



WITH ONE VOICE

PRINCIPLES, POLICIES,

POSITIONS AND BYLAWS

2023

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF KENTUCKY

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SECTION I

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LWVKY PRINCIPLES

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that effect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Where do the principles come from?

The Principles are "concepts of government" to which the League subscribes. These concepts are a direct descendent of The Platform, which served the League from 1942 to 1956 as the national repository for "principles supported and positions taken by the League as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention." During most of the League's Platform period, the principles were grouped, along with specific legislative measures and policies supported by the League, under "Gettysburg-Address-type" categories such as Government of the People. By 1956, the Platform had disappeared from the League vocabulary, but its principles survived. Since that time, the Principles have served two functions, according to the LWWUS bylaws: authorization for adoption of national, state and local program and as a basis for taking action at the national, state and local levels.

As for action to implement the Principles, the appropriate board authorizes action once it determines that member understanding and agreement do exist and that action is appropriate. In addition, as with other action efforts, when there are ramifications beyond a League's own governmental jurisdiction, the League should consult the other Leagues affected.

The national board suggests that any action on the Principles be taken in conjunction with present League positions to which they apply and on which member agreement and understanding are known to exist. The Principles are rather broad when standing alone, so it is necessary to exercise a certain degree of caution when considering using them as a basis for action. Furthermore, since 1974 most of the Principles have been an integral part of the national program, most notable in the criteria for evaluating government action that appears at the end of the formal listing of programs.

SECTION II

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POLICY STATEMENTS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky is fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization. These principles are central to the League's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities and policymakers to create a more perfect democracy.

Pursuant to the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion, the LWVKY commits to recruit, mentor and retain members and leaders who represent a broad spectrum of people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, ability and being differently-abled, socioeconomic status, rural and urban locale, and political affiliation.

Adopted by the LWVKY Board of Directors, September 2019

NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, the LWVKY Board values the many skills and types of experience that individual board members bring to the League, including those learned in public life through elective or appointive office. In fact, involvement in the public and political life of this country is something that the League recommends for all. Nevertheless, the LWVKY Board believes that some basic limitations on board members' political activity, while they are serving in this capacity, are necessary to protect the nonpartisanship of the League as an organization:

1. **Elected Office** – A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office. A Board member may run for or hold a local non-partisan elective office after consultation with and approval by the LWVKY Board and the president of the affected local League if appropriate.
2. **Political Party Office** – A Board member shall not serve in any official position in a political party.
3. **Political Campaigns** – A Board member shall not chair a political campaign or administer fundraising for a political campaign, chair a campaign event, be a spokesperson, or work in any other significant way in the campaign of a candidate for a partisan office.
4. **Campaign Contributions** – A Board member may contribute, with discretion, to political organizations or a candidate's fund.
5. **Social and Other Media** – A Board member shall not indicate her/his political affiliations or candidate preferences in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify her/him as a member of the LWVKY Board.
6. **Additional Clarifications** – Board members shall present questions about specific situations to the LWVKY Board where the foregoing policies do not resolve the question.

Special Limitation on the President

The President shall not engage in any political activity, partisan or nonpartisan, including attending political fundraising events.

Adopted by the LWVKY Board of Directors, September 2019

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

The legislative policy of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky shall be carried out according to the following procedures when action before the General Assembly is necessary:

1. The state League's legislative committee, under the legislative chairperson, shall review legislation introduced in the Government, or proposed for introduction there, to determine whether such legislation falls within the program of the LWVKY and meets the standards for League support. This review shall precede any calls to action to local Leagues. The state board may delegate to the legislative committee the power to select measures for action in order to concentrate League action. The legislative committee should include the legislative chairperson, program chairperson, and the various chairpersons of state programs.
2. Local Leagues shall be under the same obligation to support calls for action from the state legislative chairperson as that which applies to calls for action from the national office of the League on matters before Congress. Local Leagues shall not adopt a stand on state legislation contrary to that requested by the state legislative committee, nor shall they refuse to support calls for action without a report stating their reasons.
3. Local Leagues who wish to lobby in the state legislature for action on local support positions shall:
 - A. If action will affect only their own League community, inform the state president and obtain state board approval; then inform all local Leagues of this intent before the legislature meets.
 - B. If action will affect legislation or regulations which will be effective statewide, provide each state board member and all local Leagues with the background data used as a basis for the support position. Consent must be obtained from a majority of local Leagues before requesting state board approval. The deadline for presenting the information and requesting consent is September 1 of the year preceding the Government session. Answers to the request for consent must be received in the state office by November 1.
 - C. If action will affect some other League communities, provide the state president and all affected Leagues (Leagues in cities of the same class) with the background data used as the basis for the support position. Consent must be obtained from all affected Leagues before requesting state board approval. The deadline for presenting the information and requesting consent is September 1 of the year preceding the Government session. Answers to the request for consent must be received in the state office by November 1.
4. The state president and legislative chairperson must be notified in advance by local League president of official appearances before the legislature or legislature interim committees, state agencies and special committees, state-level meetings, and public hearings where official statements are to be made. Approval of such official appearances and statements must be obtained. A copy of the statement shall be sent to the state office either before or immediately after the hearing.
5. In the event that measures are unexpectedly introduced into a regular or special session of the Government, which, in the opinion of the state Board a majority of local Leagues have studied sufficiently to be prepared for action, and which presents facets of the current program, the state board may request a consensus among local Leagues to see what immediate action, if any, the LWVKY should pursue.

Adopted by State Board, January 26, 1971. Amended June 16, 1971; September 13, 1977.

GUIDELINES FOR LEGISLATIVE POLICY

1. Local Leagues must have on file in the state office copies of their complete program including all support positions.
2. No local League should undertake a study which they know will be directed to the legislature without the circulation of a statement of intent to the state president, the state legislative chairperson and to all local Leagues.
- 3.*A local League wishing to take action in the legislature must send copies of the consensus to all local Leagues and to state office by September 1 preceding the session of the Government. This must be accompanied by a summary of the basis for the League position. If local leagues or state office request more detailed information, this must be supplied.
- 4.*The responding Leagues should send their consent or a list of objections to the state president, the state legislative chairperson and the requesting League by October 20 so that the responses may be sent to the state office by November 1. This operates in the same manner as a mandatory Call for Action.
5. The requesting League is responsible for obtaining responses.
6. Once a League has received permission from the state board to lobby on a local issue, it may continue to lobby on the issue at each subsequent session of the Government. In the event the scope is enlarged, then that League must reapply for permission to lobby.

*These are for the purpose of facilitating action under Point 3 of the legislative policy.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION ON STATE POSITIONS

State Hearings

1. Inform the state president and legislative chairperson of where and when you plan to appear and a summary of what you propose to say. It is the responsibility of the state president, in consultation with the appropriate state program chairperson, to approve or disapprove the plans.
2. Immediately after the meeting or hearing send two copies of your statement to the state office. If the state chairperson is not present at the hearing, write a report and send two copies to the state office with your statement. Do this promptly.
3. If you are asked at a meeting to speak in the name of the League, you must adhere to the League position and give reasons for our position. This statement must be reported to the state president and state item chairperson involved. If the chairperson is present, you should defer to her/him in speaking.

Local Meetings

1. The president is normally the League spokesperson. However, the item chairperson should help with the statement. The president may assign the speaking to her/him. The statement must adhere to League position.
2. If you are asked at a meeting to speak in the name of the League, you must adhere to League position and give reasons for our position. If you are unprepared, defer to another member or offer to send the information letter.
3. If you must make a formal statement at a local meeting, you must send a report and your statement to the state president and state chairperson for that program item.

LITIGATION CRITERIA

1. Unincorporated local Leagues shall not bring suit because such action is prohibited by law in Kentucky.
2. Incorporated local Leagues may bring suit on their local program items affecting only their own community, or similar communities. If similar communities will be affected by the suit, the local League bringing suit shall place before all other local Leagues, before the suit is filed, their data and findings on such items in order that other local Leagues may be apprised of the action desired.
3. A local League whose local study item leads to a position requiring litigation affecting any local governments may take action after it has furnished all other Leagues and state board members with the background information. In case another local League objects to the basis of the suit, state board will serve as arbitrator.

Adopted March 1973

For further reference see *Going to Court in the Public Interest*, League of Women Voters of the United States, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036.

CONSENSUS: WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT IS DETERMINED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

WHAT IT IS

Webster defines “consensus” as “agreement in matters of opinion.” For the League of Women Voters, however, consensus has a far broader meaning. A household word in League parlance, it means **agreement among a substantial number of representative group of members**—not just a simple majority—**reached after sustained study and group discussion**. Consensus is a prerequisite to the League’s taking any position on national, state or local governmental issues. Consensus also determines what action, if any, is to be taken on the item under consideration. No action is taken where there is a lack of agreement, and although this may be a disappointment to some members at times, it is essential that when a League position is announced, the members are not only informed but are in basic agreement.

WHAT IT IS NOT

Since determination of consensus within a group is an interpretive process, **it is not decided through a poll or a vote of the membership**. Polling has an inherent rigidity which makes it difficult to reach essential agreement. A poll taken at a meeting, for example, does not reflect agreement or disagreement on the various facets of an issue. Polling by phone or mail tends to force premature crystallization of individual opinion instead of inviting deliberate group decision.

Should the national League conduct a poll of its members on an issue, one section of the country might well outweigh another, leaving the viewpoints of some regions unreflected. Instead, the national League keeps track of the number of reports sent in by local Leagues in support of or opposition to a point of view; but it also evaluates bulletin material, correspondence, and reports

on field visits. **It is seeking broad areas of agreement based on a good cross-section in size, type and region as well as on substantial numbers.** This kind of evaluation is a more interpretive and therefore a more valuable way of reaching agreement than that of counting noses.

HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

It Begins with Program-Making...

The first step in determining consensus is taken at the program-making level when members, either at annual meetings or through their delegates at state or national conventions, select a program which they believe warrants League study or action. **At this time, each item must be chosen carefully and worded so clearly and precisely that the members and the board know exactly what they propose to study.** The board should then help organize the study presentation with discussion outlines and leaders' guides; it should furnish pamphlets, research reports and bibliographies; and finally, set deadlines for progress reports.

The board, with the resource chairperson, may lay out program plans and materials in a way which will help the members reach consensus when they are sufficiently informed. At the appropriate time, any questions which the board wants answered should accompany the discussion material. In short, the board should anticipate the need for consensus.

It Goes On Through Item Study

League members are expected to examine all sides of an issue. The sources of information must be weighted, various factors considered and facts established before opinions are formed. Minority opinions should be listened to with open minds and be included in reports to the board. Every member should be encouraged to participate. The discussion leader should seek to draw out opinions rather than to express them. When reaction to specific aspects of the item presented is indicated or when the time to consider the areas of agreement has come, specific questions may be asked of the membership and the answers reported to the board. The board should also be informed about the tenor of the meeting, for example, was there enthusiastic approval; lots of opposition, doubt and uncertainty; or hesitation to come to a conclusion.

The Board Deliberates...

On the basis of these reports, the League board must consider whether a substantial and representative group supports or opposes a position. The appropriate board studies minority as well as majority views and evaluates the qualifications, reservations and suggestions. In addition, it reviews the quality of the resource work, the effectiveness of the discussion, the number of members involved and the degree of interest shown by the membership. When these reports come in to the board on a standard form, estimating the value of the presentation is facilitated.

While there can be no hard and fast rules for determining consensus, or the lack of it, some general factors can be considered:

1. If there is substantial agreement with minor disagreement, it is considered that consensus has been reached.
2. If a majority agree but a substantial minority does not, then in the League sense, consensus has not been reached.

This is on the level of consensus within the unit or small group.

At the local League level, the board examines consensus reports from all units:

1. If all units are in complete agreement, a local League has consensus.
2. If there are scattered minority disagreements, a local board still feels that there is consensus.
3. If some units agree and others disagree, a local board should call all the units together to discuss possible areas of agreement.

It is important, in the latter case, for the pros and cons to meet, hear each other out, listen to divergent viewpoints and if possible reach some area of opinion on which the League as a whole can arrive at consensus. The importance of such a meeting should be emphasized to insure good attendance.

The Influence of the Absent Member

If only 60% or 50% or even 30% of the members participate in reaching consensus, is there consensus? Yes, if all members were given the opportunity to participate, and if the item was presented adequately from the aspects of content and procedure. The absent cannot hold back the active in the League. This is true also in political life. Those who stay at home on Election Day should not expect to control the wishes of those who go to the polls. The real problem, however, is to stimulate member participation.

The Board Reports to the Members...

Once the board evaluates the thinking of its members and finds sufficient areas of agreement, the League "has a position" on the item under consideration. A substantial and representative number of its members now approve or disapprove certain policies and may want to take action. The general membership is informed at League meetings and through the League bulletins. The national League reports consensus on national issues, the state League on state issues and the local League on local issues. It is imperative that the board keep a record of the exact position taken by the League together with a summary of the preparation and procedures used in reaching that consensus.

Now it is Time for Action...

If the membership is informed, its thinking crystallized and its impulse to action ripe, legislative action may follow. The appropriate board must determine whether or not certain legislation will carry out the wishes of its members or if it reflects a position which they have opposed when reaching consensus, for by this consensus the appropriate board has been empowered to carry out a specified policy at the proper time and in the proper form to the proper governmental authority. In addition to legislative action, the board should also direct efforts to provide information and build public opinion in favor of its position.

The membership of the League of Women Voters, then, by its reflective examination, study, discussion and evaluation of its program has reached that cherished position of consensus which is its discipline and its strength.

SECTION III

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LWVKY POSITIONS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT

ELECTION LAWS

Support procedures to strengthen the State Board of Elections, to inform election officials and citizens, and to encourage compliance with existing statutes. Support of election laws designed to facilitate voting, provide strict enforcement of laws to protect against fraud, prevent disenfranchisement and encourage widest possible use of the absentee ballot.

Support restoration of voting rights for convicted felons upon completion of their sentence or discharge from parole. (2005)

Support use of an independent, non-partisan commission to draft changes in boundaries of Kentucky Legislative districts. (2003)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Support for:

- A printed manual detailing rules and procedures for registration of voters, developed and distributed by State Board of Elections;
 - The rights of groups and individuals to conduct voter registration activities;
 - Inclusion of multiple political parties on the voter registration application form;
 - Continued use of the “other” category for citizens who prefer not to affiliate with a political party;
 - A centralized voter registration data base maintained by the State Board of Elections.
- (2003)

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Support the use of the comparative signature procedure for identification of voters at the polls (1950-51)

Support for a strengthened State Board of Elections with statutory authority, staff and budget to coordinate and administer election activities of county boards in such ways as providing schools for instruction and workshops for training county election officers (ultimately it could include the establishment of an institute of government); promoting election information among officials and voters by means of manuals, news releases, TV, radio, films, speakers, posters, bulletins; appointment of a full-time, highly qualified executive secretary under the merit system to help carry out the expanded responsibilities of the State Board of Elections; encouraging compliance among county officials’ continuous review and updating of election laws. (1964)

Additional support for:

- Training of election workers using a study guide developed, updated and distributed by the State Board of Elections;

- Effective measures for recruitment of election workers, to include increased payment for services;
- Assignment of additional workers at polling places where high voter turnout is expected;
- Provision of voting machines in sufficient numbers to accommodate high voter turnout where expected;
- Purchase of voting machines that conform to accepted national standards regarding ease of use, reduction of voter error, prevention of fraud, accommodations for voters with disabilities, and provisions for languages other than English;
- State guidelines to encourage clarity in ballot layout;
- Safeguards to assure accuracy and speedy reporting of election results;
- Increased state funding to counties where needed to upgrade voting machines and the administration of elections. (2003)

ABSENTEE AND SPECIAL VOTING (1958-59)

1. * Extension of the privilege of the absentee ballot to the sick and infirm who are correctly registered.
2. * Elimination of the requirement of signature notarization.
3. * Requirement that the ballot be sent both ways by mail.
4. Promotion by the League of information concerning laws governing the use of absentee ballots both to officials and to the public.
5. Provision for bipartisan handling of absentee and special ballots from beginning to end.

*Accomplished 1975 – Constitutional Amendment for Restructure of State Court System

Additional support for:

- Requirement that counties notify the State Board of Elections when the number of absentee ballot applications exceeds a specified threshold;
- Prohibition against making names of absentee ballot applicants public until after the ballot has been returned;
- Extensive publicizing of ways citizens may report suspected election fraud. (2003)

ELECTIONEERING (1974)

Elimination of electioneering at the polls on election day.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

1. Constitutional Revision

Revision of the Kentucky Constitution either by a convention call for that purpose or by an amendment.

2. Constitutional Amendments

Amendment of the Kentucky Constitution that would:

- a. Liberalize the amending process to permit the submission of as many as six amendments to the voters at one time
- b. Remove the limitation of the time in which rejected amendments may be resubmitted

- c. Require only a simple majority of those voting on that issue in any election for calling a convention
- d. Remove the salary limitation
- e. Revise the provisions relating to terms and tenure of constitutional officers.
- f. Strengthen the legislative department

JUDICIAL REFORM

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky, concerned with the need for modernization of the court system of Kentucky to meet the needs of our changing times and to provide equal justice for all citizens of our Commonwealth, supports a unified court system, administered by a central authority, with uniform methods for selecting judges,** with the establishment of a procedure for discipline, retirement and removal of judges.

**More than half the Leagues responding to consensus questions favor merit selection of judges.

LIBRARY CONCURRENCE (Adopted April 1989)

The LWVKY concurred with the Lexington Library Study that the state has a responsibility for contributing to the local libraries.

THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Adopted June 1967, Edited and readopted April 24, 1975)

The LWVKY recognizes that democratic government in the United States is based on the belief that service in government can be performed by dedicated citizens who have a capacity to learn. This belief applied to all levels of government, including county government in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Therefore, the League believes that the Commonwealth, as creator of its county officials, has an obligation to furnish county officials with all information, in-service training, technical assistance and the tools necessary for them to carry out their duties with competence, economy and pride.

The League, taking note of the desperate need for competence, economy and flexibility in county government, urges its complete reorganization by constitutional change at the earliest date possible. In the meantime, it urges that those changes which are now possible be made, such as:

1. Elimination of fees as basis for compensation for county officers.
2. Provision for expanded state assistance to all county officers responsible for county financial management and a state or professional audit of every aspect of county finances annually.
3. Mandatory accountability of county officers to fiscal courts.
4. Complete redefinition and possible reallocation of duties of existing officers to simplify and clarify duties, such as:
 - a. * separation of judicial duties of county judge from administrative
 - b. separation of tax collecting duties of sheriff from law enforcement
 - c. consolidation of offices of jailer with sheriff and other consolidation where feasible.
5. Consolidation of counties and/or of functions and services within a group of counties.
6. Provision of more flexibility to make county government more responsive to the needs of changing conditions.

GOVERNMENT ETHICS REFORM (Adopted February 1994)

1. PAC Contributions. The League believes keeping PAC limits at their current level is preferable and that requiring stricter limits is acceptable.

2. Public financing and spending caps. The League favors limits on how much can be spent in state and local election campaigns regardless of whether public financing is provided.

3. Applicability of spending limits. The League favors campaign spending limits based on amounts that would reasonably allow candidates to communicate their views and positions to the public and tied to an inflation index. Limits should apply to the following elective offices: all statewide elective offices; state senators and representatives; and statewide judicial offices. Ideally, spending limits should also apply to: countywide or district offices; other county officials; and mayors, city commissioners, and council members.

4. Campaign fundraising and reporting. The League favors strict limits on when candidates can raise and expend campaign funds within each election cycle.

5. Local code of ethics. The League favors adopting a code of ethics for local governments which includes the following essential elements:

- prohibitions on abuse of public office for personal financial gain
- prohibitions on awarding no-bid government contracts to companies, friends, or relatives of elected officials or to companies where principals contributed to campaigns of elected officials;
- prohibitions on conflicts of interest and standards of conduct to prevent and avoid them
- prohibitions against allowing elected officials to participate in decisions to hire or promote relatives for positions in local government
- prohibitions on use of public employees, equipment, or appointed officials to work on election campaigns or personal projects
- prohibitions on use of stature and inside information after leaving government to gain private employment (“revolving door restriction”)
- periodic ethics education and training for local officials
- the establishment of a nonpartisan, independent commission to administer the law with investigatory and civil enforcement powers
- some way of ensuring that provisions of the local ethics code are applied consistently and fairly administered and enforced from one community to the next and are consistent with interpretations of the state code of ethics.

6. Applicability of local code of ethics

The League believes all local governments and all local government agencies should be covered by the local code of ethics. Local governments are defined as any city, county, urban-county, charter county, or special taxing or non-taxing district created under KRS, and agencies are defined as any board, commission, authority, 19onstick corporation, or other entity formed by an individual local government or combination of local governments.

7. Possible loopholes in the existing ethics law

The League favors prohibiting spouses of lobbyists from giving anything of value to legislators. Members of an organization which hires a lobbyist should also be prohibited from giving anything of value to a legislator. The League also favors closing the “caucus loophole” by applying the same spending restrictions that apply to individual legislators to members of officially recognized caucuses.

8. Cost of proposed reforms

The League supports increased taxes or other revenue-producing mechanisms to finance implementation, administration, and enforcement of a code of ethics for local governments. The League does not favor increased taxes or other revenue-producing mechanisms to pay for public financing of countywide or district judge races or other city and county races.

STATE TAX STRUCTURE - Adopted (portions) 1966, 1973, 1985; Readopted (portions) 1969, 1973, 1975, 1977

1. The League of Women Voters of Kentucky believes that the following primary principles of a just tax system should be applied to aid in evaluation of taxes proposed:

A. Government has the duty to collect sufficient revenue to promote the common good and to deliver the services that are best supported through government.

B. For government to tax in excess of the requirements of the common good or to waste tax revenues is unjust since this unfairly deprives the citizen of his property and the produce of his labor without a corresponding common benefit.

C. All citizens have the duty/right to contribute to the common good. One usual way is the payment of taxes to support the government.

D. The burden of taxes should be in proportion to the citizens’ ability to pay.

E. The taxation and appropriation process should allow government the necessary flexibility for responsible fiscal management adaptable to changing circumstances and priorities.

F. The use of tax laws as incentives or disincentives to action should be viewed in the light of the common good. The granting of tax preferences (exemptions, deductions, etc.) should be genuinely premised on the promotion of the common interest and not upon special interest or favoritism.

G. Taxes once established should be collected with even-handed enforcement. To permit the illegal nonpayment or underpayment of taxes is unjust to those who comply with the law.

H. The norm for choosing a form of taxation should first be the equitable distribution of civic burden and not the ease of collection or the lack of popular opposition. However, where there are equivalent equitable options, the simpler methods should be used.

I. The tax system should be diversified to provide a broad revenue base and to minimize the effect of imperfections in any one tax. Each form of taxation should not be looked at in isolation, but evaluated as part of the total tax system. Further, the impact of tax laws should be consistent with other public policies (the conservation of energy, the preservation of neighborhoods, etc.).

2. When a real and pressing need can be demonstrated for new revenues, we support the following taxes:

A. Support reform of the individual income tax in order to make it more progressive.

B. Establishment of a uniform, statewide minimum property tax and repeal of rollback or limitation laws to allow this minimum tax to be levied at a higher rate than is presently possible.

C. Taxation of unmined minerals in the same manner as other real property. This is without regard for the need for new revenue; equity demands this.

D. An increase in the severance tax, which should be levied on all extractive minerals presently known and those which may be discovered in the future in Kentucky. This severance tax should be administered by the state, giving consideration to just distribution of the monies collected.

E. An increase in the cigarette tax to a figure closer to the national average and more nearly compatible with that of surrounding states.

F. Imposition of special sales taxes on luxuries such as furs, jewelry and entertainment.

G. Reform of the corporate income tax, by removal of Accelerated Cost Recovery System and/or by increasing rate categories.

3. We also take the following positions:

A. Reform of the inheritance tax by increasing the exemption for widows/widowers and children or abolishing the tax.

B. Opposition to a value added tax.

C. Sunset legislation to accompany earmarked taxes.

4. We support better administration of the property tax by any or all of the following methods:

A. Upgrading the office of the Property Valuation Administrator by applying such methods as:

1. requiring more vigorous qualifications for office

2. relaxing or removing residency requirements

3. making the office appointive rather than elective after proper qualifications are met

4. using the merit system as a method of removal from office or removal by trial in Franklin County Court rather than in local courts

5. other methods.

B. Removal of tax ceilings set by the constitution or by statute in order that local initiative may be used to provide local services.

C. More frequent reappraisal of real estate, preferably on a continuous cyclic basis, with special attention to developing areas whose cost should be borne by state and county jointly.

D. Requiring proof that the personal property tax on automobiles has been paid before a license is issued.

5. In order to ensure that all taxes are fairly imposed on each citizen, we strongly support measures to increase the efficiency of the tax levying and collection procedures, such as removal of political pressure from tax collectors and auditors, paying higher salaries commensurate with professional qualification and providing checks on taxes now easily evaded.

6. We support new sources of revenue, state or local, to increase the funding of primary and secondary education in the Commonwealth.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL FUNDS - Adopted November 1973, April 1975, April 1977

After reaching agreement that adequate financing was needed for quality primary and secondary education in Kentucky, LWVKY supports the following goals:

- A. The per pupil expenditure should be increased to equal the national average effort.
- B. Teachers' salaries should be increased to a level at the average of the surrounding states.
- C. School districts should be required to increase their local effort from the property tax in order to qualify for state support payments.

In addition, the League recommends that the differential cost for the education of different grades and programs be used for distribution of state funds to the school districts. The differential funding should include units for the handicapped, gifted, vocational training, kindergartens and remedial reading.

The League recommends that state funding be structured to allow school districts to develop extended school year programs.

We realize that all of these goals and recommendations will require more funds. Since the education of youth is one of the best investments government can make, we urge that the state consider a reordering of priorities to increase support for primary and secondary education.

The League also supports full state funding of public kindergartens.

QUALITY EDUCATION (Adopted 1987)

1. The LWVKY affirms that the goals of education are to enable people:
 - A. To participate effectively in all aspects of our democratic society
 - B. To fulfill their individual potential and talents.

2. To meet these goals, quality educational programs should help all individuals grow and develop in the following areas:
 - A. Academic knowledge, such as arts, health, humanities, language, math, physical and social sciences and physical education
 - B. Social interaction
 - C. Citizenship.

3. Specifically, students need to acquire the following abilities:
 - A. To reason critically
 - B. To solve problems
 - C. To adapt to change
 - D. To read and communicate effectively
 - E. To continue to learn independently.

4. Educational policies and programs should meet the following criteria:
 - A. Equal access to educational opportunity to meet the individual needs of all people is assured. This means that programs, policies and placements should:
 1. Broaden rather than limit individuals' choices and opportunities.

2. Foster success in learning
 3. Encourage creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.
- B. Local initiative and responsibility are encouraged. This means the state's role should be:
1. To foster innovation and reward excellence
 2. To set general criteria for implementation of legislation
 3. To provide resources, including grants
 4. To monitor and evaluate compliance with statutes and regulations
 5. To provide districts with technical assistance
 6. To gather and disseminate research data.
- C. The effectiveness of teachers and administrators is encouraged by enhancing their professionalism. Professional enhancement should include:
1. A process of recruitment and selection that attracts the best teacher candidates.
 2. A process of teacher education that is meaningful and relevant.
 3. An adequate support staff (secretaries, counselors, aides, etc.).
 4. An increase of the teacher's role in decision making regarding curriculum planning, implementation and evaluation.
 5. An adequate time allotment for all job requirements.
 6. Techniques for student and teacher evaluation which foster rather than restrict educational achievement.
 7. Professional rewards that encourage cooperation and growth.
 8. Equitable and competitive salaries.
5. Local and state education agencies should facilitate informed public participation. They should provide clear, adequate information and technical assistance to teachers, parents, students, administrators and other citizens so that all can have input into educational decision making and hold public officials accountable.

CIVIC EDUCATION (Adopted 2013)

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky believes that schools have a crucial role in preparing students to be informed and engaged citizens. Civics education should focus on knowledge and understanding of governments (e.g. local, state, national, and other forms), including their structures, functions, and effects.

Effective civics education includes preparing students with the skills to participate critically and solve problems in civic life, and it provides practice for students working cooperatively in a community of citizens with rights and responsibilities.

Civics education should be integrated with history, geography and economics instruction throughout elementary, middle and high school instruction. An additional course (or courses) in civics or government should be available in high school to further prepare students for their roles as citizens.

When students graduate from high school, they should have acquired the following:

- the knowledge to influence the legislative process on issues of importance to themselves and others;
- the motivation to be responsible citizens involved in providing for the general welfare;
- the skills, inclinations, and self-confidence to participate as informed citizens in the electoral, legislative, judicial and administrative processes of government;

- the process skills to work on projects cooperatively in various size group activities;
- sufficient background knowledge of history and politics to understand the effects of voting on their own and others' lives.

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILDREN AT RISK (Adopted November 1996)

The LWVKY makes these recommendations regarding the state plan required by The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, known as the welfare reform bill. (LWVKY recognizes that caregivers may be mothers or fathers. The language reflects the language of the bill.)

It is our belief that the provision of quality developmental child care is essential if the welfare cycle is to be ended, as the bill aims to do. Since the first three years of life are crucial in determining a person's health, productivity and future employability, quality care is imperative. Minimal, custodial care will perpetuate the cycle of poverty. This means:

- State payments for child care should cover the cost of care including the cost of accredited programs. The new fee scales that are necessary must reflect the increased minimum wage and the difference in cost according to the age of the child. This may vary by region, which is allowable.
- Public funds for child care should go to providers who meet state standards for health and safety and caregiver training.
- The state should establish registration and minimum standard guidelines for in-home care that is not certified as a day care home or licensed as a day care center.
- Quality developmental care requires caregivers who truly want to care for children and who are trained.
- If welfare mothers are to be expected to care for other mothers' children, it must be by choice, and they must meet the standards above and receive payment equal to the minimum wage.

The state has many options. We specifically recommend that the state take these options that will benefit children:

- Exempt mothers of infants under 12 months from any work requirement. Taking care of an infant IS work; also infant care is very expensive and the state currently is not paying what infant care costs.
- In succeeding years, limit the work requirement to 20 hours per week for mothers with children under six.
- Continue to allow the "at risk of welfare" category as eligible for child care assistance, and raise the income eligibility to 85% of state median income as allowed by law.
- Continue to provide child care assistance for the first year that a welfare mother gets gainful employment and no longer gets cash assistance. (This is in the plan; it is called transitional child care.)
- Make strong efforts to prevent teen pregnancy.

Many questions will need to be asked and answered as this law is implemented. State legislators and members of the Cabinet for Human Resources should be prepared to analyze the impact of the many changes on children.

- What impact did the 15% reduction in Title XX funds have on funding for children's services, especially services to neglected and abused children?
- What impact will the changes in food stamps have on children?
- Was the state able to find matching funds to enable Kentucky to secure the maximum amount of federal funds?
- What impact will the changes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program have on children, and specifically on family day care home providers?
- How will children be taken care of when the family's two-year maximum is reached? Will more foster care be needed?

JUVENILE JUSTICE

This consensus related to juveniles and their parents who are subject to juvenile justice procedures in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This would include children who are classified by statute as status offenders, dependent children, neglected or emotionally disturbed children.

Responsibility. The LWVKY recognizes that the responsibility of the juvenile court lies in the promotion of the best interest of the child. We believe that this will, in the long run, also promote the best interest of society. WE also recognize the responsibility of the court in the protection of the public interest.

Rights. The LWVKY believes that:

1. Parents and children should have the right to adequate and written notice of the charge.
2. Children should have the right to counsel for any adjudication hearing. Children should also have the right to counsel at intake or arraignment if requested by the child, a parent or the judge. Counsel may be a private attorney or, if appropriate, an attorney appointed by the court.
3. Children should also have the right to confront evidence and examine witnesses, to remain silent and to appeal.

Further, the LWVKY believes in the principle of emancipation of certain juveniles between 16 and 18 who are capable of assuming or who have assumed responsibility for their own lives.

Placement of Children. The LWVKY believes that juveniles awaiting court action and after adjudication should be placed in the least restrictive placement compatible with their situation. The courts should develop valid criteria to assist the judge in determining if detention is desirable

and, if so, in what type of facility. If juveniles are deemed likely to harm themselves or someone else, or if they are apt not to appear in court when scheduled, they then should be placed in restrictive or secure facilities.

The League feels that a variety of facilities is necessary to meet the diverse needs of these juveniles. Emphasis would be placed on keeping juveniles in their local communities with provisions made for the necessary support services for these children and their families.

Status Offenders. The LWVKY supports the inclusion of status offenders under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts only when all other remedies to aid the family have been exhausted. This is in order to lessen inappropriate intervention of the juvenile justice system. We support the deinstitutionalization of status offenders through the use of community based resources such as group homes, foster homes, crisis intervention programs, temporary shelters and family services. We feel that these should be financed by any combination of private, local, county, state and federal funds with families contributing on a sliding fee schedule. If detention centers must be used for lack of any alternatives, then status offenders should be separated by sight and sound from youthful offenders or adult offenders.

Looking Ahead

The LWVKY recommends that standards should be actively and uniformly enforced. Citizens should monitor the system at both the local and state levels. Emphasis should be placed on equalizing resources for the supervision and treatment of children in trouble. Programs should be developed and implemented which will promote delinquency prevention throughout the state.

HEALTH CARE

The LWVKY believes that there should be reasonable, equitable access for all residents of Kentucky to adequate, appropriate health care.

We believe that access could be improved through but not exclusively by the following:

1. A mechanism for ensuring health care provision to people who are not covered by any third party insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare), and for catastrophic illnesses.
2. Tax benefits for employers who provide continuing health insurance coverage for laid-off workers.
3. Availability of state indigent health care funds to hospitals throughout the Commonwealth.
4. Legislation to assure that students attending medical and other health professional schools whose outright fees are funded by public funds of the Commonwealth of Kentucky practice in underserved areas in Kentucky for a specified period of time.

We believe that Kentucky residents would be better able to receive the most adequate appropriate care through but not exclusively by the following:

1. Requirement for health care providers to release comparable price and quality information that would be compiled in one place and made readily available.
2. Shifting of priorities of Medicaid and other state health funding programs so that there is more emphasis on and funding for all natal (pre-, peri-, post-) care, alternatives like home health and family reimbursement for care of elderly and disabled, alternative living facilities for the mentally ill and retarded, specialized alcohol/drug treatment programs, and other programs which would provide the most appropriate, effective care.
3. Reimbursement for those health promotion and prevention of disease activities which have proven to be effective.
4. Reduction of barriers to the increased utilization, when appropriate, of alternative effective services and providers such as outpatient surgery, home health care, hospices, birthing centers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and nurse midwives.

The LWVKY believes that in the process of insuring reasonable, equitable access to adequate, appropriate care, the financial burden imposed should not be unreasonable for the consumer, government or providers. The LWVKY believes that the cost should be shared fairly among the public, federal, state and local governments, providers, insurers and consumers.

We believe that the following actions or policies would contribute to less of a financial burden and one that is shared fairly:

1. Consideration of regionalizing of expensive specialized care facilities.
2. Consideration of a prepaid cost-effective quality program for Medicaid recipients.
3. Some restrictions on the amount of assets which can be transferred to family members by people going into nursing homes.
4. Reimbursement policies which provide incentives for the providers who deliver cost-effective quality care.
5. Identification and discontinuance of duplicative or unneeded health care services and facilities.
6. Reduction in quantity, duplication and complexity of government forms for providers.
7. Incentives for more sharing of high technology resources among providers.
8. Incentives and encouragement for all providers and institutions to provide a fair share of care to indigents.
9. Consideration of state and/or local health taxes.
10. Courses offered in the two Kentucky medical schools on cost containment, affordable medicine and alternative delivery systems.
11. Consideration of using a professional fulltime Certificate of Need and Licensure Commission.
12. Legislation which defines the method by which death is determined.

The LWVKY believes that although government has the ultimate responsibility for seeing that there is equitable access to the most adequate, appropriate health care for all Kentuckians, the public and providers should also share in that responsibility.

RAPE ASSAULT

The LWVKY agrees that rape is a crime of violence and supports the redefinition of rape to include male rape and penetration of objects as well as penis. We agree that sexual assault victims have special needs including medical and psychological, and we support programs and legislation to meet those needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY (Adopted February 1969. Edited and readopted April 1975)

The LWVKY favors strong legislation and regulations, strict enforcement and adequate financing for state control and abatement of air pollution. The LWVKY advocates the inclusion of mandatory inspection and maintenance programs in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act Amendment of 1977.

The Kentucky Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Division of Air Pollution should encourage the formation of local districts where needed. When a regional problem exists or the formation of a single county district is not feasible, a multi-county district should be formed. Such districts should be given long-term administrative and technical assistance and short-term financial assistance when necessary. The Kentucky Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Division of Air Pollution should continue to exercise authority where local governments have not formed such districts.

STRIP MINING (Adopted March 1971. Edited and readopted April 1974, April 1979)

The LWVKY reaffirms that the Commonwealth has a definite responsibility to all its citizens to regulate and control surface mining in such a way that successful reclamation is accomplished and the environment protected. We support the goals set out in Public Law 95-87, which include prompt stabilization of the affected area, control of stream pollution and the prevention of landslides and other damage to nearby land and people.

Reclamation bonds must be set sufficiently high to ensure that present and future reclamation regulations are met. Bonds should not be released until the desired end results have been achieved. Permit fees must be high enough, unless other funds are provided, to permit the training and employment of more personnel by the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. We continue to urge that funds be made available from any and all possible sources for the reclamation of orphan banks. Every possible effort must be made to end the subservience of the surface owner's right to the mineral owner's rights under the "broad form deed."

In conclusion, we continue to support the strengthening of the enforcement process, research in coal mining methods and reclamation and prompt application of technological advances.

ENERGY POLICY POSITIONS

1. Kentucky should adopt energy policy goals that surpass the governor's 2008 goals of:
 - 18 percent electricity offset by 2025 (Kentucky's goal should be to reduce electricity demand by more than 18 percent), and
 - 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy generated by 2025 (Kentucky's goal should be to generate more than 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy)
2. Kentucky should require every energy-generating utility and/or distribution utility to provide quality energy efficiency programs for their customers or members and provide the means for customers to obtain electricity from clean, renewable energy. All utilities – whether municipal, co-operative or investor-owned – should strive to meet the highest possible standards for energy efficiency as a way to reduce electricity consumption and keep utility bills steady, even as utility rates may rise.

3. Kentucky energy policies should be designed to meet the following criteria: creation of safe new jobs; protection of public health; reductions in carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions and preservation of our air and water quality.
4. Clean renewable energy should be defined as electricity sources such as solar, wind or hydro power that avoid greenhouse gas emissions; have little or no toxic waste or air emissions; preserve forests; represent proven, long-lasting and robust technology; and avoid generation of wastes. Biomass and landfill gas may be considered renewable energy sources depending on their ability to meet the criteria stated in section 3.
5. When considering state and local transportation options, policies should be enacted that protect public health, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, provide better access to services through public transportation, and expand non-automotive (e.g. walking, biking) transportation infrastructure. Transportation options may include use of some biofuels.

The Kentucky League is a member of the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance (KySEA) and upholds the KySEA principles as in alignment with its energy position. The Board identifies a representative to attend the KySEA meetings, participate in email listservs and report back as necessary.

SEVERANCE TAX (Adopted September 1969)

The LWVKY is concerned about land use, equitable taxation and assessment of property, and adequate financing of county and state governmental services.

We advocate a severance tax on all extractive minerals presently known and those which may be discovered in the future in Kentucky. Such a severance tax should be administered by the state.

LAND USE PLANNING (Adopted April 4, 1977)

The LWVKY, recognizing that land is a finite resource, not just a commodity, believes that the state government of Kentucky should take immediate action to insure that planning and management of our land is done wisely and efficiently.

We believe that the state government should support a public education campaign in land use planning, explaining the benefits and problems of land use planning to the public and to local officials. The state government also should actively coordinate programs already existing which affect land use and establish guidelines and require local governments to plan for and control land uses in their jurisdictions.

We believe a land use program on the state level will best serve the public if such a program were coordinated closely with plans and policies of local and regional agencies and bodies. Such a program should be tailored to enhance maximum local decision making.

In order to bring those parts of the public affected by certain land use decisions into the proper decision-making arena, we believe that the state government should establish a critical area and

activity program to regulate the use of certain critical areas or activities of greater-than-local concern. Critical areas include fragile or historic lands, renewable resource lands (forest, watersheds, aquifers) and natural hazard lands (floodplains, unstable geologic formations). Critical activities include industrial parks, new communities, regional shopping centers and energy facilities. In such a program, local governments should be required to regulate uses of designated areas and activities, including but not limited to a combination of police power (zoning and subdivision regulations) and eminent domain, scenic easements and tax breaks.

State government should help localities develop and exercise local land use management functions by means, including but not limited to financial aid for research, state technical assistance, and state data information collection, storage and retrieval. The state legislature should authorize localities to exercise innovative land use planning and regulatory techniques, such as land banking, planned unit development, transfer of development rights and times development ordinances. Impact statements on major public and private developments should be required.

We believe there should be an appeals board with power to arbitrate conflicts between governmental bodies in land use decision and between citizens and governmental bodies in land use decisions.

We believe the state should continue to encourage substate regional bodies for land use planning. The Area Development Districts, among other activities, presently do some land use planning. We feel the powers of the Area Development Districts, as those districts are presently constituted and administered, are sufficient for their role, which is advisory to local governments.

We believe that citizen involvement in every facet of a land use planning program is essential. Informed and active citizen involvement promotes political responsibility in and outside of government.

SECTION IV

WITH ONE VOICE

2023

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY

Adopted in Convention - May 2021, June 2022

ARTICLE I -- NAME

Section 1 -- Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, Inc., hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVKY. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

Section 2 -- Headquarters. The headquarters of this corporation shall be as designated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II --PURPOSE AND POLICY

Section 1 -- Purpose. The purposes of the LWVKY are to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government and increase public understanding of major public policy issues.

Section 2 -- Political Policy. The LWVKY shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

Section 3 -- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. The LWVKY is committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with the LWVUS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 -- Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2 -- Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVKY shall be composed of members of Local Leagues, Kentucky State Administered Leagues (KYSALs) and at-large members.

a. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age residing within the United States, a territory or an associated commonwealth who join the League shall be voting members of Local Leagues, State Leagues and of the LWVUS:

- (1). Individuals who live within an area of a Local League may join that League.
- (2). Those who reside outside the area of a Local League may join any Local League or a KYSAL, or shall be members-at-large.
- (3). Those who are not Local League members shall pay annual dues to LWVKY.
- (4). Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.-

b. Life membership may be granted to any voting member of the LWVUS who attains 50 years as a member of the LWVUS. No further dues will be collected and all privileges will be retained as a voting member.

ARTICLE IV – TAX EXEMPT STATUS

The LWVKY is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, LWVKY shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal

Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of LWVKY shall be attempting to influence legislation.

ARTICLE V -- RECOGNITION OF LOCAL AND KENTUCKY STATE-ADMINISTERED LEAGUES (KYSALS)

Section 1 -- Local Leagues. Local Leagues are those that have been so recognized by the LWVUS. The LWVKY Board shall recommend to the National Board that recognition as a League be granted. When such recognition is granted, the Local League shall become an integral part of the LWVUS and the LWVKY.

Section 2 -- Kentucky State-Administered Leagues (KYSALs) are groups of at least three dues-paying at-large members that meet the recognition standards for Leagues as adopted by the Board of Directors of the LWVUS in April 2016. The LWVKY Board will provide administrative support for membership, roster management, finances and a liaison.

Representative leaders of State-Administered Leagues shall sign a memorandum of agreement assuring alignment with League of Women Voters' principles and nonpartisan policies. Upon such recognition, the State-Administered League may undertake any activities allowed under state guidelines. When such recognition is granted, the State-Administered League may work toward recognition as a Local League in accordance with the standards outlined by the National and State Boards whereby it takes on the responsibility for its own administration.

Section 3 -- Withdrawal of Recognition. When a Local League fails to live up to the recognition standards, the Board of Directors of the LWVKY shall recommend to the National Board that recognition be withdrawn. Final action rests with the Board of Directors of the LWVUS. When a State-Administered League (KYSAL) fails to meet guidelines established by the LWVKY, the Board of Directors of the LWVKY shall withdraw recognition.

ARTICLE VI-- OFFICERS

Section 1 -- Number and Terms. The officers of the LWVKY shall be the president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be elected in odd numbered years at the Annual Meeting and shall hold office for two years. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive elected terms in the same office.

Section 2 -- President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the Board of Directors. The president, or a duly appointed proxy, may in the absence or disability of the treasurer sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be, ex-officio, a 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 3 -- The Vice Presidents. The two vice presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of the president assume all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that neither of the vice presidents is able to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and Board may designate.

Section 4 -- The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and Annual Meeting and distribute them in a timely manner to Board Members and shall perform such other functions as may be incidental to the secretary's office. The secretary shall serve as chair of the bylaws committee.

Section 5 – The Treasurer. The treasurer is the chief financial officer of the LWVKY and shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the League. The books of account shall at all times be open to inspection by any director. The treasurer shall deposit all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the LWVKY with such depositories as may be designated by the board. The treasurer shall disburse the funds of the League as may be ordered by the board, shall render to the president and the directors, whenever they request it, an account of all transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the League, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board. The treasurer shall present statements to the board at its regular meetings and a financial report to the members at the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall be responsible for filing federal, state and local government forms and payment of taxes and fees, as required by law. The treasurer shall serve, ex-officio, as a member of the Budget Committee.

Section 6 – Replacement of Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Should any of these officers be unable to complete their terms, the Board of Directors shall elect a replacement to fulfill their term of office.

Section 7 – The officers of the LWVKY shall also serve as the officers of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky Special Projects Fund, Inc. (LWVKYSPF) with all of the powers described in Sections 1 – 5.

ARTICLE VII -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 -- Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, six elected directors and not more than six appointed directors. Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in even numbered years for terms of two years. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors (in even numbered years).

Section 2 -- Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer, director or chairperson of this corporation unless that person is a voting member of a Local League of Women Voters in the state of Kentucky, a KYSAL member, or a member-at-large.

Section 3 -- Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the Corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions from the membership at the Annual Meeting. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted at the Annual Meeting. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of Local Leagues and KYSALS. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary to carry out this work.

Section 4 -- Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death or disqualification may be filled for the remaining term of office by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5 -- Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold at least eight meetings a year. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the president or by five members of the Board. Two absences of a Board member shall constitute cause for the Board to consider requesting the member's resignation.

Section 6 -- Quorum. The presence, in person or via electronic device, of no fewer than fifty (50) percent of the current members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, the entire Board having been notified of the meeting in writing at least three weeks in advance in case of regular meetings and one week in advance for special meetings. Issues addressed at a meeting of the Board without a quorum may be reopened by request of any member of the Board. Any urgent action may be confirmed by an electronic vote.

Section 7 -- Virtual Meetings. One or more members may participate in any meeting by teleconferencing, videoconferencing or using similar electronic equipment provided that all participants in the meeting can hear each other. This is acceptable for all meetings, including Board and Annual Meetings.

Section 8 -- Executive Committee. The Board of Directors shall designate its officers to constitute an Executive Committee, which may transact business in the interim between Board meetings in the event of an emergency, provided that nothing shall be done contrary to the program adopted at the Annual Meeting or to any previous action of the Board of Directors. Action by the Executive Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at its next regular meeting.

Section 9 -- Directors of the LWVKY shall also serve as Directors of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky Special Projects Fund with all the same stipulations as Sections 1-8 above.

ARTICLE VIII-- FINANCE

Section 1 -- Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVKY shall commence on the first of July of each year.

Section 2 -- Budget. The Board shall approve and submit for adoption to the Annual Meeting a budget for the ensuing year. This budget shall provide for the support of the LWVKY. A copy of the budget, including the recommended Per Member Payment (PMP) amount, shall be sent to each Local League and KYSAL President at least four weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Section 3 -- Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose at least two months in advance of the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson.

Section 4 -- Support. Local Leagues' support of the state budget shall be based on a per member payment (PMP). The amount per member shall be recommended by the Budget Committee and approved at the Annual Meeting before a vote is taken on the budget. Approval of the PMP amount shall require a majority of the delegates. The number of members used to compute the PMP shall be the same as used by LWVUS to compute its PMP.

Section 5 -- Distribution of Earnings. No part of the net earnings of the LWVKY shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its Board of Directors or other private persons except that the LWVKY shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II.

Section 6 -- Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of LWVKY for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature that at the time is owned or under the absolute control of LWVKY shall be distributed to the League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund (LWVUSEF) or such other organization as may be selected by the LWVKY that is exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE IX – ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1 -- Place, Date and Call. Every year there shall be an Annual Meeting held before the end of the fiscal year, the date and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. Presidents of Local and State-Administered Leagues shall receive notification at least four weeks before the meeting.

Section 2 -- Composition. The Annual Meeting shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members of Local or State-Administered Leagues as provided in Section 4 of this Article, the presidents of Local and State-Administered Leagues or an alternate in the event that the president is unable to attend, and the members of the Board of Directors of the LWVKY.

Section 3 -- Qualifications of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate shall be a voting member of a recognized Local or State-Administered League in the state of Kentucky. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting, even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. Delegates to the Annual Meeting shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4 -- Representation of Local and State-Administered Leagues. The members of the LWVUS who are organized into recognized Local or State-Administered Leagues in the state of Kentucky shall be entitled to one delegate for the first 10 voting members, one delegate for every 10 additional voting members or major fraction thereof up to 50, and one delegate thereafter for every 20 additional voting members or major fraction thereof belonging to said League. The record in the National LWV office of paid-up voting members shall determine the official membership count for this purpose.

Section 5 -- Authorization for Action. The Annual Meeting shall consider and authorize for action a program, elect officers, directors, and nominating committee members, adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and transact such other business as may be required.

Section 6 -- Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered at the Annual Meeting provided that no fewer than half of the Local Leagues and KYSALS are represented.

ARTICLE X -- NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 -- Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The chairperson and two members, none of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in odd number years for 2-year terms. Nominations for these three offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. Further nominations for these offices may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. The committee members from the Board shall be appointed for 2-year terms by the Board of Directors immediately after the Annual Meeting. Vacancies occurring in the Nominating Committee by reason of death, resignation or disqualification shall be filled by the Board of Directors. The president of the LWVKY shall send the name and contact information of the chairperson of the Nominating Committee to the president of each recognized Local League and State Administered League (KYSAL). It shall be the duty of the chairperson of the Nominating Committee to request, through the president of each Local League and KYSAL, suggestions for nominations for the offices to be filled. The Nominating Committee shall inform candidates for the Board of Directors about the League's nonpartisan policy and discuss potential conflicts that would disqualify them for service on the Board.

Section 2 -- Suggestions by Local Leagues and KYSALS. Suggestions for nominations shall be sent by the president or secretary of Local Leagues and KYSALS, or any Kentucky League

member, to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee at least two months before the Annual Meeting.

Section 3 -- Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, the chairperson and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to Local Leagues and KYSALS four weeks before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to Annual Meeting delegates. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any delegate, provided consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 4 -- Election. The election shall be by raised hand or virtual response, except when there is but one nominee for each office. In that case it shall be in order to move that the secretary cast the ballot for every candidate. A majority vote of Annual Meeting delegates shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE XI - PROGRAM

Section 1. 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.

Section 2. The program of the LWVKY shall consist of (a) action to implement the principles and positions of the LWVUS and (b) those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study and/or action by delegates to the Annual Meetings.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the program, using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations that have been sent in by the Local League Boards and KYSALS and shall formulate a proposed program. Such proposed program shall be submitted by the Board to the Local League Boards and KYSALS at least four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. A majority of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of the proposed program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- c. Changes in the proposed program submitted for consideration, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be made by delegates to the Annual Meeting provided that: (1) delegates to the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote; and (2) the Annual Meeting adopts the change by a two-thirds vote of those voting.

Section 4 -- Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVKY only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

Section 5 -- Local League and KYSAL Action. Local Leagues and KYSALS may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized by the Board of Directors of the LWVKY.

ARTICLE XII – DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1. -- National Convention. The Board of Directors shall elect delegates to the convention of the LWVUS as authorized by the national bylaws.

Section 2. -- National Council. The Board of Directors shall elect delegates to the Council of the LWVUS as authorized by the LWVUS.

ARTICLE XIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. -- Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall consist of a chair and two members. The secretary of the LWVKY Board will serve as chair, and the members will be elected by the Board at least two months before the LWVKY’s Annual Meeting. The duties of the Bylaws Committee are to: review current bylaws and present changes it deems advisable to the LWVKY Board; consider all proposed amendments submitted by Local League boards; and research and submit recommendations for each proposed amendment to the LWVKY Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Amendments. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any Local League Board, KYSAL or the Bylaws Committee of the LWVKY. All suggested changes will be presented to the Board of Directors for its approval. The approved amendments shall be sent to the presidents of all Local Leagues and KYSALS at least four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The presidents of all Local Leagues and KYSALS shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. The failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the bylaws that may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION V

WITH ONE VOICE

2023

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

Adopted in Convention – May 2021

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Kentucky Special Projects Fund, Inc., hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVKYSPF.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND POLICY

Section 1 - The purposes of LWVKYSPF are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2 – Policy. The LWVKYSPF may take action on state government measures and policies in the public interest and in conformity with its nonprofit 501(c)(4) tax status and the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III –BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 -- Composition. The officers and directors of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky (LWVKY) shall compose the LWVKYSPF Board of Directors.

Section 2 -- Meetings. There shall be at least one regular meeting per year. Special meetings may be called by any of the officers.

Section 3 -- Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVKYSPF with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same. The Board shall plan and direct the work and publications necessary to carry out the purposes of the LWVKYSPF. The Board shall create and designate special committees as it may deem necessary.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCE

Section 1 – Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall commence on the first day of July of each year.

Section 2 -- Budget. Prior to the new fiscal year, the LWVKY Budget Committee shall submit a budget for the upcoming year to the LWVKYSPF Board of Directors for approval.

Section 3 – Distribution of Earnings. No part of the net earnings of the LWVKYSPF shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its Board of Directors or other private persons except that the LWVKYSPF shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II.

ARTICLE V - DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the corporation all assets of the LWVKYSPF shall be applied and distributed as follows:

- a. all liabilities and obligations of the corporation shall be paid, satisfied and discharged, or adequate provision shall be made;

- b. assets held by the corporation upon condition requiring return, transfer or conveyance which condition occurs by reason of the dissolution or winding up of said corporation shall be returned, transferred or conveyed in accordance with such requirements; and
- c. all remaining assets not disposed of under either of the preceding paragraphs a. or b. shall be transferred or conveyed to the LWVUS or such other organization as may be selected by the LWVKYSPF that is exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any federal tax law that may then be in effect.

ARTICLE VI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the LWVKYSPF in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors provided that all proposals for change shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at least one month prior to a called meeting.

SECTION VI

**WITH ONE VOICE
2023**

LWVKY HISTORY

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky Presidents

1920-1921	Mary Bronaugh, Louisville
1923-1924	Jessie Leigh Hutchinson (Teddy), Lexington
1924-1925	Mary Sweency Lexington
1926-1927	Mrs. Keene Arnold, Versailles
1927-1928	Anna Settles, Louisville
1932-	Elizabeth Tachau, Louisville
1933-1935	Mrs. Frederick J. Corm
1935-	Mrs. Miller Haynes
1936-	Mrs. K.P. Vinsel (acting), Louisville
1938-0940	Mrs. A.L. Koethen
1941-1942	Mrs. Lewis Tachau, Louisville
1942-1943	Elizabeth B. Bruce
1944-1945	Elizabeth E. Taylor
1945-1947	Winifred Wilder
1947-1949	Joy Bale, Elizabethtown
1950-	Betty Ladd, Louisville
1951-	Jane Sherago, Lexington
1953-1955	Mary Belle Vandebosch
1955-1957	Kay Bottigheimer, Louisville
1957-1959	Mrs. James R. Shepherd
1959-1961	Shirley Major Louisville
1961-1963	Katy Christopherson, Louisville
1963-1966	Annie Mary Stroup, Lexington
1966-1968	Ruth Sanders, Louisville
1969-1969	Hilda Green, Louisville
1969-1971	Ruth Dietrich, Louisville
1971-1973	Beverly Rosenblum, Louisville
1973-1975	Margaret Schwert, Lexington
1975-1977	Pat Stewart, Louisville
1977-1981	Scottie Kenkel, Lexington
1981-1983	Attia Bowmer, Louisville
1983-1985	Douise Steelman, Lexington
1985-1986	Judy Marks, Louisville
1986-1987	Bunny Davey, Louisville
1987-1988	Corinne Whitehead, Paducah
1989-1989	Scottie Kenkel, Lexington
1989-1991	Mary T. Wakefield, Louisville
1991-1993	Carolyn Self & Elizabeth Spencer, Hopkinsville
1993-1995	Reva Hart, Elizabethtown
1995-1997	Jeanne Gage, Berea
1997-1999	Betty Hilliard, Elizabethtown
1999-2003	Terry Naydan, Lexington
2003-2005	Joan Peoples, Berea
2005-2005	Catherine Mercer, Louisville

2006-2006 Joan Peoples, Berea
2006-2009 Teena Halbig, Louisville
2009-2011 Terry Naydan & Nita Smith, Lexington
2011-2013 Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine, Lexington & Cecile Schubert, Richmond
2013-2015 Tammy Fagley & Cindy Heine, Lexington
2015-2017 Terry Naydan & Nita Smith, Lexington
2017-2019 Wanda Lynch, Hopkinsville
2019-2023 Fran Wagner, Louisville