

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

**2025 Annual Meeting  
of the Members**

**June 10,  
2025**

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It has been an incredibly active year for the League. We participated in more than 200 voter outreach, election and civic engagement events, offered pros and cons on the 2024 NYC ballot proposals referenced by 65,000 New Yorkers, hosted an impactful Tribute Awards, and significantly expanded our network of members, volunteers and partner organizations. It is with your dedication, effort and enthusiasm that we were able to achieve these goals.

As we write this letter, we are preparing for the June local primary elections, sharing information about the importance of voting local, explaining Ranked Choice Voting and defining the roles of our local elected officials. We also cannot ignore the current attacks on our voting rights, civil rights and democracy coming from the new administration in Washington. We are proud to represent New York City as part of an organization with strong State and National partners who are standing up and speaking out against these aggressions.

The League remains committed to increasing civic participation and voter turnout in New York City and is expanding our outreach. We are fighting for all New Yorkers and are mobilizing our dedicated members, volunteers and supporters to raise their voices. Let's commit to defending our democracy and strengthening civic engagement at all levels of government, especially in New York City. It is with your commitment that we are able to be successful.

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



**League of Women Voters of the City of New York**  
**Annual Meeting of the Members**  
**June 13, 2024**

Members in good standing as of 5/1/2024	210
Total for a quorum	21
Total in attendance	33
Total proxies	11
Total attendance (via Zoom and proxy)	44

Parliamentarian: Tara Pelush

**Meeting commenced at 6:02 PM via Zoom.**

Scarlett Gonzales, LWVNYC Office Coordinator, provided instructions on how to use Zoom for this meeting.

**I. Welcome to the Meeting**

**Kai Rosenthal, Co-President**

Thanks to Pat Manning, Scarlett Gonzales, Tayra Vionette, and Laura Quigg for handling the mechanics of the meeting. We would also like to recognize Scarlett, who is our new Office Coordinator. She started April 9th and keeps our office open each weekday with her enthusiasm, professionalism and curiosity.

**II. Business Meeting**

**Deborah Brodheim, Co-President**

We will be voting on approval of last year's meeting minutes, nominations for Board officers, changes to our bylaws, the budget for FY2025 and our Local Program. You will also have the opportunity to offer "Directions to the Board."

- ▶ Reading of the credentials. We have 210 active members eligible to attend this meeting. We need 21 members for a quorum, and we have 32 members voting, plus 11 proxy votes.

- ▶ All the votes will be taken using the polling function in Zoom.
- ▶ Any vote taken that has been recommended by the current Board of Directors does not need a second motion.

**a. Meeting Minutes**  
**Deborah Brodheim**

- ▶ Motion requested to accept the minutes from 2023 annual meeting.
- ▶ Motion to accept the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes: Laurie Pauker. Seconded by Kate Doran.

**Votes:**

**26 in favor**

**0 against**

**1 abstain**

**11 proxies**

**The motion passes.**

**b. Nominations**

**Diane Burrows, Chair, Nominating Committee**

Laura Quigg and Diane Drew – the other members of this year's Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee and the Board of Directors proposed the following slate:

- ▶ Co-President: Deborah Brodheim (second term)
- ▶ Co-President: Kai Rosenthal (second term)
- ▶ Treasurer: Laura Quigg (second term)
- ▶ Secretary: Amy Matthews (first term)
- ▶ Vice President of Communications: Stacey Lesser (first term)

- ▶ Vice President of Development: Laurie Pauker (first term)
- ▶ Vice President of Membership: Danielle Mowery (first term)
- ▶ Vice President of Technology: Caroline Smith (second term)

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion to accept the slate of Officers of the Board of Directors made by Nina Liebman. No second needed for this vote.

**Votes:**

**26 in favor**

**0 against**

**1 abstain**

**11 proxies**

**The motion passes.**

Thank you to our officers who have stepped down from their positions: Sherletta McCaskill as V.P. Communications and Amy Matthews as V.P. of Membership. Welcome to our new officers.

**c. Bylaws – Amy Matthews**

Bylaws Committee: Kai Rosenthal, Margo Hirsch, Amy Matthews

The Bylaws Committee is proposing a number of changes to the LWVNYC Bylaws – list of changes included in the package to members sent on May 13, 2024. LWVUS will be implementing changes to membership starting in January/February 2025. LWVUS is requiring all local leagues to include these changes to their bylaws.

Other minor changes included to simplify and clarify the intent of our Bylaws.

All changes included in the Bylaws report are supported by our Board of Directors.

The rest of the Bylaws remain unchanged.

**Questions:**

*Please explain the changes to membership:*

League members will receive their renewal reminders from National. They will set the dues amounts. You should still be able to renew/join on our website. You will be linked to the National System. National will then send funds to the local leagues.

*How will we make up the membership money?*

We should not see significant changes to our revenue. We kept very little of the member dues in the past. That amount will remain about the same.

Bylaw changes require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass.

- ▶ **Motion: To adopt the Bylaw Changes as described in the package of information provided to members on May 13.**
- Motion made by Danielle Mowery.**
- No Second needed.**

**Votes:**

**30 in favor**

**1 against**

**1 abstain**

**11 proxies**

**The motion passes.**

**d. Budget - Deborah Brodheim**

- ▶ LWVNYC Fiscal Year runs from July 1 to June 30.
- ▶ The forecast for the end of this FY2024 (7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024) was prepared in April, 2024 for this Annual Meeting. We now have two months of actual results confirming that we are on track to show net income of \$75,682 for FY2024, a +\$74,000 increase over budget.
- ▶ FY2024 did not include a major gala/fundraiser. Significant increase in Year-End giving by individuals who might otherwise have purchased a ticket to a fundraiser. Also received a very large one-time donation and a sizable bequest. Corporate sponsors who would have sponsored fundraisers in the past, supported programs and activities in FY2024.
- ▶ FY2024 expenses were below budget due to the longer time frame it took to fill our full-time staff position.
- ▶ FY2024 closes with total assets of over \$400,000.
- ▶ For FY2025 Budget a major fundraising event is included. The FY2025 budget includes the major expenses for this event, and estimated revenue from sponsors.
- ▶ Continued progress in diversifying funding sources takes pressure off of relying on a Gala. Focus will be on larger corporate, government grants and private non-government grants. Remember the League in your estate planning.
- ▶ Expenses include a full 12 months of full-time office coordinator, and additional contract consultants.

- ▶ Investment revenue is based solely on interest and dividend income.
- ▶ The Board recommends this proposed budget.

**Questions:**

*Can you share the types of consultants we engage: Salesforce consultant, we use consultants in updating What Makes NYC Run. We anticipate developing translations with the book, as well as programming. We have received some grant money for this. We don't contract with people unless we have the revenue sources identified.*

*Where does the bequest appear?*  
It appears in the 2023/4 forecast under "Individuals".

- ▶ **Motion to approve the FY2025 budget as presented.**  
**Motion made by Kate Doran.**  
**No Second needed.**

**Votes:**

**32 in favor**  
**0 against**  
**0 abstain**  
**11 proxies**

**The motion passes.**

**e. Local Program - Karol Robinson**

Adrienne Kivelson and Kai Rosenthal participated on the Local Programs Committee this year. Membership must select a local program for the upcoming year. The Local Program Committee and LWVNYC Board recommend adoption of the Local Program:

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

Rationale: New York City is experiencing a dramatic lack of access to affordable housing for low-to-moderate income New Yorkers. In order to have informed and active civic participation, New Yorkers need housing stability.

We recommend that our local program this year be a study to review housing issues. This local program is a study, it is not in support of any legislation or initiative, but a commitment to do our homework.

The results of the study would need member concurrence. If adopted, it would enable us to advocate on housing positions and proposals. We would also be able to work with appropriate housing coalitions to support or oppose local legislation consistent with the results of our study.

Some of the items we will study:

- ▶ 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.

**Questions:**

*Can we add accessible housing to this study – usable housing for all. It is especially difficult for those that need accessible housing?*

Yes.

*What does "moderate" mean?*

This should be part of our study. Our findings will focus on what this means for New Yorkers. Also important to understand what we mean by "affordable." This is an ongoing debate in the affordable housing debates. Defining "affordable" is a big part of our study.

*Can we include young voices? Many high school/college students cannot afford to stay in NYC.*  
We will do that.

*Will you work with other organizations in this study?*  
We will certainly do that!

*Do we have archives or files from past studies on this topic? LWVNYC has done studies in the past.*  
We will dig into the archives.

*What is the process? Are we voting on this with the proposed amendments?*

We are voting to undertake a study. These comments will all be included as part of this study.

- ▶ **Kathleen Collins makes a motion to amend the title to read: How to Achieve Long Term, Stable, Accessible, and Affordable Housing for all New Yorkers.**  
**Second: Danielle Mowery.**
- ▶ **Motion to accept the 2025 Local Program as proposed and amended?**

**Votes:**

**28 in favor**

**0 against**

**5 abstain**

**11 proxies**

**The motion passes.**

### III. Guest Speaker: Kathleen Daniel, Chief Democracy Officer for New York City

#### *Introduction by Karol Robinson:*

Kathleen Daniel serves as Chief Democracy Officer for New York City. During the pandemic, she served as the director of community engagement for Test & Treat — where she led a team of 700 tracers visiting the sick and their close contacts daily.

Field director for NYC Census 2020 — then the largest outreach Initiative ever conducted by the city, as well as the most robust census-related campaign in the country.

First-ever outreach director in the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

Daniel was recognized in the inaugural “Community Engagement Power 50” list by City & State New York.

#### Kathleen Daniel - Remarks and Q&A

Looking forward to working with LWVNYC. Democracy NYC Voter Education, Registration, Activation – registered voters need to get to the polls. We are at the bottom of voter turnout. Register 18+ and pre-register teens. You are casting a vote for your community – connect the dots so that voters understand how their vote impacts their own community.

- ▶ Working with interns and volunteers to get this job done.
- ▶ Peer to peer texting, phone calls, door hangers, work with Public Schools during Civics week, Commitment cards, over 200 students in our model congress, over 100 students hitting the streets with us. One student spoke 6 languages!
- ▶ Helping Girl Scouts get their Democracy badges. If they are too young to vote, they are making their parents get out to vote.

- ▶ Partners: everyone except political clubs. Individuals can volunteer, but we are nonpartisan so no promotion of candidates or parties.
- ▶ What's new – Girl Scout work; this summer we kick off right after the election – Freedom Summer - 60th anniversary of Mississippi voting rights efforts. We are commemorating that. We are creating a program with interns from AmeriCorps – model city government – would like to partner with LWVNYC. Would like to launch before Jan 2025. Every 4 years poll sites open up for voter registration “Golden Days”. Sept 28 and Oct 10. Look to partner with LWVNYC on this as well. Then GOTV efforts for Nov election.

#### Questions/Comments:

On 9/28 and 10/10 – the poll sites across the state will open to register voters. This happens once every 4 years.

Stacy Lesser: This is so exciting! Concerns about the lack of understanding of the election process in the high schools. Would like to partner with you on this. Kathleen – yes!

Sherletta McCaskill: love the Democracy Badge from the Girl Scouts! Kathleen – we need help city wide. Also – so important to have Freedom Summer. We have too much low participation, especially in our low income communities. We will be reaching out to you. This is year-round work. Kathleen – would love to meet with retired educators to get resolutions written to get civics back in schools.

Gladys Krasner: besides the young folks, there are other people! How do you talk about democracy without being partisan? Kathleen – we can send a slide

deck. We don't want to give the appearance of any partisanship. When we register folks, we talk about definition of parties, describe what a closed primary is, etc. The teach-ins - we are getting questions about the judges. We want to address this after the ranked choice voting.

Diane Burrows: introducing myself to you. Sherletta and I will reach out to you. We have an internship program. We have 26 interns on board this summer.

Kathleen Collins: I would like to put together a non-partisan guide to running for office. Kathleen - yes. Please reach out to me.

#### **IV. Directions to the Board – Barbara Ettington: Moderator**

Note: All directions to the Board will be recorded in the Annual Meeting minutes and will be discussed at the first Board meeting of the new fiscal year.

- ▶ Kate Doran – early voting starts on June 15
- ▶ Adrienne Kivelson – the League has done programs on running for public office in the past. We have done it in the past – we have a manual that was put together and we should do it again!
- ▶ Jane Hatterer – I would like to raise money to support students work on committee projects. Would support engagement with students in underserved communities. Need for funding.
- ▶ Gladys Krasner – I have seen more live meetings this year. I would like the Board to consider more meetings live, including next year's Annual Meeting. Important to meet in person.

- ▶ Mary Jenkins – I like zoom meetings, especially for those whose mobility is limited.

**You are encouraged to send in your directions by email. Deadline Monday 6/24 so that we can review them at the next board meeting. Send emails to Scarlett at [office@lwvny.org](mailto:office@lwvny.org).**

#### **V. Closing Remarks – Kai Rosenthal and Deborah Brodheim**

- a. **Special thanks:** We would like to acknowledge some of the accomplishments of our dedicated members, volunteers and community partners.
  - ▶ **Ruth Altman** - for all of her work over the past 7 years to have the phrase "Vote Louder" officially trademarked.
  - ▶ **David Brooks** – "Civic Ambassadors" program - Developed this initiative to have more students involved with the process of activating their peers in civic activities. In the pilot program the students worked to get their peers registered and voter registration for students in the school tripled from the previous year without the program. Through donations, we hope to be able to roll this program out in more schools.
  - ▶ **Nina Liebman** - Organized our Founders Day event this year and led two groups through the New York Public Library. The tours were a huge success with members and our League community. She has also introduced the League to Library staff to help us organize tabling and Constitution Day outreach locations.
  - ▶ **Andrea Zuckerman and Susan Glattstein** – They

have been designing our quarterly newsletter, and have developed many of our printed materials.

- ▶ **Judy Tashji** – Instrumental in making our book “What Makes NYC Run” ready for printing. She designed and did the layout for the book, through extensive updates and changes.

**b. Accomplishments this year:**

- ▶ We reached more than 15,000 New Yorkers with get out the vote messages and information through tabling events, high school and college civic engagement events and Constitution Day outreach activities.
- ▶ We continue to register voters and partner with community based organizations, schools and houses of worship to offer civic engagement workshops through our Speakers Bureau.
- ▶ We know that when New Yorkers understand and are engaged with their government, they are more likely to vote. The League on-line website “Who Represents Me” was promoted by City Hall as a valuable and important resource.
- ▶ We embraced Citywide Participatory Budgeting and worked with the New York Civic Engagement Commission to conduct focus groups and get votes.
- ▶ And we continue to seek and develop new sources of funding to ensure the critical work that all of you do.

- ▶ Our Issue Committees were very active.
- ▶ advocating for Voting in Rikers for detainees,
- ▶ running workshops for City Council staffers to learn about What Makes NYC Run,
- ▶ hosting Lunch with the League programs with experts speaking about topics of concern to New Yorkers,
- ▶ sharing voting and election information, conducting more than 25 lobby meetings with elected officials and undertaking a study and concurrence process of a new League position.

**Deborah Brodheim:**

As we look ahead to this November’s general election, and next year’s local races, we are keenly aware that New Yorkers and our civic partners will be turning to the League for accurate, non-partisan information about voting and who and what’s on the ballot – including the New York Equal Rights Amendment. We have spent the past year updating our volunteer systems and resources to meet that need and we ask you to help us make a difference by reengaging—as a volunteer helping to raise voter turnout, an active member of the League planning our activities, a participant on our Issue Committees, or as a voice for your community. Visit our informative League website [lwvny.org](http://lwvny.org) to discover more about our events and activities and be sure to read our Weekly Digest to sign up for specific opportunities to become involved.

As our new slate of officers take their positions, we will continue to support the work to engage New Yorkers because we all understand that democracy has never been, and will never be, a spectator sport.

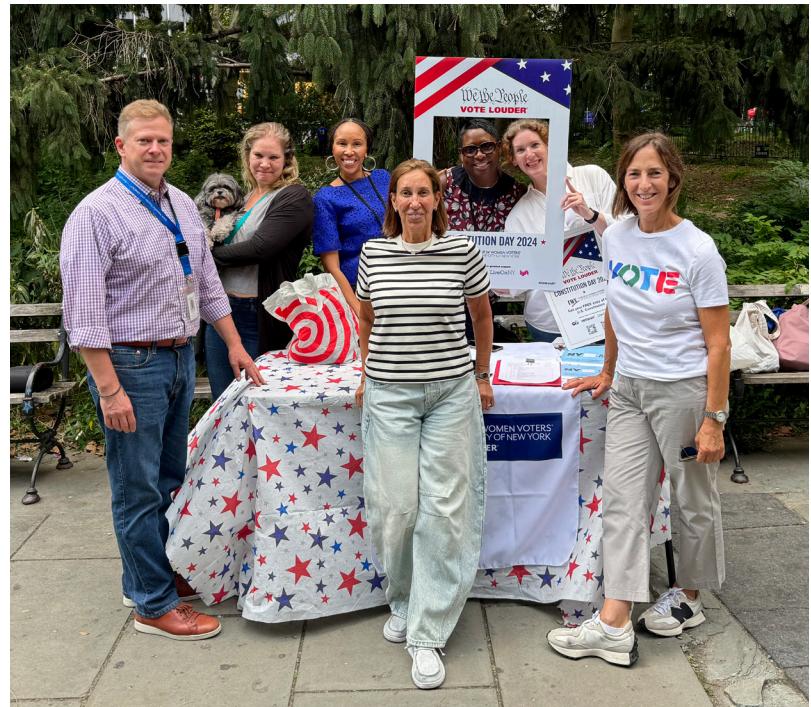
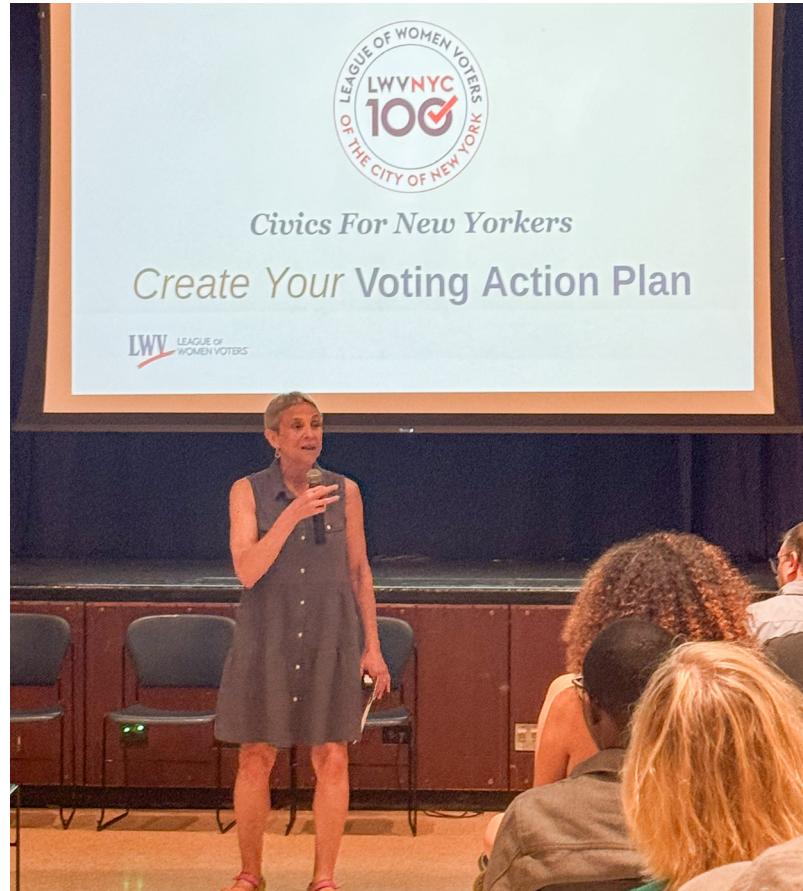
## V. Closing the Meeting – Deborah Brodheim

- **Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting of the Members L WVNYC – Diane Burrows  
Seconded Barb Ettington**

**The motion passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:23PM

Submitted by:  
Amy Matthews, L WVNYC Board Secretary



The Nominating Committee proposes a slate of five (5) Elected Board Members to be elected for a two year term in odd-numbered years as stated in the Bylaws.

## PROPOSED SLATE

### Nominated for Elected Board seats:

- ▶ Diane Burrows
- ▶ Barbara Ettington
- ▶ Sherletta McCaskill
- ▶ Tara Pehush
- ▶ Karen Wharton

Respectfully submitted by the Nominations Committee,

Diane Burrows  
Diane Drew  
Laura Quigg

### Diane Burrows

After graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Diane Burrows taught high school English for 5 years. After moving to New York, Diane shifted her career to elementary education and taught 5th grade in Goshen, NY for 22 years. Diane also served as NYSUT building rep and as a member of the union's executive committee.

After retiring from teaching in 2015, Diane moved to New York City and began volunteering for the League of Women Voters of the City of New York in 2016. Diane's expertise as an educator allowed her to develop and present valuable voter information programs to civic groups all over the city. She was elected Co-President in 2020, in the midst of the pandemic and a crucial election season. After stepping down from the presidency in



2022, Diane assumed the chairs of the Speakers Bureau and the High School and College Internship programs.

### Barbara Ettington, Board Director

Barbara is proud of the League's non-partisan history and enjoys working to ensure today's League remains relevant. Barb began volunteering for the League in 2014, joined in 2015, and served as Chair of Voter Services from 2016-2019. In addition to serving as a Board Director since July 2020, she sits on the Board's Budget & Finance Committee. Barb also produced several fund-raising events for the League while serving on the Development Committee, and has helped on various projects such as updating "What Makes NYC Run?" Barb enjoys serving where needed.



### Sherletta McCaskill

Sherletta has been a LWVNYC Board member for the past three years and volunteered with the Voter Services Committee. She is currently co-chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee working to instill best practices in the League's day-to-day work and programs. She actively works with Returning Citizens to assist their civic re-engagement in their communities as they return home from incarceration. She has worked in social services and social justice in NYC for more than thirty years. Currently, she is the Training Director for the Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled.



**Tara L. Pehush**

Tara Pehush is a partner at the law firm of Venable LLP where she regularly advises clients on risk management and legal strategy, with the goal of driving business objectives. Tara's strong leadership skills are evidenced by her natural ability to facilitate and grow strategic relationships and build meaningful consensus from diverse perspectives. Tara thrives in fast-paced environments, employing quick decision-making, but also relishes in in-depth conversations and strategic planning with colleagues. In addition, Tara is steadfastly committed to pro bono legal work, including election protection and representing children fleeing violence and narco-trafficking in immigration proceedings.

Tara believes that voting is one of our most important civic duties and that it is also a gateway to broader civic engagement. Tara became involved with the League of Women Voters of the City of New York in 2018 when she took a voter registration training. The passion and engagement of the members at the training immediately impressed Tara and she has very much enjoyed being part of the Voter Services Committee the last few years. The commitment of its members to accessibility to voting is inspiring and Tara would be honored to serve in a greater capacity with the LWNYC while staying involved "in the trenches" with voter registration events and her pro bono election protection work.

Tara earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Loyola University Maryland and a Juris Doctor from University of Baltimore.

**Karen Wharton**

Karen Wharton is Democracy Coalition Coordinator for Citizen Action of New York & Public Policy and Education Fund. She leads Citizen Action's democracy campaigns. She facilitates the Fair Election for NY coalition that advocates for New York's Public Campaign Finance Program and spearheads an education campaign to raise awareness about the program. Her OpEds have appeared in the NY Daily News and the Bronx Times. In addition, Karen has presented on public campaign financing and democracy to NYS Democratic Rural Conference, Demos IDP convenings, and state and national grassroots organizations. She created and currently leads a statewide BIPOC democracy table that helps to expand, protect and make democracy more accessible to diverse communities.

Karen is a board member of the LWNYC and serves on its DEI and Voter Services Committees. She is also a member of the Brooklyn NAACP, Brooklyn Voters Alliance, and Canarsie Lions.

Karen is a graduate of Boston University College of Engineering and Pace University.



## Report of the *Ad Hoc* Bylaws Committee to Consider Amendments to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Pauker  
Amy Matthews  
Carole Mehlman  
Lindsey Reynolds

The *Ad Hoc* Bylaws Committee was asked to consider whether the bylaws should be amended to change the notice requirements for Special Meetings of the Members. The Bylaws Committee recommends four changes to the Bylaws.

1. For clarity, specify which meeting requires at least 30 days notice.

► ***Current wording:***

### ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)

**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.

► ***Proposed wording:***

### ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)

**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 the Annual Meeting** shall be given to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting electronically or by mail.

2. For clarity, revise the sequence of sentences in this amendment. Move the position of the third sentence in the paragraph to become the second sentence.

► ***Current wording:***

### ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)

**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.**

► ***Proposed wording:***

### ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)

**Section 1. Notice.** There shall be at least one meeting of the membership each year, which shall be designated the Annual Meeting. **Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting electronically or by mail. Any other meeting of the Members shall be designated a Special Meeting.**

3. Distinguish Special Meetings of the Members from special meetings of the Board.

► ***Current wording:***

### ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)

**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 email, demand the call of a Special Meeting specifying the date and month thereof...

► ***Proposed wording:*****ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)**

**Section 3. Special Meetings of the Members.** 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 email, demand the call of a Special Meeting specifying the date and month thereof...

4. The current bylaws provide that there may be one or more Special Meeting of Members, provided that notice of any Special Meeting shall be **“not less than two nor more than three months”** from the date of notice. We recommend **a shorter notice requirement** to make the organization more nimble and responsive to issues that may arise in the organization.

► ***Current wording:*****ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)**

**Section 3. Special Meetings of the Members.** 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 email, demand the call of a Special Meeting specifying the date and month thereof, **which shall not be less than two months 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).

► ***Proposed wording:*****ARTICLE VIII: MEMBER MEETINGS (PAGE 6)**

**Section 3. Special Meetings of the Members.** 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 email, demand the call of a Special Meeting specifying the date and month thereof, **which shall not be less than 14 days nor more than 30 days** 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).

## 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.

## 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 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, 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 L WVNYC ("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 L WVNYC. 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 L WVNYC shall be elected or appointed or continue to serve as an Officer or Director of the L WVNYC.

### 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 L WVNYC 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 L WVNYC. The size and composition of the Advisory Board shall be decided by the L WVNYC Board of Directors. The Advisory Board shall serve as a committee of L WVNYC 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 L WVNYC 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 L WVUS 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 the Annual Meeting shall be given to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting electronically or by mail. ~~Any other meeting of the Members shall be designated a Special Meeting.~~

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### 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.

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### Section 3. Special Meetings of the Members.

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 less than 14 days nor more than 30 days~~ 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).

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### 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.

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### 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.

## **ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

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### **Section 1. Nominating Committee.**

The immediate past President of the L WVNYC 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 L WVNYC, 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 L WVNYC 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 L WVNYC 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. 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 LWWNYS and the LWVUS.

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#### **Section 5. Local League Action.**

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

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

Statement of Financial Activities  
FY2025 Budget vs. Forecast

	Budget	Forecast	
	FY 2025	FY 2025	I/(D) to Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Direct Contributions			
Individual	\$ 33,500	\$ 72,600	\$ 39,100
Corporate	60,600	131,625	71,025
Grants			
Government	40,000	51,000	11,000
Non-Government	3,500	2,200	(1,300)
Program Sales and Fees	4,000	4,800	800
Net Membership Income	3,000	1,284	(1,716)
Investments	10,000	16,000	6,000
Special Events — Revenue	125,000	147,000	22,000
Special Events — Direct Costs	(65,000)	(35,915)	29,085
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 215,000</b>	<b>\$ 392,637</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaried Staff and Related Expenses	\$ 56,393	\$ 45,744	\$ (10,649)
Contract Office Staff	41,000	40,547	(453)
Professional Fees — Other	39,998	48,386	8,388
Supplies, Printing, and Postage	27,000	27,000	-
Communications and Equipment	3,350	3,840	490
Facilities	25,705	24,697	(1,008)
Travel and Meetings	15,700	16,342	642
Other	5,633	9,570	3,937
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 214,779</b>	<b>\$ 216,126</b>	<b>\$ 1,347</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 321</b>	<b>\$ 176,511</b>	<b>\$ 176,190</b>

- ▶ Fiscal year (FY) 2025 runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025
- ▶ The 2025 "March On" Tribute Awards garnered strong individual and corporate support which, combined with well-managed event expenses, added substantially to our net income. Other major sources of donations include a one-time gift from MZ Wallace and an exceptional response to our Year End Appeal.
- ▶ FY25 Government Grants anticipates full reimbursement City Council awards of \$15k
- ▶ Increased program Grant support from Con Edison boosted Corporate contributions separate and apart from the Tribute Awards sponsorship
- ▶ Salary Expenses were down due to staffing vacancy, with minimal use of contract workers to compensate
- ▶ Travel & Meetings includes costs for the L WVNY Convention in Albany
- ▶ Net income forecast of \$176k on an adjusted basis, exceeds budget by \$176k

**League of Women Voters of the City of New York****Statement of Financial Position  
March 31, 2025 Balance Sheet**

	As of March 31, 2025	As of March 31, 2024	Year over Year \$ Change	Year over Year % Change
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 79,585	\$ 40,856	\$ 38,729	94.8%
Fixed Income/Bonds	261,081	86,816	174,265	200.7%
Liquid Investments	228,128	238,183	-10,055	-4.2%
Total Accounts Receivable	3,708	2,288	1,420	62.1%
Security Deposits	1,664	1,664	0	0.0%
Undeposited Funds		100	-100	-100.0%
Federal Bonds	30,000	30,000		0.0%
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 604,166</b>	<b>\$ 399,907</b>	<b>\$ 204,259</b>	<b>51.1%</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,321</b>	<b>\$ 2,708</b>	<b>-\$ 1,387</b>	<b>-51.2%</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 605,487</b>	<b>\$ 402,615</b>	<b>\$ 202,872</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>				
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 188</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 188</b>	
Opening Balance Equity				
Unrestricted (retained earnings)	\$ 382,151	\$ 280,034	\$ 102,117	36.5%
Temporarily restricted net assets	-	23,750	-23,750	-100.0%
Net Income	223,148	98,831	124,317	125.8%
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 605,299</b>	<b>\$ 402,615</b>	<b>\$ 202,684</b>	<b>50.3%</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 605,487</b>	<b>\$ 402,615</b>	<b>\$ 202,872</b>	<b>50.4%</b>

- ▶ Over 50% increase in Total Current Assets due to strong FY25 fundraising and MZ Wallace donation
- ▶ FY25's revenue flows diligently invested into income producing investments (in accordance with Board guidelines)
- ▶ Assets (investments) are highly diversified and liquid with about 90% in primarily short duration fixed income securities (bonds) and the balance in stock market ETFs

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

Statement of Financial Activities  
FY 2025 Forecast and FY 2026 Budget

	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Forecast	FY 2026 Budget	Change in FY 2026 Budget from FY 2025 Forecast
<b>Revenue</b>				
Direct Contributions				
Individual	\$ 33,500	\$ 72,600	\$ 47,950	\$ (24,650)
Corporate	60,600	131,625	100,500	(31,125)
Grants				
Government	40,000	51,000	35,000	(16,000)
Non-Government	3,500	2,200	2,250	50
Program Sales and Fees	4,000	4,800	4,800	-
Net Membership Income	3,000	1,284	2,430	1,146
Investments	10,000	16,000	20,000	4,000
Special Events — Revenue	125,000	147,000	-	(147,000)
Special Events — Direct Costs	(65,000)	(35,915)	-	35,915
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 215,100</b>	<b>\$ 392,637</b>	<b>\$ 213,130</b>	<b>\$ (179,507)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Salaried Staff and Related Expenses	\$ 56,393	\$ 45,744	\$ 63,243	\$ 17,499
Contract Office Staff	41,000	40,547	37,700	(2,847)
Professional Fees — Other	39,998	48,386	48,288	(98)
Supplies, Printing, and Postage	27,000	27,000	23,000	(4,000)
Communications and Equipment	3,350	3,840	5,200	1,360
Facilities	25,705	24,697	36,742	12,095
Travel and Meetings	15,700	16,342	17,570	1,228
Other	5,633	9,570	15,965	6,395
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 214,779</b>	<b>\$ 216,126</b>	<b>\$ 247,758</b>	<b>\$ 31,632</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 321</b>	<b>\$ 176,511</b>	<b>\$ (34,628)</b>	

**The LWVNYC Board of Directors recommends the proposed FY26 budget be approved:**

- ▶ Moderate fundraising expectations incorporated into FY26 budget, with no gala or major gift included
- ▶ FY26 Corporate outreach strategies focus on converting event sponsorship support to direct program activities, following the FY24 practice, and recruiting Advisory Board members with an eye toward fostering greater corporate support
- ▶ Investment revenue is based solely on interest and dividends on much larger (>\$600k) conservatively invested asset balance
- ▶ Staffing expenses reflect full-time office coordinator and reduced contract expenses
- ▶ Facilities expense anticipates one-time costs to move to a new office and to build out new space
- ▶ Travel & Meetings includes expense allocations for LWV National Convention delegates (location unknown).
- ▶ Other Expenses include the final 2025 PMP membership payments from transition to a new LWV membership model
- ▶ FY26 projected Budget Deficit of \$34.6k can be covered by FY25's 50%+ growth in investment assets to over \$600k

**Local Program 2025-2026**

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:

**Understand the Protections and Networks that Exist to Assist New Yorkers on Five Key Issues**

The current atmosphere in New York City, as in many large cities around the country, is that many individuals feel vulnerable, and are uneasy about understanding and accessing the protections and programs afforded to them. We recommend centering the Local Program on five key issues that affect New Yorkers:

- ▶ **Voting access:** issues that can affect the ability to register, cast ballots, and participate fully in the democratic process
- ▶ **Affordable childcare:** many NYC families face challenges accessing affordable and quality childcare which can impact their ability to work or pursue education
- ▶ **Pay equity:** despite progress, many vulnerable individuals, especially women and women of color, continue to earn less than men in comparable roles across most industries
- ▶ **Access to reproductive healthcare:** despite relatively strong protections in NYC, access to services like abortion, contraception, maternal health and prenatal care still represent logistical and systemic hurdles, especially for people of color

- ▶ **Workplace harassment and safety:** many New Yorkers continue to experience harassment at work, and enforcement of protections can be inconsistent or slow.

LWVNYC will also look at the efforts made by League chapters in other large cities to determine if the protections available in New York City are on par with comparable areas, and to understand the efforts and programs other chapters have adopted. We envision that the work of this Local Issues group could be centered with this committee, but could enlist the assistance and support of existing committees such as City Affairs, Speakers Bureau, Voting Reform and others.

The goal of this Local Program would be multi-prong: educate ourselves to be an ally to these vulnerable groups, offer civic advocacy and civic engagement training so they are better equipped to advocate on their own, and create partnerships with other good government groups and possibly support new protections or programs at the Council level.

Respectfully Submitted  
by the Local Program Committee,

Stacey Lesser, Chair  
Kai Rosenthal

**ISSUE COMMITTEES****Board of Elections**

Election Specialist: Kate Doran

- Kate Doran attends the weekly meetings of the Commissioners of the NYC Board of Elections, and delivers testimony to the NYC Council and the NYS legislature on election and voter related matters. She serves on the Board of the New York State League and represents the LWVNYC on the LetNYVote coalition, a statewide group of nonpartisan, good-government groups working to improve election administration, and push for reforms in accordance with LWV positions.

**City Affairs**

Susie Gomes and Tavonia Davis  
cityaffairs@lwvny.org

- Directly connecting the League with the 51 New York City Council members and City Hall, we monitor legislation, meet with council members, and develop resources for their constituents. In 2024, we attended budget hearings and testified on the importance of early childhood education. In June, 2024 we spoke at a press conference introducing bills focused on postpartum mental and physical women's health at City Hall and in September 2024 we wrote in support of a bill that clarified and expanded support of voting rights for Domestic Violence Survivors. We conducted training sessions for City Council staff members focused on the history of the NYC Charter, the budget and land use processes, and hosted two open houses for New York City Council members. We also prepared Pros and Cons for the six ballot proposals in the 2024 general election, which received over 65,000 views on our website.

**Criminal Justice Reform**

Lindsey Reynolds

[lindsey.reynolds@live.law.cuny.edu](mailto:lindsey.reynolds@live.law.cuny.edu)

- Advocating for individuals vulnerable to the criminal justice system and legislation and policies to improve the system, in FY 2025, we focused our efforts on two projects:

- **The Returning Citizen Project:** Workshops designed for formerly incarcerated persons to encourage them to vote and become civically engaged in their communities.

- **Vote in NYC Jails Coalition:** Through this coalition of legal service providers and community-based organizations League volunteers visited detainees at Riker's to help register voters, access absentee ballots and provide ballot information. The Department of Corrections is using the League's flyers on Ranked Choice Voting and Who Makes NYC Run to inform and educate individuals at Rikers.

**Education**

Jane Hatterer

[education@lwvny.org](mailto:education@lwvny.org)

- Dedicated to promoting civic learning and engagement, and equipping students with 21st century skills for active citizenship, the League actively worked with the following city, state and national coalitions: the NYC Youth Civics Coalition, DemocracyReady NY (DRNY), and CivXNow. Notably our members helped develop DRNY's latest publication, "New York City Students Need Media Literacy Education Now: A Strategic Action Plan for New York State" and helped organize multiple Civics Week events, including a youth-led panel on "Unlocking Civic Careers."

**Election Hotline/Telephone Information Services**

Amy Matthews

- ▶ Staffed from 6 am–9 pm during early voting days through election day, the League's trained volunteer operators answer hundreds of voters' questions about the voting process, early voting, mail ballots, and more. We even sent volunteers to the homes of permanently disabled voters whose mail-in ballots had been lost in the mail to help them obtain new ballots from the Board of Elections (BOE). Callers are often referred to the League from the BOE.

**Participatory Budgeting**

Danielle Mowery

citywidepb@lwvnyc.org

- ▶ Beginning in 2022, NYC started a citywide participatory budgeting (PB) process where all New Yorkers, ages 11 and up, are able to decide how to spend approximately \$5 million of the city's budget. This fall, LWVNYC partnered again with NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) to bring idea generating workshops directly to over 450 New Yorkers. We are in the midst of Phase 4 as we ask New Yorkers throughout the city to vote for the winning ideas in their borough.

**Lunch with the League Speaker Series**

Joanna Leefer

programs@lwvnyc.org

- ▶ Our monthly Lunch with the League programs connect members with relevant, thoughtful, and informative insight from experts on the topics that impact New Yorkers. Some of the 2024/2025 speakers and topics have included:

- ▶ City and state leaders such as the former Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development, and Workforce Maria Torres-Springer, New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, and two former Manhattan Borough Presidents, Ruth Messinger and Gale Brewer. Topics addressed included Congestion Pricing in New York City, How to Make E-Vehicles Safer for both riders and pedestrians, and the Challenges of Undocumented Immigrants.

**Transportation**

Sarah Erdos and Michael Price

transportation@lwvnyc.org

- ▶ We advocate for a sustainable, equitable, and accessible transportation system in New York City. We lobbied for appropriate use of the Outer Borough Transit fund, supported policies that require cost estimates for future MTA expansions and, in partnership with the Riders Alliance, supported the #6MinuteService campaign to increase service frequency.

**Speakers Bureau**

Diane Burrows

speakers@lwvnyc.org

- ▶ Providing over 50 events in schools, businesses, and community groups throughout NYC, League speakers worked to help New Yorkers explore civic engagement and how their local government can work for them. Topics included "Creating Your Voting Action Plan" and "Who Makes NYC Run?" as well as more advanced civic engagement workshops. League Speakers also give talks that relate to specific election topics such as "Ranked Choice Voting," and Ballot proposals. In 2024, several community partners helped provide simultaneous translation.

## Voter and Information Services

Diane Burrows and Tara Pehush  
[voter.services@lwvny.org](mailto:voter.services@lwvny.org)

- ▶ In 2024, we increased our voter outreach efforts to new levels. Thanks to our incredible team of volunteers, we hosted over 200 voter registration and Get-Out-The-Vote events around New York City, registering 1,500+ voters and connecting with more than 15,000 New Yorkers. In high schools, we launched the "Civic Ambassadors" program to train students to civically activate their peers. Volunteers were able to sign up thanks to our new on-line calendar.
- ▶ We provide voter registration training sessions to partner organizations and businesses to extend the League's reach with creative outreach programs such as "Note to Vote" with the New York Liberty Basketball team, and "History After Dark" with the New York Historical Society. We develop nonpartisan election information materials in multiple languages and for New Yorkers with disabilities.

## Voting Reform

Bella Wang  
[voting.reform@lwvny.org](mailto:voting.reform@lwvny.org)

- ▶ The Voting Reform Committee advocates for electoral reform, fights against voter suppression, and works to make voting easier for all. We 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. In 2024 we advocated for same-day voter registration, resources for better election data, increased access to voting in jails, and restoration of voting rights for currently incarcerated people. We also conducted spring lobbying meetings with state

legislators on these key issues, as well as engaging new and returning members as meeting leaders. This committee spearheaded the work on the 2023/24 major policy review of Timing of New York City Elections.

## INTERNAL LEAGUE COMMITTEES

### DEI: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Sherletta McCaskill  
[dei@lwvny.org](mailto:dei@lwvny.org)

- ▶ The DEI Committee provides 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. In 2024 DEI hosted a screening of the documentary, *My Name is Pauli Murray*, followed by a discussion led by New York Historical Society scholar Salonee Bhaman. We also organized a docent-led tour of the Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and partnered with Prospect Park Alliance and Delta Sigma Theta to produce 100 Years of Shirley Chisholm, with a play about her life and accomplishments.

### Development/Special Events

Laurie Pauker and Barb Ettington  
[development@lwvny.org](mailto:development@lwvny.org)

- ▶ The League must raise funding for 100% of its annual budget. This committee seeks new and creative ways to find funding for the League's important work. Special Events included Constitution Day, Sip & Strategize Salons, Corporate Panels and the Tribute Awards.

Individual donors are reached through creative digital and print campaigns. Foundations and Government lenders receive grant submissions. The League has received the Gold star rating from GuideStar.

### Membership

Danielle Mowery  
membership@lwvny.org

► Members and volunteers are the heart of The League. We welcome volunteers at all levels of participation: Want to register voters on a weekend, dedicate time to policy work, or help lead civic engagement events? Please reach out! Those who join as dues-paying members also become a part of the State and National League of Women Voters, which pursue voting rights and other critical issues on a larger scale. Members are also eligible to represent the League when visiting with elected officials or speaking to community groups and can vote at the League's annual meeting.

### Newsletter

Ruth S. Altman, Susan B. Glattstein, Stacey Lesser, Maureen Mandirola, Andrea Zuckerman  
office@lwvny.org

► We solicit and edit ideas, articles and pictures from members, volunteers and partner organizations to create our quarterly newsletter. This important digital publication features our work of recent and highlights upcoming activities and events.

### Resources

Adrienne Kivelson, Deb Brodheim, Barb Ettington, Linda Movish, Laurie Pauker, Kai Rosenthal, Lesley Sigal

► **"Who Represents Me?" "Mygovnyc.org"** - this online search for your local, state and federal elected officials was developed in partnership with the Center for Urban Research at the City University of New York. It is updated after every election and as needed during the year.

► **"What Makes NYC Run?"** - most recently updated in 2024, this book provides a helpful guide to understanding how NYC government works, and how New Yorkers can participate.

► **"Who Makes NYC Run?"** - 60-second video explainers help New Yorkers understand the roles for city-wide elections. <https://lwvny.org/vote/#learn>

► **"Vote411.org"** - funded by the National League of Women Voters, each state and local municipality uploads candidate information for non-partisan evaluation.

### Student Internship Program

Diane Burrows

► The League welcomes college and high school students as interns each semester during the school year and also during the summer break. This innovative internship program focuses on project-based learning. The students collaborate with League leaders and partner organizations to develop products such as social media campaigns to promote youth voter engagement and the successful passage of the NYS ERA. They train and develop leadership skills to run voter registration drives and participatory budgeting events at their schools and other organizations within their communities. They create brochures, palm cards, and TikTok content to promote the mission of the League to civically engage young New Yorkers.