

*Member Handbook
League of Women Voters
Kitsap County, Washington*

October 2009

“ . . . No chance, no destiny, no fate, can circumvent or hinder or control the firm resolve of a determined soul. Gifts count for nothing; will alone is great.”

Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters

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Note : the material for this handbook was drawn from various LWVUS and LWVWA sources and is a project of the LWVK Membership Committee, October, 2009.

League of Women Voters Kitsap County Member Handbook

The League of Women Voters is :

- * Acting as a force to create positive, lasting change in our communities
- * Empowering millions of voters to protect their right to vote.
- * Educating citizens and fostering dialogue on pertinent issues - from healthcare and climate change to openness in government.
- * Working to ensure that ALL votes are counted and ALL voices are heard.
- * Preserving our constitutional rights.
- * Working together to make democracy work !

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Principles

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

- *that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- *that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that government bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- *that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote, that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

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

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

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

Bylaws

Kitsap County LWV is governed by National, State and Kitsap County (local) LWV Bylaws. Local Bylaws may only be amended at the Annual Meeting held in May. The first three articles of all local and state League Bylaws must be consistent with those of LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization. Therefore, any amendments to the first three articles of the Bylaws made at National Convention must automatically be made to the local League Bylaws. The complete set of current Kitsap County League of Women Voters Bylaws may be found in the Appendix.

History of the League

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

From the beginning, the League was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. The League takes stands on issues which its members have studied and have reached consensus. However, it was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were and are encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation. This holds true today.

There are Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands. The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund operate at the national level with grassroots support from 900 state and local Leagues. The League of Women Voters makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of thousands of members committed to our principles.

The Kitsap County League of Women Voters had its origins in the early 1960's with an initial meeting of interested women in 1961. In February, 1962, a more formal meeting was held and Mrs. James Huey was elected president of the "Pre-provisional" Kitsap County-Bremerton League of Women Voters. In April, 1963, the national League recognized the pre-provisional group and its name was changed to LWV of Kitsap. A rough draft of the county government study was completed that summer, but costs delayed the publication until 1966.

Membership

Membership: voting membership in the LWV (national, state and local) is open to citizens 18 years and older. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members and are excused from the payment of dues. All others are associate members. (*source*: LWVUS By-Laws, Article III) Membership is open to men and women.

Meetings

From September through May LWV offers a variety of meetings. All meetings are open to the public as well as members and their guests. We encourage you to participate in the meetings as they are the best and most enjoyable way of becoming informed about League studies and activity. Units (small discussion groups that are chaired by unit leaders) meet in various regions of the county: south, central, Bremerton, north and on Bainbridge Island. General meetings are for the entire membership and are held in a central part of the county. In addition, the League presents candidate or ballot issue forums. Detailed information about meetings is available in the *VOTER*, on the local website www.lwvwa.org/kitsap or by contacting the membership chair.

How You Can Be Involved

- * Become informed on local, state and national issues
- * Attend League meetings
- * Register voters
- * Serve on committees or on the Board

- * Respond to action alerts
- * Communicate with your legislators and members of Congress
- * Encourage others to join
- * Attend community meetings
- * Read the *VOTER* and share it with friends
- * Stay informed by checking these websites frequently www.lwv.org www.lwvwa.org
www.lwvwa.org/kitsap

Tax Status

For tax reasons, the League maintains two legal entities to carry out its mission. The LWVUS and nearly all state and local Leagues are 501(c) 4 organizations. Some common League activities, including lobbying for our positions, are considered political, making contributions to our operating expenses ineligible as tax deductions. Kitsap League has a trust account with the LWVWA Education Fund which is a 501(c)3 entity and therefore donations to us through the LWVWA Education Fund are fully tax deductible. It is through this side of the League that voter information and citizen education activities are carried out.

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League Program: Study, Action and Education

Program is the League's "reason for being" and is the basis for both education and action efforts. The process begins with selection and discussion, and culminates in action and change. It involves members of the League and members of the community.

The League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study, action and education. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position, action and issues for education. The League principles are the League's philosophy or concepts of government and provide a basis for adoption of national, state and local program.

Timeline for Program Adoption

January: Program Planning meetings ; all members have the opportunity to review existing positions, recommend any changes or deletions to those positions, and recommend new studies as needed, action on positions, or education on issues.

February&March: LWVK Board reviews the results of the Program Planning meetings and formulates a Proposed Program.

April: The Board recommended Proposed Program is sent to all members. In addition to the Proposed Program, any "non-recommended" items from the Program Planning meetings are sent to the membership.

May: At the Annual Meeting, the membership has the opportunity to vote on the proposed program, as well as reviewing any “non-recommended” items. The results of the vote at the Annual Meeting is the Program for the following year (September-June).

Local Positions in Brief

Natural Resources Land use: Support the orderly development of Kitsap County in a manner which provides a variety of urban and non-urban environments while preserving the integrity of the environment and the county’s natural resources as well as minimizing the public cost of providing services.

Open Space, Parks and Recreation: Support acquisition of open space, park and recreation lands, and provision of funds to develop, maintain, preserve and operate such areas.

Water resources: Support measures to ensure adequate and safe water supplies for county residents.

Government County government structure: Support measures which improve county government responsiveness to the people, provide for a greater separation of powers, promote administrative efficiency, increase the size of the legislative body to reflect population growth, and promote intergovernmental coordination.

Bainbridge Island Municipal Government: Support procedural changes in local government which will improve efficiency, provide checks and balances, promote intergovernmental cooperation, and increase citizen confidence.

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Sustainability A sustainable community respects its own diversity, values the complexity of the natural world, and accepts responsibility for the social, economic, and ecological well-being of present and future generations through individual and collective actions. It advocates an economy that equitably provides satisfying livelihoods in a safe, healthy environment that protects its natural resource base and the viability of natural systems on which all life depends. It balances regenerative and degenerative resources by applying the following principles :

- a) rates of use of renewable resources do not exceed their rates of regeneration
- b) rates of non-renewable resources do not exceed the rate at which sustainable renewable substitutes are developed.
- c) rates of pollution emission do not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment.

State Positions in Brief 2009-2011

Government

Education Action to support in principle the Basic Education Act (1977) and the Levy Lid Act. Action to obtain a balanced tax structure and to maintain uniform assessment practices to ensure equitable and sufficient financing. Action to support adequate and stable state funding of common schools in Washington including the costs of in-service training. Action to increase visibility, accessibility and accountability of the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Action to support closer links between schools and social services, so that every child is ready to learn. Action to support greater involvement of parents, an increased role in decision making for teachers, and more flexible state education requirements. Action to provide greater access to public higher education to all, at whatever point in life it can be beneficial.

Port Districts Action to encourage cooperation among port districts, but with local options for voter control over major policy and expenditure decisions.

Representative Government Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to promote an informed electorate. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the election process. Action to support the initiative and referendum process, adopt improvements to the process and require additional information for voters. Action to protect the interests of all affected parties in considering the formation of new counties. Action to clarify in legislation the processes in county formation and to require that the entire county have the ability to vote on separation. Action to support election methods that promote "representative-ness," citizen participation and accountability and that produce proportional representation. Action to support a majority vote requirement if achieved through a mechanism such as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Action to support a primary that is "open" and encourages minor party participation if a primary continues to be used.

State Tax Policy Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.

Washington State and Indian Treaty Rights Action to enhance salmon resources, establish a procedure for retrocession of jurisdiction to the tribes and support tribal land use planning of trust lands.

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Transportation

Transportation The League supports a balanced state transportation policy that defines the role of the state and supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue and flexibility for a multi-modal system of transportation.

Natural Resources

Energy Action to support an energy policy within Washington State. Action to educate the public on energy conservation. Action to establish incentives for efficient use of current energy sources and the greater use of alternative energy sources.

Global Climate Change See LWVUS *Impact on Issues*.

Resource Management Action to obtain coordinated planning and ensure environmental quality in the use of water, air and land resources. Action to insure that forest management is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats.

Waste Management Action for coordinated control and reduction of solid waste. Action to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in Washington and action to promote safe management of that waste which is produced, including toxics in the home.

Social Policy

Administration of Justice Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel. Action to maintain a separate court system and facilities for youths that will balance the procedural rights of the adversary system with the protection of youth's basic rights. Action to realize equity in sentencing standards. Action to obtain alternatives to incarceration is of prime importance.

Children's Programs

Child Support and Custody: The League of Women Voters supports vigorous, efficient and innovative child support enforcement methods and broad education regarding the responsibilities and consequences of parenthood. The best interest of the child should be the overriding consideration in determining custody, visitation and an appropriate level of child support. The physical and emotional security of the child should be paramount. Children are entitled to support adequate to meet basic needs commensurate with the parents' income, resources, and standard of living. Courts should have the discretion to order post secondary educational support in appropriate circumstances.

Children's Services: Action to support stable and adequate funding for children at risk, with priority given to prevention, early identification and intervention services, community based treatment programs, day treatment programs and residential care.

Day Care for Children: Action to provide for the general welfare of children in day care centers. Action to ensure that the state enforce minimum standards that include provision for a safe, healthy, clean environment. Action to support sufficient staff with emphasis on competence and ability to provide a creative, challenging and caring environment.

Early Care and Education of Children: Action to support the quality of early care and education, birth – 5, to maximize the child's future development. Action to support parents so all children develop to their full potential. Action to support improvements to child care programs, quality child care programs for children birth to five, increased access to preschool programs, programs

for special needs children, home visiting, encouraging public-private partnerships and expanding the definition of Basic Education to include the birth to five years.

Economic Diversification Action to ensure a balanced state economy with a strong mixture of large and small businesses. Measures to contribute to long-range planning and cooperation between all levels of government with local initiatives wherever possible.

Gun Control Action to provide governmental regulation of ownership and possession of firearms, and measures to limit their accessibility.

Health Care Action to provide universal access to affordable health services for all residents of the state of Washington and to control total system expenditures with seamless coverage regardless of ones health status.

Human Resources Action to achieve equal rights for all. Action to achieve equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Action to obtain measures that provide basic human needs for those unable to provide for themselves. Action to ensure that there are emergency support services for those involved in physical and/or mental violence.

For LWVUS positions refer to www.lwv.org issue section.

Civic Calendar

January	Third Monday: Martin Luther King Day
February 14	LWV Birthday
February 15	Susan B Anthony Day
February	Third Monday: Presidents Day
March	Women's History Month
April	Third Monday: Patriots' Day (April 19 in some states)
May 1	Law Day
May	Last Monday: Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
July 4	Independence Day
August	Third Tuesday: Primary Day (WA State)
August 26	Women's Suffrage Day
September 17	Constitution Day
November	First Tuesday: Election Day
December 15	Bill of Rights Day

Contacts

For a list of LWVK Board members and their portfolios refer to the most current issue of the VOTER, the membership handbook or go to www.lwvwa.org/kitsap

League Glossary

Action: A program item under which action will or may be taken in accordance with its position statement. The League acts to develop public support for League goals and to influence governmental decisions by supporting policies, budgets, comprehensive plans and initiatives or referenda that implement League positions.

Board of Directors: The elected officers and the elected and appointed directors make up the Board of the League.

Call to action: Request from the President, Action Chair or Portfolio Chair for specific action on a program item.

Concurrence: When appropriate, a League may concur with a position reached by other League entities without duplicating the complete study and consensus process. Concurrence depends on accepting the validity of the research and analysis process by which other League members arrived at a position.

Consensus: A mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion. During discussion, everyone has the opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Neither unanimity nor a simple majority, it is the overall “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. Consensus is always based upon study and leads to action.

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year begins July 1, each year

Legislative Newsletter: During the legislative session, this newsletter is sent weekly by post or email to subscribers. Members may send in their email address to the state office for the free email subscription or for a small fee request the newsletter be sent via regular mail. The newsletter keeps track of the League’s legislative priorities.

Lobby Day: LWV day in Olympia-learn about LWV priorities for the legislative session. A lobbying opportunity for all members.

LWVK: The League of Women Voters of Kitsap County

LWVUS: The League of Women Voters of the United States

LWVWA: The League of Women Voters of Washington State

Nonpartisan: Describes the League's political policy of neither supporting nor opposing political parties or candidates.

Non- recommended Program: Those issues submitted by members but not recommended by the Board for program work.

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Outlook for work: A description of the work expected to be undertaken for either a study or action item.

PMP: Per Member Payment ; portion of member's dues which goes to support LWVUS and LWVWA

Portfolio: Area of responsibility of each Board member

Position: Statement of governmental policy supported by the League on the basis of member consensus. Positions form the basis for League Action.

Program: Those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action comprise League program. It includes adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

Study item: Another name for the individual elements of program when in the study phase. Once adopted the study item becomes the responsibility of a resource committee. Through the process of study and discussion, members reach consensus upon which future League action is based.

TRY: "They Represent You"; A directory of elected public officials published yearly by a local League.

Unit: Small discussion group which meets regularly to discuss and act upon League program.

VOTER: Monthly or quarterly newsletters issued by local, state and national Boards either in print or on line.

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Appendix

Bylaws League of Women Voters Kitsap

Amended May 20, 2009

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 – Name: The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Kitsap, hereinafter referred to as the LWVKitsap. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Washington.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1 – Purpose: The purposes of the LWVKitsap are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2 - Political Policy: The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

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

Section 2 - Types of Membership:

a) Voting Members. Citizens of at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the local League, the League of Women Voters of Washington and the League of Women Voters of the United States. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

b) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 - Enumeration and Election of Officers: The officers of the LWVKitsap shall be a President or co-Presidents, a First Vice-president, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office immediately. When needed, a Third Vice-President may be elected for a one-year term at the Annual Meeting. A President-elect may be designated. The President(s), the First Vice-President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Second Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

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

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usual power 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. In the case of co-Presidents either or both may perform any duty of the office.

Section 3 - The Vice-Presidents: The Vice Presidents, in order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, disability, resignation 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-Presidents shall perform such duties as the President and Board may designate.

Section 4 - The Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary 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.

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

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 - Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, six (6) elected Directors and such appointed Directors as the Officers and elected Directors deem necessary to carry on the work of the League, but not

to exceed the number of elected Directors. The elected Directors shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Directors for positions one, three and five shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and the Directors for positions two, four and six shall be elected in even-numbered years. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall terminate at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Section 2 - Executive Committee: An Executive Committee consisting of the elected Officers and two of the six elected Directors of the organization may meet to decide routine administrative and financial detail and may act for the Board in an emergency situation, providing appropriate line item chairmen have been included if program items are being considered. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Actions must be presented at the following Board Meeting. The two elected Directors to serve on the Executive Committee shall be selected annually by the elected members of the Board. When the office of President is not filled by nomination and election at the Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee shall serve as a Steering Committee and assume all powers of the office of the President.

Section 3 - Qualifications: Only a voting member of the LWVKitsap shall be eligible to be elected or appointed or continue to serve as an Officer or Director of this organization.

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Section 4 – Vacancies: Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the 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.

Section 5 – 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.

- a) Delegates to National Convention: The Board of Directors shall nominate a slate of delegates to the Convention in the number allotted to the LWVKitsap under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The slate of delegates so nominated shall be voted upon by the membership present at the Annual Meeting.
- b) Delegates to the State Convention and State Council: The Board of Directors shall nominate a slate of delegates to the Convention or Council in the number allotted to the LWVKitsap under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Washington. The slate of delegates so

nominated shall be voted upon by the membership present at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6 – 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. Emergency meetings may be held by electronic means providing all board members are notified before the meeting. Minutes of electronic meetings will be recorded by the Secretary as per Article IV, Section 4.

Section 7 – Quorum: A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

Section 2 – Dues: Dues shall be payable annually. Members who fail to pay their dues within two months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3 – Budget: A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

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Section 4 – Budget 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 year. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Budget Committee, but may not serve as Budget Committee Chair. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members not less than two weeks before the Annual Meeting.

Section 5 – Financial Review or Audit: An annual financial review or audit shall be conducted no later than sixty (60) days following each fiscal year by a person or persons appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6 – Distribution of Funds on Dissolution: In the event of the dissolution of the LWVKitsap, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned or under the control of the LWVKitsap shall be paid to the LWVWashington after all obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature that may be owned or under the control of the LWVKitsap shall be disposed of to such person, organization or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Membership Meetings: There shall be at least two meetings of the general membership each year, one of which shall be the Annual Meeting. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Annual Meeting: An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 15 and June 1, 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, members of the Nominating Committee, c) adopt an adequate budget and d) transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3 – Quorum: Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the LWVKitsap.

ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chair and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominated 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.

Section 2 – Report of The Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor: The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members not less than two weeks

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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.

Section 3 – Elections: The elections 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 of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an elections. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM

Section 1 – Authorization: The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

Section 2 – Program: The Program of LWVKitsap shall consist of a) action to implement the Principles of the League of Women voters of the United States and b) those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3 – Program Adoption: The Annual Meeting shall adopt a Local Program using the following procedures.

- a) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program.
- b) The Proposed program shall be sent to all members not less than two weeks before the Annual Meeting.
- c) A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- d) Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended as Proposed Program by the Board of Directors may be adopted by the Annual Meeting, provided that;
 1. The Annual Meeting orders consideration by a majority vote, and
 2. The Annual Meeting adopts the item by a two-thirds vote.
- e) In the event an item in the Proposed Program, or a not-recommended program item voted consideration, is limited to a local governmental jurisdiction other than Kitsap County, the following procedure shall govern its adoption:
 1. The members residing within the local governmental jurisdiction shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting, and
 2. The members residing outside the local governmental jurisdiction shall concur in the adoption by a majority of those present and voting.
- f) Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made, provided that:

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1. Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and
2. The final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 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 of the League. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the League of Women Voters of Kitsap, the League of Women Voters of Washington and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1 – Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Amendments: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided that amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

