

ANNUAL BOOK

JUNE 2024-MAY 2025



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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TANANA VALLEY

ANNUAL MEETING GUIDELINES

Meeting Guidelines set meeting procedures which are not covered in the bylaws, or in some cases the guidelines are summaries of provisions in the bylaws. They are adopted at the beginning of the meeting but may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a 2/3 vote. The latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will control the general conduct of the meeting except where superseded by the bylaws or these meeting rules.

The Voting Body at this meeting consists of the members of the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley present and voting. The bylaws require that a voting body of 15% of the membership be present to constitute a quorum at the annual meeting.

Motions: All members may introduce motions. Main motions or amendments of substantial length will be introduced in writing. After written motions have been introduced, please hand them at once to the secretary.

Debate: Upon recognition by the chair, please state your name and make your statement in favor or in opposition to the motion. A member who desires to speak more than once to a question will please wait until others have had opportunity. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

Procedure for Program Adoption: Following presentation of proposed program, brief questions for clarification will be entertained, but no debate will take place at this time. Motions for consideration of non-recommended items may be made at the time allowed in the agenda. Presentation and debate of such motions shall be limited to 5 minutes. A member may request that the board give its reasons for not recommending items. This statement shall be limited to 3 minutes. A majority vote will place a non-recommended item before the meeting. Adoption will require 2/3 vote. Recommended items may be amended by majority vote; however, an amendment which changes the scope or changes the intent shall be treated as a non-recommended item. Recommended items shall be adopted by majority vote.

Budget: The budget will be adopted after the program has been adopted in order to accommodate any unexpected changes required by the program.

Elections: After the report of the Nomination Committee, the floor shall be opened for further nominations. A member may be nominated for any office provided prior consent to serve has been obtained from that member. When there is only one candidate for each office or seat, a member may move those nominations be closed and the secretary shall be directed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. If this motion is passed by the meeting, the chair shall declare the nominees elected. Amended 1990, 2006

The cover of the 2025 book was designed by Marna Sanford with artwork from a winner of the 2025 Kids Voting Sticker competition: Ryder Nguyen.

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*Available to Members Via Email

	MEETING AGENDA - May 17, 2025	
9:30 AM	Call to Order	Janna Miller
	Establish Quorum	
	Adoption of Agenda	
	Adoption of Meeting Guidelines Voting Procedures	
	In Memory – Ruth Benson	
	Approval of Minutes – 2024 Annual Meeting Establishment of Minutes Review Committee	Diane Lyon
9:45 AM	BOARD REPORTS - Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Team • Treasurer's Report • Membership Report • Diversity Committee Report • New Membership System • LWVUS Convention Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Sherif • Mary Galvan • Jean James • Helenmarie Matesi • Shari George • Online + Sue Sherif
10:30 AM	SPEAKERS Chief Justice Susan Carney Justice Aimee Oravec	
	Short Break	
11:25 AM	Proposed Program for 2025-2026	Janna Miller
	Proposed Budget for 2025-2026	Budget Committee
	Proposed Bylaws Amendment	Shari George
	Nominating Committee Report / Floor Nominations / Election	Nomination Committee Helenmarie Matesi
11:50 AM	Old and New Activities for 2024-25	Sue Sherif
	LEAGUE REPORTS – Brief Oral Highlights	
	For the Good of the Order	All
12:15 PM	Lunch , Door Prizes, and Recognition of Outgoing Officers and Board Members	All

MINUTES OF LWVTV ANNUAL MEETING- MAY 11, 2024

Meeting called to order at 12:04 pm by co-President, Marna Sanford, hybrid version

Present in person: Diane Lyon, Janna Miller, Mary Galvan, Shari George, Bernardo Hernandez, Marna Sanford, Mary Lee Guthrie, Joan Soutar, Mike Walleri, Kathy Hodges, Jo Woodward, Sue Keller, Ann McCann, Linda Witt, Phyllis Tugman-Alexander, Valerie Therrian, Jennifer Schmidt, Phyllis Darrah, David Weissman, Leah Berman Williams, Jessica King, Karen Brauser.

Present via Zoom: Sue Sherif, Helenmarie Matesi, Jean James, Margaret Soden. Quorum of 16 was established.

Co-President Sue Sherif referred attendees to the Guidelines printed on the inside cover of the Annual Meeting Book. *Meeting Guidelines adopted with no objection.*

Agenda adopted with no objections.

Sue stated we have no Parliamentarian for this meeting so we will self-regulate. Note: As done in 2022 and 2023, due to Zoom, if no objections to a motion are made, it is considered passed.

.....
25+ year members are recognized.

Mary Galvan announced the list of those who have been members of LWVTV for 25 years or more:

Ruth Benson, Leslie Conner, Donna Dinsmore, Christy Everett, Shirley Gordon, Jean James, Ken Kokjer, Ginny McDowell, Karen Parr, Jennifer Schmidt, Sue Sherif, Sylvia Slotnick, Valerien Therrien, Carol Varner, Linda Witt, and Alison York. Jennifer Schmidt and Valerie Therrien were physically present, and Sue Sherif and Jean James were present via Zoom. Each person recognized will receive a special suffragette pin.

Happy birthday to Sue Sherif! A young 77 (she said it).

Guest Speaker, Carol Gray, UAF faculty, Human Rights Lawyer

NOTE: As secretary, I cannot do justice to Carol's talk. I found myself often listening instead of taking notes, as I personally have struggled to understand the history of this conflict.

Carol gave a very interesting talk covering the International Bill of Human Rights and specifically the current situation in Gaza. Her visuals were very helpful for understanding the progressive loss of territory Palestine has experienced, due to Jewish settlements.

As a result of the Holocaust, the provisional government of Israel was established in 1948.

Territory in Palestine was selected as it was considered uninhabited.

750,000 Palestinians have lost their homes – many left voluntarily because they thought they would shortly return (language barriers) only to find their homes had been taken over by settlers. Hamas won the election in 2006; however, no elections have been held since.

Israel constructed a physical security barrier, and though it was declared illegal, it still stands. Carol described the “Iron Dome”, an Israeli defense system used to destroy rockets before they can land.

Since the conflict in Gaza started, 34,000 have been killed, with an estimated half being children (population of 2.5 million)

Both sides have violated the Geneva Convention regarding War Crimes.

There was a brief Q&A. A suggestion was made to view “Great Courses” on the Middle East, 1914 to present to get a good historical picture. There is no enforcement of the International Criminal Court. Protection of Free Speech – Pro-Palestinian does not mean anti-Semitic and criticism of Israel does not mean anti-Jewish.

A huge thank you to Carol for giving us her time on this topic.

Motion by Mary Lee Guthrie, seconded by Lea Williams to approve 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. No objections, motion passed.

Minutes Review Committee – Shari George, and Jennifer Schmidt volunteered.

BOARD REPORTS –

Co-President’s Report

Sue: We had a good year, continue collaborating with other groups. Good core of volunteer Board, but we need support from members.

Treasurers Report

David Weissman – we are changing our fiscal year to July 1 effective 7/1/24. We have \$18,000 in income and expenses. We invested \$10,000 in a CD and the Board will decide going forward if we want to continue with this investment. We rented a small storage space at Blue Moose, at a cost of \$1,000 a year. Membership is steady, please turn in receipts for reimbursement to better track true expenses.

Membership Report – Jean James reports we have 102 members (down from 107) Our dues structure will be changing due to changes at the national level.

Diversity Committee Report – Helenmarie Matesi reported our goal is to continue to increase diversity and maintain our visible presence. We will have a booth at the Juneteenth celebration on June 15 and we currently participate on three NAACP committees.

Website – Shari George reported that we have a new URL. We owe a huge thank you to Marcus Varner who pays for our site and software and provides technical support. It is not completely finished yet but is easier to use. 80% of website use is via phone. Comments and suggestions should be sent to Shari.

LWVUS Report – Shari George reported on the LWVUS Council she attended in Vegas last summer. (A Council alternates years with Convention). The National Convention is this August in Washington DC. There is a new membership system coming which will be discussed. Our “Moon Shot” goal this year is to eliminate the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment. This will be a big push until it happens as this has been an issue for LWV since 1970. Shari will be attending the Convention as the State delegate in Nashville in August in person, but members can also participate online at a lower registration cost.

Volunteer Opportunities – David Weissman listed several events taking place this summer that will require volunteers: Juneteenth, Midnight Sun Festival, Golden Days and the Tanana Valley Fair. We are setting up a digitized volunteer system via Signup.com. People can become members at these booths by filling out a form and paying dues. A comment was made that people think League is only there to register voters. Perhaps we could work on a more informative presence.

Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 presented.

Motion by Ann McCann, seconded by Bernardo Hernandez to approve the budget as proposed.

Motion then made by Bernardo Hernandez, seconded by Leah Berman Williams to table the motion until approval of the Proposed 2024-2025 Program is completed. No objections.

Proposed 2024-2025 Program presented.

LWVUS positions were reviewed at the January 2024 program planning meeting. We agreed to support a proposed national position on Local News and support LWV Vermont in their campaign to include privatization of health care services. It was recommended we reaffirm 15 of the 18 LWVAK positions and review 3 positions at the state level including: Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure; Election Processes and Procedures; and Energy.

Recommendations were also made for emphasis on the following State level activities: Ranked Choice Voting; Civics Education; and Monitor Election Processes and Procedures Legislation.

All six local positions were reaffirmed: General Local Government; Boards, Commissions and Committees; Road Service Area; Planning and Zoning; Conflict of Interest; and Nondiscrimination.

Motion by Jennifer Schmidt, seconded by Ann McCann to accept the Proposed 2024-2025 Program. No objections, motion adopted.

Activity preferences: members were surveyed and once again, Candidate Forums, Hot Topics, and Borough Assembly Radio ranked highest.

Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 *Motion by Bernardo Hernandez, seconded by Lea Berman Williams to un-table the Budget motion. No objections.* David Weissman explained the dues are to remain the same until such time as National changes the dues structure (\$32 to LWVUS, \$10 to LWVAK and balance to LWVTV).

Original motion to accept the budget as presented brought back for vote. No objections, motion adopted.

Proposed By Laws Amendment

Motion by Bernardo Hernandez seconded by Leah Berman Williams to adopt the revision to Article VI Sec 3 of our By Laws as presented. The revision, recommended by David Weissman and Mary Galvan, would allow the Board the authority to reallocate budget amounts during the fiscal year. Point was made that this language is generally understood.

Nominating Committee

Slate of Officers presented by Helenmarie Matesi

President	Leadership Committee
Vice President	Janna Miller
Treasurer	David Weissman
Board Member	Leah Berman Williams
Board Member	Gayle Garrigues
Board Member	Jessical King
Board Member	Helenmarie Matesi

Nominating Committee: 2024-2025: Deborah Ryan and Linda Joyce Hall (Third member appointed by the Board.)

No nominations from the floor.

Davis Weissman moved; Bernardo Hernandez seconded we accept the Slate of Officers as presented. No objections, Slate of Officers elected unanimously.

State Board Reports

The LWVAK President's Report and the Convention Report are available on page 30 of the Annual Meeting book.

Activity Preferences

The Board will review suggested topics from the member survey. In addition, suggestions from the floor included:

- Poll workers and how to treat them.
- Continue to follow up on Vote by Mail – should we promote more?
- Time to process what could be a more contentious election. Talking points – how to diffuse.

Book Group – Sue Keller reported the group read 9 books this past year. Group is willing to make changes. Currently they meet the second Saturday from 10-11:30 at the Library. Non-members are welcome but we need more attendees. Should we place an ad in the paper or advertise on KUAC? Anyone can suggest books, please email suekeller06@gmail.com

LWVTV LEAGUE REPORTS

See pages 32-40 of the Annual Meeting book for written reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Big shout out to Sue Sherif for serving as President/co-President these past few years – you've been **awesome**. Bernardo and Sarah, you will be missed!

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Lyon

Secretary

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

BOARD REPORTS

Leadership Team Report – Sue Sherif, Past President

This year the LWV of Tanana Valley, like the LWV of Alaska, operated under a leadership management team. Even with this switch in management mode, we had a full year of activity and added enough new members to more than balance loss of several long-time LWVTV members to relocation and death. We continue to celebrate our 60th year.

Our summer was full of opportunities for community outreach with tables at the NAACP Juneteenth Celebration, the Midnight Sun Festival, the Golden Days Parade, and the Tanana Valley Fair. These activities were supported by member volunteers and led by our treasurer David Weissman and member Bernardo Hernandez. We also had a summer social picnic at Pioneer Park organized for the third year by Mary Galvan. Mary stepped up again, when our elected treasurer David Weissman relocated, and she brought her expertise to that office as she served out the remainder of David's term.

The fall saw two candidate forums: our local candidate forum in September and our state candidate forum in October. Both were cosponsored by KUAC-FM and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. A high school student representing Kids Voting provided and asked his questions at both forums. The local teen Girl Scout troop provided question topics and were prepared to perform a trooping of the colors at the state forum; however, a freak ice/snow/rain storm on the day of the state forum brought Fairbanks to a standstill, so we had to pivot in less than 24 hours to a radio broadcast forum via Zoom in place of the in-person event. (The storm even delayed for two days the beginning of early voting for the general election.) At the general election, we were able to re-instate our voter services for hospital patients for the first time since before the pandemic.

Winter activities included a December social event at a local downtown distillery, which was festive and well attended and brought us two new members--the owners of the distillery. In January we held our annual program meeting in a hybrid format and filed our annual report with LWVUS.

Like all other chapters nationwide we spent a good deal of time in February grappling with the changes that the new national membership platform brought. Like other chapters, we are still working out the kinks as LWVUS continues to devote energy to transition problem solving. We also did our annual survey of members as a follow-up to program planning. Shari George has submitted a report that gives an overview of the new membership system.

In March we held two LWVUS judiciary position study discussions: one in person at the distillery (again!) and a later one via Zoom for members who could not attend the in-person session. In both, the discussion was thought-provoking and lively. We were able to file our report to national before the April 14 deadline.

Many of our members took part in the various Fairbanks demonstrations in February and March to protest Congress' inaction in the face of government by executive order in accord with LWVUS' call for return to our system of checks and balances. The League US petitioned Congress in concern about government by executive order, and our members exercised their First Amendment rights by taking to the streets, their computers, and their phones to voice this concern.

This year we have supported Kid Voting North with a grant to support their field trips and their K-12 classroom activities. We also matched the memorial donations previously collected in honor of one of our founding members, Ann Swift, to contribute to the replacement of the Noel Wien Library Auditorium sound system with an eye to resuming community forums at the library.

In April we worked to support a borough elections ordinance that is aimed to increase citizen confidence in local election procedures after an organized group raised the idea of switching borough election tabulations to a hand count. A letter to the editor and oral and written testimony to the Borough Assembly were signs of our support to the ordinance, which passed a 5-4 Assembly vote.

As we hold our annual membership meeting on May 17, we thank our hard-working nominating committee and are happy to be able to present a slate of nominees for our election of officers that features candidates for co-president, a new treasurer, and several new first-time board member nominees for elected and appointed positions.

“The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society. We must use it” John Lewis

Treasurer’s Report – Mary Galvan, Treasurer

The financial report is distributed to members separately, but our treasurer notes:

“The financial reports reflect income received and expenditures made by the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley between April 1st, 2024, and April 30th, 2025, as compared to the budget approved at the May 2024 annual meeting. With the shift in fiscal year to run from July 1 to June 30, as approved at the 2024 annual meeting, the League had a short period of April 2024 to June 2024 and began its new fiscal year on July 1st. Standard reporting of a proposed budget, and an accounting of expenditures to date during the current fiscal year compared to the current approved budget, and an accounting of the most recent closed fiscal year should resume next year.”

Membership Report – Jean James

Currently we have 110 members. Nine are new members since February 1, 2025. The membership join/renew structure changed as of February 1, 2025. Renewal/join will now be facilitated through the LWWUS nationally instead of individually by each local league. The Board has been working diligently to understand and make this transition as smooth as possible.

New members can join on the LWWUS webpage at <https://www.lww.org/join> To check your membership status or to renew after you receive emailed renewal reminders from LWWUS, you can scroll down to the bottom of the LWWUS webpage or go to <https://portal.lww.org/> and sign in with the email address that you use for the LWW. When you renew, you also have an opportunity to donate to our League chapter as well. **If you prefer to pay for your membership or donation by**

check, please visit our LWVTV website at <https://www.lwvalaska.org/> and click on JOIN/DONATE in the top right corner of the page.

This past year we had several interesting and fun events for members and are planning more gatherings in the coming year.

We are in the process of having a more active membership committee and would love to have you participate in providing ideas and support. Please contact Jean James, jeanwjames@gmail.com, or 907-322-1667 call or text.

Diversity Committee Report – Helenmarie Matesi

During the last year the Diversity Committee has not been having structured meetings. The committee members have been participating in community sponsored events that champion civil rights and encourage equity. As the new political climate unfolds, part of what we do is network with diverse nonpartisan organizations in an effort to keep our membership abreast of opportunities to be heard. Together with the NAACP several of our committee are currently writing a position statement.



LWVUS New Membership System Transition – Shari George

The LWV of the United States launched a new membership system at the beginning of February 2025. A primary goal is to make joining the League more consistent, streamlined and affordable for a broader community. The hope is that this will make joining the League easier and help us increase our membership and diversity. A further goal is to help empower state and local Leagues, where our grassroots organization shines, by increasing resources for them.

This is a fundamental change from how dues have been collected in the past and has been in the works for several years. A number of LWVTV Board members have been involved in the planning process. Features include a sliding dues schedule, an online payment system, joining at any time, automated receipts including charitable donations if applicable, selecting your local league, automated renewal notifications and more. Members may also pay by check although online payment is encouraged. Dues collected through the new membership system will be shared automatically among the **national (33%), state (47%) and local Leagues (20%)**.

All local and state Leagues had much behind-the-scenes work to do to make it work. From setting up new software to accept online payments, to verifying membership information, to changing the website, to amending bylaws, many Board members were actively involved in making this transition over the last six months. We will need some patience as there are now, and there will be for some time, growing pains as LWVUS responds to implementation issues.

LWVUS Convention 2024

The national Convention is held every other year, and in June 2024 it was held in Washington, DC and virtually as well. LWVTV delegates were Jessica King, who attended in person, and Sue Sherif and Helenmarie Matesi, virtual delegates. LWVTV member Shari George also attended in person as a delegate of the state League and organized Alaska's participation in the Lobbying Day visits to our Congressional delegations in conjunction with the convention. The convention added a position developed by the LWV of Washington on the decline of local news by concurrence that our chapter supported, and delegates voted to undertake a formal study and consensus process for a proposed position on the federal judiciary.

Detailed reports on the 2024 national convention are available on the LWVAK website at <https://alaskalwv.org/> under "News and Articles – Older Entries."

Proposed Program for 2025-26

Our annual programming planning meetings are convened to discuss where we should put energy in the next year. Our main purposes are education and advocacy. Our organization's activities support representative government, natural resources, and social policy. This year, in addition to a survey of the membership, we held our annual January program planning meeting to examine our positions and formulate our program proposals for 2025-26. LWV advocacy stems from our existing positions as well as careful study and development for new positions.

LWV of the United States

In the same year, LWVUS has adopted a new position about the decline of local news., Fairbanks lost its two locally produced newscasts, our local Foundation-supported newspaper eliminated its Saturday paper, and our only other locally-based community reporting, our public radio station, faces an uncertain future with previous cuts to its state funding and federal funding threatened. This new LWVUS position gives our chapter an opportunity to explore how this nationwide problem impacts our community.

The LWVUS judiciary study had a new one-year timeline, so it is anticipated that there will be a new proposed position on the federal judiciary offered to the LWVUS Board in June 2025. LWVTV was one of the chapters nationwide that called for such a LWVUS position in our program planning meeting in January 2024, and we submitted the results of our chapter's discussion based on the LWVUS study guide.

The LWVUS issued an action alert on the SAVE (Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility Act) Act that has twice passed in the House of Representatives (July 2024, April 2025). Opposing national legislation that limits qualified citizens' access to registering as voters will continue to be part of LWVUS' work in the coming year. A lawsuit brought by the LWVUS against the Executive Order on Elections of March 25, 2025, which creates similar barriers to voter registration as the SAVE Act, was successful in a federal court ruling on April 24, 2025 on the grounds that there is no Constitutional presidential power to determine election policy and that Congress, which does have a role in determining election policy, is in the process of considering similar legislation (the SAVE Act). At this time it is unknown if this decision will be appealed. The complete decision is

available at:

https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.279032/gov.uscourts.dcd.279032.104.0_1.pdf

LWV of Alaska

Through our online Survey Monkey poll and our January virtual program planning meeting, we looked at the 20 LWVAK positions and reaffirmed 19 with the Energy position at that time under revision as we had previously suggested:

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure

Capital Budget Process

Constitution – Amending by Initiative

Constitutional Convention

Alaska’s Statutory Initiative Process

Voter Registration

Land Disposal

Land Use

Career Education in the Schools

Child Care and Early Childhood

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Bullying

Education Legislative Process and Procedure

Youth and Adolescent Needs

Landlord-Tenant Relations

Election Processes and Procedures

School Finance

Judicial Appointment and Retention

Gun Safety

Civics Education

We did not suggest a new study at the state level.

Our recommendations for emphasis in activities at the state level were:

Civics Education, particularly for adults

Monitor Election Processes and Procedures Legislation.

At our Annual Meeting, we will vote to ratify these recommendations or amend them.

Local Positions Review

We reviewed the local positions via an emailed survey. **(View the LWVTV positions at:**

<https://www.lwvalaska.org/our-work/lwvtv-positions/>)

Recommendations for Current Local Positions

All six positions be reaffirmed:

General Local Government

Planning and Zoning

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Conflict of Interest

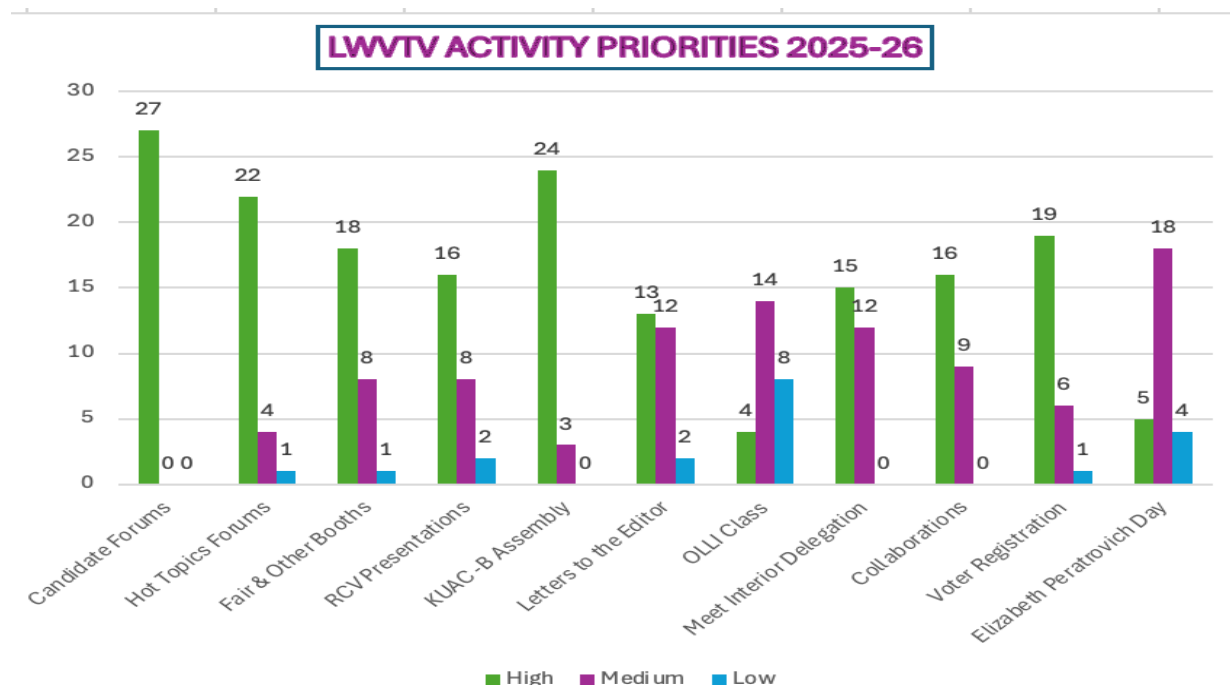
Recommendations to the Annual Meeting

We reaffirm all six local positions . No new studies were suggested.

At our May annual meeting, we will look for a motion to adopt these recommendations.

LWVTV Activity Priorities for 2025-26

We have recently surveyed our membership and asked them to rate the importance of our current activities and to suggest changes to our chapter's activities. What activities might we re-evaluate? What should we be doing that we're not? This activity helps the Board prioritize activities based on membership interest. The survey also gives an indication of topics for public forums and public education that chapter members want to our chapter to undertake.

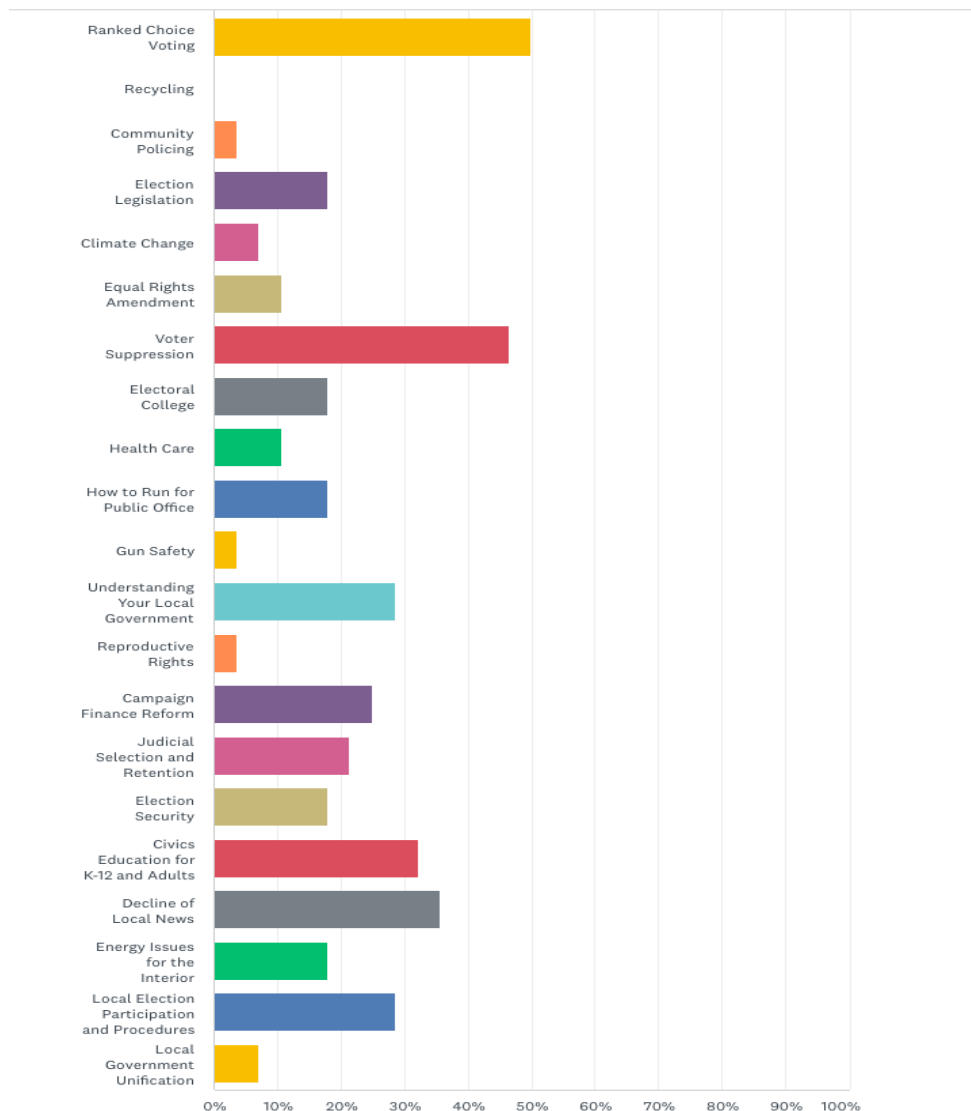


Candidate forums, the borough assembly broadcast sponsorship, hot topic forums, voter registrations, and our Tanana Valley Fair booth and other public event tables were the most highly rated this year. Suggestions of new activities included

Not included in the survey was an activity launched at members' suggestion in program planning in 2023: More social and face-to-face activities. In the past two years we have had two purely social events, a picnic in the summer and get-togethers in the fall and early winter.

We will look for your programming ideas at the annual meeting but will take them via email anytime as well.

We also asked members for their preferences for future voter education activities:



Members' Selections in Order of Preference



LWVTV ACTIVITIES 2024-25

JUNE

NAACP Juneteenth Celebration Booth – Voter Registration and Information

Midnight Sun Celebration – Voter Registration and Information

JULY-AUGUST

Pioneer Park Summer Social

Golden Days Celebration Booth

Tanana Valley Fair – Straw Poll, Voter Registration

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Letter to the Editor – Local Elections and Forum

Local Candidate Forum with KUAC-FM and Fairbanks Daily News Miner

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Letter to the Editor –No on Ballot Measure 2

Hospital Voter Services Resumed for General Election

December Membership Social

JANUARY

Annual Program Planning Meeting – National and State Issues (via Zoom)

LWVUS National Survey Completed

FEBRUARY

Transition to New Membership System

Nominating Committee Work

MARCH

In-Person LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

Virtual LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

Nominating Committee Work

APRIL

Filed LWVTV Judiciary Study Consensus

Community Perspective in FDNM on SAVE Act

League of Women Voters Alaska Annual Conference -Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and via Zoom)

Letter to the Editor and testimony about Borough Ballot Ordinance 2025-09 [Post-Election Audit]

MAY

Annual Meeting (In person and via Zoom) May 17

YEAR ROUND

Sponsorship of KUAC broadcasts of FNSB Assembly

Book Discussion Group – Monthly via Zoom except for August and December

Collaboration with NAACP, Get Out the Native Vote, and AAUW

Action Alerts on Local, State, and National Issues

LWVTV Website www.lwvalaska.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvtv.org/>

***The ballot is stronger than the bullet”
--Abraham Lincoln***

Proposed Budget for 2025-2026

Proposed Budget Sent to Members via E-Mail
5-13-25

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

PROPOSED LWVTV BYLAW CHANGES 2025

[These bylaw changes are proposed under guidance from the LWVUS to reflect the changes to the LWVUS membership system initiated in February 2025. Proposed wording is shown in **BOLD**; current wording is represented by strikethroughs.]

ARTICLE I

NameSec.1. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley, **hereinafter referred to in these by laws as {LWVTV} or as the League.** This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of **the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS** Alaska (LWVAK) and the League of Women Voters of Alaska ~~the United States (LWVUS).~~

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Sec.1. Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley ~~is~~ **are** to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec.2. ~~Political Policy~~ies.

1. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

~~2. Sec. 3~~

~~2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.~~ The League is ~~an organization~~ fully committed to ensure compliance ~~– diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.~~ **are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.**

~~Membership is open to all who support the principles of the LWVUS. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation or expression, ability status, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.~~

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec.1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of **Women Voters** shall be eligible for membership.

Sec.2. Types of Membership. ~~The membership of the League shall be composed of voting members and associate members.~~

1. Voting ~~Members.~~ **Persons** ~~shall be those citizens~~ at least 16 years of age who join the **League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS.** ~~are enrolled in the League at the local, state, or national level and whose dues are not delinquent; members who have been enrolled in the League Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members, excused from the payment of dues. and shall not be required to pay annual dues. Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled as full or part time with an accredited institution.~~
2. **Associate Members.** All others who enroll in the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Sec 2. Dues. **Annual dues are on a sliding scale as determined by the LWVUS. New members may join at any time. Renewals of membership are on an annual basis.** ~~, as determined at the Annual Meeting, shall be payable on October 1st for continuing members, or at the time a new member joins. Annual dues cover the period October 1—September 30. Dues for a new member joining after January 31 shall have their membership extended into and through the following membership year. Dues shall be set for the following categories:~~

~~Individual membership.~~

~~Household membership for two or more members residing at the same address.~~

~~Student membership for high school, college or trade school students enrolled at least half time.~~

~~Life Members for members who have been enrolled in the League of Women Voters for 50 years or more and who shall not be required to pay annual dues.~~

~~New citizen introductory member.~~

~~The Board may issue scholarships for persons unable to pay the annual dues.~~

Motion: Adopt the revisions to Article 1 of the bylaws as presented.

Motion: Adopt the revisions to Article 2 of the bylaws as presented.

Motion: Adopt the revisions to Article 3 of the bylaws as presented.

Motion: Adopt the revisions to Article 6 of the bylaws as presented.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominated for Election on May 17, 2025. (Nominations can also be made from the floor)

Position	Nominee	Term
Co-Presidents	Linda Witt /Sue Sherif	25-26
Vice-President	Jessica King	25-26
Secretary	Diane Lyon	25-27
Treasurer	Rebecca Magowan	25-26
Past President	Shari George	25-26
Elected Board Positions		
Board Member	Janna Miller	25-27
Board Member	Deb Ryan	25-27
Board Member	Michael Hostina	25-27
Nominating Committee	OPEN	1 year
Nominating Committee	Kaneisha Radgosky	1 year
Board Rep	To be appointed	

Continuing		
Board Member	Gayle Garrigues	24-26
Board Member	Helenmarie Matesi	24-26
Board Member	Leah Berman Williams	24-26

To be appointed by the Board:

Jean James (Membership/Roster)	25-26
Marna Sanford	25-26
Linda Unsicker	25-26

Submitted by
Nominating Committee for the 2025 Annual Meeting
Deborah Ryan
Mary Lee Guthrie
Helenmarie Matesi

Call for Nominations from the Floor

Action: Elect the nominees by ballot, or instruct the Secretary to cast the ballot for every nominee if all are unopposed. (Bylaws Article VIII, Sec. 3)

Brief Biographies of 2025 LWVTV Nominees

Shari George's career was in satellite image processing, remote sensing, and geographic information systems. Ventures into the Borough IT, distance education, Cooperative Extension and project management for a software development company kept things interesting. In League, she focuses on digital democracy, website management, hot topic organization and improving participation in local elections. She has served as treasurer of LWVAK and is currently on the board of LWV AK. She has led LWVT several times as president and past president and is our webmaster.

Mike Hostina, a mostly-retired attorney, currently serves as counsel to a non-profit in Fairbanks as well as a board member of the KUAC Friends Group. During his 39-year legal career in Alaska he served as General Counsel for the University of Alaska System, retiring in 2020 with a designation of emeritus general counsel. Other University positions included Associate General Counsel (& Director of Labor Relations. He also served as legal counsel to and deputy ombudsman for the State of Alaska Ombudsman's office. Mike also has formal training and experience in mediation. He has served on the Alaska Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Mediation, the American Bar Association's Ad Hoc Committee on the Ombudsman, the former Fairbanks Board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and service on and later chair of the FNSB Health & Social Services Commission. In 1985 Mike, his friend and wife Barb Santora and their two cats left Philadelphia family and friends for an adventure in Alaska. Two children, two careers, a succession of cats and dogs, and some years later, the adventure continues. Mike enjoys gardening, reading, writing, playing with Border Collie Ben, and maintaining cars and other living mechanical things.

Jean James has been living in Alaska since 1982. She first came to Alaska with her sister in August 1964 from Ohio via the Alcan Highway in a VW Bug. Her background includes working in health care management and years in research administration preparing proposals, budgets, managing grants and field stations. She has been a LWVTV member since the mid-80's and the treasurer/ membership person from 2012-2023. Voter education is one of her top priorities. She has a wide variety of interests, including skiing, kayaking, walking, swimming, reading, and loves being by the water.

Jessica C. King was raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and graduated from West Valley High School. She has earned a B.S. in Mathematics from the Fort Valley State University and completed a Secondary Education Licensure program with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She currently works as a Higher Education Counselor with the Department of Defense. Inspired by her mother, Virgie M. King, she continues to run the African-American Student Leadership Conference; and remains involved in the Fairbanks community through the Fairbanks Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, the NAACP, and the League of Women Voters.

Diane Lyon writes “I’m a 30+ year resident of Alaska. I’ve been a member of LWVTV for several years and currently in my second term on the Board. When not volunteering for LWV and other organizations, I work part-time at Fairbanks Drama Association and help care for my two grandchildren. LWVTV is the best thing I’ve done for myself, giving me a chance to channel energy into issues of great importance to me.”

Becky [Rebecca] Magowan was born (1950) and raised in Fairbanks and worked as a bookkeeper for over 50 years —43 years at the Literacy Council of Alaska. “I am married and have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild, most of whom live in Colorado. My son lives here in Fairbanks. Other current volunteering – Facilitator for NAMI Family Support meetings twice per month. Hobbies: Reading, gardening, jigsaw puzzles and coffee with friends.

Janna Miller decided to become involved in local democracy after reading Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* and having her eyes opened to what a unique, precious form of government we are fortunate to live under. She has enjoyed supporting the League's efforts to educate voters on a wide variety of topics, as well as the opportunity to meet a vivacious, inspiring group of League members has served on the board and as co-president and vice-president of our League.

Deborah Ryan drove cross country to Fairbanks in 1979 and accepted a job in Barrow staying until the mid 1980's. Returning to Barrow, now known as Utqiagvik, in 2011 and back to Fairbanks in 2018, Deborah became active in environmental issues and learning more about local and state government. She feels lucky to have lived, worked and traveled in many Interior and Arctic communities.

Marna Sanford grew up in Tok, Alaska, enjoys cross country skiing, is an avid reader, favorite

auntie and happy wife to Ed. She works for the Tanana Chiefs Conference. She is a past co-president of LWVTV.

Sue Sherif has served on the LWVTV board in a variety of capacities, most recently as Past President. She also is a board member of the LWVAK and has served as LWVAK co-President and President designee. A retired librarian, she worked for the Fairbanks NSB Library for twenty years and then for the Alaska State Library as Head of Library Development, which offered the opportunity to travel all over the state to work on-site with public and school libraries. She was a founder of the Tri-Valley Community Library in Healy.

Linda Unsicker has lived in Fairbanks for the past 30 year and really enjoys this community. “When friends outside ask why I live here, my answer is always, ‘The people.’ Over the years I’ve enjoyed volunteering at the library, Food Bank, Visitors’ Center, Green Star of Interior Alaska, and the Literacy Council. I also enjoy hiking biking, reading, Zentangle, canoeing and rafting, camping travel and friends. My late husband and I enjoyed 11 years of going back and forth to South Africa and Tanzania doing medical volunteering. On my own I volunteer several times in Morocco. I have one son who lives in Fairbanks with his wife and 13-year-old daughter. The three of them make my life very special. It is always important to be politically aware and encouraged to vote. LWV helps to educate citizens through forums and providing information. I feel it is so important to get the correct information to voters and support them in understanding that each vote counts. I am new to LWVTV, but I am eager to learn how to be involved and to be an active member.”

Linda Witt hails originally from the Seattle area and has lived in Fairbanks since 1966. With her late husband, David, she has raised three children, all of whom, and their families, live here. She is a retired public school teacher and currently is a regular elementary substitute teacher. Linda has been involved in League actively for 30 years, serving on the Board of LWVTV and LWVAK, including two terms as local president, and two terms as Alaska statewide president. She has attended three national LWV conventions and two LWV national councils.

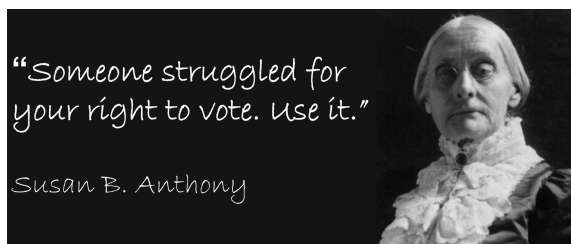
[Bios of continuing board members are available on the LWVTV website.]

STATE BOARD REPORTS

LWVAK Annual Report - Marianne Mills, Vice-President

This year, for the first time, our Board members shared in the President's duties. Much thanks to Therese Lewandowski for taking the lead on our Organizational plan which included Organizational, Communication, Legislative and other essential duties.

- The Board appointed Shari George, Therese Lewandowski and Sue Sherif as Board members.
- Sue Sherif agreed to serve as our President Designee for purposes of communication with the LWVUS. Thank you, Sue!
- We elected Shari George, Judith Mitchell, and one Youth Vote Member as our National Convention delegates.
- Dianna Wynn was elected as LWVUS President; Celina Stewart is the CEO.
- We continued to support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and ERA Amendment.
- Alex Koplin and Judith Mitchell took the lead on organizing the 411 Voter Information Project which took a great deal of effort and time.
- We continued to support the national Let's Talk about Digital Threats to Democracy series.
- We adopted the new LWVAK Civics Education position.
- We adopted the new LWVAK Gun Safety position.
- We collaborated with other groups to oppose Ballot Measure 2: we support Ranked Choice Voting.
- We thanked Joyce Anderson for serving as our Election Day rapid response contact for LWVUS.
- While LWVUS Transformation Plan/Chapter Spot changes were started, we communicated how this will affect our members.
- We proposed LWVAK Bylaw changes to members reflecting membership dues changes.
- Judy Andree wrote a letter to the Division of Elections to thank them for elections well done—thank you, Judy!
- We participated in the annual LWVUS survey to give them information on all we do throughout the year.
- We determined the following Legislative Priorities for this session: anything related to elections, education funding, civics education, campaign finance.
- Judith Mitchell continues to produce the very informative Legislative Newsletter for our members this year—thank you!
- The Lunch with the League opportunities for our members continued.
- The LWVAK Energy Position was updated, thanks to Shari George and team.
- Members are urged to call members of U.S. Congress to oppose the S.A.V.E. Act which will make it difficult for eligible citizens to register to vote.
- The State Convention Planning Committee consisted of Therese Lewandowski, Sandy Gerrity, Shirley Pittz, and Shari George. Thank you!



STATE CONVENTION - Sue Sherif

For the third year, the 2025 LWV State Convention on April 26 was held in hybrid format with in-person session at each chapter location linked via Zoom to the other sites, the speakers, and online participants. The business meeting was convened virtually on April 27. Mary Galvan, Helenmarie Matesi, and Linda Witt served as LWVTV delegates. At the business meeting, Diane Lyon of LWVTV was elected to a two-year position as a LWVAK board member. Shari George and Sue Sherif were re-appointed to the board for one-year terms. Marianne Mills (Juneau) and Pat Redmond (Anchorage) will serve as co-presidents. Sarah Moore (Juneau) is the new vice-president. The agenda and convention materials are available on the state website at:

<https://alaskalwv.org/convention/>

The highlight of the Saturday session was the strong program of speakers. In addition to recorded messages from LWVUS President Diana Wynne and all three members of our Congressional delegation, we were joined live by two Fairbanks board members of Kids Voting North, Amy Gallaway and Fawn Jelinek, who spoke of the importance of student engagement in K-12 civics education; Alaska Senate Majority Leader Cathy Giessel, who gave an insider's view of the current legislative session; and a panel on the threats to local journalism moderated by Lori Neufeld of Alaska Public Media. The panelists were Dermot Cole (Reporting from Alaska blogger and former News-Miner and ADN columnist), Andrew Kitchenman (Alaska Beacon), longtime Alaska op-ed columnist Larry Persily, and Bethel radio broadcaster Sage Smiley (KYUK).

Recordings of these programs are available on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLf3C-pKBNolNJg9UpK2o35mbzu-YTcTEL>

At the business meeting, the delegates affirmed all 20 LWVAK positions including the newly revised Energy position. No additional studies were suggested. Areas of LWVAK emphasis or priority for 2025-26 are: Education Funding, Civics Education for K-12 and adults, Elections, Campaign Finance, Gun Safety, and Judicial Selection & Retention [not in priority order].

Kudos to the convention planning committee of Therese Lewandowski (Kenai), Shirley Pittz (Anchorage), Sandy Garity (Kenai), and Shari George (LWVTV) for organizing such a strong program.

LWVTV REPORTS

Book Discussion Group – Sue Keller

The LWV of Tanana Valley Book Group met monthly June 2024 to March 2025, except for August and December. The group suspended after March when membership dwindled. Meetings were the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 11:30. Sue Keller led the group this year.

We met in person in the Noel Wien Library conference room. Each month 2-4 people attended. League members and nonmembers were invited to attend book group meetings.

Following are the books discussed in 2024-2025:

JUNE--*Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*, by Hans Rosling. 2018, AND *Let America Be America Again*, by Langston Hughes. 1936.

JULY--*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. 2020.

SEPTEMBER--*The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts*, by Gregg Hecimovich, 2023.

OCTOBER--*The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams, 2021.

NOVEMBER--*Gunfight: My Battle Against the Industry That Radicalized America*, by Ryan Busse, 2021.

JANUARY 2025--*The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet*, by Jeff Goodell, 2023, OR *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*, by David Wallace-Wells, 2019.

FEBRUARY--*The Adventure of English: A Biography of a Language*, by Melvyn Bragg, 2004.

MARCH--any book about Eleanor Roosevelt (reader's choice)

Books on the schedule but not discussed

APRIL 2025--*We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans and Comedy*, by Kliph Nesteroff, 2021.

MAY--*Poverty, By America*, by Matthew Desmond, 2023.

JULY--*The Undocumented Americans*, by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, 2020.

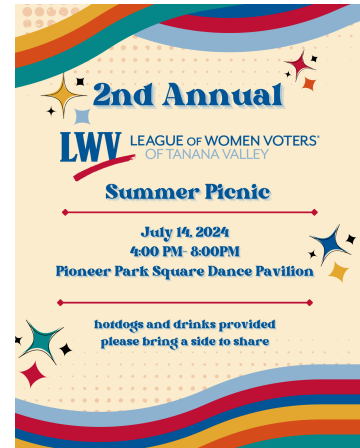
Book group future

We hope to find new members so we can restart the group. Possibly a different format would appeal to new members.

Membership Events

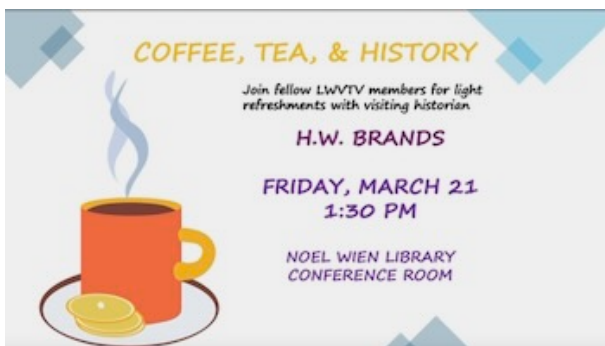
Summer Picnic – Mary Galvan

The League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley hosted its second annual Summer BBQ. Held on July 14, 2024, at the Square Dance Pavillion at Pioneer Park, League provided hot dogs and drinks, and members brought a variety of side dishes and desserts. The day was cooler, but spirits were high, as about 20 members gathered to enjoy discussion of past league activities and upcoming events. Our next summer picnic at Pioneer Park is in the works. Save the date, Sunday, July 13, 4-8 pm.



Historian Visit – Diane Lyon

On Friday, March 21, LWVTV hosted an informal social hour with renowned historian, H. W.



Brands. Dr. Brands, an author of more than thirty books, was in Fairbanks to participate in a Critical Issues lecture series at UAF, sponsored by the Alaska Historical Society.

AHS invited us to host Dr. Brands as an opportunity for him to meet Alaskans who are engaged and concerned about civic affairs. Held at the Noel Wien Library, nearly

a dozen people attended and enjoyed coffee, tea, and cookies, accompanied by intriguing stories from Dr. Brands. LWVTV came prepared with a list of questions in case conversation lagged, but Dr. Brands kept us entertained with stories about his developing interest in history and teaching experiences. A wonderful way to spend a few Friday afternoon hours.

December at the Distillery

Great venue, great attendance, great fun! Thanks to Jennifer Schmidt for organizing it from Arizona and to Phyllis Brush and everyone else who



pitched in to help LWVTV take a bite out of winter. Thanks to the Distilling Company owners for hosting and joining League!

Voting and Equal Rights Activities

Juneteenth



As it has for about a decade—including virtually during the pandemic, our chapter has hosted a voter registration/election information booth at the community Juneteenth celebration. The celebration is a favorite amongst League volunteers. Find out why by planning to volunteer for the NAACP's Juneteenth 2025 on Saturday, June 14 from noon to 4 PM at Bernice Allridge Park!

Election Activities

Borough Candidate Forum – Sue Sherif

KUAC-FM and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner were again our collaborators for our fall candidate forums. The Borough Assembly Chambers were packed on September 13, 2024, for the local candidate forum, and the radio broadcast extended the audience of voters. The KUAC and LWVTV websites offered the recording of the forum to even more citizens. Candidates for Fairbanks City Council, FNSB School Board, Borough Assembly, Borough Mayor and North Pole Mayor answer questions posed by LWVTV members Christy Everett and Leah Berman William as well as News-Miner reporters Carter DeJong and Jack Barnwell. A high school student representing Kids Voting contributed and asked his questions. A strong team of member volunteers included Ramon Galvan, Shari George, Jean James, Jessica King, Gayle Garrigues,

Marna Sanford, Ann McCann, Frida Shroyer, Carol Hanneman, Diane Hermann, Martha Raynolds, Margaret Soden, and Jennifer Schmidt. We were pleased to have the participation of all but one of the candidates. The turnout for the October 1 election represented a small increase in the number of citizens who chose to Vote Local.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Noel Wien Public Library Auditorium - CLOSED due to weather
Broadcast on KUAC-FM 89.9

KNOW WHERE YOUR CANDIDATES STAND.

ALASKA STATE HOUSE & SENATE CANDIDATE FORUM

READER. VOTER. READY.
ALA American Library Association

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
EDUCATION FUND

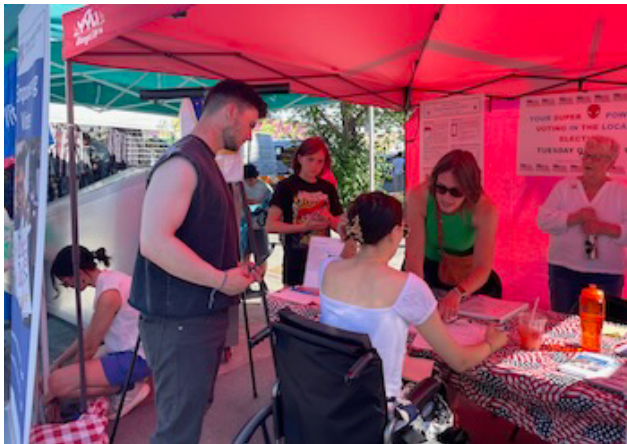
League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
FNSB Public Libraries
KUAC FM 89.9

State Candidate Forum – Sue Sherif

“Closed due to weather” was the description of Fairbanks on October 21, 2024, the day of the LWVTV State Candidates Forum scheduled to be held at the newly remodeled Noel Wien Library. A freak fall storm that combined snow, rain, and ice shut down everything including the first two days of early voting for the general election. With less than 24 hours warning, we pivoted to an all-Zoom radio broadcast forum. Amazingly, all the candidates for Interior House and Senate seats were able to participate, including one candidate who participated from his darkened house due to the widespread power outages. Cathy Hanks and Diane Lyon served as moderators, and Jessica King and Janna Miller were timekeepers, pioneering the use of a Zoom time clock rather than the usual cell phone timer function. Phyllis Darrah joined a panel of journalists from KUAC and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner as questioners. A North Pole high school student representing Kids Voting joined the panel of questioners to ask candidates questions that he had composed. One questioner had only intermittent power during the forum. Unstable internet and the resultant lags in responses meant that the forum took longer than usual, but KUAC broadcast the entire forum. Their recording provided access to those who were unable to listen to the radio or stream because of lack of power. The planned collaboration with the local teen Girl Scout troop was limited because of weather-induced changes to the forum.

General Election Service to Hospital Patients

A LWVTV team of Barbara Hanneman, Molly Sherman, Martha Reynolds, Diann Darnall, Sue Keller, and Dianne Hermann, organized from Arizona by Jennifer Schmidt, revived Election Day voters services at the Fairbanks Hospital after a 5-year hiatus. With the coordination of a hospital liaison, the team delivered 14 special needs ballots to people who were hospitalized on Election Day and otherwise would not have been able to vote.



Public Education Activities

Summer Solstice Festival - Bernardo Hernandez

David Weissman organized the LWVTV booth for the Solstice event in downtown Fairbanks. The booth staffed about 11 am and was open until 12 midnight. David instituted a new way of signing up volunteers to staff the booth with an app that makes the sign-up process much easier. Many

people visited the booth and three people signed up to obtain more information about the League. We had about two or three people register to vote.

The mood was festive given all the sunlight and the nice weather. Thanks to all those who helped with the set up and take down of the booth as well as all those who staffed the booth.

Golden Days Festival – Bernardo Hernandez

David Weissman organized the booth for Golden Days and successfully used the new app to sign up volunteers for staffing the booth. Our booth was well regarded and was visited quite a few people wondering what the League did, and two people signed up to ask for further information about the League. The booth was successful in that the League's name and its mission was further recognized by the community.



Tanana Valley Fair – Bernardo Hernandez



During the fair, we had a steady stream of visitors. Mary Lee Guthrie's 3-D visualization, using gummy balls, to illustrate the low percentage of people who vote in the Fairbanks North Star Borough was a conversation starter, as it was last year. We also conducted a straw poll for several races including the US House of Representative, the Alaska State

Senate (Districts P and R) and Alaska State Representative (Districts 31 through 36). The daily results receive a lot of attention from the public as well as from many of the candidates who are at the fair. The upcoming elections including the primary, borough, and general elections were publicized. Approximately 12 people were registered to vote and 6 people signed up to obtain more information about the League. It has been a great way to connect with the public and explain our mission. Thanks to all the folks who volunteered their time to staff the fair booth.

All shifts at the summer booths were handled by about 30 members utilizing the sign-up software introduced by David Weissman.

JUDICIARY STUDY – Sue Sherif

Our chapter discussed the LWVUS federal judiciary in two sessions, both eliciting lively discussions. One session was in-person at the Fairbanks Distilling Company, and the other, 10 days later, was via Zoom for those who could not attend the face-to-face meeting on March 19. Our responses to LWVUS' consensus questions were reported to the national study committee, who will compile the reports nationwide and then craft a new proposed national position on the federal judiciary. This has been a pilot attempt to create a new position in a year's time. Traditionally the process was carried out in two years.

A poster for the LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study Discussion. At the top left is the LWVUS logo with the text 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TANANA VALLEY'. To the right of the logo, it says 'WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH' with a calendar icon, 'TIME 5:30 PM' with a clock icon, and 'FAIRBANKS DISTILLING COMPANY' with a location pin icon. In the center is a blue illustration of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding scales. A large red circle on the right side of the poster contains the text 'FEDERAL JUDICIARY STUDY DISCUSSION' in white. Below this, in smaller white text, it says: 'To develop a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy. The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics.'

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY AND OTHER GUIDELINES

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, politically active organization. While we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate, we welcome members of all political parties and independents to our membership. We also take action on government measures and policies in the public interest. Because League membership is made up of highly motivated and active people, it is sometimes difficult for League members and for the public to separate an individual member's commitment to League's nonpartisan policy and the individual's personal commitment to a party or issue. To avoid potential conflicts, this policy statement was adopted by the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley.

Interpretation of individual policies may be made by the Board. The Board may wish to advertise its nonpartisan policy.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

It is an advantage for the League to have politically active members. All League members must take responsibility for clearly differentiating between their personal opinions and League positions. They shall not distribute League material at the same time as material for a party or candidate.

- a. Non-Board members are encouraged to participate fully in the party of their choice at all levels of activity.
- b. Board members shall not undertake any action which will cause the League to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party.
 1. Board members may not hold the offices of chair, vice chair, treasurer or secretary of party district or state committees, or hold the office of national committeeperson.
 2. Individuals on the Board (except President, Vice President, Treasurer and Voter Service Chair) may consider accepting other party offices with the concurrence of the Board.

CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

League members are encouraged to participate in political campaigns and to run for election to office. The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

- a. Board Members
 1. May not run for elective office including such local offices as mayor, borough assembly, city council or school board.

2. May not serve as campaign chair or treasurer for any of the positions listed above.
 3. With the exception of the President, Vice President and Voter Service Chair, may campaign for a ballot issues on which the League has no position.
 4. May not be associated publicly with ballot issues in opposition to League positions.
 5. May run for nonpartisan elective offices such as charter commissions and delegate to a constitutional convention.
- b. The President, Vice President, and Voter Service Chair
1. May not endorse, publicize, nor work for any local, state, or national partisan candidate.
 2. May not campaign for ballot issues on which the League has no position.
 3. May not hold or actively seek an elective office.
 4. May not have an official position in a party organization, or in an organization endorsing candidates for public office.
 5. May not participate conspicuously in campaigns for individuals in such a way as to publicly identify the League member with said individual. This includes but is not limited to the display of yard signs, bumper stickers and buttons for a candidate.
 6. May not contribute conspicuously to any candidate or party in such a way as to identify the League member with said individual.
 7. May not publicly speak at party organization meetings (Attendance and voting for precinct officials are encouraged.)
 8. May not carry a petition for a candidate, or for an issue on which League has no position, or a conflicting position.
 9. May not host or take an active part at an event or rally for candidates of one party. (Attendance is encouraged.)

PUBLIC BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

If the League is asked to recommend someone to represent League on a commission, that person must speak for League and be accountable to the Board. If not asked for a recommendation, League may wish to recommend individuals for certain commissions. The Board should determine in each case whether the person will speak as an individual or for the League. Even if a commission member represents the League, the Board is not bound to support the recommendations of the commission. In all cases where individuals represent League, whether on a commission or giving testimony, the Board should be sure that the individual understands League's position on the issue.

COALITIONS

League may join coalitions while taking action on any issue, at the discretion of the Board. If the coalition endorses candidates or becomes involved in other issues as well, the Board may issue a statement disassociating itself from those aspects of the coalition.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP POLICIES-

[We operated these policies in the last year. They are subject to revision by the board in view of the new LWVUS membership policy and contingent on the passage of the proposed bylaws changes at the 2025 Annual Meeting.]

- a. A dues notice will be sent to each member one month before renewal date. If there is not a response, at least one additional notice will be sent.
- b. Lapsed Membership - There may be a grace period at the discretion of the Board, but a nonpaying member shall not remain on the membership roll beyond one day before the date on which the League of Women Voters US collects membership data for Per Member Payment purposes. The Membership Chair or a designated Board member will attempt to make personal contact with the lapsed member and discuss a dues waiver, if appropriate.
- c. Dues Waiver- A dues waiver may be given at the discretion of the Board for any interested parties on limited income who wish to participate actively in League work. Names of interested parties may be submitted by any League member to the membership chair who shall bring them before the Board for confirmation of waiver.
- d. Household Membership - When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the dues shall be the full amount for one member and one-half the amount for each additional member.
- e. New Citizen Introductory Member - As a means of actively involving new citizens in the governmental process, League (the membership chair) may give a free one-year membership to new citizens who show interest in League.

Adopted 1979; Last amended May 2021

POSITION STATEMENTS – LWV OF TANANA VALLEY

General Local Government

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes that local government is needed to protect the rights and needs of residents, and to provide services for the common good. A sample of services that local government delivers includes public education, public libraries, planning, platting and land use regulation, transportation systems, water and air pollution control, economic development, waste disposal, and animal regulation. Local government should be accountable to the people in the performance of functions, exercise of powers and use of resources.

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Adopted 1968; Revised 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017; Revised 2018 adopting new wording; Reaffirmed 2019, 2020; recommended for review 2021, 2022 (members noted differences between city and borough powers), 2023, 2024.

Planning and Zoning

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes that a comprehensive Land Use Plan is essential to ensure orderly development, save green spaces, plan for future public facilities and to encourage industrial and business growth in specifically designated areas. Regulatory measures to maintain the Plan must:

- Provide for periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide for citizen input before any changes to the Plan take effect.
- Ensure cooperative planning between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the School Board on future school needs and locations of schools.
- Provide for environmental review of any new facility which will draw heavy traffic or have a large parking area.
- Ensure that the integrity of the Plan will not be compromised by frequent small changes or variances.

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Adopted 1969; Revised 1979, 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes in the participation of citizens in their government. Appointed boards, commissions and committees serve as liaisons between the community and their elected officials. As such, they should be reflective of the composition of the community with adequate representation from both urban and rural areas. Selection procedures for boards, commissions and committees should be standardized and advertised to encourage the widest possible citizen participation. The names of current board, commission and committee members should be published periodically.

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Adopted 1979; Reaffirmed 1986; Revised 1988; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017, 2018; Revised 2019; Reaffirmed 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Conflict of Interest

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley supports clear and concise conflict of interest legislation to govern all councils, assemblies, boards, commissions and committees. Such provisions should contain:

- A clear definition of what constitutes conflict of interest.
- A procedure for members to declare conflict of interest.
- A procedure by which the body decides if conflict of interest does exist and the extent of disqualification in each case.
- A provision that all declarations of conflict of interest and all pertinent discussion must be reflected in the minutes.

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Adopted 1978; Revised 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Road Service Area

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley supports the following policies regarding service areas:

- All citizens in the Borough should be able to form, or be included in, a road service area for their neighborhood.
- Borough costs for administration of road service areas should be borne by the residents/property owners within those areas. Each service area should pay a basic flat fee, plus an additional fee which would vary according to the amount of service required.

- To make consolidation of road service areas more attractive, differential tax rates within service areas should be considered when there are differences in population density, property valuation, lot size, soil conditions or service philosophy.
- To ensure that service areas will function in an efficient, responsive and accountable manner it is essential that procedures and regulations be enforced consistently.

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Adopted 1986; Revised 1987; Reaffirmed 1988, 1991; Revised 2000; Reviewed 2015; Reaffirmed 2016; 2017 – 2018 under review for clarification; 2019 recommended for revision; 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 continued review, 2024.

Nondiscrimination

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley believes that equality of opportunity is foundational to the spirit of the Republic. We are committed to diversity, equality and inclusion in principle and in practice. We oppose discrimination whether based on race, color, religion, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military service, ethnicity or national origin. We support equal rights under federal, state and local laws. We endorse ordinances and legislation that guarantee equal justice under the law in employment, housing and realty, credit, public places and services, public accommodation and education. Such laws and ordinances promote social equity while rejecting prejudice, bigotry, and oppression. They strengthen our community and help society in creating a more perfect democracy.

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Adopted 2020; Reaffirmed 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.”
– Larry J. Sabato

ANNUAL CALENDAR AND BYLAWS SUMMARY-LWVTV

Terms of Office	
2 years	Secretary, Treasurer, Elected Directors
1 year	President, Vice President, Appointed Directors
Odd-numbered years	Election of Secretary
Even-numbered years	Election of Treasurer
Annual Timeline	
4 times per year	Minimum number of meetings with membership
9 times per year	Minimum number of meetings of the Board
February 1	Membership count for purpose of determining quorum
January or February	Board appoints bylaws committee (3 mos. before Annual Meeting) Board appoints budget committee (2 mos. before Annual Meeting) Annual Program Planning Meeting [January] Submit LWVUS chapter survey [January] Nominating Committee begins work
February or March	Deadline for voting members to make recommendations to Board about Program Send LWVTV program recommendations to LWVAK Board Set Annual Meeting date
April 1 – May 30	Annual Meeting held
30 days before Annual Meeting	Call to Annual Meeting including proposed program, proposed budget, nominating committee report, proposed by-laws changes
2 wks. before Annual Mtg	Changes to proposed program
May [no later than June] Annual Meeting	Election of officers. Select local issues for study or action. Annual report of the Treasurer. Election of ½ the Board. Report of the Nominating Committee. Membership vote on proposed budget. Membership vote on bylaws changes.
Close of Annual Meeting	Terms of new officers begin. Terms of appointed directors expire. Appointment of one non-elected member to nominating committee (may be later)
Board meeting before National	Board selects delegates to national conference or national council (alternating years)
Meeting before State	Board selects delegates to the state conference
July 1 [new]	Fiscal year begins [Approved by IRS 4-2025]

BYLAWS – LWVTV

ARTICLE I

Name

Sec.1. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley (LWVTV). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Policy

Sec.1. Purpose. The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec.2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Sec. 3 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The League is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. Membership is open to all who support the principles of the LWVUS. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation or expression, ability status, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec.1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec.2. Types of Membership. The membership of the League shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

- a. Voting members shall be those citizens at least 16 years of age who are enrolled in the League at the local, state, or national level and whose dues are not delinquent; members who have been enrolled in the League for 50 years or more shall be Life members and shall not be required to pay annual dues.
- b. All others who enroll in the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Sec.1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Past President. The President and Vice President shall be elected to a term of one year, and the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for terms of two years. All directly elected officers shall be elected by the General Membership at an Annual Meeting, and all officers shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The

Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The President and Vice President shall be elected annually. If the Nominating Committee recommends and the membership so approves, the President position may be held by two Co-Presidents. The Past President is not elected but is the immediate past president available to serve.

Sec.2. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President may be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and 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.

Sec.3. Vice President. The Vice President shall endeavor to gain familiarity with the President's duties and responsibilities. The Vice President shall, in the event of absence, disability or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the President and the Board.

Sec.4. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Annual Meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all officers and directors of meetings of the Board and shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec.5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due and shall be the custodian of these moneys, depositing them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and disbursing the same only upon the order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present quarterly statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 6. Past President. The Past President shall serve as a consultant to the President and advisor to the Board regarding League policy and procedure. The Past President shall be a voting member of the Board.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Sec.1. Number Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, the most recent Past President able to serve, six elected directors, and not more than six appointed directors. One-half of the elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members may appoint such additional directors as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The term of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Sec.2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley.

Sec.3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled until the next Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three

consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation. Said Board member will be notified in writing that their resignation has been assumed.

Sec.4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary. Duties of the Historian will be assigned to an elected board member, an appointed director or an off-board member. The Historian shall keep an ongoing record of the activities of the League.

Sec.5. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. The meetings may be held in person, virtually using Internet-based teleconferencing services or by telephone. Board members may vote in person, using electronic means or by telephone.

Sec.6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 7. Records. The Board shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of its proceedings and of any committees having authority of the Board of Directors and shall keep a record of the names and addresses of its members entitled to vote.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Sec.1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley shall commence on the first day of July each year.

Sec 2. Dues. Annual dues, as determined at the Annual Meeting, shall be payable on October 1st for continuing members, or at the time a new member joins. Annual dues cover the period October 1 – September 30. Dues for a new member joining after January 31 shall have their membership extended into and through the following membership year. Dues shall be set for the following categories:

- a. Individual membership.
- b. Household membership for two or more members residing at the same address.
- c. Student membership for high school, college or trade school students enrolled at least half time.
- d. Life Members for members who have been enrolled in the League of Women Voters for 50 years or more and who shall not be required to pay annual dues.
- e. New citizen introductory member.
- f. The Board may issue scholarships for persons unable to pay the annual dues.

Sec.3. Budget. A balanced budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for adoption. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole. The Board has the authority to reallocate budget amounts during the fiscal year. (Rev. 5/11/2024)

Sec.4. Budget Committee. A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as the Chair.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Sec.1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four General meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The official Call to Annual Meeting shall be sent to all members one month prior to the date of the meeting.

Sec.2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 1st and May 30th, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- a. adopt a Local Program for the ensuing year,
- b. elect officers and directors and members of the Nominating Committee,
- c. adopt an adequate budget that specifies the amount for dues, and,
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

The Annual Meetings may be held in person, virtually using Internet-based teleconferencing services or by telephone. Voting members may vote in person, using electronic means or by telephone.

In the event of a local, state, or national emergency the Board of Directors may suspend the Annual Meeting until such time as the emergency is lifted and the meeting may be properly scheduled and notification to the members made. The Board shall make all effort to schedule the Annual Meeting as soon as it is feasible. Suspending the Annual Meeting shall require a two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors.

Sec.3. Quorum. Fifteen percent of the Voting Membership shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley. The number of voting members for quorum purposes shall be the number fixed by LWVUS for Per Member Payment purposes in January of the current calendar year.

Sec.4. Special Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations and Elections

Sec.1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The Chair and one member, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these officers shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other member shall be appointed by the Board of Directors following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Sec.2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual

Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. Sec.3. Election. The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote shall constitute an election. Voting members may vote in person, using electronic means or by telephone. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX

Program

Sec.1. Authorization. The adoption of governmental issues for concerted study and action by the National Convention and action constitutes the authorization for the adoption of the same issues by League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley. The adoption of State governmental issues for concerted study and action by the State Convention constitutes the authorization for the adoption of the same issues by League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley. No additional authorization shall be necessary at the local level.

Sec.2. Local Program. The local Program of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley shall consist of the Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities as hereinafter defined:

- a. The Current Agenda shall consist of such current local governmental issues as the membership shall choose for concerted study and action.
- b. The Continuing Responsibilities shall consist of those positions on local governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act.

Sec. 3. Program Selection. The Annual Meeting shall select the local governmental issues for concerted study and action using the following procedures:

- a. Voting members may make recommendations to the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. The Board of Directors shall consider recommendations and formulate a Proposed Program that shall be sent to all members one month prior to the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors
- d. Any recommendations for the Program submitted to the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote. Adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.
- e. Changes in the Program because of altered conditions may be made, provided that information of any proposed change shall have been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting. Adoption of the Program change shall require a majority vote.

Sec. 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

National Convention and State Convention

Sec.1. National Convention/Council. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the National Convention/Council at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the National Office. The number of delegates shall be that allotted to the Tanana Valley League by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec.2. State Convention. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the State Convention at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the State Office. The number of delegates shall be that allotted to the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley by the League of Women Voters of Alaska.

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Sec.1. The rules contained in the most recent revision of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

Sec.1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting called by three-fourths majority of the Board, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Sec. 2. Bylaws Committee. A committee to review the Bylaws shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Adopted 1964; Last amended 2024

LWV OF ALASKA POSITION STATEMENTS

Available online at the League of Women Voters of Alaska website <http://www.alaskalwv.org> .

Government

1. CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska favors public disclosure of campaign contributions of money, goods, or services, as well as the disclosure of financial interests of public officials, both elected and appointed. All disclosure reports should be received, compiled and published by an independent commission, which should have final responsibility for monitoring and enforcement. The League also favors limitations on the length of political campaigns, the time allowed for fund raising, the amount of contributions and, notwithstanding the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Buckley v. Valeo*, the amount of expenditures.

The goals of a campaign system should be:

1. To ensure the public's right to know.
2. To combat corruption and undue influence.
3. To enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.
4. To promote citizen participation in the political process.

"To enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office" reflects two distinct concerns: First, that differences in candidates' personal wealth and other financial resources not be a necessary consideration in seeking public office; and, second, that insofar as possible there be an equalization of opportunity for challengers and incumbents.

Adopted 1968; Revised 1991; 2024; Reaffirmed each year at LWVAK Convention.

2. CAPITAL BUDGET PROCESS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that prudent capital spending by the State of Alaska requires realistic budget preparation, clear project definition, use of standardized criteria for determination of need, and public involvement. In order to promote the judicious management of the capital budget process and capital projects, the League supports the following:

- * Establishment and implementation of consistently applied statutory criteria for defining and prioritizing all proposed capital projects;
- * Recognition and documentation of the effect of capital expenditures on the operating budgets and bonding capabilities of state and local governments;
- * Public understanding of and involvement in the capital budget preparation process;
- * Financial participation by local governments in the funding of requested capital projects;

- * Utilization of a single procedure for the proposal and evaluation of potential capital improvement projects; and

- * Accountability for the expenditures of capital funds in accordance with public and legislative intent.

Any spending limit should be in statutory, not constitutional, form and be based on the future availability of funding for the operation and maintenance of state-financed capital improvement projects.

Adopted 1985; Reaffirmed each year at LWVAK Convention.

3. CONSTITUTION, AMENDING BY INITIATIVE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska opposes amending the Alaska Constitution by initiative.

Adopted 1998; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that a constitutional convention should not be held at this time.

Adopted 1982; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

5. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that the Alaska legislative system should be responsive, representative, accessible, efficient, and accountable. We feel that the legislative structure, which would best accomplish this goal, contains the following elements.

- * Measures to facilitate the budgetary process;

- * Clearly delineated procedures for legislative committee action and treatment of legislation during all states of the process.

- * Conference committee and free conference committee deliberations that are open, judicious, germane and subject to public notice.

- * Caucus should be open with exception of circumstances involving prejudicial and personnel matters.

- * Procedures followed which maximize consolidation of effort between the two houses of the Legislature.

- * Easy availability to information for the public concerning legislative activities and ease of access for public participation in the legislative process.

- * Procedures that enhance operational effectiveness including clear enforcement of rules.
Adopted ??; Revised 1993; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

6. ALASKA'S STATUTORY INITIATIVE PROCESS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports the existing initiative process and makes the following recommendations:

- Initiatives should be voted on only at General Elections, not special or primary elections.
- Support change that requires simplicity and clarity of the wording of initiative questions with a "yes" vote to indicate in favor of the measure and a "no" vote to indicate opposition to the measure.
- Support disclosure on each initiative petition of the name(s) or group(s) that is paying the gatherer and how they are paid, such as by signature or by the hour.
- Support the requirement for not less than 500 qualified voters as sponsors to the prospective petition with the Lieutenant Governor's office.
- Support the requirement for a number of valid signatures not less than ten (10%) percent of the total number of the votes cast in the preceding general elections.
- Support a formula for at least 50 signatures in each of two-thirds of the legislative districts in order to reflect statewide interest in a measure.
- Support the requirement an attorney general advisory opinion as to the constitutionality of each proposed initiative after it has qualified for the ballot, such opinion to be published in the State Election Pamphlet.
- Support the existing limit on time for collecting signatures to one year.
- Support the requirement for a cost analysis to be on each initiative petition.
- Support the requirement that signature gatherers be qualified voters of Alaska.

Adopted 2001 Post-Convention; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention

7. VOTER REGISTRATION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that an equitable voter registration system should encourage maximum interest and participation in the electoral process, be simple and efficient to administer, and should aid in preventing fraudulent voting practices. To achieve these objectives, the League supports:

- Voter identification which does not inhibit voter access to the electoral process;
- Mandatory training of election officials;
- Comprehensive registration information available online; and
- Outreach to all eligible residents including newly naturalized citizens and students.

The League believes that a statewide registration system should reflect the above objectives and should:

- Provide for permanent and portable registration with the ability to change registration information online;
- Make registration easily accessible (e.g., through the Division of Motor Vehicles);
- Allow registration in person and by mail as well as through electronic means;
- Provide a system of preregistration for 16-17 year-olds;
- Permit same day registration for voting on election day; and
- Provide for routine purging of registration rolls.

Adopted 1968; updated 2014; reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

Natural Resources

8. ENERGY

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) favors the wise use and development of a variety of energy sources to ensure a long-term sustainable cultural, environmental, and economic future for Alaska, and for all Alaskans. Alaska's constitution encourages "the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest", and that "the legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people." (Article VIII sections 1 and 2).

Based on Alaska's constitution, LWVAK believes that Alaska residents should be the primary beneficiaries (through availability and lower costs) and indirectly (through investment in the state education, public safety, services).

While Alaskans remain dependent on oil and gas extraction to provide electricity, heat, and vehicle fuel, and to help fund a portion of state government, many Alaskans also rely on subsistence harvest as their primary food source or as a major supplement to their lifestyle. Many other Alaska livelihoods are based on resources that can be profoundly impacted by energy development and operation. The precautionary principle should be applied when developing public policies and regulations, and when evaluating energy sources and projects for Alaska's unique communities and regions.

LWVAK supports the development of non-renewable and renewable energy resources in ways that cause minimal harm to our geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere, that:

- Maximizes energy conservation and efficiency
 - o In existing homes, and private, commercial and public buildings
 - o In all new developments or construction or expansion of existing

infrastructure

- o In marine vessels, road vehicles, public transportation systems, rail and aviation
 - o By the ongoing revision of State and local uniform building codes to raise energy efficiency standards for new construction
 - o By increasing transportation fuel efficiency standards
 - Lowers energy development, life-cycle and consumer costs
 - Increases power system and power grid resilience and redundancy
 - o Through the use of diverse power sources
 - o By supporting power system integration programs among local, regional and national stakeholders
 - o By recognizing the value of some smaller, community or regional microgrid energy projects (for example, solar, hydrokinetic, wind) that may take less time and funding to develop and may be less vulnerable to disasters
 - Supports the development and installation of renewable-source energy systems that
 - o Takes advantage of solar, wind, hydrokinetic (river, tidal and wave), and geothermal.
 - o Encourages continuing improvement of long duration energy storage.
 - o Utilizes bioenergy, provided that the use of each biomass source has been proven by long-term studies not to degrade air quality or the environment
 - Reduces emissions and energy-based contributions to climate change
 - Urges active research into new energy sources, the improvement of current energy technologies, energy development and consumer costs, and the effects and consequences of energy development and use on the health of the biosphere
 - Encourages the development and use of public and private incentive, loan, and funding programs.
 - Provides opportunities for public involvement through
 - o Open and inclusive permitting processes
 - o Public access to ongoing monitoring procedures and reporting
 - o Education opportunities
 - Promotes public education and sharing of information throughout Alaska and among other circumpolar nations.
- LWVAK supports delaying the use or expansion of technologies for which there remain serious disparities between the promised performance and the actual safety and environmental impact record. We urge caution when there is potential for pervasive, profound, or long-lived consequences or irreparable harm to biota, land, water, air, or food (wildlife, fish and marine life, wild plants, and agriculture).
- We oppose the development and use of traditional nuclear energy until secure

options exist for plant management, and toxic waste transport, processing and disposal. The development of nuclear microreactor technology may offer safer, more-manageable opportunities.

- Where other alternatives are reasonably available, we do not support the use of coal or the derivatives of coal (e.g., coal bed methane). Where coal or coal derivatives are used, ongoing monitoring of extraction methods, emissions, and upgrading of technology should be carried out to reduce impacts on humans, wildlife, and the environment.

Adopted 1978; revised 1991; 2013; 2025, reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

9. LAND DISPOSAL

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska feels the purpose of the State land disposal program should be to dispose of land within specific parameters. Disposal programs should allow for a variety of land uses maintaining program continuity from year to year including adequate administration and enforcement costs in land prices. Continued emphasis should be placed upon requiring land inventories, comprehensive land use plans, and public involvement. League members believe that a fair exchange value is an important aspect of State land pricing policy with investment returns from State lands going primarily to State or municipal governments.

Adopted 1980; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

10. LAND USE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports good land use planning; the formulation, implementation, and enforcement of comprehensive plans (including regional plans) for the use of all lands in the State of Alaska; the ensuring of coordination and cooperation among state, federal, municipal, and private landowners; and placement of responsibility for making and enforcing land use decisions on the lowest level of government immediately concerned with the land in question.

Adopted 1975; Revised 1979, 1985; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

Social Policy

11. CAREER EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The Alaska State League of Women Voters believes that the combination of home and school prepares students for competence in the world of work. The League recognizes the importance

of parental advocacy and/or adult mentorship in the career preparation process. The majority of people receive no schooling or training, other than on the job, beyond high school. Therefore, we believe that our schools have the responsibility to graduate students who exhibit job readiness, positive work attitudes, and cooperation skills that will enable them to find and hold employment. The League believes that the Alaskan schools should offer equal opportunities and respect to ALL students: those who will have post-secondary schooling and those who will immediately go into the work force. To meet this goal, the basic curricula should include problem-solving skills, interpersonal communications and tolerance skills, as well as provide opportunities to explore careers and offer courses containing specific technical training and career experience. Academic skills needed for success in today's entry-level careers should be integrated into career preparation experience.

Adopted 1994; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

12. CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports the availability of childcare for everyone who needs or wants it with priority given to those children whose need is greatest. The League believes users should be primarily responsible for childcare financing. Supplemental financial and regulatory responsibilities should be shared by all levels of government to ensure that child care is of high quality, affordable and available to those who need it.

Adopted 1976; Revised 1986; Amended 2001; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

13. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND BULLYING

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska believes all individuals have the right to live in a fear-free environment, and to be safe from sexual assault (SA); psychological, emotional and physical abuse; and neglect. A special degree of protection is needed for vulnerable, dependent people of any age.

Intervention by public agencies should take place when there is evidence of sexual assault or of physical, psychological or emotional abuse (including stalking) of one family member by another or one partner by another (including dating partnerships). However, this is not to suggest that mandated reporting be instituted as this may actually increase danger for victims/survivors. When necessary to separate family members, it is preferable to remove the perpetrator rather than the victim from the home, particularly if the victim is a child. Physical or sexual assault should be prosecuted whether or not the victim presses charges.

Federal, state and local governments should share responsibility for the health and safety of family members, with primary responsibility at state and local levels. Adequate funding is

necessary for the care and protection of the spouse (including ex-spouse, partner, etc.) and children victimized by violence; and costs must be shared by all levels of government, private charitable contributions, and a special fund into which perpetrators are required to pay. To the maximum extent possible, perpetrators should be held financially responsible for these costs, and no victim should ever be required to pay any costs associated with a domestic violence (DV) or sexual assault incident.

Domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault require a coordinated response by law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, social service/victim agencies, and the medical community. All people who work with domestic violence and sexual assault incidents must receive special training specific to working with victims, including trauma and its effects. Training can be provided by experts in the field such as those at local DV/SA agencies. This training should be customized to the area of practice of the service providers and include basic training for new hires and periodic follow-up training for all those who work with victims.

Adopted 1986; Revised 1995; 2010. Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

14. YOUTH & ADOLESCENT NEEDS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports comprehensive policies and services for youth in order to maximize their participation in citizenry and democracy. Services should be coordinated among all public and private agencies concerned with homelessness, education, vocational advancement, inter-personal relationships, mental and physical health, family stability, and peer empowerment.

Identified prevention-oriented goals are:

- Support of family cohesiveness
- Support for victims of abuse, neglect and sexual assault
- Support of high school graduation and vocational education for youth
- Education of youth to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections
- Education of youth concerning drug and alcohol abuse
- Support of runaway and “throw away” youth and their needs
- Education of youth concerning suicide
- Education of youth concerning criminal acts and consequences of those acts

Adopted 1971; Revised 1988; 2011; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

15. LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONSHIPS

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origins. In addition, League members agree that work to promote fair housing and an adequate

supply of housing for low-income families must proceed hand in hand. One of our goals in the work of promoting fair housing is Tenant's Rights. A uniform landlord-tenant act which specifies tenants' rights, and both landlord and tenant obligations in maintaining a fit and habitable dwelling is important in achieving this goal.

Adopted 1974; Revised 1994; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

16. SCHOOL FINANCE

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) recognizes, based on the Alaska State Constitution, that the State has the major responsibility for financing schools in Alaska, including grades PreK--12. However, local school districts in organized and unorganized boroughs should be required to contribute a percentage of the financial support and should have the major responsibility for decision making in the expenditure of funds. Public monies for education should NOT support student vouchers or Educational Savings Accounts (ESA's) that are allocated to private or for-profit schools; nor should public education funding be allocated to for-profit Educational Management Organizations (EMO's).

Adopted 1977; Revised 1985; 1986; 2016; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

17. ELECTION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. LWVAK works to protect that right and to increase voter participation by all citizens. The LWVAK believes the state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so that voters can make reasoned choices. The LWVAK supports elections that are free, fair and accessible to all eligible voters and voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent.

Adopted 2016; Revised 2019, 2024; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

18. JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT AND RETENTION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska strongly supports a judicial appointment and retention process that is merit-based, transparent, representative of and responsive to the public and to the Constitutions of the State of Alaska and United States.

Adopted 1/11/2016; Reaffirmed each year since at LWVAK Convention.

19. GUN SAFETY

STATEMENT OF POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Alaska finds that the safety and health of its citizens are threatened by a lack of safe gun ownership laws. The League recognizes that many Alaskans value and rely on firearms for hunting and personal protection, and respects the right of Alaskans to own and use guns. However, firearms cause very high rates of death and injury in our state, particularly among children and teens. Therefore, the League believes the state government should adopt common-sense gun laws that will save lives and reduce injuries, and supports the following with an emphasis on public safety:

- Safe storage, including gun locks
- Annual licensing fees to be used for gun safety education
- Required permit to conceal carry
- Background checks to purchase
- Gun-free school zones
- Red flag laws known as extreme risk legislation
- Parental liability
- Regulation of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Adopted 6/17/24; Reaffirmed 2025.

20. GOVERNMENT/CIVICS EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF POSITION

This position addresses the need for a comprehensive curriculum which teaches the skills needed for active and productive civic engagement, in age-appropriate ways, for grades K-12.

Adopted 6/17/24; Reaffirmed 2025.



LWV OF THE UNITED STATES POSITIONS

League of Women Voters US full positions are available online at the LWVUS website in the publication *Impact on Issues 2024-2026*. A print version of *Impact on Issues* is available from amazon.com. What follows is a brief outline of national League positions including the new position on the decline of local news and its impact on democracy, adopted June 2024 .

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS – LWV OF THE UNITED STATES

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote: encourage all citizens to vote.
DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting. Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics (formerly Campaign Finance). Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing super PACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Voter Representation/Electoral System. Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.

Citizen's Rights

Citizen's Right to Know / Public Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions

Amendment Proposals. Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.

Constitutional Conventions. Hold constitutional conventions only when certain conditions are in place, including limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population,

and voting by delegates not by states.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, effective performance and transparency.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact, and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of government services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector.

Digital Equity

High-speed affordable internet access is an essential service that should be readily available to all US residents and businesses.

Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy

Support credible and ethical journalism as essential to our democracy

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support US trade policies that reduce trade barriers; expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

Developing Countries

Promote US policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest

Resource Management

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation of solid and hazardous wastes and promote their reuse and recycling.

Nuclear. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Transfer of Federal Public Lands

Promote policies that keep federal public lands under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Climate Change

Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Federal Agriculture Policies

Support environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market while promoting adequate supplies of food at reasonable prices and regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. Enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances. Support the federal government's funding of basic agricultural research to ensure adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Criminal Justice

Support a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Education, Employment, and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children from pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs. Through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United State; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all person. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Policy

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

Support abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. Oppose mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Human Trafficking

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

