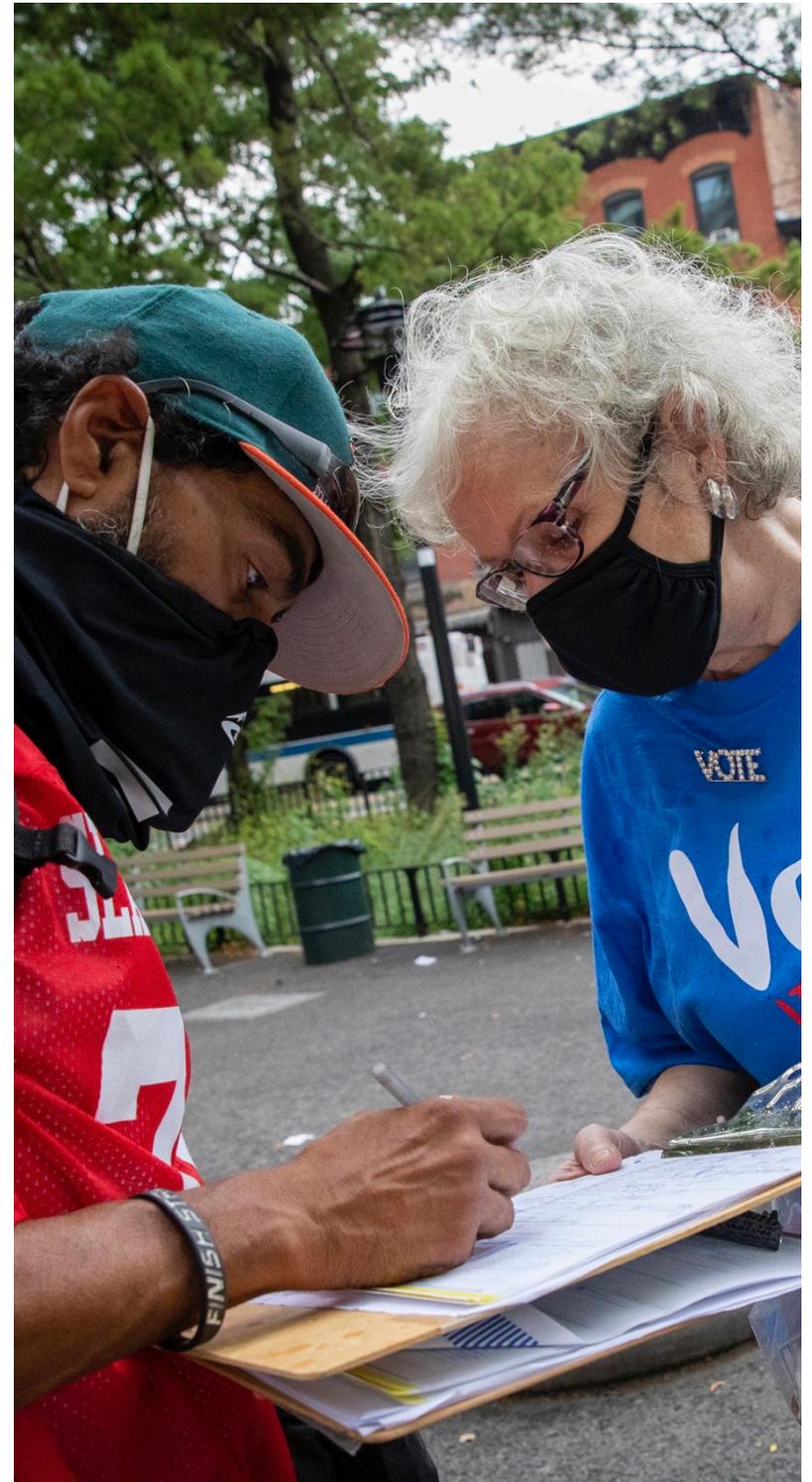


**League of Women
Voters of the City
of New York**
2021 Annual Meeting
of the Members

**June 17,
2021**

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Letter From the Co- Presidents

Dear Members,

What a year we have had as your co-presidents!

We are so proud of all the work we accomplished together. We pivoted from a totally hands-on, in-person, feet-on-the-ground operation to digitally platformed, virtually based civic engagement and voter education. Working with our many partners, we reached New Yorkers in their living rooms and provided interesting programs, like “At Home With The League” and many opportunities to get involved during the Presidential election season. We created new committees like Telephone Information Service and Health Equity to address the needs of New Yorkers right now. We assisted in the Census effort to reach New Yorkers who had, temporarily, left the city. Partnering with CUNY, we enlisted many interns who spread the message of voter engagement and civic education on their social media platforms to their home communities all across New York City.

We celebrated three outstanding women at our virtual gala who have made an impact on the recovery of New York City. Debra Borda, Leecia Eve, and Dr. Julia Iyasere shared their vision of the “New” New York. With the tireless work of the Event Committee and the generosity of our supporters, we raised over \$95,000 that will allow us to continue our mission to educate and engage New Yorkers.

Now we look forward to a year of re-opening and re-imagining of the “New” New York. How can we continue to utilize the digital platforms that have allowed us to reach so many more New Yorkers than ever before? How can we come together, in-person, to reestablish the social interaction we all crave? How can we safely re-engage with voters in-person?

As we continue to meet remotely, we will be exploring these questions and finding answers to make LWVNYC even more vibrant and active. Much has changed and will continue to change yet we will always be a trusted voice in NYC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Burrows and Lesley Sigall
Co-Presidents

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Nominating Committee Report

At this Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee is proposing a slate of five Board Directors to be elected for a two year term. The candidates include:

- ▶ **Patricia Manning** for a second term
- ▶ **Dorothy Ouzidane** for a second term
- ▶ **Laura Quigg** for a second term
- ▶ **Kai Rosenthal** for a second term
- ▶ **Deborah Brodheim** for a first term

Bella Wang had decided to retire from the Board this year. While she will continue as Committee Chair for the Voting Reform Committee, we want to thank her for all she has done in her role as a Board member.

Ashmi Sheth recently resigned from her position as VP-Membership to run for public office. **Suzanne Gabriel** has been nominated to fill the role of VP-Membership until June, 2021, when all the Officer terms expire.

Nominations may also be submitted from the floor of the Annual Meeting, provided that the nominee has agreed. Additional members may also be appointed by the Board of Directors as needed throughout the year in accordance with the Bylaws.

PROPOSED SLATE

Deborah Brodheim

Deborah has been a volunteer with the League since 2020, supporting corporate and foundation fundraising efforts and active in GOTV initiatives. She has over 25 years of global experience as a Senior Relationship Executive in the financial services industry. Over the last 10 years she has served on non-profit boards and volunteered as a financial literacy tutor. Deborah joined the non-profit sector fulltime in 2017 as the regional director of development for educational non-profit Playworks, supporting their mission to improve the health and well-being of children by creating opportunities for safe, meaningful play. As an experienced development professional, Deborah oversaw outreach and cultivation of donors, managing the regional development budget as well as programmatic activities to support development and community outreach efforts. Deborah began her career at JP Morgan after graduating from Harvard College with an A.B. in East Asian Studies. She loves exploring city neighborhoods by bike, especially if the destination involves good food or culture, and preferably both.



Suzanne Gabriel

Suzanne Gabriel has been a member of the League since 2019 and has been an active volunteer at voter registrations drives and on the telephone information committee, answering voters' questions about a variety of issues. Suzanne is a retired health care communications executive with more than 25 years experience in health-related marketing communications and account, department and



agency management. Suzanne has extensive experience developing marketing communications strategies and programs for a range of pharmaceutical and consumer health products and issues including smoking control, vaccines and women's health.

Patricia Manning

Patricia Manning grew up in Washington Heights and has lived and worked in the Bronx during most of her adult years. She spent 32 years at Bronx Community Board 8 where she was hired in 1985 as a Community Associate and later served as District Manager. Before that, she worked at non-profits, among them one that helps teen parents and another that promotes Bronx artists. She graduated from the NYC Citizen Police Academy and over the years has volunteered in Baychester, at the Public Library and other outlets. Her current focus is to promote civics in the NYC community.



Dorothy Ouzidane

Dorothy has been an active member since June 2018 and has served on the Board since July 2020. Dorothy was a founding member of the Women's Rights Committee (now the Gender Justice Committee). She served as the committee's Secretary from its inception in July 2018 until she served as Co-Chair/Chair from April 2020 to March 2021. She is a member of both the Gender Justice and the Census & Redistricting Committee. Dorothy is a Certified Treasury Professional who worked at the US Headquarters Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of a large Japanese Multi-National Corporation, for 28 years (19 years as Manager Finance Group). Her areas



of concentration were Treasury, Cash Management and Corporate Finance. Dorothy holds a BS in Business Administration with majors in Economics and Marketing from the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore Business School. She is a member of the Association of Financial Professionals and the Treasury Management Association of New York where she served on the Board of Directors in 2005 and 2006.

Laura Quigg

Laura is currently both a co-chair in the Voter Services Committee and chair of the Census/Redistricting Committee. In the Voter Services Committee, she has primary responsibility for training, speakers and developing educational material. She works with teams of volunteers to develop and present on topics that are core to the LWVNYC mission, including Voter Registration and Ranked Choice Voting training, and talks on Women's History, Who Makes NYC Run?, Redistricting 101, and Civics Education. In the Census/Redistricting Committee, she spearheaded an initiative on census outreach to NYC residents who left the city temporarily due to COVID, which led to a grant from the Manhattan and Bronx Borough President's offices. Currently the focus is more on redistricting, as she continues to lead the committee's involvement to educate and inform the people of NYC. Laura joined the Board in 2020, and has been active on the Budget and Finance Committee. Laura has degrees in Economics from Georgetown and Columbia, as well as an MA in International Affairs, also from Columbia, and a Ph.D. in Finance from UC Berkeley. She worked in the Mayor's Office of Operations under Ed Koch, as an academic at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and in finance at Lehman Brothers, JP Morgan, and Sanford Bernstein.



Kai Rosenthal

Kai has been an active member since 2017 serving on both the Education and Voting Reform Committees. Over the past year, she led the Healthcare Consensus Committee to review the updated State positions and manage the consensus process. She also helped launch the new Health Equity Committee. Previously, Kai has worked on several key projects including the NYC Youth Civics Initiative, developing civics plans for public high school students as well as meeting with elected officials to review major legislative issues. She has more than 25 years of experience in marketing communications leading internal departments, at luxury wine and spirits companies, to develop successful communications campaigns. Currently, Kai provides clients with expertise that includes creative storytelling and messaging, developing communications plans for social, digital and traditional media, building campaigns with influencers and brand spokespeople and implementing memorable events. She graduated from Colgate University with a BA in Political Science. She is also a volunteer tutor with Hour Children's after school program.

*Submitted by the Bylaws Committee: Shelly Warwick;
Kate Doran; Amy Matthews*

Submitted 4/20/2021 and revised per Board Comments

The Bylaws Committee has reviewed the LWVNYC Bylaws and is proposing a number of changes as per our submission with the changes blacklined attached at the end of this report. A number of changes were made to the document to improve the clarity, or reinforce the intent, or to clearly allow for virtual meetings and non-snail mail communication. Material changes are outlined below:

- ▶ Article II. Purpose and Policy — Section 1. Purposes
 - ▶ *Proposed Change: modify the end of this sentence to read “through informed and active participation (delete “of citizens”) in government and to act on selected governmental issues.*
 - ▶ *Rationale: This aligns the LWVNYC purpose with the national League Bylaws.*
- ▶ Article II. Purpose and Policy — Section 3
 - ▶ *Proposed Change: add a new “Section 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. LWVNYC is fully committed to ensure compliance in principle and practice - with LWV US’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.”*
 - ▶ *Rationale: This new section underscores the importance of the League’s commitment to a more diversified, inclusive organization, which better reflects and embodies our city and aligns with language in the National By-Laws in this Article.*

- ▶ Article III – Membership – Section 2 – Types of Membership. Subsection a) iv
 - ▶ *Proposed Change: Added subsection a) iv Student Members – any individual who is attending an accredited institution of education, full or part-time. Student members under the age of 16 are associate members.*
 - ▶ *Rationale: To clarify the requirements for student membership (a dues category created by the Membership Committee).*
- ▶ Article V. Board of Directors — The Board of Directors — Section 1
 - ▶ *Proposed Change: increase the maximum number of appointed directors from four to six.*
 - ▶ *Rationale: In order to better serve the membership and provide more opportunities to appoint more diverse individuals to the Board.*
- ▶ Article V. Board of Directors section c).
 - ▶ *Proposed Change: add a term limit to the Board Chair of no more than six consecutive years at this position.*
 - ▶ *Rationale: All Board and Officer positions have the same term limit. This brings consistency to the term of the Board Chair.*
- ▶ Article V. Board of Directors section 4. Powers and Duties.
 - ▶ *Proposed Change: Charges the Board to create a committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.*

- ▶ *Rationale:* This is to demonstrate the importance of DEI as core value within our organization.
- ▶ Article V. Board of Directors – Section 7 – Quorum
 - ▶ *Proposed Change:* and a majority of the members in attendance at any board meeting shall, in the presence of a quorum, decide its action. Any member of the board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment that allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time; participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.
 - ▶ *Rationale:* To conform with State League By-laws language
- ▶ Article VI. Advisory Board
 - ▶ *Proposed Change:* The cap on the size of the Advisory Board has been eliminated.
 - ▶ *Rationale:* The Advisory Board is the League’s external Board. A primary purpose of the Advisory Board is to help us with fundraising and fiscal solvency. Having more Advisory Board members will increase the League’s ability to develop long-term financial support.



ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be The League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc. (“LWVNYC”). LWVNYC’s former name was League of Women Voters of the City of New York Education Fund, Inc. (“Ed Fund”), the surviving corporation of the merger (“the Merger”) between the previously-existing The League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc. and Ed Fund. Ed Fund’s name was changed to The League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc. pursuant to the certificate of merger filed with the Secretary of State on pursuant to Section 904 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York (“N-PCL”).

LWVNYC is a local league (a “Local League”) of The League of Women Voters of the United States (“LWVUS”) and of The League of Women Voters of New York State (“LWVNYS”), and is an integral part thereof.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. Purposes

The purposes of the LWVNYC are set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation (as amended from time to time) and include the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policy

The LWVNYC may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the LWVUS and LWVNYS. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Section 3. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Policy

LWVNYC is fully committed to ensure compliance — in principle and in practice — with LWVUS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVNYC shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. *Voting Members.* Persons of at least 16 years of age, who upon payment of dues, join the LWVNYC, shall be voting members of the Local Leagues, the state Leagues and LWVUS; provided that,
 - i. persons who reside within the area of a Local League may join that Local League or any other Local League;
 - ii. persons who reside outside the area of any Local League may join a Local League or shall be state members-at-large; and

- iii. any person who has been a member of the League for 50 years or more shall be a life member excused from the payment of dues.
- iv. Student members - any individual who is attending an accredited institution of education either full or part time. Student members under the age of 16 are associate members.
- e. *Associate Members.* All others who join the LWVNYC shall be Associate Members. Associate Members are not voting members.
- f. *Initial Members.* The initial members of the LWVNYC shall be the members of the previously-existing The League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc. as of the effective date of the Merger.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers.

The officers of the LWVNYC (each, an “Officer”) shall be a President or two Co-Presidents, or if deemed necessary by the Board, a management team consisting of as many people as is necessary to carry out the work of the LWVNYC (herein referred to as “President”), up to four Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Officers shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by the members at the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years (as described in Article IV, Section 1) or until their successors have been elected and qualified. They take office immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications.

Only voting members of the LWVNYC shall be elected or appointed to serve as Officers or Directors of the LWVNYC.

Section 3. The President.

The President shall preside at the Annual Meeting. The President shall sign contracts and other legal instruments together with another officer authorized by the Board. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President 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.

Section 4. Vice Presidents.

The Vice Presidents, 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 shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and the Board may designate.

Section 5. The Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board and of the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Section 6. The Treasurer.

The Treasurer or a duly appointed Assistant 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, and shall disburse the same upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at its regular meetings. The financial records of the organization shall be reviewed annually by a certified public accountant.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

- a. The Board of Directors (the “Board”) shall consist of the officers of the LWVNYC (“Officer Directors”), up to five but no fewer than three elected directors (“Elected Directors”) and up to six appointed directors (“Appointed Directors” and, together with Officer Directors and Elected Directors, the “Directors”). The number of Elected Directors shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee (as defined below). The Officer Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years, or at the next Annual Meeting if a vacancy in an elective office has occurred, and shall serve until the next election in an even-numbered year. The Elected Directors shall be elected in the Annual Meeting in odd-numbered years, or at the next Annual Meeting if a vacancy in an elective office has occurred, and shall serve until the next election in an odd-numbered year. The Officer Directors and Elected Directors shall appoint such Appointed Directors as they deem necessary, but not more than six, to help carry

on the work of LWVNYC. The terms of office of the Appointed Directors shall expire concurrently with the terms of office of the Elected Directors. Directors, whether elected or appointed, shall be limited to six consecutive years in the same office.

- b. At the first meeting of the Board after the Annual Meeting, the Board shall elect a Chairperson of the Board (the “Board Chair”) from among the Board members, other than any director who is also serving as the President. The Board Chair shall, in conjunction with the President, develop the agenda for the meetings of the Board, and shall act as advisor to the President. The Board Chair shall be an ex officio member of all committees of the Board, except the Nominating Committee. No one shall serve more than six consecutive years as Board Chair.

Section 2. Qualifications.

Only Voting Members of the LWVNYC shall be elected or appointed or continue to serve as an Officer or Director of the LWVNYC.

Section 3. Vacancies and Absences.

Any vacancy occurring in the elected Board by reason of the resignation, death or disqualification of any member may be filled on an interim basis, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the Board. It shall be the function of the Nominating Committee to recommend to the Board candidates for vacancies in the elective offices occurring between elections. Absence of any member from three consecutive Board meetings, without valid reason, shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. Powers and Duties.

The Board shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVNYC with the full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Annual Meeting. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the National and State Conventions and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such committees as it may deem necessary, which shall include a committee on Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The Board may adopt, amend or discontinue such Standing Rules (as defined below) as it may deem necessary for the functioning of the Board.

Section 5. Standing Rules.

The “Standing Rules” are policies and guidelines to the Board for the carrying out of their duties, which are not contained in the Bylaws, and which shall be adopted, amended or discontinued as provided in these Bylaws.

Section 6. Meetings.

There shall be at least six regular meetings of the Board annually. The Board Chair may call special meetings of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time and place of any special meeting by written notice, transmitted electronically, by mail, or fax sent at least five (5) business days prior to such meeting. The Board Chair shall preside at the Board meetings.

Section 7. Quorum.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of the members in attendance at any board meeting shall, in the presence of a quorum, decide its action. Any member of the board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment that allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time; participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISORY BOARD

The Board may appoint an Advisory Board representing the corporate, civic, cultural and philanthropic community of New York City who support the work of the LWVNYC. The size and composition of the Advisory Board shall be decided by the LWVNYC Board of Directors. The Advisory Board shall serve as a committee of LWVNYC as described in Section 712(e) of the N-PCL.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the LWVNYC shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

Section 2. Dues.

Membership dues shall be payable during the month in which the member joined. The Board may establish

special procedures for collection of dues. The dues structure shall be as determined by the Board.

Section 3. Budget.

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

Section 4. Budget and Finance Committee.

A Budget and Finance Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting following the Annual Meeting. The Budget and Finance Committee shall provide financial guidance and oversight, and shall, at least four months prior to the Annual Meeting, prepare a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBER MEETINGS

Section 1. Notice

There shall be at least one meeting of the membership each year, which shall be designated the Annual Meeting. Any other meeting of the Members shall be designated a Special Meeting. Notice of any meeting shall be given to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting electronically, by mail, or fax.

Section 2. Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Board (including, to the extent permitted by law, in virtual format). The Annual Meeting shall (a) elect officers and directors, (b) adopt a budget; (c) adopt amendments to the Bylaws; (d) adopt a local program for the ensuing one or two years; and (e) transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Special Meetings.

Special Meetings of the Members may be called by the Board or by Members entitled to cast ten percent of the total number of votes entitled to be cast at such meeting, who may, in writing, including by e-mail, demand the call of a Special Meeting specifying the date and month thereof, which shall not be less than two nor more than three months from the date of such written demand. The Secretary upon receiving the written demand shall promptly give notice of such meeting, or if they fail to do so within five business days thereafter, any member signing such demand may give such notice. The Special Meeting shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Board (including, to the extent permitted by law, in virtual format).

Section 4. Quorum.

One hundred voting members, or 10% of the total members entitled to vote, whichever shall be less, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Members. The record in the office of the LWVNYC of paid-up voting members as of 45 days prior to a meeting shall determine the members entitled to vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Any member entitled

to vote may designate, by written proxy, transmitted electronically, by mail, email, or fax, another member to be present to vote in their stead. All proxies must be received at the LWVNYC office no later than three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Section 5. List or record of members at Annual Meeting.

A list or record of members entitled to vote, certified by the LWVNYC Secretary, who shall be responsible for its preparation, shall be produced at each meeting, upon request therefor of any member who has given notice by email, fax or other electronic method to the Secretary provided that such request will be made at least 10 days prior to such meeting. If the right to vote of any person at the meeting is challenged, the Election Committee shall require such list or record of members to be produced as evidence of the right of the person(s) challenged to vote at such meeting. All persons who appear from such list or record to be members entitled to vote thereat may vote at the meeting.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

The immediate past President of the LWVNYC shall be the Chair of the Nominating Committee. In the absence of such person, the Board shall select one of its directors to serve in such a role. The Chair shall select at least two members of the LWVNYC, only one of whom shall be from the Board, to prepare a slate for the elective offices. It shall be one of the functions of the Nominating Committee to recommend to the Board

candidates for vacancies in the elective offices occurring between elections. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to the Nominating Committee by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained. The President or Co-President of the LWVNYC shall not be a member of the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee.

The report of the Nominating Committee, containing its nominations for officers and elected directors, shall be sent to the Members at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member immediately after presentation, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. Election.

The Election Committee, appointed by the President at the Annual Meeting, shall be in charge of the election if it is by ballot. If there is only one nominee for each office, the election may be by voice vote. Officers are elected by majority vote of the members present, or voting by written proxy, and qualified to vote.

ARTICLE X. PROGRAM

Section 1. Authorization.

The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention and supported by the League as a whole con-

stitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

Section 2. Program.

The program of the LWVNYC shall consist of (a) action to implement the principles and (b) those governmental issues chosen at the Annual Meeting for concerted study and action.

Section 3. Adoption of Local Program.

- a. The Board shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members not later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority of the qualified members present or by written proxy and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of any item in the proposed program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board.
- d. Recommendations for program items submitted by voting members 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote.
- e. A three-fifths vote of those qualified members present or by written proxy at the Annual Meeting is necessary to adopt a non-recommended program item.

Section 4. Member Action.

Members may act in the name of the LWVNYC only when authorized to do so by the Board. They may act only in conformity with, a position taken by the LWVNYC, the LWVNYS and the LWVUS.

Section 5. Local League Action.

The LWVNYC may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by the LWVNYS.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND STATE CONVENTION, AND STATE COUNCIL

Section 1. National and State Conventions

Nominations for delegates to a National or State Convention may be sent to the Secretary of the LWVNYC by any voting member not later than 60 days preceding that convention. From these nominations the Board shall elect by ballot delegates to the particular convention in the number allotted to the LWVNYC (or portion thereof) under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS and the LWVNYS. When less than a full delegation is to be sent, the apportioned number shall be determined each year by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Budget Committee.

Section 2. State Council.

The Board of Directors shall direct how LWVNYC votes are cast at the State Council.

Section 3. Alternates.

Alternates for the delegates to the National Convention shall be elected at the same time as delegates. The Board may empower the President and/or a committee to fill any vacancy in the event that the list of alternates shall have been exhausted.

ARTICLE XII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order as 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

Bylaws Committee.

A Bylaws Committee shall be appointed by the Board at least four months prior to the Annual Meeting to consider any proposals for amendments submitted by voting members. The report of the Bylaws Committee together with the Statement of the Board's recommendations on the separate proposals shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting for action.

- a. The report of the Bylaws Committee and the recommendations of the Board of Directors shall be sent to the members at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. A two-thirds vote of those qualified members present or by written proxy at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the amendments to these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. STATUTORY COMPLIANCE ARTICLE

Section 1. Conflict of Interest Protocols.

This Organization shall adopt, and at all times honor, the terms of a written conflicts of interest policy to assure that its Directors, Officers and Key Employees act in the Organization's best interest and comply with applicable legal, regulatory and ethical requirements. The conflicts of interest policy of the Organization shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

- a. **Procedures.** Procedures for disclosing, addressing, and documenting Conflicts of Interest and Related Party Transactions to the Board of Directors, or authorized committee, as appropriate.
- b. **Restrictions.** Stipulations that when the Board of Directors, or authorized committee, as appropriate, is considering a real/potential conflict of interest, the interested party shall not:
 - i. be present at, or participate in, any deliberations;
 - ii. attempt to influence deliberations, and/or
 - iii. cast a vote on the matter.
- c. **Definitions.** Definitions of circumstances that could constitute a conflict of interest.
- d. **Documentation.** Requirements that the existence and resolution of the conflict be documented in the records of the Organization, including in the minutes of any meeting at which the conflict was discussed or voted upon.

④

Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc.

- e. **Audit-Related Disclosure.** Protocols to assure for the disclosure of all real or potential conflicts of interest are properly forwarded to the Audit Committee or Conflicts of Interest Committee, as appropriate, or if there is no such Audit or Conflicts Committee, to the Board of Directors, or another Committee of the Board, as appropriate.



5

Annual Meeting Financials

Fundraising Plan

Account	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Direct Contributions	\$ 70,915	70,500	104,500	129,500
Grants	54,404	40,000	65,000	65,000
Program Sales and Fees	881	1,000	1,000	1,000
Membership Income	21,169	20,500	23,000	23,000
Investments	12,840	7,500	7,500	7,500
Special Events Revenue	126,522	33,700	150,000	200,000
Special Events Expense	(30,000)	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 256,730	173,200	351,000	426,000

Notes:

- ▶ Fiscal year (FY) 2022 runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
- ▶ Fiscal 2022 is an investment year, where we will build the infrastructure to support sustained fundraising and development
- ▶ Our Operations Coordinator, Beatriz Guerrero, will be dedicated to supporting our development efforts
- ▶ Galas will be held every other year, due to the time commitment; this impacts revenue in FY 2022

FY 2021 Forecast

Account	Actuals			Forecast			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY 2021	Budget	I/(D) to Budget
Direct Contributions	\$ 30,953	29,410	17,559	(7,008)	70,915	78,118	(7,204)
Grants	9,750	22,254	14,900	7,500	54,504	19,913	34,492
Program Sales and Fees	203	415	263	-	881	11,175	(10,294)
Membership Income	5,675	4,290	5,911	5,292	21,169	12,914	8,255
Investments	5,563	7,119	158	-	12,840	7,611	5,229
Special Events Revenue	-	2,500	56,591	67,431	126,522	-	126,522
Special Events Expense	-	(2,000)	(11,000)	(17,000)	(30,000)	-	(30,000)
Total Revenue	\$ 52,144	63,988	84,383	56,215	256,730	129,731	126,999
Salaries and Related Expenses	\$ 28,101	34,092	25,595	26,196	114,184	96,000	18,184
Contract Service Expenses	8,414	8,725	950	12,530	30,618	15,600	15,018
Facility Expenses	7,896	7,380	4,800	4,799	24,874	31,294	(6,420)
PMP	3,279	3,279	3,279	3,279	13,117	18,381	(5,264)
Other Expenses	4,546	15,999	5,484	20,099	46,127	32,269	13,859
Total Expenses	\$ 52,236	69,474	40,308	66,902	228,921	193,543	35,377
Net Income	\$ (92)	(5,487)	44,075	(10,687)	27,089	(63,813)	91,622
FY 2020 PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	-	\$ (14,900)	-	(14,900)	-	(14,900)
FY 2020 PPP Loan	-	-	19,250	-	19,250	-	19,250
Total Non-GAAP Adjustments	-	-	\$ 4,350	-	4,350	-	4,350
Adjusted Net Income	\$ (92)	(5,487)	48,425	(10,687)	32,159	(63,813)	95,972

Notes:

- ▶ Fiscal year (FY) 2021 runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- ▶ We forecast to have \$32K in funds this year, a \$96K increase to budget
- ▶ Favorability is due to decision to hold a Gala this year, as well as an increased focus on grants
- ▶ Adjustments made for FY 2020 PPP Loan Forgiveness (no cash impact in FY 2021) and receipt of FY 2021 PPP Loan (cash in 2021, forgiveness expected in FY 2022)

FY 2022 Proposed Budget

Account	FY 2022	FY 2021	I/(D) to Prior Year
Direct Contributions	\$ 70,500	70,915	(415)
Grants	40,000	54,404	(14,404)
Program Sales and Fees	1,000	881	119
Membership Income	20,500	21,169	(669)
Investments	7,500	12,840	(5,340)
Special Events Revenue	33,700	126,522	(92,822)
Special Events Expense	-	(30,000)	30,000
Total Revenue	\$ 173,200	256,731	83,531
Expenses			
Salaries and Related Expenses	\$ 140,856	114,184	26,672
Contract Service Expenses	8,100	30,618	(22,518)
Facility Expenses	31,584	24,874	6,710
PMP	13,000	13,117	(117)
Other Expenses	39,044	46,127	(7,083)
Total Expenses	\$ 232,584	228,920	3,664
Net Income	\$ (59,384)	27,811	(87,195)

Notes:

- ▶ The Board recommends the proposed budget be approved
- ▶ Fiscal 2022 is an investment year, where we will build the infrastructure to support sustained fundraising and development
- ▶ Our Operations Coordinator, Beatriz Guerrero, will be dedicated to supporting our development efforts
- ▶ Gala will not be held in FY 2022; this impacts revenue
- ▶ Investment revenue is an estimate based on average of last three years

Balance Sheet as of March 30, 2021

	Amount
Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 281,992
Security Deposits	3,600
Undeposited Funds	999
Total Assets	\$ 286,591
Liabilities and Equity	
PPP Loan Payable	\$19,250
NYS Sales Tax Payable	19
Total Liabilities	\$ 19,269
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	\$ 231,326
Net Income	35,996
Total Equity	\$ 267,323
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 286,591

Notes:

- ▶ Increase in Total Assets and Total Equity of \$40K from June 30, 2020
- ▶ Decrease in Total Liabilities of \$900 from June 30, 2020

Creating Greater Equity for the People of New York City

The past 16 months have been extraordinarily difficult for many people who live and work in New York City. While many middle to high income earners were able to work from home or leave the city, communities of color and lower income families were most vulnerable during this time. They were essential workers who could not work from home, they experienced unemployment, health care loss, housing and food insecurity, technology instability among other significant challenges. They faced inequities before, but the pandemic exacerbated these circumstances and made NYC's most vulnerable even more so.

As an organization, the League of Women Voters of NYC believes that we need to direct our Local Program to "Creating Greater Equity for the People of NYC." We will achieve this goal by working on individual issues across all standing Committees. Each committee will determine its area of focus, but some of the topics that may be addressed are: Voter Reform may look at the number of poll sites across the five boroughs to ensure equity and encourage greater turnout; Education Committee may concentrate on equal and adequate funding for majority minority NYC public schools or study access to Specialized High Schools; Criminal Justice may focus on unequal policing; Health Equity may research nutrition insecurity and food deserts in underinvested NYC neighborhoods.

Through this Local Program focus LWVNYC will seek to advocate for more equity in all areas for the people of New York City.



7

Concurrence/ Consensus

Concurrence/Consensus process:

The League of Women Voters takes positions and actions on issues affecting our democracy. They publish these positions in Impact on Issues. Local leagues, such as ours, act in accordance with these positions. On occasion, there are issues that could be relevant to a local league, but where the State and National Leagues have not articulated a position. When this happens, the local league can engage in a thorough study of the issue, which can often take a number of years. In other instances, if another League has already studied the issue, we can establish a committee to analyze their work and supporting documentation to see if there is a basis for “concurrence” with the study.

Once the committee completes their review, they would call meetings of the membership for further debate and discussion. Membership would then vote to reach a consensus on whether or not to “concur” with the position.

Proposal:

The NYC League proposes to hold a Concurrence/Consensus on certain noncitizens’ ability to vote in our local NYC elections. A large coalition of immigrant groups in the city have been working closely with the City Council to pass a bill on this matter, and we would like to review the possibility of concurring with the existing LWV of Boulder County position on noncitizens’ rights.

Members will be voting on whether or not to initiate a Concurrence/Consensus process on the following topic:

“We would like to review non-citizen’s voting rights for lawful New York City permanent residents in municipal elections. We would like to establish a committee to review the position held by LWV of Boulder County and

the materials supporting their position, with a goal of determining whether to hold a Concurrence with the LWVNYC membership. This is not a vote to concur with that position, but to begin a review on whether to hold a Concurrence or not.”



2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

**League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc.
Annual Meeting of the Membership (via Zoom)
June 18, 2020**

Annual Meeting Attendance and Voting	
Members needed for a quorum (10% of members - 288)	28
Members attending	54
Proxy votes	10
Total votes	64
Votes needed for majority	33
Votes needed for 2/3 majority	43

Note: Not all members voted in every poll. Votes were calculated based on the polling results received and reported by the Zoom platform. Proxy votes were then added into the total.

I. Meeting overview in Zoom – May Takahashi

The meeting will be conducted using the Webinar version of Zoom.

- ▶ Questions, comments, motions, or seconds are handled via the Q&A button.
- ▶ All votes will be taken using the Polling function.

II. Welcome – Ruth Altman, Co-President

Ruth Altman officially opens the meeting and introduced Crystal Joseph, to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

II. Meeting Business – Crystal Joseph, Vice President

- ▶ We need 28 members for a quorum, and we have 50 members voting plus 10 proxies.
- ▶ Votes will be taken on Bylaws, Nominations, Budget,

and Local Program. All votes, except for Bylaws, need a simple majority to pass. Bylaws requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

- ▶ Our parliamentarian today is Board Director, Shelly Warwick
- ▶ All the votes will be taken using the polling function in Zoom.

(Note: total reported votes may not reflect the total eligible to vote and suggests that some members may not have voted in all polls.)

A. Bylaws – Amy Matthews, Secretary and Diane Burrows, Vice President

When the NY State Attorney General approved the merger of LWVNYC and the Ed Fund, they approved a set of Bylaws for the new successor organization, LWVNYC, Inc. The changes up for a vote are on this set of Bylaws.

The Bylaws Committee and the Board of Directors are recommending a number of housekeeping changes. Details of the proposed changes to the Bylaws are referenced on pages 9 and 10 in the package of information sent on May 18th.

Proposed changes to Bylaws:

- ▶ The Board Chair shall be a member ex officio of all Board Committees except the Nominating Committee. Before the merger, the Board meetings were run by the Co-Presidents. Since the Board Chair is a role newly established in the merger Bylaws, this change simply provides the Board Chair with the same information for running the meetings that were held by the Co-Presidents.

- ▶ Add a 4th VP and remove the VP numbers. Over the past year, the Board and Officers have worked to create a more functional and responsive organization. We believe that there are some specific functions that support the entire organization in the work that we all do. In order to create responsibility and accountability for getting this work done, we redefined the roles of the Vice Presidents. Going forward, our VPs will be responsible for Communications, Membership, Technology, and Development. Our current Bylaws include three Vice Presidents. We are asking for a fourth, to make sure these four functions all have leadership. You might have a question about succession planning. In the past, the VPs were numbered and would theoretically be in line to assume the co-president roles. Two points: in practice, we have not always selected our next presidents using this process. Second, and most importantly, the Nominations Committee is tasked with identifying candidates to fill vacant positions including the President. This will continue.
- ▶ The Co-Presidents shall be ex-officio members of all the programmatic committees. We want to make sure that the Co-Presidents stay involved with the League’s work and mission.
- ▶ The Board’s Budget Committee role has been expanded to include “Finance and Budget”. The Board believes that our finances need more scrutiny and direction than simply preparing a budget each year. The Finance and Budget Committee will select and monitor investment firms, and reports back to the Board on budget vs actual progress throughout the year.
- ▶ Member meeting notices can be sent electronically as well as by mail. We need to be able to reach all members in the many ways that people communicate today.

Please note that changes to the Bylaws require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Motion to adopt the Bylaw Changes as recommended by the Board and described in the package of information provided to members on May 18.

Susie Gomes made the motion.

Laura Quigg has seconded the motion.

Discussion:

- ▶ Why is the Board Chair conducting board meetings? Separation of duties creates accountability. Co-Presidents will still have a great deal of input in creating the agenda.

Vote	
Yeas (with proxies)	57
Nays	1
Abstention	0
Result	Motion passes

B. Nominations — Mary Jenkins, Board Director

The Nominations Committee has proposed and the Board of Directors has approved the slate of officers and directors.

The Slate includes the following nominations for Officers and Board Directors:

Position	Name	Former Board/Officer Position
Co-President	Diane Burrows	2nd VP
Co-President	Lesley Sigall	Board Director
VP Development	Susie Gomes	New
VP Membership	Ashmi Sheth	New
VP Communications	Crystal Joseph	1st VP
VP Technology	Shelly Warwick	Board Director

Position	Name	Former Board/Officer Position
Treasurer	Jessica Weinberg	Treasurer
Secretary	Amy Matthews	Secretary
Board Director	Patricia Manning	Board Director
Board Director	Dorothy Ouzidane	New
Board Director	Laura Quigg	New
Board Director	Kai Rosenthal	New
Board Director	Bella Wang	Board Director

Officers and board members are now elected in alternate years and each serve 2 years. Officers are elected in even numbered years and Board Directors are elected in odd numbered years. This year only, the new officers will serve 2 years (2020 is an even numbered year) and Board Directors will serve one year. When they are up for reelection in 2021, they will be elected for a 2 year term.

Are there any nominations from the floor? If you choose to nominate someone from the floor that person must be a member in good standing and has given their consent to be nominated. There were no nominations from the floor.

Discussion:

- ▶ Are there members of the Board that are continuing? Bella Wang, Patricia Manning.
- ▶ Who is the Board Chair? That position will be filled at the first Board Meeting after the annual meeting, elected by the Board.
- ▶ Is there continuity to preserve the legacy and history of the League? Yes, many officers and board directors are continuing, although some in new roles.

Motion to accept the slate of officers and board directors as recommended?

Marion Novak has made the motion.

Jane Hatterer has seconded the motion.

Vote	
Yeas (with proxies)	57
Nays	1
Abstention	0
Result	Motion passes

Welcome to our new board and officers. And special thanks to our retiring board and officers for all you’ve done: Ruth Altman and Cathy Gray – Co-Presidents, Beth Kelly – Vice President, Jill Byatt – Board Member, Mary Jenkins – Board Member and Education Chair. Jane Hatterer will be the new Education Committee Chair.

C. Budget – Lesley Sigall, Board Director

Financials are presented as a merged entity.

1. FY 2020 Forecast:

- ▶ We are unfavorable to FY 2020 budget by \$75K, primarily as a result of not holding a special event in this fiscal year
- ▶ \$80K unfavorable on income and \$5K favorable on expenses
- ▶ This includes \$14.9K in Paycheck Protection Program funding received in April, which will not recur in FY 2021
- ▶ Since this forecast was prepared, we received \$9.5K in donations on Giving Tuesday, which was offset by a \$15.6K decline in the value of our investments due to

the impact of COVID-19 on the markets

2. FY 2021 Budget

- ▶ We are budgeting a \$64K deficit in FY 2021
- ▶ With the introduction of a new Vice President of Development, we plan to improve our financial stability over time
- ▶ We are budgeting for a \$40K increase in direct contributions
- ▶ This will be partially offset by investments in Technology in order to enable our Development efforts

In the case of the budget, I'd like to open up for questions before we ask for the motion.

Questions:

- ▶ Carol Mehlman - how much money is in reserve? \$230K, Is there a way to lower expenses so that we don't go through the money quickly? We have only 1 ½ staff, and the rent represent the bulk of the expenses. Carol raised concern that this cannot continue.
- ▶ Joanne Pugh - what was the shortfall last year? We actually had a surplus which is getting us through this year.
- ▶ Jane Colvin- can we see a Balance sheet? Can be sent out after the meeting. What is the Technology investment? In Salesforce technology. Why the increase in funds raised? We now have a specific VP for Development to raise funds. Why did salaries increase - we are seeing the annualization impact from the hiring last year. Our fiscal year is July 1 - June 30, hirings at new salaries occurred in Jan/Feb 2019.

Motion to accept the budget as presented?

Judith Berg has made the motion.

Pamela Roderick has seconded the motion.

Vote	
Yeas (with proxies)	56
Nays	1
Abstention	2
Result	Motion passes

D. Local Program — Bella Wang, Board Director

The LWVNYC Board of Directors recommends that our Local Program focus on disaster preparedness and resilience for our election procedures in NYC. This year, COVID-19 disrupted our primary elections, exposing a variety of weaknesses in our current system. We will also work with the State League to advocate for election reforms, especially for vote-by-mail and for expanded absentee ballot access. You can find our recommendations on page 20 of the annual meeting packet.

The proposed Local Program will include procedures that protect the health of both poll workers and voters, while ensuring ballot access for all voters.

Our Local Program will require both research and action. Responses from our members show agreement and support for this urgent need. The membership would like to see the League take action to protect our city's election system, making this a priority for the upcoming year.

According to our By-Laws, any program suggestions needed to be submitted 60 days prior to the annual meeting - so we can not accept new program ideas from

the floor today. If you have any ideas you would like to have addressed, please enter them in the Q&A during the time when we ask for Directions to the Board. If you would like to comment on this program, you can enter those after we have a motion on the floor to accept.

Motion to accept the budget as presented?

Dorothy Ouzidane has made the motion.

Susie Gomes has seconded the motion.

Discussion:

▶ **Sally Robinson:** The State and National League do not support “Vote By Mail”. They see “Vote By Mail” as sending ballots to everyone. In the interest of clarity, we should remove this statement.

▶ *Amend to change to: No Excuse Absentee Voting.*

▶ **Kate Doran:** There is a great deal of confusion between Vote By Mail vs No Excuse Absentee Voting.

▶ **Gladys Krasner:** if we vote down this program, what would be the opportunity to create a local program to focus on NYC? Shelly Warwick (Parliamentarian) - there would be no program this year.

Motion made to accept the local Program as amended, being delete “Vote By Mail” and change to “No Excuse Absentee Voting”.

Carol Mehlman - so moved.

Marion Novak - seconded.

Vote	
Yeas (with proxies)	56
Nays	5
Abstention	3
Result	The motion, as amended, passes

III. Directions to the Board — Jill Byatt

Directions to the Board is the time during the meeting when members have an opportunity to provide guidance to the incoming Board. Please be assured that your comments will be recorded in the Annual Meeting minutes and will be discussed at the first Board meeting of the new fiscal year.

▶ **Gladys Krasner** - In the midst of the pandemic, and a national protest against unjust police violence, you have an obligation to maintain League Principles (re-read LWVUS Impact on Issues) and stand up to National if necessary. I am a proud and active Past President of the City League. Never have I been so offended as a League member as by the action call with directions to “white” members. I call on you this time of National crisis to recognize that unity and not divisiveness will achieve our long-time goal of Equality and Justice.

▶ **Barb Ettinger** - I ask LWVNYC to acknowledge our racist foundations and delve deeper into understanding our white privilege. This can only be achieved by working with our members of color and communities of color to be accountable to the League's commitment to anti-racism. It is not enough in this day and age for the League to “not be racist”, it is a time to act on those principles.”

▶ **Zuha Jamil** - While many at the League might consider calls to action recognizing “privilege” accusatory

or alienating, it is high time we collectively acknowledge that adopting this narrative has, in fact, nothing to do with singling out the individual. Rather, it is a factual representation of a larger interconnected and state-sanctioned system that has been a breeding ground for decades-long racism and bigotry. It also underscores our need to recognize that being able to live without having to be defined by one's skin color is actually a distinguishing characteristic of privilege. And it isn't until we look past this privilege and move beyond the syntax that we can come to realize that the policing system that makes a majority of Americans feel safe their entire life is the same system that is over-policing, and oppressing Black Americans and other minorities. Acknowledging one's privilege is by no means synonymous with an admission of intentionally contributing to the marginalization of another. Rather, it is recognizing that some aspect of one's identity that is beyond one's control puts them in a better position than others and can accelerate their progress in the race of life. It also means that whatever majority group one belongs to has historically contributed to the oppression of another.

However, there is a silver lining. The League, given its powerful history and expansive footprint, is in a unique position to cultivate a shared space for all members where complex narratives and evidence can be drawn together to chart a path forward that is inclusive, yet formidable when it comes to standing up against internal, systemic, and institutionalized racism. I call on the LWVNYC's leadership to integrate these principles organization-wide in all aspects of our present and future programming.

- ▶ Adrienne Kivelson - City League should study the city budget process and make sure that human services are properly prioritized as the city faces a serious

budget crisis resulting from the pandemic.

- ▶ The City League should study the voting situation so that it can accept vote by mail as the more modern method.

IV. Kathy Hochul, NY State Lieutenant Governor

(Ruth Altman introduces the first guest speaker: Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York.)

Kathy Hochul remarks: KH opened her remarks by stressing the strong relationships she has made with the LWV over the years.

Many events were sidelined this year celebrating the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. We need safe ways for people to exercise the right to vote. It is significant that participation is going up. Early Voting started last year. People are endangering their lives to support NY and keep us safe during this pandemic. The state is making progress in managing the reopening, supporting the local businesses. Census - LWVNYC needs to continue to partner with NY to get people to respond to the census. We don't want to lose any more members of Congress. We used to have 43 members, we now have only 27. Elevate voices that have been suppressed for so long. We are living through a time where everything changed. Preserve democracy by protecting the right to vote. League sponsored debates are an important function. Leadership matters. Infection rate is going down but we are not going to be out of the woods before November election. KH will advocate for the same absentee ballot process for the General Election this November as we had for the primary.

V. SPEAKERS — Patricia Manning, Board Director

The League of Women Voters NYC, Inc. welcomes Douglas A. Kellner, Co-Chair of the New York State Board of Elections.

A. Doug Kellner remarks:

- ▶ The League has demonstrated its tremendous value in supporting election reform.
- ▶ In 2016, 115,000 absentee ballots in presidential primary. Today, 700,000 applications have already been received for the primary. Up 20 times in Manhattan from last election.
- ▶ All ballots should be mailed this week.
- ▶ Challenges with the postal service in getting the ballots out and back.
- ▶ Recommendations to leave Early Voting and Election Day voting in a manner consistent with social distancing.
- ▶ The Early Voting last November was good practice for this election.
- ▶ Rate of utilization of Early Voting this year is way below last year's November election. Doug's message - Early Voting is a good option if you don't get your absentee ballot. Concerned about a surge of voters on Tuesday. need to avoid lines. Early voting sites are underutilized - few lines, and the sites are set up well for social distancing.
- ▶ NY Absentee rules need a big overhaul. Absentee ballots counted a week after the election. Then it may

take several weeks to announce returns from NYC. Doug has asked the Board to reconsider and improve the space to review the absentee ballot canvas. This could be an area to change the law.

- ▶ If you apply for an absentee ballot because you think you will be away from NYC but you are in the jurisdiction, you are supposed to vote in person. Then - poll books need to be checked before you count the absentee ballot. This is why we count absentee ballots one week after the election. Other states do it differently - if you vote absentee, you cannot vote on election day. This allows them to start counting earlier.
- ▶ I am in favor of the emergency procedures now, but I prefer in-person voting.

We now welcome Jarret Berg, a New York attorney and Co-Founder of VoteEarlyNY.

B. Jarret Berg remarks:

- ▶ Voting rights - we find ourselves at a crossroads.
- ▶ Much progress in NY the last 18 months on voting and elections but more is needed.
- ▶ We have our work cut out for us!
- ▶ We know that many of the voter issues are systemic - there are thousands of lost votes each cycle - we need to reimagine our election system - LWV uniquely positioned to move this forward. Education, advocacy, public minded service.

Questions:

- ▶ BOE instructions for absentee ballots seemed incor-

rect - signage and using pencil as well as pen. Pencil is acceptable.

- ▶ Are there enough poll workers, and places to drop off absentee ballots? You can drop an absentee ballot at a poll site - even on election day. Does not have to be your own poll site or BOE office.
- ▶ Are we set for absentee balloting in November - will look at the primary first, then decide. Sept 12 is deadline for military and overseas ballots. Decisions must be made by Mid-July.
- ▶ Why are you against vote by mail? The post office becomes our partner in election administration. My view - security issues. We don't have in place a system to address the security threats. At every step in the process, there is room for negligence and nefarious dealings.
- ▶ What amount of lead time/resources does the BOE expect to need to do a good job with the level of turnout needed for the November election, if we end up replicating the mass absentee mailing method used for the June primary?
- ▶ We don't have the infrastructure in place for vote by mail - it takes time. Policy question and implementation question in the heaviest year of the cycle.

VI. Remarks from Outgoing Co-Presidents

A. Ruth S. Altman - Co-President

I served as co-president for 3 and ½ years.

I brought to the job my desire to expand our outreach in every borough - which we did... . And Cathy brought her desire to raise our visibility - which she didby attend-

ing just about every single event in the city to represent the League. We both helped increase our volunteers and partners, and we worked with an amazing board to develop strategies for our future.

One of my fond memories of this past year was working with the Staten Island Yankees to feature voter registration at their games. As a huge baseball fan - but for the Mets of course - this was a pure joy. I also loved the League getting calls from the New York Philharmonic and from the show Hamilton on Broadway asking us to join them in celebrating Women's History and register voters.... we had just started working with Hamilton when New York City went on pause. It was phone calls like these that we knew we were making noise in the city. And we like to make noise. I have always enjoyed hearing us shout "Vote Louder" - and hope we keep shouting that for years to come.

The League has accomplished a lot during our time as your Co-presidents.

- ▶ The League was instrumental with the changes in the voting laws of 2019
- ▶ We led the charge for Ranked Choice Voting in New York City.
- ▶ We started new committees: Voting Reform Initiatives, the Census, and Women's rights. The most recent committee is Criminal Justice Reform - which has recently sent out an action alert about police violence with advice on how we can advocate now for change in our systems.
- ▶ We reactivated the Newsletter, creating a quarterly document that we can all be proud of

- ▶ We expanded our training to get more communities and volunteers ready for the next election.
- ▶ We hosted open houses at our office, people's apartments and pubs to introduce the League to new groups and encourage membership
- ▶ And we adapted to what the pandemic brought to our city and to our lives.

I am retiring from this position, but not from the great and purposeful work that the League does every day.

B. Catherine Gray - Co-President

We are certainly living in interesting times. But it gives me hope to see the League and young women rising to meet these challenges.

When the pandemic hit, it was thanks to our staff: Operations Manager May Takahashi and Administrative Assistant, Natalie Silverman, who helped us quickly close the office and make the adjustment to virtual meetings. They provided us with training and know-how.

With the many voices of the unheard, now being heard in our streets, the League must strengthen our commitment to diversity. All voices must be heard and we must make changes happen now.

The League has always reinforced "Why Voting is so Important," and today we are being joined by politicians, celebrities in song and film, other good government groups and young activists. The phrase we used on the first Women's March in 2017 was "Voter Louder", it rings even louder today.

There were so many highlights for me during my five years as your Co-President.

- ▶ We stabilized financial survival beyond two years
- ▶ We increased the League's visibility and created new partners
- ▶ We merged our 501 c 3 and c 4 into one entity that will streamline our financial reporting and save us some monies.
- ▶ We held a Gala to celebrate our 100 year history, with a beautiful Journal of the League's past and future, as well as a video and picture galleries to share for years to come.
- ▶ We updated our technology and knowledge thanks to our Board member gifts and skills.
- ▶ We organized the last twenty years of League documents to join the rest of our archives dating back to the American Suffrage Association movement that are housed at Columbia University,

On behalf of Ruth and myself, it has been an honor to serve as your Co-presidents. We could not have done it without all of you, our membership and volunteers. The League attracts thoughtful, insightful, dynamic and energetic members. Each one of you brings your special talents. And we all share a desire to help make our democracy work for everyone. Our strength depends on you to continue to be involved in League activities, and our future depends on you considering other ways where you could become even more involved.

We now hand over the virtual gavel to our new Co-Presidents, Diane Burrows and Lesley Sigall.

VII. Incoming Co-Presidents Remarks

A. *Diane Burrows - Co-President*

Lesley and I are very honored and proud to be your new Co-Presidents. We look forward to working with our members and volunteers as we continue to build the League's legacy into the future. But we couldn't do this without the very solid foundation built by Ruth and Cathy.

Thank you both for all you've done for the League during your tenure as Co-Presidents and before as board members and volunteers. Your passion for the League is highly motivating. You've set a high bar. You've both encouraged our participation and that of many others. You gave us leadership opportunities. Our very successful Centennial celebration occurred under your leadership, the fruits of which are helping us survive during this difficult time.

Cathy – your sense of history and continuity from the League's past to the present keeps us grounded in the legacy of the League. Your knowledge of the archives has proven invaluable in getting out our message. We are so pleased that you will continue as League Archivist.

Ruth – the outreach you've done to cultural institutions, such as the New York Philharmonic and the Staten Island Yankees, has helped expand our visibility and gives us new partners to work with going forward. We are so excited that you have accepted the role of Cultural Coordinator to ensure that this work continues.

B. *Lesley Sigall - Co-President*

Thanks to Ruth and Cathy, we are well positioned to continue the League's legacy, overcome the challenges we face, and expand on the opportunities we have. Our

mission must ensure a commitment to anti-racism, so that everyone in NYC, regardless of color, economic standing, gender, or ethnicity, sexual orientation has their voice heard and their dignity upheld. We will be observing Juneteenth, giving our office staff a day off for remembrance and recognizing the importance of this day. This pandemic and the budget crisis in New York City reminds us how vigilant we must remain so that voting rights and accessibility are protected, especially for underserved communities who are disproportionately struggling right now. We are ready to step up and accept the challenges of this important election year and Census2020.

Even in the midst of these challenges, we have opportunities. We are committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and are taking positive steps to expand the diversity of our membership and ensure all voices are equally heard within the League. Using our digital tools, we will work to diversify our membership, volunteer base and partnerships, expanding into more communities across New York City. Even when we are finally able to meet in-person again, we can continue to use these tools to make it easier for people across the city to participate in our events. Our newly adopted leadership structure will allow us to focus on building out membership, communications, technology, and the financial security we need to move our mission forward.

This is a great time to be involved with the League! Thank you again, Ruth and Cathy, for all you did to bring us to this point. We have big shoes to fill.

Suzanne Stassevich, President of LWVNY prepared a statement to LWVNYC:

"I would like to congratulate the new Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the LWV of New York City and

thank them for taking on these leadership roles. You have taken on the challenges of leading this organization through an election year in the midst of a pandemic and as part of the seismic shifts in our City and our country to address systemic racism. As President of The League of Women Voters of New York state I look forward to a robust collaboration with LWV New York City to move forward with our action plans for a more Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive League of Women Voters organization and to fulfill our mission, together, to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy for everyone.”
Suzanne Stassevich, President LWVNY

Thanks, Suzanne! We're looking forward to a robust collaboration with State too!

Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Jessica Weinberg made the motion.

I hereby adjourn the 2020 annual meeting of members!

Submitted by:

Amy Matthews

Board Secretary LWVNYC



CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Main objectives for committee

- ▶ To conduct census outreach throughout the city until the end of Census2020, which was a moving target but ultimately ended up being 9/30. With Covid, so many neighborhoods that were not expected to be “hard-to-count” ended up with very low self-response rates.
- ▶ To educate ourselves about how redistricting works in NY State, learn how to formulate communities of interest, and develop tools and begin outreach throughout NYC, involving our members and our partners. We plan to submit written and oral testimony as opportunities arise.

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

- ▶ Developed, printed and distributed over 2000 Census2020 palm cards, especially and extensively in The Bronx and Queens, but also at VR drives throughout the city, and through the NCJW food distribution in upper Manhattan.
- ▶ Identified that people who left NYC temporary were undercounted in the city, and took the initiative to develop an educational program including a Guide and webinar, sent to several elected officials and attracted the attention of the Manhattan BP, resulting in an >\$10K grant for a postcard and social media campaign to tens of thousands of “absent” residents. The Bronx BP joined in as well.

- ▶ Worked on education campaign for our members and partners on redistricting, including a Redistricting 101 webinar series.
- ▶ (prospective). Helped solicit and prepare testimony

COMMITTEE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Main objectives for committee

Right now our committee is focused on restructuring.

- ▶ Due to the fact that the committee is in the process of restructuring we plan to continue to build our membership
- ▶ Increase our presence on social media platforms.
- ▶ Collaborate with community-based organizations and those directly impacted by the criminal justice system to advocate and lobby for legislation and policies that focuses on criminal justice reform.
- ▶ Meet with city council members to discuss the League’s positions on criminal justice reform bills we are currently advocating for.

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

- ▶ Right now the committee is restructuring so as of now we are working on improving our membership

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**Main objectives for committee**

- ▶ Promote civic education in practice, policy and informational outreach
- ▶ Support youth civic action as adult allies and advisors to NYYCI, and help in its evolution, expansion and exposure through direct mentorship, participation in its events, promoting its work through third party networks, providing connections and resources, and identifying and helping to secure strategic partners
- ▶ Support the understanding of civic education in all of its dimensions and policies that promote it as active members of the DemocracyReadyNY coalition who participate in working subcommittees and promote its events/work
- ▶ Advocate for equity and access in education with respect to adequate financing and bridging the digital divide
- ▶ Create more comprehensive voter education materials for adult and high school audiences
- ▶ Continue to educate ourselves on a broad range of educational issues with an equity and access lense, including but not limited to those that relate to finance, the digital divide, mental health, “school safety” and professional development

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

- ▶ Served as adult allies and strategic partner to NYYCI, helping in its development in one year into a multi-media platform with over 65 youth led advocacy organizations, 100 plus opportunities for civic engagement, articles, podcasts, speaker series and issue based resources that reflect the work of the youth activists in the network. Worked as mentors to the movement correspondents, and helped with event planning, including “Finding Your Civic Voice” and “Teens for Vaccines” outreach to networks of established advocacy organizations including DemocracyReadyNY, Children’s Citizen Committee, NYPL, NYC DOE Civics For All Program Director, New York Social Studies Supervisory Association, and independent schools, such as Brearly, Dalton, Chapin and Calhoun.
- ▶ Worked with the State League to expand in different parts of the state, including Albany, Syracuse and Westchester. Participated in multiple training webinars and presentations, including SUNY Maritime and the NYC Queens and Manhattan High School Councils. Participated in ongoing programmatic partnerships with city agencies including, NYC DOE, Civics For All and Division of Community Empowerment, Partnerships and Communications, and NYC Department of Youth and Community Development.
- ▶ Participated in DemocracyReadyNY coalition as active committee members. Contributor to the Media Literacy Committee Report “Developing Digital Citizens” that informed Linda Rosenthal’s Media Literacy bills. The report was widely disseminated and very favorably received amongst key stakeholders. Contributed to “Mending the Fabric of Democracy” 4 part

month long webinar series as members of two planning committees, one on conducting difficult conversations in the classroom and the other on youth civic action. One of NYCYCI's movement correspondents was a panelist in the session on Youth Civic Action.

- ▶ Produced a comprehensive presentation on voting for the speaker's bureau and high school audiences.
- ▶ Participated with Voting Reform Initiative in lobbying Liz Krueger and Rebecca Seawright for full Foundation Aid funding and passage of Ben Kallos' bill ensuring adequate and equitable access for all NYC students to broadband, devices and culturally appropriate curriculum.
- ▶ Educated ourselves on issues relating to education equity, including finance, and access to broadband, devices and professional development, through continuous research and a couple of guest speakers.

GENDER JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Main objectives for committee

- ▶ Focus for 2020/2021 year was to expand beyond Domestic Violence to include all Genders and not just Women, Gender-Based Health (ie: Maternal Mortality, Pro-Choice, etc) and Economic Equity (Equality of Opportunity).
- ▶ Cultivate external relationships (ie: Council Members, community organizations, other League of Women Voters Chapters, etc) and committee membership.

- ▶ Attend events/meetings of external organizations and City Council Hearings, to educate ourselves, determine which specific aspect of issue(s) to pursue.
- ▶ Educate the public on issues relating to gender-based democracy

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

- ▶ The Committee has two new Co-Chairs: Vivian B. Goldblatt (January) and Cynthia Polk-Allen (March).
- ▶ In November, we changed our name and expanded our focus to all genders.
- ▶ We supported Bill 2064 Gender & Racial Equity Advisory Board in Hospitals through research & study; sought & received Board approval to support it; created a social media post; participated in CM Rosenthal's press conference; and quoted in a newspaper.
- ▶ Now studying bills 2131-2020; 2179 -2020; and 1208-2018 relating to Domestic/Gender Based Violence, Maternal Mortality and Pay Equity, respectively. Advocating with sister organization Zonta to pass legislature to end child-aged marriage in the State of New York, and other initiatives.
- ▶ Attended external events/meetings on issues such as Pay/Economic Equity, Domestic/Gender Based Violence, Health Care/Maternal Mortality etc., worked to educate ourselves on the same. Attended City Council Hearing. Requested and received approval for the New York City League to host the movie documentary The Powerbroker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights with a Q&A after with Dr. Marcia Cantarella

(Whitney Young's daughter).

- ▶ **Relationships:** Strengthened with a CM; began cultivating with several organizations, met with LWVNYS. Developed several Committee Management tools (ie: New Member Survey, Project Plan Template, Media for League Template, Spreadsheet Scheduler for Committee Members to Meet with Council Members) and shared these with the New York City League, and three of these with the Suffolk County, Long Island, New York League, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina League and Bergen County, New Jersey League. Leader of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina League attended our Committee Monthly Meeting for introductions and collaboration purposes. Collaborating with Suffolk County, Long Island, New York League, Charlotte, North Carolina League and Bergen County, New Jersey League to accomplish more together.
- ▶ Collaborating with Dr. Marcia Cantarella regarding gender justice-related education.
- ▶ **Membership starting in Fall 2020:** New & Potential Members receive invitation to private zoom, in 2021 started Committee Team Building Activities. Trained Committee Members on procedures and processes to meet with Council Members for advocacy and lobbying purposes on behalf of the League.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Main objectives for committee

- ▶ Develop monthly speaker programs for the League & the community on political/social issues impacting New Yorkers.
- ▶ Expand our audience and introduce new topics, by developing joint programs with sister Leagues and other civic organizations.

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

Began presenting Zoom programs during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Offered monthly programs on current political issues including:

- ▶ The Repercussions of a Conservative Supreme Court
- ▶ The Effects of COVID on NYC
- ▶ The NYC 2021-22 Budget Explained
- ▶ Trump vs. Biden Policies on the Environment

Collaborated with the Rochester NY League to develop a joint program.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Main objectives for committee

This past year, the Voter Services Committee focused on two main areas:

- ▶ Voter registration training to get people registered and engaged. We needed to train both existing volunteers, to get them up to speed on changing election laws and practices affecting voting, and new volunteers, so that we could reach communities throughout the city in outdoor, socially distanced VR drives and GOTV campaigns.
- ▶ Voter education. We needed to teach the people of NYC about the new laws and how they could vote in 2020 and 2021 and get them comfortable, so we sought to do through speaking engagements, webinars, and written materials, informing New Yorkers about the intricacies of voting during the ensuing and enduring Covid-19 pandemic. The committee chairs focused efforts on getting the word out in multiple ways to keep the population of NYC informed with the most up to date information available.

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

We began FY2021 by holding our monthly meetings on zoom, which were really well attended with 25-35 people typically. People were really engaged. We launched zoom training events beginning in July, but by Sep., we realized that many people who attended these events also wanted to learn about voting for themselves, so we began a Voting in 2020 Speaker series. From July to October, we held 96 safe outdoor VR events, reaching 9,500 people. Many interactions involved election and voting questions, not just VR. During the same months, we also held 24 training sessions on voter registration successfully training 500 people as well as 39 virtual speaking engagements to partner and outside organizations on various election related topics, reaching 1100 people. We also ran our first ever GOTV social media campaign in 4 languages: English, Spanish, Bengali & Mandarin. In total, we reached 43,565 ppl w/a click through rate of just over 10%. We also had a 6,500 piece postcard campaign to low turnout districts.

Beginning Jan, 2021 we have turned our focus to educating the public on RCV doing ever greater # of trainings & talks on the topic. We continue speaking on other topics as well & are have executed a 1200 card postcard campaign to special election district in the Bronx.

VOTING REFORM INITIATIVE

Main objectives for committee

- ▶ Our committee advocates for electoral reform, in order to fight voter suppression and make voting easier for all.
- ▶ Each year we aim to advocate for the League's platform of voting issues with legislators and other key decision makers, developing new positions for proposal to the Board of Directors when appropriate. This year, as many of our past priorities have become law in recent years, we have begun studies to determine future directions for advocacy.

Summary of fiscal year 2021 accomplishments and activities

- ▶ Conducted spring 2021 lobbying meetings with state legislators on issues including funding for voting, absentee voting best practices, same-day voter registration, and restoration of voting rights for people on parole.
- ▶ Began research studies on NYC Board of Elections practices with regard to contracting and vendors, and on RCV education
- ▶ Developed position on non-citizen voting in local elections and spearheaded joining the Our City, Our Vote coalition.