

**League of Women  
Voters of the City  
of New York**  
2024 Annual Meeting  
of the Members

**June 13,  
2024**

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# 1

## Letter From the Co-Presidents

As we complete our term as Co-Presidents, we reflect on the past two years with tremendous gratitude and pride. We want to thank you, the LWVNYC Members, for your kindness, candor and generosity in helping us assume, adjust and thrive in these positions. We have worked extensively to update and refine our internal systems, offer members unique League experiences, expand our volunteer outreach and opportunities, explore and secure new funding sources, support the League's important Committee work and share our accomplishments and achievements with our community and network.

Any journey has its obstacles, but it's with your dedication, effort and enthusiasm that we are able to work through these challenges. If you choose to support us for a second term, we look to continue many of the projects we have begun. We will continue to seek and partner with organizations in communities that are underserved and underrepresented, advocate for change that improves the lives of New Yorkers and empower all New Yorkers to engage civically to help inform the strength of their voice and vote. It is with your commitment that we are able to be successful. We may be Co-Presidents, but you are the League!

**Deb Brodheim and Kai Rosenthal**  
Co-Presidents



# 2

## 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

### League of Women Voters of the City of New York Annual Meeting of Members 2023 June 12, 2023

#### Meeting Commenced at 6:02 PM

##### I. Intro

1. Overview of agenda and how to use the system, including how to vote using the poll function.
2. 25 members for a quorum, we have 46 members voting including 11 proxy votes.

##### II. Vote to accept and approve last year's minutes

1. (sent pre-meeting via email).

**Vote: Yes-38, No-0, Abstentions-2**

##### III. Nominations

1. Proposing slate of nomination VP Development Laurie Pauker
2. Board of Directors — Barbara Ettington, Karol Robinson, Karen Wharton, Patricia Manning, Catherine Gray)

#### Motion to accept the board of directors and VP of development- Motion

**Vote: Yes-46, No-0, Abstentions-1**

##### IV. Bylaws committee

1. Existing bylaws were reviewed by the committee

2. Change was proposed in Section 3, - 'Adoption of Local Program' Paragraph A,  
  
A) This change would simplify the language about how members can make recommendations

**Motion to vote,  
Vote passed and changes are adopted.  
Yes-45, No-0, Abstentions-3**

##### V. Budget

1. We are on track to show net income of \$53k
2. This is a \$47k increase to the FY23 budget
3. Next year's budget—we broke out income and expense categories to improve transparency
4. Fiscal 2024 does not include a major gala or fundraiser but does project increased fundraising support for other activities.
5. We are committed to diversifying funding sources
6. We are working with contractors while we determine full time needs

**Board recommends that the proposed budget is approved.**

7. Questions:
  - ▶ Q. Kathy Collins - What does PMP stand for?
    - ▶ A. This is the per member payment . We make payments to the national and state chapters per member. Members of the NYC chapter



are also members of state and national chapters. We broke out PMP this year instead of including it in 'expenses' like past years. We anticipate that 2024 we will have more members since during presidential election years we get more members.

▶ Q. Kathy- how much does state and national get?

- ▶ A. Two thirds of membership dues are paid to the State and National Leagues. The State does a lot of studying and advocacy at state level, and same at national level, and also for national election laws. We also get some funding from the National League and state chapter periodically. We rely on other sources of revenue, not memberships for our operating budget.

▶ Q. Mary Jenkins- Is a contract staff more expensive?

- ▶ A. Yes, but it will help us maximize their usage and have specialists for specific purposes. For example, we worked with a website development team on the new website design and launch this past year.

▶ Q. Gladys Krasner- If the opportunity to move offices came up, do we need a moving fund or do we have that in the budget now, can we cover that expense with our current budget?

- ▶ A. If we moved to a more expensive place, we would need to have a board vote. We do not anticipate moving currently, and this is not included in the budget.

▶ Q. Kate Doran- Where is the rent reflected in the expenses?

- ▶ A. In facility expenses - \$36k was budgeted. \$20k is actually what we expected to spend. Last year we were thinking about some flex/ additional space or moving to a different location but we didn't end up needing that.

**Motion to approve fiscal budget for 2024.**

**Budget was already approved by the board so we do not need a second.**

**Motion passes.**

**Vote: Yes-44, No-1, Abstentions-0**

**VI. Local Program**

1. Membership must select a local program for an upcoming year per bylaws.
2. The committee recommends the local program be to study the issue of aligning NYC elections with state and federal elections. Members submitted proposals for local programs and offered ideas at a local program open forum)

**Motion to accept the local program as proposed**

3. Questions:

- ▶ Q. Mary Jenkins- Does this mean that NYC elections would happen during the same time as federal and state?

- ▶ A. Yes

- ▶ Q. Mary Jenkins: Will people pay attention to the local elections if there is a national one? I'm not

sure if they will.

- ▶ A. This will need to be an aspect of the study should it be adopted
- ▶ Q. Mary Jenkins: Are you proposing that we study the issue or move forward with supporting it?
  - ▶ A. This will be a study, and we will do our own research and consult with experts, good government groups, academics and other Leagues that might have positions.
- ▶ Q. Helen Meltzer Krim- Would it require a change to the NY State constitution?
  - ▶ A. Yes
- ▶ Q. Other attendee- Besides higher voter turnout, what are the benefits?
  - ▶ A. All the positions being voted on locally are very important . A broader electorate base and more voters may participate, but we need to do the study to determine whether the League should take a position.
- ▶ C. Comment: Kathy Collins- This will benefit people with disabilities.
- ▶ Q. Other attendee- It sounds like a conclusion has been reached already, is this the case?
  - ▶ A. No, we are spending the upcoming term researching this and benchmarking other places where the local elections have been aligned. It is a study, there are many different organizations, such as Common Cause and

Campaign Finance Board with whom we will consult.

- ▶ C. Comment: Helen Meltzer Krim- It would save a ton of money.
- ▶ C. Other attendee- I want to remind people that pros and cons are part of the study.
- ▶ Q. Bella Wang- Would this go to a vote if the study finds that this is a good idea?
  - ▶ A. Yes
- ▶ Q. Gladys Krasner- Karol, on procedure, we have a City Affairs committee now. Is that the appropriate group?
  - ▶ A. The Board will determine the appropriate committee if the vote passes.

**Motion to vote to accept local program as proposed. Vote passes.**

**Vote: Yes-46, No-1, Abstentions-0**

## VII. Guest Speaker

Liz Holtzman: Former four-term NY Congressperson, 1st woman District Attorney of NYC, and only female Comptroller.

Talked about the war against women that is being waged today in the US.

## VIII. Directions to the Board

1. Ruth Altman- Suggestion: volunteer recruitment-how can we increase our volunteer pool? We have

a major election next year and need volunteers. Also volunteership leads to members. Her solution is to go into the local communities, don't expect volunteers to come to us; we need to go to them.

2. Adrienne Kivelson- The voting alignment study: This study seems like something we are going into with a predetermined notion. We need to benchmark to see the implications. It really needs to be a study and not something we do because NY organizations think it's a good idea. We should leverage our network of national league chapters to study and benchmark this.

You can send directions to the board after the meeting as well.

## IX. Wrap Up

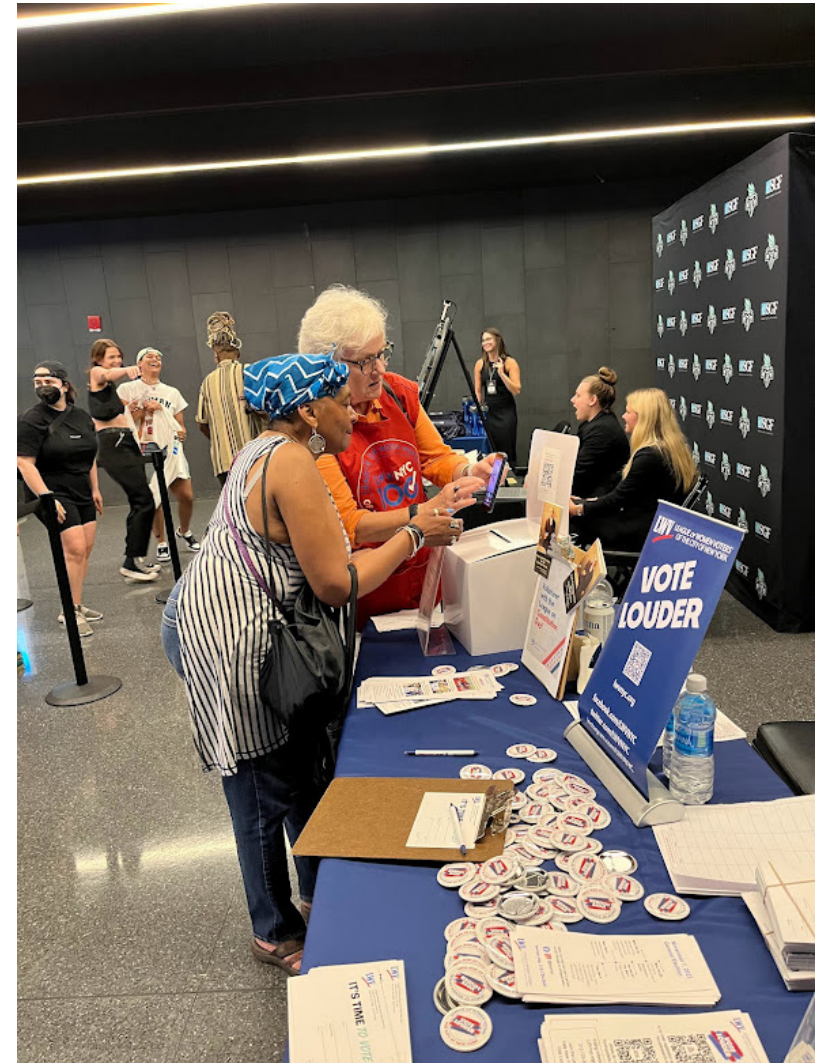
1. Some of our many accomplishments in 2022:
  - A. 6k US Constitutions were distributed in low voter turnout districts during Constitution Day
  - A. Official partner in Mayor's Citywide Participatory Budgeting Program
  - A. Partnered with Bronx Net TV in voting PSA TV spots
  - A. Contributed to Columbia University white papers on civics

**There are so many ways for members to help and get involved. Visit our website for more ways to be involved and to see everything we do and have accomplished.**

**Democracy is and never will be a spectator sport. Thank you.**

**Motion to adjourn**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm**



The Nominating Committee proposes a slate of eight Officers to be elected for a two year term in even numbered years as stated in the Bylaws.

### **PROPOSED SLATE**

#### **Nominated for re-election for additional terms as Officers:**

- ▶ Co-President: **Deborah Brodheim**
- ▶ Co-President: **Kai Rosenthal**
- ▶ VP Development: **Laurie Pauker**
- ▶ VP Technology: **Caroline Smith**
- ▶ Treasurer: **Laura Quigg**

#### **Nomination for election as Officers:**

- ▶ VP Membership: **Danielle Mowery**
- ▶ VP Communications: **Stacey Lesser**
- ▶ Secretary: **Amy Matthews**

Respectfully submitted by the Nominations Committee,

Diane Burrows  
Laura Quigg  
Diane Drew

#### **Deborah Brodheim, Co-President**

Deborah has served as Co-President since 2022 together with Kai Rosenthal and has been a volunteer with the League since 2020 and Board member since 2021, supporting corporate and foundation fundraising events and efforts, as well as the updating of the League's publications. 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 full-time in 2017 as the Regional Director of Development for the educational non-profit Playworks, supporting its mission to improve the health and well-being of children by creating opportunities for safe, meaningful play. Deborah began her career at JP Morgan after graduating from Harvard College with an A.B. in East Asian Studies.

#### **Kai Rosenthal, Co-President**

Kai has served as Co-President since 2022 and worked with her Co-President, Deb Brodheim, to pursue new funding sources, structure volunteer opportunities and member events, provide support for the League Issue Committees and champion the League's accomplishments and expertise with groups such as partners, supporters and city leaders. Prior to being elected as Co-President, Kai was a Board Director for four years and served as Board Chair. She has been an active member of LWVNYC since 2017 serving on the Development, Education and Voting Reform Committees. In 2021, she led the Healthcare Consensus Committee that reviewed the updated State positions and managed the consensus process. Previously, Kai has worked on several key projects including the NYC Youth Civics Initiative (now the YCI), Constitution Day influencer outreach among others. She has more than 25 years of experience in marketing communications leading teams to develop successful campaigns that feature creative storytelling and messaging, social, digital and traditional media plans and 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.





**Laurie Pauker, VP Development**

Laurie joined the League of Women Voters of the City of New York in February 2022 and began working with the Development committee shortly thereafter.



Previously, Laurie was the principal of Laurie & Sons, an award-winning chocolate and confectionery company in East Harlem. Laurie & Sons sold a variety of chocolates, toffees and bonbons wholesale to retailers like Whole Foods, Bloomingdale's, Amazon, Columbia University as well as food service and catering companies. Laurie & Sons sold direct to consumers through the company's online website. Laurie's days required a balance between financial planning, marketing, sales, customer service and managing staff, in addition to the hands-on work of manufacturing, facilities management and the logistics to run a small business in a competitive market.

Laurie's three sons all worked holidays in the company's management training program, ensuring that none of them followed their mother into a perishable food business. She closed the business during the pandemic.

Laurie is a marketing expert with a long career in product development. She was previously a senior executive at Lowe Direct and Lowe & Partners, where she advised key clients on developing and marketing new products for both consumer and business-to-business markets. Accounts for which she had primary responsibility included Black & Decker, Xerox and AT&T. She began her career as a product developer in the consumer group at Chase Manhattan Bank, where she was responsible as a Product Manager for all aspects of development for numerous consumer credit products. Laurie has also conducted independent marketing consulting engagements for clients in a variety of industries.

A graduate of Hampshire College, Laurie has an MBA in Marketing from the Columbia University Graduate

School of Business.

Laurie and her husband, David, live on the Upper West Side. She loves art, food, travel and fishing.

**Caroline Smith, VP Technology**

Caroline has served as the VP of Technology for the past three years working on upgrading the League's website and back office infrastructure. A graduate of Georgetown University, Caroline Smith works in Communications in the technology industry in New York. She previously was a board member for Democracy Works' TurboVote Challenge, an initiative that encouraged technology companies to support and enable improvements to the voting experience. A native Californian, she lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Laura Quigg, Treasurer**

Laura is a LWVNYC Board Member, as well as the Co-Chair of the League's DEI Committee, and is active in numerous other committees as well. She also chairs the 2023-24 LWVNYC Budget Committee. Laura was an Assistant Professor of Finance at University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign, but left the Midwest to move to NYC, where she worked in fixed income research at Lehman Brothers and JP Morgan, then as a portfolio manager at Sanford Bernstein, where she later became a Partner until she left the industry. She earned a Ph.D. in Finance from U.C. Berkeley and advanced degrees in economics and finance from Georgetown and Columbia. She volunteers with God's Love We Deliver and numerous other organizations. She has lived in NYC for 30 years with her husband and two daughters.



**Danielle Mowery, VP Membership**

Danielle has been a volunteer with the League since 2022 with the Development Committee. She has led the League’s partnership with the Civic Engagement Commission for Citywide Participatory Budgeting in 2022 and 2023 and joined the Board in 2023. An active volunteer and member of her local Community Board, Danielle is a Communications and Government Relations specialist with experience in nonprofits, development, media, and communications. Her advocacy work has focused on housing issues, learning disabilities and civic engagement.



**Stacy Lesser, VP Communications**

Stacey joined the LWVNYC in 2022, and has been an active member of the Development Committee as well as taking on responsibility for the League newsletter. Her engagement with the League followed her retirement from a career in Advertising where she served as Chief Strategic Officer at a number of large NYC agencies. She is a native New Yorker and a long time resident of Tribeca. She has a long history of involvement in political issues and is bringing that experience and passion to bear in her new role.



**Amy Matthews, Secretary**

Amy has served as LWVNYC’s Board Secretary since 2017 and took a hiatus to serve as VP Membership from June 2022 to April 2024. She also serves on the Budget and Finance Committee and has also chaired the Telephone Information Service. She has participated in voter registration drives and trainings. Amy has also participated in strategic planning and other organizational functions for the League. Amy was a Managing Director at Risk Management Solutions, a catastrophe modeling firm focusing on the insurance and reinsurance sectors. She managed the US Client Services team. Amy graduated from Brown University and received an MBA at the University of Rochester Simon School of Business.



Respectfully submitted by the Bylaws Committee:  
Margo Hirsch  
Amy Matthews  
Kai Rosenthal

The Bylaws Committee is proposing a number of changes to the LWVNYC Bylaws. Some of these modifications address the change in membership structure that LWVUS will be implementing starting in January/February 2025. Membership in the League currently is a “bottom-up” process. Members join at the local league level and pay their dues to the local chapter. The local league then sends payments to the State and National Leagues based on the number of members. Starting in 2025, the process will change to a “top-down” approach: all members will join/renew at the National level. When you join or renew on the LWVNYC website, it may not appear to be different to our members, but the link will actually go into the National membership system, not our local one. As a result, we need to include changes into our Bylaws to reflect the new process.

In addition to the membership changes, the committee proposed a number of other changes to simplify and clarify the intent of our Bylaws.

The Bylaws Committee recommends the following changes:

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 2: Types of Membership**

Must amend due to new National Membership changes that will conflict with existing local Bylaws.

#### ***Current wording:***

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.
  - b) *Associate Members.* All others who join the LWVNYC shall be Associate Members. Associate Members are not voting members.
  - c) *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.

#### ***Proposed wording:***

**A. *Voting Members.*** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; (4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full



or part time with an accredited institution.

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

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

### Section 6: The Treasurer

Specify financial statements to present to the Board.

#### **Current wording:**

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.

#### **Proposed wording:**

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, **at a minimum, a statement of financial activities and a statement of financial position 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

Don't require a Chairperson of the Board.

#### **Current wording:**

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.

#### **Proposed wording:**

b) At the first meeting of the Board after the Annual Meeting, the Board **shall may** 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. **If no Board Chair is elected, the President shall serve as Chair of the Board.**

### Section 6: Meetings

Update communication methods.

#### **Current wording:**

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.



**Proposed wording:**

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, or by mail, or fax sent at least five (5) business days prior to such meeting. The Board Chair shall preside at the Board meetings.

**ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION****Section 2: Dues**

Must amend due to new National Membership changes that will conflict with existing local Bylaws.

**Current wording:**

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.

**Proposed wording:**

~~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. Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy.~~

**ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS****Section 1: Notice**

Update communication methods.

**Current wording:**

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.

**Proposed wording:**

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, or by mail, or fax.

**Section 4: Quorum**

Update communication methods.

**Current wording:**

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.

**Proposed wording:**

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, or 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**

Update communication methods.

**Current wording:**

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.

**Proposed wording:**

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 X: PROGRAM**

**Section 5: Local League Action**

Ensure compliance with the National League as well as the State League.

**Current wording:**

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

**Proposed wording:**

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



## 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 at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; (4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

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

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## **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

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### **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 or until their successors have been elected and qualified. They take office immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

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### **Section 2. Qualifications.**

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

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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, at a minimum, a statement of financial activities and a statement of financial position 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 be up to one year and shall expire at the next Annual Meeting. 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 may elect a Chairperson of the Board (the "Board Chair") from among the Board members. 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. If no Board Chair is elected, the President shall serve as Chair of the Board.

### 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.

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### **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.

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### **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 or by mail, sent at least five (5) business days prior to such meeting. The Board Chair shall preside at the Board meetings.

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### **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.

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## **ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

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### **Section 1. Fiscal Year.**

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

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### **Section 2. Dues.**

Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **ARTICLE VIII. MEMBER MEETINGS**

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### **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 or by mail.

### **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 or by mail, 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 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.

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## ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## ARTICLE X. PROGRAM

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### Section 1. Authorization.

The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

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### 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.

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### Section 3. Adoption of Local Program.

- a. a) The Board shall consider the recommendations for a local program sent in by the voting members. Voting members shall send their recommendations not later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. An Ad Hoc Board committee shall consider all recommendations and draft a proposed Local Program. The draft proposal shall then be reviewed by the Board of Directors.



- 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.

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#### **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 and the LWVUS.

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

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### **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.

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### **Section 2. State Council.**

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

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### **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.
- 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.

# 6

## Budget/ Finance Report

### League of Women Voters of the City of New York

#### Statement of Financial Activities FY2024 Forecast vs. Budget

|                                     | Budget            | Forecast          |                    |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                     | FY 2024           | FY 2024           | I/(D) to Budget    |
| <b>Revenue</b>                      |                   |                   |                    |
| Direct Contributions                |                   |                   |                    |
| Individual                          | \$ 52,500         | \$ 85,500         | \$ 33,000          |
| Corporate                           | 17,300            | 41,620            | 24,320             |
| Grants                              |                   |                   |                    |
| Government                          | 45,000            | 68,000            | 23,000             |
| Non-Government                      | 32,000            | 1,500             | (30,500)           |
| Program Sales and Fees              | 22,000            | 4,000             | 18,000             |
| Net Membership Income               | 9,625             | 2,440             | (7,185)            |
| Investments                         | 5,000             | 15,000            | 10,000             |
| Special Events — Revenue            | 20,000            | 5,050             | (14,950)           |
| Special Events — Direct Costs       | (10,000)          | -                 | 10,000             |
| Miscellaneous Revenue               | -                 | 715               | 715                |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                | <b>\$ 193,425</b> | <b>\$ 223,825</b> | <b>\$ 30,400</b>   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                     |                   |                   |                    |
| Salaried Staff and Related Expenses | 65,000            | 14,543            | (50,457)           |
| Contract Office Staff               | 50,500            | 53,500            | 3,000              |
| Professional Fees — Other           | 20,000            | 14,968            | (5,032)            |
| Supplies, Printing, and Postage     | 11,000            | 20,500            | 9,500              |
| Communications and Equipment        | 6,350             | 2,503             | (3,847)            |
| Facilities                          | 23,000            | 23,615            | 615                |
| Travel and Meetings                 | 11,295            | 12,846            | 1,551              |
| Other                               | 5,300             | 5,668             | 368                |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>               | <b>\$ 192,445</b> | <b>\$ 148,143</b> | <b>\$ (44,302)</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>                   | <b>\$ 980</b>     | <b>\$ 75,682</b>  | <b>\$ 74,702</b>   |

- ▶ Fiscal year (FY) 2024 runs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024
- ▶ FY 2024 Budget did not include a major gala/fundraiser, but focused on successful End of Year Campaign and soliciting direct Corporate support otherwise focused on gala sponsorship to support general activities.
- ▶ FY 2024 Government grants includes \$43k awarded for FY 2023 but paid in FY 2024
- ▶ We forecast a net income of \$76k on an adjusted basis, a \$75k increase to budget
- ▶ Favorability is mostly due to increased government grant payments, major one-time donations from individuals and bequests, and underspending on staff

League of Women Voters of the City of New York

Statement of Financial Position  
March 31, 2024 Balance Sheet\*

|                                     | As of<br>March 31, 2023 | As of<br>March 31, 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                       |                         |                         |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents           | \$ 221,654              | \$ 365,855              |
| Total Accounts Receivable           | -                       | 2,288                   |
| Security Deposits                   | 1,664                   | 1,664                   |
| Undeposited Funds                   | -                       | 100                     |
| Federal Bonds                       | 30,000                  | 30,000                  |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>         | <b>\$253,318</b>        | <b>\$ 399,907</b>       |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>2,708</b>            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                 | <b>\$ 253,318</b>       | <b>\$ 402,615</b>       |
| <b>Liabilities and Equity</b>       |                         |                         |
| Opening Bal Equity                  |                         |                         |
| Retained earnings                   | \$ 273,177              | \$ 280,034              |
| Temporarily restricted net assets   | -                       | 23,750                  |
| Net Income                          | (19,859)                | 98,831                  |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                 | <b>\$ 253,318</b>       | <b>\$ 402,615</b>       |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b> | <b>\$ 253,318</b>       | <b>\$ 402,615</b>       |

\*Unaudited

- ▶ Several FY 2023 government grants paid/ reimbursed in FY 2024.
- ▶ We have diligently invested FY 2024's revenue flows into income producing investments (in accordance with Board guidelines).





## League of Women Voters of the City of New York

Statement of Financial Activities  
FY 2024 Forecast and FY 2025 Budget

|                                     | FY 2024<br>Forecast | FY 2025<br>Budget | Change in FY<br>2025 Budget<br>from FY 2024<br>Forecast |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Revenue</b>                      |                     |                   |   |
| Direct Contributions                |                     |                   |   |
| Individual                          | \$ 85,500           | \$ 33,500         | \$ (52,000)   |
| Corporate                           | 41,620              | 60,600            | 18,980  |
| Grants                              |                     |                   |   |
| Government                          | 68,000              | 40,000            | (28,000)  |
| Non-Government                      | 1,500               | 3,500             | 2,000   |
| Program Sales and Fees              | 4,000               | 4,000             | -   |
| Net Membership Income               | 2,440               | 3,000             | 560   |
| Investments                         | 15,000              | 10,000            | (5,000)   |
| Special Events — Revenue            | 5,050               | 125,000           | 119,950   |
| Special Events — Direct Costs       | -                   | 65,000            | 65,000  |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                | <b>\$ 223,825</b>   | <b>\$ 215,100</b> | <b>\$ (8,725)</b>                                       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                     |                     |                   |   |
| Salaried Staff and Related Expenses | 14,543              | 56,393            | 41,850  |
| Contract Office Staff               | 53,500              | 41,000            | (12,500)  |
| Professional Fees — Other           | 14,968              | 39,998            | 25,030  |
| Supplies, Printing, and Postage     | 20,500              | 27,000            | 6,500   |
| Communications and Equipment        | 2,503               | 3,350             | 847   |
| Facilities                          | 23,615              | 25,705            | 2,090   |
| Travel and Meetings                 | 12,846              | 15,700            | 2,854   |
| Other                               | 5,668               | 5,633             | (35)  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>               | <b>\$ 148,143</b>   | <b>\$ 214,779</b> | <b>\$ 66,636</b>  |
| <b>Net Income</b>                   | <b>\$ 75,682</b>    | <b>\$ 321</b>     | <b>\$ (75,361)</b>                                      |

## The Board recommends the proposed budget be approved:

- ▶ FY 2025 includes a major fundraising event and significant Individual and Corporate contributions are expected to shift to Special Events - Revenue
- ▶ FY 2024 included an unexpected major gift, and a large bequest. These are not projected for FY 2025
- ▶ Expect continued progress diversifying funding sources in FY 2025, especially Corporate, Government Grants and Private Non-Government Grants
- ▶ FY 2025 Government grants includes \$5k awarded for FY 2024 to be paid in FY 2025, as well as new awards
- ▶ Investment revenue is based solely on interest and dividends
- ▶ Higher Staffing expenses reflect full-time office coordinator

# 7

## Local Program 2024-2025

### Local Program 2024-2025

Based on the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, membership must adopt a local program for the upcoming year. Thank you to the members who submitted proposals and ideas.

For this upcoming year, the Local Program Committee and LWVNYC Board are recommending adoption of the Local Program:

### How to Achieve Long Term, Stable Affordable Housing for New Yorkers

New York City is experiencing the most dramatic lack of access to affordable housing for low-to-moderate income New Yorkers in decades. According to the 2024 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey, the overall NYC housing vacancy rate is at 1.4 percent, down from 4.5 percent in 2021 (when the last report was issued). New York officials consider a vacancy rate of less than 5 percent a “housing emergency.” The data also shows that the housing crisis affects New York’s lowest-income people the hardest and homelessness remains at an all-time high.

The League recommends a study to review issues such as the current public and public/private partnerships that create affordable housing; initiatives such as social housing; community land trusts; low-and-moderate income tenant conversion of small rental buildings; revisions to zoning restrictions, among other housing related issues.

The League has always supported government efforts to ensure the availability of affordable housing and we believe that through a comprehensive study on housing issues in NYC, we will advocate for social change, may determine new, positive housing initiatives and highlight existing successful policies and programs. LWVNYC will

also inform and educate our members on the most up-to-date housing affordability proposals and ideas. We will become educated advocates, which will allow us to take an informed League position(s) on particular housing proposals, join appropriate coalitions and support local legislation. The League believes that in order to have informed and active civic participation, New Yorkers must feel that they have long term, affordable housing stability.

Respectfully submitted  
by the Local Program Committee,

Adrienne Kivelson  
Karol Robinson, Chair  
Kai Rosenthal





## **CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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### **Main objectives for committee**

- ▶ City Affairs is a newly formed committee looking for members. Its objective is to help amplify the League's presence with New York City's 51 Council members and City Hall. Our outreach will include monitoring legislation, meeting with council members, and developing joint programs for their constituents that encourage active civic participation.

### **2023-2024 Accomplishments**

- ▶ Organized and hosted an Open House for the newly sworn 2024 New York City Council in January, 2024. We had 11 members attend this event. Since that event, we have been in direct contact with 2 additional member offices.
- ▶ We hosted a two part Zoom workshop for all city council staff based on our League publication "What Makes New York City Run?" and featured Adrienne Kivelson, the book's original author, and Marco DeSena, Baruch College professor who edited and updated the 2024 edition. This two day event occurred April 9 and 16, 2024. 56 staff members across 18 district offices enrolled in the workshop and 23 attended. The workshop was recorded for those unable to attend or for those who did not initially enroll.
- ▶ We have actively attended numerous budget hearings of the City Council Committees as they prepared for their response to the mayor's 2025 budget. In total, our committee attended 6 hearings.

- ▶ We have been in direct contact with all 51 Member offices since February and in close contact with 4 offices for direct meeting opportunities to discuss several issues. These opportunities to speak directly with the Members will help us to broadcast our name to the Council and ensure they are aware of all the work that the League is able to do to help enrich their communities and constituents.

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COMMITTEE**

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### **Main objectives for committee**

- ▶ Establish the LWVNYC as a collaborator and influencer around issues of criminal justice reform in NYC.
- ▶ Partner with community-based organizations and those directly impacted by the criminal justice system to advocate and lobby for legislation and policies that focus on reform.
- ▶ The Committee's interest will be to engage these partners and actively encourage people they work with to participate in the political process.
- ▶ Achieve reform in a system that has disenfranchised members of NYC's most vulnerable communities.

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### **Summary of 2023-2024 Activities and Accomplishments**

- ▶ Joined The Vote in NYC Jails Coalition (VJC) which is a group of legal service providers, government offices and community-based organizations dedicated to delivering the full promise of enfranchisement to people

currently incarcerated in jails.

- ▶ LWVNYC activities, as part of the VJC, included registering people to vote in jails and providing them with information and education regarding their voting rights, attending rallies and signing letters to the Department of Corrections and Board of Elections.
- ▶ Continued to partner with the Close Rikers Island coalition to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of closing Rikers and replacing the jail complex with four borough-based facilities.

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## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE REPORT**

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### **Main objectives for committee**

- ▶ The vision of the DEI Committee is to provide tools and open forums for discussion within the League so that it will comprehensively conduct its work – both internal and external – with an eye towards diversity, equity and inclusion. Such introspection and openness are important for the League to truly understand, represent and reflect the city we serve and empower all of voices and representation concerning civic engagement.
- ▶ The DEI committee is a Board level committee and engages regularly with the Board, including regular monthly updates and a shared commitment to our important work.

### **Summary of 2023-2024 accomplishments and activities**

In the year plus since the DEI committee was established in its current form, the following are the Committee's accomplishments:

- ▶ Meet with other League committees to present and discuss what DEI means and how it intersects with their work
  - ▷ Members of each individual committee serve as liaisons with DEI committee
- ▶ Developed a self-assessment survey to use by League committee chairs and the Board as a tool for self-reflection and goal setting; results are being collected and discussions are beginning
- ▶ Establish monthly meetings that include the committee liaisons and other members, but are open to the wider League network
- ▶ Engage with members to develop best practices for disability access
- ▶ Develop a DEI event series with films, books, museum tours, etc., including outside speakers, meant to encourage thoughtful discussions on what DEI means in the context of the various media, protagonists and participants.
  - ▷ The first event was held in April which was a screening of *My Name is Pauli Murray*, followed by a hybrid discussion led by NYHS Scholar Salonee Bhaman
  - ▷ Future activity includes a group visit to the Metro-



politan Museum of Art to view the Harlem Renaissance exhibit and discussion of the art

- ▶ We are soliciting suggestions for books (that are available in audiobook format to be inclusive of individuals with visual impairment) and other ideas

In the year ahead, the committee will continue to use the self-assessment tool to establish goals for the League as it relates to DEI, and further incorporate League committees and their initiatives and members, as well as the wider community in this effort. We hope to use the event series to bring people together for some fun and interesting activities and shared enlightenment.

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## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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### Main objectives for committee

- ▶ Expand the League's involvement in DemocracyReadyNY
- ▶ Continue participation in NYC Civic Coalition
- ▶ Allyship with YCI (Youth Civics Initiative)
- ▶ Continue advocacy for education related issues, including media literacy.

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### Summary of fiscal year 2024 accomplishments and activities

- ▶ Active participants in Media Literacy, Youth Engagement, Equity, Access and Inclusion, and Assessment committees of DemocracyReadyNY, advocating for

media literacy legislation supporting media literacy curriculum and teacher professional development

- ▶ As representative of DemocracyReadyNY to CiviX-Now's artificial intelligence (AI) workgroup, contributed to a report on AI and Civic Education and spoke on a national panel on the topic
- ▶ Working member of NYC Civic Coalition Steering Committee and Civic Fair workgroup. Collaborated with other youth facing organizations to create a Youth Civics Hub online and participated in kick-off event to connect students to opportunities for civic engagement/participation
- ▶ Working Member of the NY State League Youth Chairs committee

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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### Main objectives for committee

- ▶ Identify social and political topics impacting New Yorkers to inform, educate and engage on a variety of issues
- ▶ Contact expert speakers who will provide non-partisan information on key topics
- ▶ Prepare the event space, coordinate the catered lunch and manage speaker details
- ▶ Inform and promote events to the League membership and the community

## Summary of fiscal year 2024 accomplishments and activities

2023-2024 was a landmark year for the program committee.

- ▶ This year's series featured such city and state leaders as NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, two former Manhattan Borough Presidents, Ruth Messinger and Gale Brewer, the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development, and Workforce Marie Torres Springer.
- ▶ Topics ranged from Congestion Pricing in NYC, How to Make E-Vehicles Safer for the rider and pedestrian and the Challenges of Undocumented Immigrants
- ▶ Attendance ranged between 35 and 60 guests each month.

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## STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

### Main objectives

- ▶ Engage High School and College students in the work of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York.
- ▶ Educate students on the elements of civic engagement and grassroots organizing in diverse communities of NYC.
- ▶ Encourage leadership and initiative.
- ▶ Diversify the League's membership by welcoming these student members

- ▶ Empower students to activate civic engagement on their college campuses.

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## Summary of 2023-2024 accomplishments

The 2023 Summer intern cohort of 20 college students:

- ▶ Attended weekly seminars with League specialists and partners
- ▶ Trained to run voter registration drives
- ▶ Participated in and organized Citywide Participatory Budgeting balloting, Voter Registration and GOTV events
- ▶ Pursued independent projects on Voter turnout, Erased Suffragists, Voting in Jails and others

Through the 2023 General Election and into Spring 2024, 2 local interns have participated in outreach events and assisted in the refresh and update of League election information and presentations.

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## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### Main objectives for committee

- ▶ The NYC Transportation Committee remains dedicated to advocating for a sustainable, equitable, and accessible transportation system in New York City. Recognized as the lifeblood of the city, our transportation network is vital to the daily routines of all New Yorkers. Through strategic coalition building, targeted advocacy, and proactive policy change, our commit-

tee strives to enhance the efficiency and safety of this essential system.

### **Summary of fiscal year 2024 accomplishments and activities**

This past year, the committee has been involved in several impactful initiatives including:

- ▶ Advocating for the appropriate use of Outer Borough Transit Fund accounts by supporting the writing of letters to state leaders to allocate these funds for transit improvements rather than toll rebates.
- ▶ Supporting a coalition memo that promotes policies requiring cost estimates for needs assessments on future expansions of the MTA which is essential for strategic growth and transparency.
- ▶ In partnership with the Riders Alliance, we supported and championed the #6MinuteService campaign, aiming to increase service frequency, thus saving valuable time for riders and making more of the city accessible from every neighborhood.

In the year ahead, the committee is eager to continue our mission and expand our efforts. We aim to grow our membership and further our advocacy to ensure that New York City's transportation system serves as a model of accessibility, equity, and environmental responsibility. We invite new members who are passionate about urban mobility and making a tangible difference to join us in these endeavors.

## **VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

### **Main objectives for committee**

- ▶ Provide non partisan information and material to New Yorkers about voting and elections
- ▶ Host voter registration and get out the vote events throughout NYC
- ▶ Offer voter registration training sessions to partner organizations to extend League's reach
- ▶ Conform League voting and election related materials to disability community members who are hearing or visually impaired
- ▶ Provide voting and election voting information in multiple languages

### **Summary of fiscal year 2024 activities and accomplishments**

- ▶ Conducted hundreds of VR and GOTV voter outreach events, at schools, libraries across the city, YMCAs, parks, local businesses, religious organizations, senior centers and many other locations working with League valued partners
- ▶ Initiated regular series of outreach events with with significant NYC institutions such as the New York Historical Society's monthly "History After Dark" and the YMCA of Greater New York
- ▶ Piloted program training high school student "Civic

Ambassadors” to civically activate their peers

- ▶ Target voter outreach events, like the YMCA’s Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Education Expo
- ▶ Refined and simplified website Volunteer Form and helped implement a website Volunteer Opportunities Calendar in order to attract new volunteers
- ▶ Encourage volunteers to engage with community members who are not eligible to vote by raising their voices in other ways, using information and resources from the Speakers Bureau “Three Pillars of Advocacy” presentation

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### **VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE: SPEAKERS BUREAU**

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#### **Main objectives of the Speakers Bureau**

- ▶ Inform and educate New Yorkers about voting and community engagement
- ▶ Partner with community groups to increase collaboration, volunteerism and membership in LWVNYC
- ▶ Present programs to businesses to increase civic engagement and LWVNYC membership
- ▶ Promote the civic presentations on the LWVNYC website and through social media
- ▶ Encourage League members to train as speakers

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### **Summary of fiscal year 2024 activities and accomplishments**

- ▶ Revised and finalized Civics presentations and slide decks on the topics of: Adult Civics; Voting; Who Makes NYC Run; Ranked Choice Voting; Redistricting; History of the League
- ▶ Led over 50 Speaking Events in schools, businesses, community groups throughout NYC increasing civic understanding and engagement

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### **VOTING REFORM COMMITTEE**

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#### **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, as well as develop new positions to propose to the Board of Directors when appropriate.
- ▶ This year, we are advocating for issues including same-day voter registration, resources for better election data, increased access to voting in jails, and restoration of voting rights for currently incarcerated people. If our League adopts our proposed position on moving NYC elections to even-numbered years, we will also seek to advocate on this issue.



## Summary of fiscal year 2024 activities and accomplishments

- ▶ Conducted spring lobbying meetings with state legislators on key issues, as described above, while engaging new and returning members as meeting leaders.
- ▶ Conducted a study per the Local Program set by the 2023 annual meeting, on the timing of local elections, and held a concurrence meeting with the chapter membership with regard to the proposed new position, in support of moving local elections to even-numbered years. The study included input from other Leagues across the country, other good governance organizations based in New York, and academics who have studied the impact of moving local elections from odd to even years



## LEAGUEWIDE ACTIVITIES

### Summary of fiscal year 2024 accomplishments

- ▶ 9,000 Spanish and English copies of the U.S. Constitution were handed out in twelve low-voter-turnout districts through the 2023 Constitution Day outreach
- ▶ League idea gathering workshops and conversations with over 160 New Yorkers during Citywide Participatory Budgeting. Spring balloting will reach 2000 more.
- ▶ Alamo Drafthouse in Brooklyn was location for major membership recruitment event - resulting in almost 90 new volunteers
- ▶ The Updated 2024 version of "What Makes New York City Run?" published in March
- ▶ LWVNYC motto, "Vote Louder", becomes officially trademarked

