

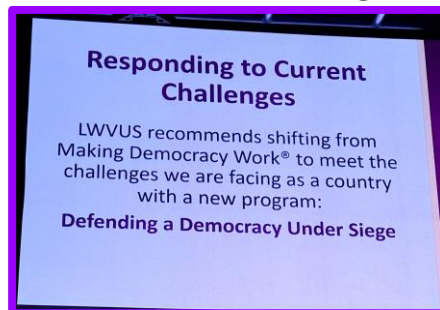
Report on [LWVUS Convention June 25 - 28, 2026](#) Columbus, OH

[Convention Workbook](#)



- **Convention LWVDC Attendees in Person: Rosemary Hughes, Anne Mosakowski, Cathy Yungmann**
- **Virtual LWVDC Convention Attendees: Jodine Mayberry, Linda Carpenter**

The national convention included workshops about League issues and procedures, election of new national officers, changes in bylaws and positions, and resolutions. A new national slogan was announced: **Defending a Democracy Under Siege**



Positions Approved

New position on Protecting the Rights of Immigrants:

- The League of Women Voters believes that all residents of the United States, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should be treated with dignity and respect. This means that all residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should have access to essential state-funded services, have the opportunity to avail themselves of legal representation in court and immigration proceedings, and have the opportunity to live and work in safety.
- The League encourages all elected officials and government leaders in the United States to take action to ensure these fundamental rights. It also means that political leaders have an obligation to condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

New position on Religious Freedom:

- The League of Women Voters of Colorado stands for the separation of church and state and religious freedom founded upon individual conscience, free of social or political influence by any state or religious body; these fundamental civil rights are threatened by religious nationalism.

- The First Amendment of the US Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The League of Women Voters of Colorado believes that the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment are cornerstones of our democracy.

Position Defeated:

Privatization - this position was changed from when LWV CDC approved the consensus in our meetings. Originally it was primarily about healthcare privatization. The position presented and defeated at Convention was generally about privatization in all "public goods" sectors.

- LWVUS consider a concurrence with LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset NY to update the National Privatization Position so that accountability in the position is more explicit, by: (1) defining "fails to perform" with an unambiguous standard of "fiduciary responsibility" to the public when managing public goods, and (2) aligning the position's list of public goods to conform to other LWVUS positions in Impact on Issues. *The motion failed on 445 ayes, 417 noes. The motion is not adopted.*

Resolutions Approved:

- **Backing Civil Service Workers:** Be it resolved that the League reaffirms its commitment to the value of nonpartisan civil service to democracy and good governance as both a matter of Equality of Opportunity for civil service workers and to ensure Representative Government that is nonpartisan, meritocratic, and democratic, to serve the public good. *The motion passed on 885 ayes, 5 noes.*
- **Statehood for Washington, D.C.:** Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of the United States strongly supports legislation that will establish statehood for the people of the District of Columbia. *The motion passed*
- **Holding Congress Accountable and Confirming A Constitutional Crisis:** Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters, in a public and visible manner through national mobilization, reaffirm its declaration of a constitutional crisis as well as its efforts to hold Congress accountable for protecting the rule of law, defending the Constitution, and ending executive overreach. *The motion passed on 899 ayes, 8 noes.*
- **National Popular Vote and Abolishing Electoral College:** Be It Resolved that LWVUS continues to support members advocating for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, in coordination with members advocating for the Electoral College abolishment, to educate other members and the public about the value of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact as an acceptable interim solution until the Electoral College is replaced by the direct election of the president. *The motion passed on 886 ayes, 22 noes.*
- **Surveillance Technologies:** Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters recognizes that, while surveillance technologies can dramatically expand law enforcement capabilities, their widespread and increasing use across the US can also dramatically accelerate the erosion of privacy and constitutional rights. The League is, therefore, deeply concerned that laws, ordinances, and policies are not keeping pace to

ensure appropriate oversight, transparency, and sufficient accountability are in place to govern how these systems and collected data are used. *The motion passed on 884 ayes, 16 noes.*

- **Human Trafficking:** The LWVUS, consistent with its position opposing all forms of human trafficking, affirms that human trafficking is a violation of human dignity. *The motion passed on 894 ayes, 12 noes.*

Bylaws Changes

1. **Emergency Powers of the LWVUS Board:** Amended the bylaws by amending Article VIII, Section 2. The Bylaws Committee recommends that Article VIII, Section 2 be amended to add: **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY WHERE CONVENTION DELEGATES CANNOT BE READILY ASSEMBLED DUE TO A CATASTROPHIC EVENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A NATURAL DISASTER, AN ACT OF WAR, A TERRORIST ATTACK, A FORMAL DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY A GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY, OR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THREATEN ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY, BY A MAJORITY VOTE, DECLARE AN EMERGENCY AND TEMPORARILY ASSUME ALL OF THE POWER AND AUTHORITY RESERVED FOR CONVENTION DELEGATES AND THE MEMBERSHIP UNDER THOSE BYLAWS IN WHOLE OR PART. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNDER THESE EMERGENCY POWERS SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP. IN SUCH AN EMERGENCY, THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE EXTENDED UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND SUCCESSORS INSTALLED AT THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF CONVENTION. SUCH AN EXTENDED TERM SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE TERM OF OFFICE. EMERGENCY POWERS SHALL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE DURING THE IDENTIFIED EMERGENCY.** *The motion passed on 640 ayes, 86 noes.*
2. **Treat Others With Respect:** Amended the bylaws by adding to Article II, Section 2, Policies, as stated below. The Bylaws Committee recommends that Article II, Section 2 be amended to add: **MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES POLICY. LEAGUE MEMBERS AND LEADERS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE MEMBER RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES POLICY AND SHALL PARTICIPATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEAGUE GOVERNANCE STANDARDS. THE LEAGUE EXPECTS THAT MEMBERS WILL TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT AND CIVILITY WHEN PARTICIPATING IN ALL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.** *The motion passed on 645 ayes, 42 noes.*
3. **Nominating Committee Member Dismissal:** Amended the Bylaws by amending Article XI, Section 1, as follows: Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five voting members, of whom three shall not be members of the national board. The three to be elected by the convention shall include a chair. Promptly after the convention, the national board shall appoint two members to the committee who may be current or former members of the national board. The LWVUS CEO shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the nominating committee. Committee vacancies shall be filled by

appointment by the national board. All shall serve a two-year term. **A MEMBER OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WHO FAILS TO FULFILL THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP MAY BE REMOVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE, AFTER DUE PROCESS.** *The motion passed on 639 ayes, 68 noes.*

4. **Budget Committee:** Amended the Bylaws by amending Article XIII, Section 4, as follows: Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The biennial budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed for a two-year period by the national board for that purpose at least six months in advance of the convention. The budget committee shall consist of no fewer than five members including a chair and the treasurer. The majority of the members of this committee, including the chair, shall not be members of the national board. The budget committee shall recommend to the Board a biennial budget and may provide budgetary guidance to the Board during the biennium. **The biennial budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed for a two-year period by the national board [for that purpose at least six months in advance of the convention] AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BIENNIUM.** The budget committee shall consist of no fewer than five members including [a chair and] the treasurer **WHO MAY SERVE AS CHAIR.** The majority of the members of this committee [, including the chair,] shall not be members of the national board. The budget committee shall recommend to the Board a biennial budget **TO BE PRESENTED FOR ADOPTION AT CONVENTION** and [may] **SHALL** provide budgetary guidance to the Board during the biennium. *The motion passed on 683 ayes, 34 noes.*

Luci Baines Johnson: Remarks for LWV's 2026 Convention

Link to the video shown at the LWV Convention relating a personal account by American businesswoman and philanthropist, Luci Baines Johnson, addresses the League at its 2026 Convention. She reflects on her father, Lyndon B. Johnson, signing the landmark Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. She then discusses her shared commitment with LWV to defending our democracy, especially when it requires "turning pain into purpose" -- because this work is not partisan; it's a moral imperative.

https://youtu.be/yCVI4lhLqWo?si=SJrzup55J9cXss_E

REPORTS BY ATTENDEES OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Friday, June 26 7:00 AM Session

From Message to Movement: Activating Your League Through Branding and Media NOTES: (Anne Mosakowski)

- Shared the [LWV branding](#) colors: Primary & Secondary plus the fonts
- When sharing VOTE411 materials the word **VOTE** must be all in CAPS [CLICK HERE](#)
- [Election Day Hero](#) 10/20/2026 - Target our pitch and personalize when possible.
- Zoom Virtual Backgrounds [CLICK HERE](#)

Friday, June 26 7:00 AM Session

Religious Freedom Position - Colorado

NOTES: (Cathy Yungmann)

Presenter: Jeffrey A. Oster, Chair, Religious Freedom Task Force

The League of Women Voters of Colorado

The Colorado LWV explained how religious fundamentalism is destroying the wall between church and state in the US. He ran through the recent history of court cases involving the subtle pattern of how religious nationalism has challenged the rule of law. He claimed that recent case law is based on cases manufactured and funded by conservative organizations, and that no one is challenging the outcomes. These cases are filed by right leaning Christian law firms including the [Alliance Defending Freedom](#), the [Becket Fund](#) and [First Liberty Institute](#).

Basically, Colorado passed a state consensus that the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment are cornerstones of our democracy.

Unfortunately, the presenter spent so much time going over court cases and answering audience questions that he never got to introduce their formal position statement, which ended up being passed in the plenary session.

Friday, June 26 8:15 AM Session

League Advocacy for Trust in Government: PWM Privatization Update

NOTES: (Cathy Yungmann)

This session explained the healthcare/privatization position proposed by the LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset (NY), along with the New York and Vermont State Leagues.

The position argues for the de-privatization of “public goods” (League lingo for public services and basic human rights) if the private organization is not fiscally responsible or doing a good job at providing the service.

Most of the session was spent by audience members describing local disasters of private corporations failing at providing public services.

Friday, June 26 8:15 AM Session

Observer Corps: Accountability in Action NOTES: (Anne Mosakowski)

- [LWV Observer Corps Page & Toolkit](#)
- [Observer Corp Reporting Forms](#)
- [OCT: Public Accessibility Checklist](#)
- [OCT: Open Meeting Law Checklist](#)

- Reasons to do Observer Corps: increase member engagement, promote and ensure a healthy democracy, accountability of government officials, build a network of member watchdogs
- Observe elected officials plus non-elected officials, such as; Commissions, Planning Boards, Board of Elections, etc.
- Gather information/facts and share the data with your state League
- Promote the program as how civics works and tell the civics story. Share via podcasts, social media, local TV
- Track volunteer hours for the LWV Annual Survey.

Friday, June 26 8:15 AM Session - Conflict Resolution (Ballroom)

NOTES: (Anne Mosakowski)

- LWV Civics Collaboration Toolkit [CLICK HERE](#)
- ALA & LWV Toolkit [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Models of Conflict Resolution**

Pause - Regulate - Respond The 3-Step Method

- **Pause (Stop the Autopilot):** Intervene the moment you feel triggered by taking a deep breath or counting to three. This micro-pause stops the emotional hijacking and prevents automatic, regretful reactions.
- **Regulate (Settle Your Nervous System):** Steady your body by focusing on your senses or utilizing a physiological reset. Grounding actions—such as inhaling for four counts and exhaling for six—signal safety to your brain and help you regain clarity.
- **Respond (Choose Your Action):** With your nervous system regulated, evaluate the situation objectively. Ask yourself, "What action aligns with my goals?" and proceed mindfully.

ACT Framework : Act - Clarify - Turn Forward For Conflict Resolution

1) Acknowledge - Show that you have listened to their concern. Empathise. Show that you care. Build trust. If they don't believe you care, they won't listen.

2) Ask Clarifying Questions - Before offering a solution or rebuttal, you must first understand the objection and where it comes from. You must uncover the root cause issue and motivation behind their concern. Is it even their concern or the concern of someone else.

3) Offer Your Rebuttal - Offer a solution or reasoning as to why and how we can solve or move past the concern. If you can, use real life stories to help contextualise the solution to clients/candidates. This helps them see how you have worked with other people with the same concern, and that the outcome was positive.

The 7 Elements of Trust B.R.A.V.I.N.G [CLICK HERE](#)

- **BLOG** <https://www.ginamunro.co.nz/7-elements-of-trust/>
- **Video** <https://youtu.be/yPok4OSj31U?si=OXKYyZessf9HVMRR>

Saturday, June 27 7:00 AM Session

Digital Media in 2026: Turning Trends into Action

NOTES: (Anne Mosakowski and Cathy Yungmann)

- Explained how AI is changing the way people find information.
 - Search Engine Optimization - (SEO): Ensure your content appears higher up on search engines.
 - Answer Engine Optimization - (AEO): Be the preferred "direct" answer in search results. This includes GEO...
 - Generative Engine Optimization - (GEO): Be cited in AI-generated search summaries. It's basically hyper-charged SEO!
- Shared a variety of digital media platforms used by LWV
 - League Management Page [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Social Media Guide [CLICK HERE](#)
- Best Practices: Think audience first; Accessibility; Consistency; Gather Metrics; Update Content; Content in Chunks; Question Format.
- Suggested putting a statement on our website about how we respond to bots and only post authentic information.
- Regarding Twitter (X) - LWVUS follows groups on X to find out the chatter but isn't posting yet. Our LWV CDC has had an X account for years, but hasn't posted since Elon Musk bought it.

Saturday, June 27 8:15 AM Session

Defending Democracy in Your Community with LWVUS Advocacy Tools

NOTES: (Anne Mosakowski) League Management Site

- It was stated that this is a challenging moment for Democracy.
- The presenters LWV staff shared Advocacy Toolkits and highlighted resources found in the toolkit.
- Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) Laws Action Kit [CLICK HERE](#) - Featured call scripts as a good resource to cause good trouble
- Federal Immigration Enforcement Kits [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Advocacy Action Kits [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Supporting Immigrant Communities Partner Resources [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Featured [Red Cards \(Know Your Rights\)](#)
- Reproductive Rights and Justice Action Kit [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Featured Testimony Template [CLICK HERE](#)
- Direct Democracy Action Kit [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Featured FAQ section
- Voting Rights Action Kits - Letter Templates & Partner Resources
 - Post-Callais Redistricting and State Voting Rights Action Kit [CLICK HERE](#)
 - Mid-Cycle Redistricting Action Kit [CLICK HERE](#)

Saturday, June 27 8:15 AM Session

Leadership Succession Planning

(NOTES: Cathy Yungmann)

If people are afraid to step into leadership roles, delegate tasks from those roles to make them more manageable. For example, create ACTION TEAMS instead of committees, which makes the work commitment temporary.

Why do we need Succession Planning?

- Mission Continuity: Our work in voter service and advocacy shouldn't pause because a term ends.
- Institutional Memory: Preventing the loss of vital "how-to" knowledge and community relationships.
- Organizational Health: Reducing burnout by ensuring no one feels "stuck" in a role indefinitely.
- Diversity & Inclusion: Intentionally creating pathways for new, diverse voices to enter leadership.

Assessment & Documentation Necessary:

- Audit Current Terms: Create a transparent "rotation calendar" so everyone knows exactly when seats become vacant.
- Identify Critical Tasks: Beyond the bylaws, what does each leader actually do?
- Standardize the "League Bible": Ensure every chair and officer maintains a digital folder containing:
 - Key contacts (local officials, vendors, partners).
 - Passwords and login credentials.
 - Annual timelines/deadlines.
 - Templates for recurring events.

The Hand-off (Onboarding):

- The "Overlap" Period: Ideally, the incoming leader should spend 1-2 months working alongside the outgoing leader.
- The Exit Interview: Outgoing leaders meet with the incoming team to discuss "lessons learned" and unfinished business.
- New Leader Orientation: * Reviewing LWVUS and LWVMA resources.
- Introductions to key community stakeholders.
- Setting 90-day goals to build early momentum.

Immediate Action Items:

- Identify two "emerging leaders" in your membership to invite to the next board meeting.
- Check that your digital files are accessible to more than one person.

Think About:

- If someone unexpectedly resigned tomorrow, what work would immediately stop?
- Which positions have written procedures?
- Which leaders hold knowledge that exists only in their head?
- Are there responsibilities no one else knows how to perform?
- Are volunteers saying "no" because the position seems too large?
- Which tasks could be handled by another volunteer with minimal training?
- What parts of this role drain time without adding strategic value?

Saturday, June 27 9:30 AM Session - DEI (Ballroom) NOTES: (Anne Mosakowski) DEI Foundations Guidance (Webinar June 2026) [CLICK HERE](#)

- **Handout DEI Framework - 4 Foundational Pillars**
 - Addressing Interpersonal Issues
 - Equitable Decision-Making & Operationalizing DEI
 - Community Engagement & Coalition Building
 - Collective Leaderships & Systems Thinking
- Use the Framework as context not content
- Ground your thinking in League experience
- Impact of DEI - How can it advance our work
 - Practical applications
 - Prioritize what matters
 - Recognize our history but...
 - Stay Future Oriented
 - [DEI policy](#)
 - [DEI Resources](#)
- DEI Long-Term Goal
 - Diversity - Know who is in the room.
 - Equity - Fair treatment & opportunity for all'
 - Inclusion - How those in the room are engaged

Saturday, June 27 1:00 PM Session - Fireside Chat LWV President & CEO (Ballroom)

The new LWVUS President, Sania Irwin was introduced. Sania began her address by introducing the incoming board of directors and the members of the nominating committee. She then thanked Dianna Wynn for her service to the League. Sania continued with her address and shared her vision for the League to be an unshakable, visible force for a just and inclusive democracy.

LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart joined Sania on stage for a fireside chat to discuss the League's mission, our future, and what it will take to empower voters and defend democracy in 2026 and beyond.

New LWVUS President Sania adjourned the 2026 LWVUS National Convention following a majority vote of the delegation. Washington, DC

ADDITIONAL NOTE

Anne, Rosemary and Cathy met at length with Judy Stackhouse - the web guru for LWV Pittsburgh and newly-elected LWVUS Treasurer - about her experience running her local league's Club Express website. She explained how the back end of the site works with the membership portal and their very active event calendar.

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES FROM PENNSYLVANIA

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