

LWVWA Bylaw Amendments – LWVWA Convention 2021

The first three Articles of LWVWA Bylaws were updated to conform to the national LWV changes made at 2020 LWV Convention. All local and state League bylaws must have the same wording (except name of group). No action is required since these amendments were approved by the delegates at LWV 2020 Convention.

Proposed Amendments to the LWV of Washington Bylaws (C4)

Note that only specific articles and sections being amended are listed. A rationale for each amendment is provided.

The proposed changes are written using the following format:

- **Strikethroughs** denote words to be deleted.
- **Underlined** denote words to be added.

Note: Proposed amendments are not listed in order of articles but rather by changes being proposed regarding staggering terms of office for the Board.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #1

ARTICLE VII. Financial Administration

Section 3. Financial Support.

b. Local Leagues shall be excused from making a per member payment to the LWVWA for ~~honorary life members~~ and students.

- ~~c. The per member payment for a member who is a student shall be equal to one-half the per member payment amount determined at convention. A student is defined as an individual enrolled either full or part time in an accredited institution.~~

Rationale: This is a conforming amendment made necessary by a LWVUS bylaw change adopted during the 2020 Convention. That amendment excuses state and local Leagues from PMP payments for student members.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #2

ARTICLE V. Officers

Section 1. Election, Qualifications, and Term.

- a. The officers of the LWVWA shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the LWVWA. ~~and shall be elected by the convention and shall hold office until the conclusion of the next convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified.~~ Offices may be shared. A president-elect may be designated.
- b. When feasible, terms shall be staggered so that the president, second vice-president, and secretary shall be elected in the same year by the convention and hold office until the conclusion of the next convention or until their successors shall be elected and qualified. The first vice-president and treasurer shall be elected at the council and hold office until the conclusion of the next council or until their successors shall be elected and qualified.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #3

ARTICLE VI. Board of Directors.

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications, and Term.

- a. The board of directors shall consist of the officers, not ~~less~~ fewer than five nor more than seven directors ~~elected by the convention,~~ and directors appointed by the elected members of the board, the number not to exceed the number of elected board members. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVWA. ~~The elected directors shall be elected by the convention and shall serve until the conclusion of the next convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified.~~ Members of the LWVWA Board of Directors will also be members of the Board of Directors of the LWVWA Education Fund.
- b. When feasible, terms shall be staggered so that three (3) of the elected directors shall be elected by the convention and shall serve until the conclusion of the next convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Four (4) of the elected directors shall be elected by the council and serve until the conclusion of the next council or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Rationale: This amendment covers two articles in the bylaws. Instituting staggered terms for board officers and directors will ensure that the board always has experienced members to mentor incoming officers and directors. These changes will strengthen the board and provide more support to new board members.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #4

ARTICLE IX. Council

Section 2. Composition. The council shall be composed of:

- a. the president of each local League, ~~and chair of each MAL unit~~ or an alternate in the event that the president or chair is unable to attend, plus additional delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues and MAL units according to the formula provided in Section 4 of this Article.

NOTE: combines a. and b. (below) to indicate local league delegations

- ~~a. the president of each local League and chair of each MAL unit or an alternate in the event that the president or chair is unable to attend;~~
- ~~b. one additional delegate chosen by each local League;~~
- b. one delegate for each recognized ILO within the state of Washington; ~~and~~
- c. the members of the state board.
- d. Nonvoting members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend the council.

Section 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the LWVWA. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote and absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4. Representation. Each local league and MAL unit shall be entitled to voting representation in the council as follows: one delegate for its first through 15 the voting members and one delegate for every 25 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by the LWVUS records of voting members as of the date determined by the LWVUS of the year in which the council is held.

Section 5. Purpose. The council shall:

- a. Give guidance to the state board on program and methods of work.
- b. Provide educational programs as deemed desirable.
- c. Elect the second vice-president, treasurer, and four directors of the board.
- d. Transact such other business as shall be presented by the state board. The council is authorized to change the program only in the event of an emergency, provided:
 1. Notice of proposed changes has been sent to local Leagues, ILOs, and MAL units not less than 40 days prior to a council meeting; and
 2. The change is adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

Section 4. Quorum.

~~Ten~~ Thirty voting delegates, other than members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum, provided that not less than a majority of the local Leagues is represented.

Rationale: This is a conforming amendment. These changes are necessary to conform with the composition, delegates' qualifications, voting, representation, and quorum required for the convention so that the election of the second vice-president, treasurer, and three directors of the board at the council will have the same legality as those officers and directors elected at the convention.

BYLAW PROPOSAL #5

ARTICLE X. Nominations and Elections

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee shall be sent to local Leagues, ILOs, and MAL units and posted on the member section of the LWVWA website not less than 40 days before the convention or council. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention or council on the first day of the convention or council. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided that the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Rationale: This is a conforming amendment to add a nominating committee report to the council to present the slate for electing the treasurer, second vice-president, and three directors at the council.