by signature or by the hour.
- Support the requirement for not less than 500 qualified voters as sponsors to the prospective petition with the Lieutenant Governor's office.
- Support the requirement for a number of valid signatures not less than ten (10%) percent of the total number of the votes cast in the preceding general elections.
- Support a formula for at least 50 signatures in each of two-thirds of the legislative districts in order to reflect statewide interest in a measure.
- Support the requirement an attorney general advisory opinion as to the constitutionality of each proposed initiative after it has qualified for the ballot, such opinion to be published in the State Election Pamphlet.
- Support the existing limit on time for collecting signatures to one year.
- Support the requirement for a cost analysis to be on each initiative petition.
- Support the requirement that signature gatherers be qualified voters of Alaska.

Adopted 2001 at Post-Convention Board Meeting; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention

7. VOTER REGISTRATION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that an equitable voter registration system should encourage maximum interest and participation in the electoral process, be simple and efficient to administer, and should aid in preventing fraudulent voting practices. To achieve these objectives, the League supports:

- Voter identification which does not inhibit voter access to the electoral process;
- Mandatory training of election officials;
- Comprehensive registration information available online; and
- Outreach to all eligible residents including newly naturalized citizens and students.

The League believes that a statewide registration system should reflect the above objectives and should:

- Provide for permanent and portable registration with the ability to change registration information online;
- Make registration easily accessible (e.g., through the Division of Motor Vehicles);
- Allow registration in person and by mail as well as through electronic means;
- Provide a system of preregistration for 16-17 year-olds;
- Permit same day registration for voting on election day; and
- Provide for routine purging of registration rolls.

Adopted 1968; updated 2014; reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

Natural Resources

8. ENERGY

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) favors the wise use and development of a variety of energy sources to ensure a sustainable long-term cultural, environmental, and economic future for Alaska, and for all Alaskans.

LWVAK supports energy development and use that protects the health and safety of people and the environment, and which includes an open and inclusive permitting process. The precautionary principle should be applied when developing public policies and regulations, and when evaluating energy sources and projects for Alaska's unique communities and regions. Energy conservation and efficiency should be maximized through use of public education, energy research and the development of new energy technologies. We support improving energy efficiency in existing homes, and commercial and public buildings through weatherization and other public and private incentive programs. We support ongoing revision of State and local uniform building codes to increase energy efficiency standards for new construction.

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports development and installation of renewable-source energy systems, such as solar, wind, tidal, hydro, and geothermal. We encourage long-term public and private planning and investment that reduces the life cycle cost of energy systems. We give priority to community and State decisions that lead to the use of energy systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We support increasing transportation fuel efficiency standards, and the development or expansion of energy efficient public transportation options. We recognize the value of some smaller, community or regional energy projects that may take less time and funding to develop and may also be less vulnerable to disasters. LWVAK supports delaying use or expansion of technologies for which there remain serious disparities between the promised performance and the actual safety and environmental impact record. We urge caution when there is potential for pervasive, profound, or long-lived consequences or irreparable harm to water, air, or food (fish and agriculture).

- We oppose development and use of nuclear energy until secure options exist for plant management, and toxic waste transport, processing and disposal.
- Where other alternatives are reasonably available, we do not support the use of coal. Where coal is used, ongoing monitoring of emissions and upgrading of technology should be carried out to reduce impacts on humans and the environment.
- LWVAK will need evidence that surface and ground water quality will be unaffected, before supporting hydraulic fracturing for gas and oil recovery.
- LWVAK supports the development of clean technologies to use biomass as an energy source, provided that the use of each biomass source has been proven by long-term studies to not degrade air quality or the environment.

Adopted 1978; revised 1991; 2013; reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

9. LAND DISPOSAL

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska feels the purpose of the State land disposal program should be to dispose of land within specific parameters. Disposal programs should allow for a variety of land uses maintaining program continuity from year to year including adequate administration and enforcement costs in land prices. Continued emphasis should be placed upon requiring land inventories, comprehensive land use plans, and public involvement. League members believe that a fair exchange value is an important aspect of State land pricing policy with investment returns from State lands going primarily to State or municipal governments.

Adopted 1980; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

10. LAND USE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports good land use planning; the formulation, implementation, and enforcement of comprehensive plans (including regional plans) for the use of all lands in the State of Alaska; the ensuring of coordination and cooperation among state, federal, municipal, and private landowners; and placement of responsibility for making and enforcing land use decisions on the lowest level of government immediately concerned with the land in question.

Adopted 1975; Revised 1979, 1985; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

Social Policy

11. CAREER EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The Alaska State League of Women Voters believes that the combination of home and school prepares students for competence in the world of work. The League recognizes the importance of parental advocacy and/or adult mentorship in the career preparation process. The majority of people receive no schooling or training, other than on the job, beyond high school. Therefore, we believe that our schools have the responsibility to graduate students who exhibit job readiness, positive work attitudes, and cooperation skills that will enable them to find and hold employment. The League believes that the Alaskan schools should offer equal opportunities and respect to ALL students: those who will have post-secondary schooling and those who will immediately go into the work force. To meet this goal, the basic curricula should include problem-solving skills, interpersonal communications and tolerance skills, as well as provide opportunities to explore careers and offer courses containing specific technical training and career experience. Academic skills needed for success in today's entry-level careers should be integrated into career preparation experience.

Adopted 1994; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

12. CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports the availability of childcare for everyone who needs or wants it with priority given to those children whose need is greatest. The League believes users should be primarily responsible for childcare financing. Supplemental financial and regulatory responsibilities should be shared by all levels of government to ensure that child care is of high quality, affordable and available to those who need it.

Adopted 1976; Revised 1986; Amended 2001; Reaffirmed each year since at LWWAK Convention.

13. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND BULLYING

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes all individuals have the right to live in a fear-free environment, and to be safe from sexual assault (SA); psychological, emotional and physical abuse; and neglect. A special degree of protection is needed for vulnerable, dependent people of any age.

Intervention by public agencies should take place when there is evidence of sexual assault or of physical, psychological or emotional abuse (including stalking) of one family member by another or one partner by another (including dating partnerships). However, this is not to suggest that mandated reporting be instituted as this may actually increase danger for victims/survivors. When necessary to separate family members, it is preferable to remove the perpetrator rather than the victim from the home, particularly if the victim is a child. Physical or sexual assault should be prosecuted whether or not the victim presses charges.

Federal, state and local governments should share responsibility for the health and safety of family members, with primary responsibility at state and local levels. Adequate funding is necessary for the care and protection of the spouse (including ex-spouse, partner, etc.) and children victimized by violence; and costs must be shared by all levels of government, private charitable contributions, and a special fund into which perpetrators are required to pay. To the maximum extent possible, perpetrators should be held financially responsible for these costs, and no victim should ever be required to pay any costs associated with a domestic violence (DV) or sexual assault incident.

Domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault require a coordinated response by law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, social service/victim agencies, and the medical community. All people who work with domestic violence and sexual assault incidents must receive special training specific to working with victims, including trauma and its effects. Training can be provided by experts in the field such as those at local DV/SA agencies. This training should be customized to the area of practice of the service providers and include basic training for new hires and periodic follow-up training for all those who work with victims.

Adopted 1986; Revised 1995; 2010. Reaffirmed each year since at LWWAK Convention.

14. YOUTH & ADOLESCENT NEEDS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports comprehensive policies and services for youth in order to maximize their participation in citizenry and democracy. Services should be

coordinated among all public and private agencies concerned with homelessness, education, vocational advancement, inter-personal relationships, mental and physical health, family stability, and peer empowerment.

Identified prevention-oriented goals are:

- Support of family cohesiveness
- Support for victims of abuse, neglect and sexual assault
- Support of high school graduation and vocational education for youth
- Education of youth to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections
- Education of youth concerning drug and alcohol abuse
- Support of runaway and “throw away” youth and their needs
- Education of youth concerning suicide
- Education of youth concerning criminal acts and consequences of those acts

Adopted 1971; Revised 1988; 2011, Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

15. LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONSHIPS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origins. In addition, League members agree that work to promote fair housing and an adequate supply of housing for low-income families must proceed hand in hand. One of our goals in the work of promoting fair housing is Tenant's Rights. A uniform landlord-tenant act which specifies tenants' rights, and both landlord and tenant obligations in maintaining a fit and habitable dwelling is important in achieving this goal.

Adopted 1974; Revised 1994; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

16. SCHOOL FINANCE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) recognizes, based on the Alaska State Constitution, that the State has the major responsibility for financing schools in Alaska, including grades PreK--12. However, local school districts in organized and unorganized boroughs should be required to contribute a percentage of the financial support and should have the major responsibility for decision making in the expenditure of funds. Public monies for education should NOT support student vouchers or Educational Savings Accounts (ESA's) that are allocated to private or for-profit schools; nor should public education funding be allocated to for-profit Educational Management Organizations (EMO's).

Adopted 1977; Revised 1985; 1986; 2016; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

17. ELECTION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. LWVAK works to protect that right and to increase voter participation by all citizens. The LWVAK believes the state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so that voters can make reasoned choices. The LWVAK supports elections that are free, fair and accessible to all eligible voters and voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent.

Adopted 2016; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention. Revised 2019, 2024.

18. JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT AND RETENTION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska strongly supports a judicial appointment and retention process that is merit-based, transparent, representative of and responsive to the public and to the Constitutions of the State of Alaska and United States.

Adopted 1/11/2016; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention



League of Women Voters US full positions are available online at the LWVUS website in the publication *Impact on Issues 2022-2024*. A print version of *Impact on Issues* is available from amazon.com. What follows is a brief outline of national League positions. A new edition will be produced after the 2024 National Convention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS – LWV OF THE UNITED STATES

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote: encourage all citizens to vote.
DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting. Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics (formerly Campaign Finance). Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing super PACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Voter Representation/Electoral System. Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.

Citizen's Rights

Citizen's Right to Know / Public Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions

Amendment Proposals. Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.

Constitutional Conventions. Hold constitutional conventions only when certain conditions are in place, including limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, effective performance and transparency.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact, and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of government services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector.

Digital Equity

High-speed affordable internet access is an essential service that should be readily available to all US residents and businesses.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support US trade policies that reduce trade barriers; expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

Developing Countries

Promote US policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest

Resource Management

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation of solid and hazardous wastes and promote their reuse and recycling.

Nuclear. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Transfer of Federal Public Lands

Promote policies that keep federal public lands under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Climate Change

Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Federal Agriculture Policies

Support environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market while promoting adequate supplies of food at reasonable prices and regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. Enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances. Support the federal government's funding of basic agricultural research to ensure adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Criminal Justice

Support a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Education, Employment, and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children from pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs. Through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United State; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all person. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Policy

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

Support abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. Oppose mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Human Trafficking

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.