

# **BYLAWS FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, WHIDBEY ISLAND 2007**

## **ARTICLE I (Name)**

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Whidbey Island, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVWI, 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, and the League of Women Voters of Washington.

## **ARTICLE II (Purposes and Policy)**

Sec.1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVWI are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

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

## **ARTICLE III (Membership)**

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

Sec.2. Types of Membership.

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS; (1) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (2) those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to the LWVUS shall be paid life members and (3) 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)**

Sec.1. Elections, Qualifications and Terms. The officers of the LWVWI shall be a president, vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the LWVWI and shall be elected at the annual meeting to hold office until the close of the next annual meeting or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Sec.2. The President. The President shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the board, or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except committee consisting of members of the board. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the board and shall report to the board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board.

Sec.4. Meetings. At least 4 regular meetings of the board shall be held annually. The president may call special meetings and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of 4 members of the board.

Sec.5. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of the LWVWI shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VI (Meetings)**

Sec.1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least 4 business meetings of the membership each year. The time and place shall be determined by the board. The board may call a special general membership meeting and shall call such a meeting upon the written request of the majority of the voting members.

Sec.2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between March 1 and July 1, the exact date to be determined by the board. The annual meeting shall adopt a local program for the ensuing year; elect officers and directors, the chair and one member of the nomination committee; adopt a budget; set dues for the ensuing year and transact such other business as may properly come before it. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Sec.3. Quorum. Ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the LWVWI, provided written notice of the meetings is sent to the membership at least one week in advance.

## **ARTICLE VII (Nominations and Elections)**

Sec.1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of no less than three nor more than five members who represent the diversity of location within Whidbey Island. The chair and three members who shall not be members of the board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Immediately after annual meeting, the board shall appoint one of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

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Sec.2. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee, containing it nominations for officers and directors and the chair and one member of the nominating committee, shall be sent to the members one month before the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sec.3. Election. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office, it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

### ARTICLE VII (Principles and Program)

Sec.1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state and local program.

Sec.2. Program. The program of the LWVWI shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those local governmental issues chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and actions, as follows:

- a. Voting members may make recommendations to the board at least two months before the annual meeting.
- b. The board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the members at least one month before the annual meeting.
- c. The annual meeting shall adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations submitted to the board at least two months before the convention but not proposed by the board may be considered by the annual meeting provided that the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and the annual meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.

Sec.3. Changes in Program. Changes in program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks before a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and that final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Sec.4. Program Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVWI only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVWI, the LWVWA and the LWVUS.

### ARTICLE IX (Financial Administration)

Sec.1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVWI shall be from July 1 through June 30 of each year.

Sec.2. Dues. Dues are payable upon enrollment and annually in September thereafter. Any member who fails to pay such dues when they are due may be dropped from the membership rolls. Initial dues paid after December will be 50%.

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