

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DARE COUNTY

Dare County, North Carolina

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Dare County, North Carolina, cited in these bylaws as the League. This local League is an integral part of League of Women Voters of the United States and of League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICIES

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

Section 2. Policies. The policies of the League are:

1. **Political Policy.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. The Board of Directors shall review and recommend annually, for membership adoption, a set of guidelines regarding its nonpartisan policy.
2. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Section 3. Mission Statement. League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the League shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

A. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of LWVUS;

(1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; [4] Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. Election, Qualifications and Term. The officers of the League shall be a President (or two Co-Presidents), a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Candidates shall be voting members of the League. They will be elected at an annual meeting and take office at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The President, Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in an odd-numbered year. The Treasurer shall be elected in an even-numbered year. Co-Presidents may choose to serve in staggered two-year terms, with one elected in an even-numbered year and the other in an odd-numbered year.

Section 2. The President(s). The President(s) shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and board or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes in the absence of the Treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the Board may direct. If there are Co-Presidents, they may divide the aforementioned responsibilities as appropriate to their strengths and interests.

In the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of a Co-President, the other Co-President shall possess and perform all the duties of the office.

Section 3. The Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform such duties as the President(s) and the Board shall direct. In the event of absence, disability, resignation or death(s) of the Co-President(s) the Vice-President will perform all presidential duties and those which the Board assigns.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all the meetings of the Board of Directors. She or he shall notify all officers and directors of their election. She or he shall sign, with the President(s), all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office and assigned by the Board.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board, shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board, and be a co-signatory on checks. She or he shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

Section 6. Immediate Past President or Co-President: Upon completion of his or her elected term, the immediate Past President or Past Co-President will serve in an appointed or elected position on the Board.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Terms of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, four elected directors, and as many appointed directors as the Board deems necessary. 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 shall appoint such additional directors as needed to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year or until the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless she or he is a voting member of the League.

Section 3. 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.

In executing the duties of their office, Board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards, and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, they may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Meetings. There shall be at least eight regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President(s) may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of four members of the Board. The President(s) shall personally notify each member of the Board of Directors at least five days before any special meeting.

Section 5. Emergency Powers. Pursuant to the provisions of NCGS 55A-2-07(1993, c.398, s.1), and notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, the board of directors may make all provisions necessary for managing the corporation during an emergency including, but not limited to, procedures for calling a meeting of the board of directors, quorum requirements for the meeting, and designation of additional or substitute directors. All provisions of the regular bylaws consistent with the emergency bylaws remain effective during the emergency. The emergency bylaws are not effective after the emergency ends. An emergency exists for purposes of this section if a quorum of the corporation's directors cannot readily be assembled because of some catastrophic event, including but not limited to a declared state of emergency or public health issues.

Section 6. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Absences Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 8. Executive Committee. The Board may appoint an Executive Committee consisting of no fewer than four members of the Board. The Executive Committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it and shall report on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the Board.

Section 9. Electronic Communication: The Board may conduct business and approve action and motions electronically. All Board members must possess appropriate technology to respond to notices and official business including voting on motions. All results will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. Electronic transactions will not take the place of official Board meetings.

Section 10. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 11. Transfers of Property. The consent of the Board and the signatures of two officers shall be necessary to endorse, transfer and deliver any certificate of stock, bond, note or other security or property in the name and on behalf of the League.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be payable July 1. Any member who fails to pay her or his dues by November 1 shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Dues cover membership in the Dare League, LWVNC and LWVUS.

Section 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 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 year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as the chair of the budget committee.

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

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least six meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. All program meetings sponsored by the League are open to the members and the public and shall be considered by the Board of Directors to be membership meetings.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between May 1 and June 30, the exact date, manner and location to be determined by the Board. The Annual Meeting may be conducted in person, by teleconference, videoconference or any equivalent method that allows all persons participating to hear and deliberate simultaneously. The Annual Meeting shall

- Adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- Elect officers and directors, the chair and one member of the nominating committee;
- Adopt a budget;
- Adopt the local statement of non-partisan policy
- Transact such other business as may properly come before it.
- Thirty-five percent of the members shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members. The chair will be elected to serve a one-year term and will be on the Board as a voting member. The second member will be elected for a one-year term but will not serve on the Board. These two members will be elected at the Annual Meeting. The third member will be a Board member who serves on the committee. The co-presidents may serve in an ex-officio capacity. 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.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of 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.

Section 3. Election. The election shall be by ballot at Annual Meeting, providing that when there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be by voice vote.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM

Section 1. Authorization. The governmental Principles adopted by the National Convention and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

Section 2. Program. The annual Program of Work of the League shall consist of:

- (a) Action to implement the Principles of League of Women Voters of the United States
- (b) Those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action, and
- (c) Issues of local interest or concern.

Section 3. Action at Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

- (a) The Board of Directors consisting of standing committee heads shall present a Program of Work for the coming year. The proposed Program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.
- (b) A majority of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of issues in the proposed Program of Work. Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not included in the proposed Program recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that:
 - (1) The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote, and
 - (2) The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.
- (c) Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made by the Board provided:
 - (1) Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks before a Board meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and
 - (2) Final action by the Board is taken at a meeting.

ARTICLE X - Member Action.

Section 1. The President or a Co-president shall be the spokesperson(s) for the League.

Section 2. Members may act in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by League of Women Voters of Dare County, League of Women Voters of North Carolina, and League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 3. The chair(s) of the Voter Service Committee shall not participate or engage in active partisan activities.

ARTICLE XI - NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted League of Women Voters of Dare County under the provision of the bylaws of League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. State Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted League of Women Voters of Dare County under provisions of the bylaws of League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

Section 3. State Council. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that council in the number allotted League of Women Voters of Dare County under the provisions of the bylaws of League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

ARTICLE XII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting provided that amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Adopted: April 15, 1988

Reaffirmed: 1989, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008

Amended: 1990, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2021