

# 2026-28 PROPOSED BYLAWS

## of the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY

### ARTICLE I – NAME AND FORM

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Cook County, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVCC. The LWVCC is an Inter-League Organization and an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, hereinafter referred to as LWVIL.

**Section 2. Form.** The LWVCC shall be a not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois.

***Section 3. Tax Exempt Status. The LWVCC is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the LWVCC shall not conduct any activities which are not consistent with the permissible activities by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the LWVCC shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.***

This was moved from Article II. The Committee felt it was better suited to this Article.

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

**Section 1. Purposes.** The purposes of the LWVCC are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues *in Cook County in a manner consistent with Article 1, Section 3.*

**Section 2. Policies.**

**a. Political Policy.** The LWVCC shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The LWVCC is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with the LWVUS' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

The LWVCC shall be composed of all members of the League of Women Voters of the United States who are enrolled in recognized local Leagues within Cook County. ~~or are Members Around State (MAS) residing in Cook County.~~

## ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

**Section 1. Enumeration, Election and Terms of Office.** The officers of the LWVCC shall be a president, one or two vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. In lieu of a president, the officers may include two co-presidents who fulfill all duties and responsibilities described herein and ascribed to the president. All officers shall be elected by the delegates at the annual meeting and take office immediately, except for the treasurer who will take office at the start of the next fiscal year. The officers shall serve two-year terms or until their successors have been elected and qualified. No officer shall be elected to more than two successive terms of two years in the same position. The president or co-presidents, one vice-president and the treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. If there is another vice-president, this person, and the secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years.

**Section 2. The President.** The president shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the LWVCC 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; and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, the board shall elect one of the vice-presidents to fill the vacancy. If no vice-president is able to serve, the board shall elect another of its members to serve as president. If no member can be found to serve as president, the board can assign the responsibilities of the office to the executive committee.

**Section 3. The Vice-president(s).** The vice-president(s) shall perform such duties as the president and the LWVCC board may designate.

**Section 4. The Secretary.** The secretary shall record minutes of board meetings and maintain the approved minutes of the board meetings. The secretary shall record the minutes of the annual meeting and maintain the approved minutes, bylaws, program, slate, and the annual budget. ***In addition, the secretary shall have responsibility for maintaining corporate records, including all policies and guidelines adopted by the board in accordance with its document retention policy.***

LWVCC board recently adopted a document retention policy to protect documents necessary either legally or for historical purposes. This was added to the Secretary's responsibilities so that there would be a single repository for the documents and guidelines with one person responsible for coordination.

**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 or banks designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same in ways that customarily pertain to the office. The treasurer shall present a financial report to the board at its regular meetings and an annual

report at the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be responsible for filing federal, state, and local government forms and payment of taxes and fees as required by law.

**Section 6. Executive Committee Responsibilities.** The officers of the board of directors shall constitute the executive committee. The executive committee shall assume and/or delegate all administrative tasks. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the board and shall report to the board on all actions taken between regular meetings of the board. The executive committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and distribute them by the next board meeting.

## ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.**

a. The LWVCC board shall consist of the executive committee, six directors elected at large at the annual meeting, **and** no more than two directors who shall be recommended by the president[s] and appointed by the elected board. ~~and one representative appointed from each local League (LLR).~~ Three directors shall be elected by the delegates at the annual meeting in even-numbered years and three shall be elected in odd- numbered years. Terms of elected directors shall be for two years and terms of appointed directors shall be for one year. Terms of elected and appointed directors may be renewed. ~~There shall be no term limits.~~

The portion of the sentence relating to LLRs was removed. The appointment of LLRs is in Section 2. The sentence indicating no term limits was removed as redundant to its previous sentence which states terms may be renewed.

***b. Local League Representation (LLR). In addition to the elected and appointed board members, there shall be one representative designated by each local League to serve on the board. LLRs shall serve at their local League’s discretion.***

***c. All officers, elected and appointed directors and LLRs shall be voting members of the board.***

Section b was added to clarify the responsibilities and limitations of LLRs. LLRs are designated by their own League, not the LWVCC board. There had been confusion due to the provision that the LWVCC board may “appoint” directors. The LLRs may vote in board meetings but do not count toward a quorum or serve as delegates to the annual meeting unless appointed by their own Leagues. Section c was added to clarify voting authority.

**Section 2. Qualifications.** A person elected or appointed as an officer or director of this organization and LLRs must be a member of the LWVCC.

**Section 3. Absences.** In the event that an elected or appointed board member, ~~(including members of the executive committee,)~~ fails to attend three or more consecutive meetings of the board, the remaining board members may vote to deem such absences a resignation from the board.

Redundant; executive committee are elected board members

**Section 4. Vacancies.** Vacancies of elected or appointed board positions may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board. If the vacancy occurs in the first year of a two-year term, the replacement will serve until the next annual meeting when an election can be held to fill the position for the remaining year. Vacancies of local League board representatives may be filled by appointment by the local League.

**Section 5. Powers and Duties.** The board of directors shall have charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instruction of the annual meeting. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted at the annual meeting. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of the LWVUS and the board of directors of the LWVIL.

**Section 6. Regular Meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board of directors annually. Members of the board of directors shall be notified of all regular meetings at least one week in advance. Meetings may be held in-person or through electronic communications.

**Section 7. Special Meetings.** A special meeting of the board may be called by the president ~~and~~ or by a written request of five elected or appointed members of the board. The president shall notify the elected, appointed, and LLR members of the board of the special meeting at least **two** days prior to such a meeting and such notice shall include material for the meeting. The topics discussed at a special meeting shall be limited to those included in the notice.

Deleted "and" so president could call meeting without additional requirements. Time changed from five to two since electronic means are available to notify.

**Section 8.** Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to all members of the LWVCC.

**Section 9. Quorum.** A majority of the officers and directors serving in the elected and appointed board positions constitutes a quorum.

## ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

**Section 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVCC shall conform to that of the LWVUS.

**Section 2. Financial Support.** *Financial responsibility for the LWVCC shall be assumed through the recognized local Leagues in Cook County. Each League located in Cook County shall make a dues payment directly to the LWVCC based on the number of members in their League, other than life members. The amount of this payment shall be determined at the LWVCC annual meeting by a three-fifths vote of those present and voting.*

The language of this paragraph was reworded in acknowledgement of the change in the manner in which League membership dues will be collected by LWVUS. LWVCC will continue to collect dues for its local League membership through payment by those Leagues based on membership numbers.

**Section 3. Budget Committee.** The executive committee shall appoint a budget committee. The committee shall consist of at least two non-elected or appointed board members, one of whom will be the chair, **and one elected or appointed board member**. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the budget committee. A draft budget shall be prepared each year and submitted to the board for approval two months prior to the annual meeting.

Added text is because the treasurer is an ex-officio member and can't vote. Adding a board member provides more understanding of the budget and avoids issue of split vote.

**Section 4. Budget.** Each year the budget committee shall submit to the annual meeting a proposed budget that provides support for the LWVCC. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each local League president at least one month in advance of the annual meeting. A three-fifths vote of the delegates voting at the annual meeting will be required for adoption of the budget.

**Section 5. Audit. Financial Review.** The books of the treasurer shall be reviewed annually at the close of the fiscal year by a person or persons appointed by the Executive Committee, with a written report sent to the board of directors of the LWVCC.

The title of this section was changed because Financial Review is more reflective of what happens than Audit, which has specific requirements with it.

**Section 6. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.** In the event of the merger or dissolution of the LWVCC for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time are owned or under the absolute control of the League shall be distributed at the discretion of the board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWVCC and its affairs, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national organization which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

## ARTICLE VII – ANNUAL MEETING

**Section 1. Place, Date, and Call.** The LWVCC shall hold an annual meeting in person, or remotely if necessary, for the entire membership each year at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. The board shall send a notice to all local League presidents no later than January 31 inviting all members to attend the annual meeting. This notice should include a request for board nominations, bylaws changes in even years, and program recommendations to be received no later than March 1. A final notice shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least one month before the annual meeting, **including all materials approved by the LWVCC board relative to the business of the annual meeting. Materials relevant to the annual meeting shall be posted on the website.** A final call shall

be sent to all LWVCC members ~~two weeks~~ prior to the annual meeting, ***with reference to the posted materials.***

This provides that materials sent are all approved by the board. Addition of info specifically on website is to assure that materials are readily available to delegates and members.

**Section 2. Voting Delegates.** For purposes of conducting business at the annual meeting, ***all elected and board appointed directors of the LWVCC shall serve as voting delegates.*** In addition, each local League that is current in dues shall be entitled to the following voting delegates:

- a. The president of each local League or appointed alternate;
- b. One additional delegate from each local League for the first 50 members.
- c. For each local League having more than 50 members, one additional delegate for each additional fifty voting members or major fraction thereof (26 or more) belonging to the local League based on the membership records of LWVUS as of January 31 preceding the annual meeting. ~~Elected and appointed directors of the LWVCC shall serve as voting delegates at the annual meeting.~~

The highlighted sentence was originally at the end of the section. In addition, there was some confusion as to whether LLRs were automatically delegates or needed to be appointed same by their League. This change is to clarify who are automatically voting delegates at the annual meeting and who are additional voting delegates and the parameters for same.

**Section 3. Qualification of Delegates and Voting.** Each delegate shall be a voting member enrolled in a recognized local League in Cook County that is current in dues. Each delegate shall be entitled to only one vote at the annual meeting even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The annual meeting chair shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

**Section 4. Powers.** Annual meeting delegates shall:

- a. Elect officers, directors and two non-board members of the nominating committee as appropriate;
- b. Adopt a budget;
- c. Adopt an annual program;
- d. Vote on bylaws revisions;
- e. Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

**Section 5. Quorum.** At least one third of the local Leagues in Cook County must be represented at the annual meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII– NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 1. Nominating Committee.** The nominating committee shall consist of four members. The chair and one member, who shall not be elected or appointed members of the board of

directors, shall be elected at the annual meeting in even numbered years and shall serve for two years. Nominations for these positions shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other two members of the committee shall be elected or appointed members of the board of directors or LLRs. Any vacancy occurring in the nominating committee shall be filled by the board of directors.

**Section 2. Suggestions for Nomination.** The chair of the LWVCC nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations for available positions from each local League. Suggestions for nominations by local Leagues shall be sent to the chair of the nominating committee by March 1. Any LWVCC member may send suggestions to the chair of the nominating committee.

**Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.** The nominating committee's proposed slate of its nominations for officers and elected directors, and in even numbered years the chair and one member of the succeeding nominating committee, shall be sent to the local Leagues one month prior to the annual meeting. Immediately following the nominating committee report at the annual meeting, nominations may be made from the floor provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. The elections shall be conducted at the time specified in the Annual Meeting Order of Business.

**Section 4. Election.** ~~The election shall be by ballot.~~ If there is only one nominee for each slated position it shall be in order to move for adoption of the slate. Election shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast. ***In a contested election, the election shall be by ballot.***

In instances where there is only one candidate for each position, ballots are not necessary. This will increase efficiency of the process.
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## ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM

**Section 1. Principles.** The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

**Section 2. Program.** The program of the LWVCC shall consist of ***the adopted positions and*** county government issues chosen for concerted study, action or review.

**Section 3. Annual Meeting Action.** The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- a. The Board shall provide a status report of the current program at the annual meeting.
- b. Local League boards may make recommendations for the program to the board of directors by March 1.
- c. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate the proposed program, which shall be submitted to the local League boards at least one month prior to the annual meeting. All program items sent in by the Leagues but not proposed by the board shall be sent at the same time.
- d. A majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of the program proposed by the board of directors.
- e. Any recommendation for the program submitted to the board of directors by March 1, but not proposed by the board, may be adopted at the annual meeting provided consideration is

ordered by a majority vote of the delegates registered and the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths vote of those delegates registered at the annual meeting.

f. Following the annual meeting, the program shall be posted on the website.

**Section 4. Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the LWVCC only when authorized to do so by **the president or** the board of directors of the LWVCC.

**Section 5. Local League Action.** Local Leagues may take action on county governmental matters only when authorized to do so by the board of directors of the LWVCC. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to the position taken by the LWVCC.

## ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable **and not in conflict with these bylaws.**

## ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

**Section 1. Even Numbered Years.** A bylaws committee **of a minimum of three persons** shall be appointed by the executive committee (~~following the annual meeting in odd numbered years~~) to review the bylaws and suggest amendments if necessary and to consider proposals suggested by any League member for amending the bylaws. One member of the board of directors shall serve on the committee but shall not be its chair.

**Section 2. Odd Numbered Years.** Upon majority vote of the board, proposed amendments to the bylaws may be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues for approval at the annual meeting.

**Section 3. Procedure.** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those delegates registered at the annual meeting, using the following procedures:

- a. In even numbered years proposals for change shall be submitted by any local League board to the bylaws committee by March 1. The bylaws committee shall submit to the board of directors its suggested changes by the board meeting that is two meetings before the annual meeting.
- b. In any year all such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the board shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least one month prior to the annual meeting.
- c. The presidents of the local Leagues shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. Failure of a local League president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the bylaws.

For the regulation, except as otherwise provided by statute, or its Articles of Incorporation, of the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY, an Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation. Adopted at Convention in 1967 and recently amended in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022