

League of Women Voters of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin Bylaws Proposed Revision

The bylaws adopted by the League of Women Voters of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin on June 8, 2017 were the first bylaws of the organization and were developed from templates of other local leagues and the state league. Four years working under these bylaws brought to light revisions needed so the bylaws reflect our current procedures, titles and phrases used for our league operations. Many changes are typographical; others provide clarity, consistency and correctness. Over the past four years the Board found different procedures that are more efficient and appropriate for our league. In addition, the state and national leagues require some changes. The proposed, new title of the document reflects the date of adoption and subsequent changes.

Two documents are provided for your consideration. The first is the final revised document with proposed revisions completed. The second document shows revisions noted in red with deletions crossed through and additions underlined. You can choose which you prefer to review. A summary and rationale of these proposed changes follows.

Article I

Name – The initials for the organization we have used is LWVSCW, which is correct with our official name. The acronym used in the bylaws is incorrect; therefore, throughout the document this has been change. The acronym for the national and state are also added.

Article II and III

These articles have been changed by the LWVUS and we have to change our bylaws to conform. Because these changes are mandated by LWVUS, they do not require a vote of our membership

Article III

Sections 1 & 2: changed by the LWVUS, We must change our bylaws to conform. Changes mandated by LWVUS do not require a vote of our membership. There are other proposals in regard to age coming up at national this year. It also has been discussed to change ‘student’ to ‘emerging member.’

Section 3 – has been revised to conform to the recommended wording by the state league.

Article IV

Section 2 – restructured the sentence to state it in the positive for simplicity and clarity.

Section 3 – make it clear that co-officers each have a vote.

Section 4 – revision is to bring the bylaws in alignment with our current procedure. The Board has the authority to replace members in the case of a vacancy. We also eliminated President Elect as will be noted in Article 6.

Section 5 – Power and Duties

- a) It is unclear in the last portion of this paragraph what ‘instructions’ are, so a statement is added as b) that clarifies the intent.
- b) Then b) is reclassified to c)
- c) Wordsmithing is needed in c due to changes above.
- d) Is added to clarify our responsibility to the state and national organizations programs to support them, but we don’t have to take action in all programs.

Section 6 Meetings

Clarify the number of members needed to call a meeting of the Board.

Section 8 Written Consent

Revised in accordance with the recommendation of the state league to allow for taking action without a meeting as may need to be done from time to time.

Article V Committees

Section 2 – Executive Committee

This change is to have the bylaws reflect our actual organizational structure being used.

Article VI Officers

The major change in this section is to eliminate the President Elect position and just have a Vice President. We have been 2 years without a President Elect. Members have been reluctant to take on this position and commit for 2 years. It is felt that if it was a one year commitment more people would be willing to serve. The Vice President can go on to President if they so choose.

Section 4 The Secretary.

Added clarifying language to allow flexibility in signing of documents

Section 5 The Treasurer.

Specify the task of the preparation of the budget as a responsibility of the treasurer.

Article VII Financial Administration

Section 2 – clarifies that individuals other than members can perform a financial review and clean up grammar.

Section 3 – clarifies who can vote (voting members) and days in advance that members are to receive information (60).

Section 4 – reduce the size of the committee to a workable size as is the current procedure and delete duplicative language

Section 5 – clarify that there is to be a vote to approve or disapprove

Section 6 – clarification of procedure infor voting electronically

Section 7 - delete entire section as it is a duplication of Article 4 Section 8

Article VIII Meetings

Section 2 – expand time for holding our annual meeting to conform to current procedure due to unusual condition during the COVID virus

Section 5 – revised to follow recommendation of the state league’s legal counsel. Title changed to reflect current procedure

Article IX Nominations and Elections

Section 1 – make number of members consistent with wording

Article X Principles and Program

Section 2 – restructure sentence for clarity

Section 3 – clarify language to indicate voting requirement for adoption

Article XIII Amendments

Section 1 – clarify that amendments are proposed at time of submission

Article XIV Dissolution

Section 1 – clarification and grammar clean up