LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BERRIEN & CASS COUNTIES

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have been hard at work since the new board slate came on in 2025! We have restructured to a working board model, eliminating at-large positions and assigning more specific positions and committee descriptions. This change has allowed us to be more efficient, working with clarity of purpose within our respective roles and understanding the goals and functions of those roles better, which in turn empowers us to serve our membership and community more effectively.

Community partnerships are at the heart of the LWVBCC's mission, grounded in the recognition that the challenges we face are intersectional, right in our own backyards, and best addressed in solidarity. I am pleased to announce that since May of 2025 we have formalized four new partnerships and are in talks for more! Guided by the principle of thinking nationally and acting locally, the League has also partnered with national organizations including Promote the Vote, All Voting is Local, National Voter Registration Day, and the ACLU, collaborating with them at the local level to deliver quality civic education and community learning opportunities. In the background of our day-to-day work, we coordinate regularly with other local nonprofits working on overlapping issues to ensure we do not compete with anyone for time and resources, while building a stronger community network of service and education.

The LWVBCC has gone global this year, being represented at the United Nations by Sarah Warner, a member of the LWVUS United Nations Observer Team, and delegate of the LWVUS to the UN NGO Commission on The Status of Women. She will also be presenting at the 2026 LWV Convention on "Thinking Global and Acting Local" with the LWVUS UN Observers Team.

As defenders of democracy, the League of Women Voters of Berrien & Cass Counties has spent the past year deeply engaged in voter education and community outreach across both counties. From hosting public forums on local election importance with the Berrien County Clerk, to partnering with the NAACP on community voter registration training, to educating communities on their rights as voters, to tabling at Juneteenth celebrations in both Benton Harbor and Niles, the League met people where they were and made civic participation accessible. League programs like the Book Club kept members intellectually engaged throughout the year, exploring titles on democracy, journalism, and justice and tying the reading directly to our work at home. On the advocacy front, the LWVBCC has stood firm and loud on issues that matter. We have provided resources and action alerts monthly in our newsletter on intersectionality, DEI, policies affecting voters and constitutional rights, DPOC, the SAVE act, and Supreme Court Decisions.

Our continued programming — including "The Nitty Gritty: Voting Laws You Didn't Know You Didn't Know," "Train the Trainer: Voter Registration in Your Community," and "Why Local Elections

Matter" — along with the upcoming LWVBCC sponsorship of "What the Constitution Means to Me" at the Ghostlight Theatre, reflects a League that meets people not just at the global and national level, but in their communities.

It has been a year of showing up — consistently, creatively, and with determined purpose. Best of all, we are not done yet! I am so proud of our growth and the work we have done, and I am fired up and ready for us to continue showing up, serving our community, and leading the charge to defend democracy!

— Sarah Warner, President

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Voter Services is excited about 2026 and our impact within Berrien and Cass Counties.

To date, we have already held multiple voter registration events at local high schools, libraries, and colleges staffed by many of our board members and enthusiastic members of the League. Also, given the various organizations conducting voter registration events in Berrien and Cass counties, our focus has expanded from just staffing voter registration events to training community volunteers conducting voter registration events by request!

We have trained the Niles-Buchannan NAACP branch at their membership meetings and were hosted by Indivisible for a virtual voter registration training open to members of Indivisible and the LWVBCC. Our in-person community training event was held on May 30 in partnership with the NAACP and was open to any community member wanting to learn how to serve voters in their community. In celebration of Juneteenth, we are also conducting two voter registration events along with partner organizations.

In addition, we are happy to announce that Michigan LWV has awarded our chapter a $750 grant for Youth Engagement. The grant will be used for an honorarium to two local college students who will serve as Student Leaders. The Student Leaders will join LWVBCC, conduct voter registration events at their respective schools and advise our chapter on increasing voter engagement and voter education among younger voters. The Student Leaders will also be asked to host a panel following a performance of “What the Constitution Means to Me” at the Ghostlight Theater Company in Benton Harbor. An anonymous donor has agreed to fund a block of tickets for the performance which the Student Leaders will distribute to attendees of their respective institutions.

Lastly, in conjunction with the Michigan LWV, Voter Services will be conducting a postcard campaign to registered voters encouraging them to vote in the 2026 midterm election.

— Beverly Gray, Voter Services Chair

ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION REPORT

From January through May 2026, the LWVBCC pursued an active schedule of community outreach and civic education. Early in the year, Sarah Warner and Don Lenderman brought voter identification education to the NAACP's Buchanan/Niles chapter, helping community members better understand their rights and responsibilities at the ballot box. In March, Sarah Warner and Don Lenderman participated in an Immigration Town Hall in St. Joseph alongside state and local leaders, bringing together community voices on one of the most pressing issues facing residents today. That same week, League members Don Lenderman, Faith Schoon, Beverly Gray, and Allen Warner took the organization's message directly to the public at the No Kings 3 event, connecting with neighbors and building new relationships across the community.

Later in the spring, Sarah and Don returned to the NAACP's Buchanan/Niles chapter to continue the conversation on voting rights, deepening an ongoing partnership dedicated to civic empowerment, following that presentation up with another community education forum on why local elections matter presented by Sarah Warner. The season concluded with Don’s participation in the DPOC Resolutions Project in collaboration with All Voting is Local and the League of Women Voters of Michigan, reflecting the LWVBCC's commitment to working across partnerships in service of democratic participation. May finished with a community train-the-trainer on voter registration in partnership with the NAACP led by Sarah Warner.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2026, the LWVBCC will join the nationwide National Day of Action on August 8th, marking the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and reaffirming the League's dedication to that enduring legacy. The League is bringing a guest speaker from the ACLU in August to educate our community on voting rights at the booth, and The League will be hosting a matinee forum after the Sunday Performances of “What The Constitution Means To Me”, focusing on the constitution and its impact on our everyday lives. An October presentation titled Democracy Under Siege will continue the League's educational mission, with planned discussions around voting rights and election protection, the growing influence of money in elections, the threat of disinformation and the role of artificial intelligence in our democratic process, and the implications of the SAVE Act, and more!

— Don Lenderman, Advocacy and Education Chair

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH REPORT

From the outset of this year, the LWVBCC set out with a clear commitment: to deepen our relationships with the community and with those engaged in shared mission. We are stronger together, and our work demands solidarity with those fighting on the same fronts.

We are incredibly pleased to announce that since May 2025, the League has formalized partnerships with the Niles-Buchanan NAACP, the Saint Joseph Public Library, the Bridgman Public Library, and the Ghostlight Theatre, with conversations currently underway with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Three Oaks Public Library, and the Niles Public Library. These partners are united by a focus on civil and political rights, advocacy at every level, constitutional freedoms, and connecting with the community to advocate, educate, and inspire. Each brings something unique to the table, and together the impact we can have is tremendous.

Beyond our officially signed partnerships, the League has also collaborated with national organizations, including Promote the Vote, All Voting is Local, National Voter Registration Day, and the ACLU, allowing us to bring their expertise and reach to bear locally in Berrien and Cass Counties. These relationships have expanded our access to shared resources, elevated the impact of our programming, and connected us to a broader movement in defense of democracy.

The League also now coordinates regularly with other local nonprofits working on overlapping issues, ensuring that our efforts complement rather than compete, and that we are collectively building a stronger community network of service and education. Together with local community leaders and boots-on-the-ground organizations, we have created a shared space for collaboration, support, and outreach that continues to grow!

— Sarah Warner, Community Partnerships and Outreach Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A Welcome Coffee Event was held September 26, 2025, at the Bridgman Public Library. President Sarah Warner, Faith Schoon, and Val Schnable welcomed members. Invitations were sent to all new members who had joined since September 1, 2024 through September 22, 2025. For those in attendance we reviewed the history of the League of Women voters from inception in 1920 through the transition of the LWVBCC in 1984 from the previous LWV Niles. The event provided the opportunity to discuss the LWVBCC mission, roles, and future goals, and how each of us can contribute in our own way.

Members, guests and interested public joined the LWVBCC Open House September 30, 2025 at the Lakeside Brewery in Bridgman. Several new members were added to our roster soon after, including a new board member. In October, The League held a Town Hall in October featuring speakers Eric Hoppstock, Superintendent for Regional Education Service Agency (RESA), and Kip Walker, a volunteer with Neighbor- by-Neighbor, addressing Federal Funding Cuts at the Local Level. The public event held at the St. Joseph public library immediately followed the No Kings rally in St. Joseph and was well attended. In November, board members Mike and Val Schnable joined forces with the United Way Southwest Michigan volunteers in the Annual Rake-A-Difference event as Team LWVBCC. The late notice did not bring more members so the “Team” was partnered with other volunteers. Information was shared about LWVBCC and potential new membership opportunities were created. A more advanced notice will be provided in 2026. Rake-A-Difference provides yard clean-up for the elderly who are not able to clean up their leaves and gutters. Numerous large corporations in the community participate and LWVBCC members can easily share information about the organization's goals and objectives.

In December, a Holiday Party at the Lake Michigan Vintners brought members together in a warm cozy location. Pre-event calls to members to welcome their attendance revealed several members' contact information had changed and we could direct the members on how to correct the information. A big thank you to board members who helped to make those calls.

February 2026 efforts were directed to outreach to those whose membership expired January 31, 2026. Forty members were contacted by phone, email and in a few cases mailed notes. Prior to 2026, renewals were in January of each year for all members, and board

members would call each member to remind them to renew. The new membership system of renewing individually - as opposed by household - and being notified by email that it was time to renew, seemed to have left some members in the dark. This ongoing effort over two months brought most, but not all, members back to full status.

We welcomed three additional new members in February 2026 and invited them to join the rest of the membership at a presentation on March 11, 2026 covering Lesser Known Voting Laws, and the March 26, 2026 General Membership Meeting featuring Berrien County Clerk Stacy Loar-Porter covering local election information. Two people joined the Membership Committee to assist with activities going forth. The March 11th event was well attended with approximately ½ of attendees non-members, but several did join the league within a few days

Overall, LWVBCC has added 28 new members 2025-2026. Continuing activities include calls to invite members to the Annual Business Meeting on June 18, 2026, and follow up contact when individual memberships are close to expiring. Calls provide informative comments on what and how LWVBCC is meeting the needs of the community.

— Val Schnable, Membership Chair

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

Publication of the LWVBCC Newsletter was moved to the fourth week of each month to ensure that members receive timely information before the beginning of the following month and in advance of this year's elections.

Member email notifications and Facebook posts now extend beyond chapter events and League updates to include town halls hosted by elected officials, as well as nonpartisan, issue-focused events sponsored by other organizations.

The LWVBCC Website remains the League's central source of information for members, offering resources on voting, joining, or renewing membership, making donations, contacting elected officials, participating in the Book Club, accessing the calendar of events, and reading current and past newsletters. This year, the site was expanded to include information on volunteering to support elections, becoming a candidate, attending local community meetings, and engaging more fully with the local chapter.

We will continue to strengthen the ways we provide chapter members with timely, relevant, and accessible information.

— Mike Schnable, Webmaster

TREASURER'S REPORT

	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027			2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027
	Proposed	Actual	Proposed			Proposed	Actual	Proposed
EXPENDITURES					**INCOME**			
Operating Costs					PP Membership Dues		2771.06	
Newsletter	400		200		Membership Dues	1130	1657.3	1700
Office Supplies	70		70		Offline Membership Dues	0	180	200
Printing	300	421.27	450		LWVBCC Shortfall.	0	383.5	200
LWVMI D & O Insurance	100		100		Drawn from Education Fund	2000		400
Constant Contact		660	828		Donations	400	1067.59	1000
Storm Web		48	48		Donation for Gaslight		2500	
Technology/MyLo Website	425	425	450		ED Fund Donations	0	62.29	
P. O. Box	182	192	192		Newsletter Contributions (CC)	396	522	
PP Fees		128.68	130		Newsletter Sponsorship	125	125	125
Stripe Processing Fees	60	134.03	150		Fundraisers	400	495	500
TOTAL	**1537**	**2008.98**	**2618**		Ed Fund Reimbursements	200		200
					ED Fund Grants		795	
Board & Administrative					Meetings/Events	1500	3384	3500
Membership& Directory								
Meetings & Arrangements	2500	2118.6	2500		**TOTAL INCOME**	**6151**	**13942.74**	**7825**
Programs	150		150		**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**11667.9**	**-12007.27**	**-8068**
TOTAL	**2650**	**2118.6**	**2650**		**BALANCE**	-5516.9	**1935.47**	**-243**
Delegates/Workshops					**Checking Account**			
State Convention	0	1186.02	1300		July 1, 2025 Balance		**8697.8**	
National Convention	1500	0			June 30, 2026 Balance		**10633.27**	
Workshops	0	0	0		Net Balance		**1935.47**	
LWV Lake Michigan Region	0	0	0					
TOTAL	**1500**	**1186.02**	**1300**		**NOTES**			
					Per Member Payment (PMP)			
Financial Support					**Feb. 1, 2024 - Jan. 31, 2025**			
State PMP Individuals	1863	1613			77 State Individuals @ $23			
State PMP Households	287.5				23 State households @ $11.50			
Insurance Cost to LL	95.4	95.4	100		77 US Individual @ $32			
US PMP Individuals	2592	2992			23 US Households @ $16			
US PMP Households	400							
Lake Michigan MI LWV Dues	43							
CK Dues to LWVUS		95						
ED Fund		62.29						
Donations & Gifts	100	2500	100					
TOTAL	**5380.9**	**7659.69**	**200**					
Educational Activities								
Equipment	0	0	0					
Voter Services	600	522	1300					
TOTAL	**600**	**522**	**1300**					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**11667.9**	**13495.29**	**8068**					

— John & Carla Ripley, Co-Treasurers

REVIEW OF OUR 2025-26 PROGRAM YEAR

The 2025–2026 program year was anchored by a full calendar of public education events that brought the community together around voting, democracy, and civic engagement, and strengthened our partnerships across Berrien and Cass Counties!

The year opened with the Annual Business Meeting at the Box Factory in June 2025, followed by a series of summer events including voter registration training and participation in the Benton Harbor 4th Ward Community Resource Fair. Throughout the fall and into winter, the League kept the community informed and connected through a new member social, a “Meet the League” open house, National Voter Registration Day events at multiple campuses, and a town hall on the effects of federal budget cuts and spending. We spent 2025 laying the groundwork for an active election year ahead.

As 2026 got underway, the LWVBCC wound up with a strong lineup of public programming. The spring featured multiple speaking events where League leaders were hosted by a variety of local groups to discuss voter registration, the League, and voting rights. March alone featured a wide range of activity, including our President's representation of the League at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, a co-hosted voting laws education night with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, a No Kings protest, and a General Membership Meeting with Berrien County Clerk Stacy Loar-Porter presenting on how to get involved with local elections. April brought the Weko Beach Spring Clean Up, where the League connected with environmentally minded community members, and May featured multiple events including the "Why Local Elections Matter" educational forum and a voter registration training co-hosted with the NAACP.

This summer will close with a celebration of community at the Juneteenth festivals in both Benton Harbor and Niles, where the LWVBCC will host voter registration tables alongside partner organizations including the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a virtual voter registration 101 training for League members and community affiliates, and our President presenting at the National Convention on thinking globally and acting locally. Throughout the year, the Book Club met regularly and fueled our membership's understanding and passion, exploring titles on democracy, press freedom, and civic courage, providing a quieter but meaningful thread of engagement that keeps our members connected, curious, and committed to the League's mission.

— Sarah Warnrer, President

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026-2027

We continue to invest in our community and our partnerships with a number fo events already planned for the rest of 2026, and we have some great things in the works for 2027 as well!

The biggest highlight of our planned events for fall centers around the Constitution and Voter Education! We have partnered with the Ghostlight Theatre to bring “What the Constitution Means to Me” to our area!

The League will be introducing the show, running post-show talkbacks on Sundays, and tabling at every performance so we can continue to answer voter questions, register our community, and get the word out about other League events coming up! We hope you will all get tickets to this incredible play describe by Roger Ebert as “… a towering achievement, a work of devastating clarity. It’s also funny, compassionate, and surprising, and somehow, in spite of everything, in possession of a bright flare of optimism.”

In addition to this, we will be hosting voter outreach events on National Voter Registration Day, and continuing to being our community high-quality, timely programming connect our local areas to the big issues trickling down from National changes and statewide movements.

Please check out website and newsletter regularly as we will continue adding programming every month!

— Sarah Warner, President

EVENTS OVERVIEW 2025-2026

June 2025

Annual Business Meeting	Membership Meeting

August 2025

Virtual Voter Registration Training	Community Outreach
Benton Harbor 4th Ward Community Resource Fair	Community Outreach

September 2025

New Members Social	Member Outreach
National Voter Registration Day, multiple campus locations	Community Outreach
Meet the League Open House	Community Outreach

October 2025

Budget Cuts & The Local Economy Forum	Community Outreach

February 2026

Meet Me In The Middle- NGO Open House	Member Outreach
Voting Rights Part 1 — with The NAACP	Voter Education

March 2026

UN Commission On The Status Of Women	Advocacy
The Nitty Gritty: Voter Rights You Didn't Know —with the St. Joseph Public Library	Voter Education
Voting Laws Education Night — with Delta Sigma Theta & The St. Joseph Public Library	Voter Education
ICE Roundtable	Community Outreach
No Kings Protest	Advocacy
GMM: How To Get Involved In Local Elections	Community Outreach

April 2026

Weko Beach Spring Clean Up	Community Outreach
Voting Rights Part 2 —with The NAACP	Voter Education

May 2026

Meet The League: The LWVBCC	Member Outreach
Why Local Elections Matter — with The St. Joseph Library	Voter Education
Voter Registration Training —with The NAACP	Community Outreach

June 2026

Juneteenth Tabling —Niles	Community Outreach
Juneteenth Tabling — Benton Harbor	Community Outreach
Annual Business Meeting	Membership Meeting
Community Voter Registration 101: Train The Trainer —with The NAACP	Community Outreach
Virtual Voter Registration Training	Community Outreach
National Convention Presentation "Think Global, Act Local"	Advocacy

UPCOMING EVENTS — AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2026

August 2026

National Day Of Action — Voting Rights Act Anniversary	Advocacy
General Membership Meeting	Membership Meeting
At The Booth: Voting Rights Part 2 — St. Joseph Library	Voter Education

September 2026

Pasta & Postcards	Community Outreach
National Voter Registration Day	Community Outreach
What The Constitution Means To Me — with The Ghostlight Theatre (6 Performances)	Community Outreach

October 2026

Democracy Under Siege	Voter Education
National Voter Education Week	Voter Education

December 2026

Holiday Party	Member Outreach

LEADERSHIP AND BUSINESS

In the wake of Dorothy Parker stepping down as Secretary, the desire of John and Carla Ripley to begin training a new Treasurer, and the creation of new Board positions to better serve our membership and community, the Board has appointed new leaders since June of 2025!

The Board has welcomed Don Lenderman, our Advocacy and Education Chair, Allen Warner, a new Treasurer, and Karen Roth, our new secretary.

Barbara Starke and Faith Schoon have transitions from “at-large” members to heading up the Fundraising and Publicity committees, respectively. Sarah Warner has taken on community partnerships and outreach, and we are still on the lookout for an engaged member to take on our Local and State Government Observation Committee!

The LWVBCC Board Slate 2026-2027

President	Sarah Warner
Vice President	Beverly Gray
Chair of Advocacy and Education	Don Lenderman
Chair of Voter Services	Beverly Gray
Chair of Fundraising	Barbara Starke
Chair of Membership	Val Schnable
Chair of Publicity	Faith Schoon
Chair of Community Partnerships	Sarah Warner
Secretary	Karen Roth
Treasurers	Carla & John Ripley, Allen Warner
Webmaster	Mike Schnable
Chair of Local and State Government Observation (Observers Corps)	Open

NOTICE: UPDATES TO OUR BYLAWS

Our Bylaws are updated every few years to reflect our growth, mission, and service in our community. The board has voted to make updates to our bylaws in order to be more in-line with national brand standards, update our procedures to reflect better management practices, and have updated some language to be more inclusive. It has been seven years since our last review and update of the bylaws.

Our Updated Bylaws are as follows on the next page:

Article I: Name of Organization

Section 1. Official Designation. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties (LWVBCC). LWVBCC is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). LWVBCC, LWVMI, and LWVUS may be referred to collectively as the LEAGUE.

Article II: Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of LWVBCC is to encourage informed and active participation in government, to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Section 2. Nonpartisanship Policy. LWVBCC shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Board members of LWVBCC will refrain from publicly supporting or opposing any political party or candidate in media, action, verbiage, writing, or social media posts.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who is at least sixteen years of age and subscribes to the Purpose, Bylaws, and Rules of LWVBCC is eligible for membership in LWVBCC.

Section 2. Becoming a Member. A person becomes a member of LWVBCC by paying dues and having their name and contact information entered in the books of the organization. Membership in LWVBCC includes membership in LWVMI and LWVUS, and a person who has been a member of LWVUS for fifty years or more shall be a life member excused from the payment of dues.

Section 3. Continuing Membership. A person continues their membership by paying dues in subsequent years.

Section 4. Member Authorization. Members may act or speak in the name of LWVBCC only when authorized to do so by a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5 Member Sanction. Any member violating these Bylaws or exhibiting unethical conduct shall be subject to sanction. Actions deserving of sanctions shall include but not be limited to the following: partisanship when representing or speaking on behalf of the LEAGUE, misappropriation of funds, use of his or her position with LWVBCC to promote his or her own issues or political ambitions, and representing LWVBCC or the LEAGUE without authorization.

Article IV: Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The Board of Directors may have as many members as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the League, but no fewer than nine. Directors shall be elected by and from among the membership at the Annual Meeting to two-year terms with terms staggered as evenly as possible.

Section 2. Limit on Terms. Except as provided in the next sentence of this Section 2, no Director shall serve or be elected to more than four consecutive two-year terms. A Director may serve more than four consecutive two-year terms, however, upon both (a) the unanimous recommendation of the Board and (b) approval of that recommendation by the LWVBCC membership at a duly convened meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation or death may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

Section 4. Resignation by absence. If a Director has three consecutive unexcused absences from meetings, they shall be deemed to have resigned. Upon motion approved by a majority of the Board, the President or (in his or her absence) the Secretary shall promptly notify that person in writing that she or he is deemed to have resigned and no longer is a member of the Board.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have charge of the property and business of the Organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct the business, subject to the instruction of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the programs as adopted at the League of Women Voters' National Convention, the State Convention, and the Berrien and Cass Counties Annual Meeting.

Section 6. Meetings. There shall be at least six meetings by the Board of Directors annually. The Board President shall call special meetings upon the written request of five members (a) of the Board or (b) of the membership at large.

Section 7. Electronic Participation in Meetings. A member of the Board or of a committee designated by the Board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or other means of remote communication if all individuals who are participating in the meeting can communicate with the other participants. Participation in a meeting under this section constitutes attendance in person at the meeting. In addition, if a matter of urgency arises between meetings, the Board may communicate and act by email. Minutes of any action taken by email shall be kept and presented at the next meeting of the Board. All decisions reached by email shall be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Board, with a request for confirmation at that meeting.

Section 8. Business from the Membership. Any member of LWVBCC may submit issues of perceived importance to LWVBCC upon application to the President, who shall present such a request to the Board at its next meeting. At that meeting, the Board shall determine what action, if any, should be taken.

Section 9. Quorum. A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 10. Parliamentary Procedure. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of the Board.

Article V: Officers

Section 1. Number of Officers. There shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Webmaster, Fundraising Chair, Advocacy and Education Chair, Publicity Chair, and any other Officers the Board deems necessary and approves via a majority vote.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. Officers shall be chosen from among and by the members elected to the Board by the LWVBCC membership at its Annual Meeting. Officers shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 3. Limit on Terms. No Officer shall serve in or be elected to that office for more than four consecutive two-year terms. Except in situations addressed by Article IV (2).

Section 4. The President. The President shall be the Chief Officer of LWVBCC, shall speak on behalf of the LWVBCC, and shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the membership when present.

Section 5. The Vice-President. At the request of the President or in the event of their absence or disability, the Vice-President shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all restrictions upon, the President.

Section 6. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all general meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. They shall give all notices required by these bylaws and shall prepare the Annual Report of the most current year's activities for presentation or distribution at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due, shall be the custodian of League funds, shall make deposits to the bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse funds upon order of the Board. They shall sign, with the President, all contracts, and other instruments when so authorized by the Board. They shall (a) present financial reports to the Board at its regular meetings and (b) present an annual financial report and a proposed budget for the coming year to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Article VI: Committees

Section 1. Organizational Structure. LWVBCC shall provide an organizational structure that promotes the study of issues in areas such as Energy and Environment, Public Education, Civil and Political Rights, Health and Social Services, and Voter Service. The structure shall foster participation and learning among Board members and those in the general membership.

Section 2. Nominating Committee. At least two months before the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three members of LWVBCC, at least one of whom is not then a member of the Board. The Nominating Committee shall identify members willing to serve on the Board and shall present its nominations to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Budget and Finance Committee. At least two months before the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall appoint and convene a committee to prepare a budget for approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting. The committee shall consist of three or more members, at least one of whom is not then a member of the Board.

Section 4. Additional Committees. By resolution, the Board may establish such other committees or task forces as it deems necessary or appropriate.

Article VII: Membership Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least two general meetings of the full membership each year, including the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held in June of each year, on the day determined by the Board of Directors. At the Annual meeting, the membership shall be asked to (a) adopt local programming priorities for the coming year; (b) adopt a budget to meet projected operational and programming needs; (c) elect Directors for the coming year; and (d) transact such other business as properly comes before the membership.

Section 3. Preparation of Agenda. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for preparing an agenda for the Annual Meeting. The agenda may include topics requested by Members of LWVBCC, provided that the request has been made to and approved by the Board at least forty days before the meeting.

Section 4. Notice. At least fifteen days before the Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall give members of LWVBCC written notice of the Annual Meeting and of programming priorities, budget, nominees to the Board of Directors, and other agenda items on which action will be requested.

Section 5. Quorum. Members present in person or by proxy who represent twenty percent of the members shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting or any other duly announced general meeting of the membership.

Section 6. Parliamentary Procedure. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Annual Meeting and any other meetings of the membership for the transaction of business.

Article VIII: National and State Conventions

Section 1. National Convention. At a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates to the National Convention must be submitted to LWVUS, the Board of Directors may select delegates to that convention in the number allotted to LWVBCC under the provision of the Bylaws of LWVUS.

Section 2. State Convention. At a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be submitted to LWVMI, the Board of Directors may select delegates to that convention in the number allotted LWVBCC under provisions of the Bylaws of LWVMI.

Article IX: General Provisions

Section 1. Records. LWVBCC shall keep (a) books and records of accounts, (b) minutes of the proceedings of the membership and of the Board, and (c) records containing the name and address of all members and (for members first joining after the date of enactment of these Amended and Restated Bylaws) the date when each became a member of record.

Section 2. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Section 3. Spending Approvals. Any charges or spending made on behalf of the LWVBCC totaling more than $100 of the previously approved budget must be approved by the Treasurer before being initiated. Any monies/spending not previously allotted in the budget must be approved by a majority board vote.

Article X: Amendments.

Section 1. Repeal of Previous Bylaws. The adoption of these Amended and Restated Bylaws shall constitute an amendment and restatement of LWVBCC's previously existing bylaws.

Section 2. Changes to the Bylaws. Except as provided in Article X, Section 3, below, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at a general membership meeting, provided (a) the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least fifteen days before the meeting and (b) a quorum is present.

Section 3. Automatic Amendments. Any amendments to the first three articles of the Bylaws of LWVUS that are made at a national convention automatically shall be made to these Bylaws without need for approval at an Annual Meeting of LWVBCC. Any such change, however, shall be announced to the membership.

Article XI: Dissolution of the Chapter.

Section 1. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of dissolution of LWVBCC for any cause, all monies and securities at the time owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVBCC shall be passed on to LWVMI after payment of all amounts owed by LWVBCC.

Amended and Restated June 15, 2017

Automatic amendment of Article III, Section 1 approved February 13, 2018

Amendment of Article VI (deleting former sections 4, 5, and 6) June 12, 2019

Amended and Restated June 18th, 2026

LEAGUE AWARDS

The Spirit of The League Award

This award was created by the board to recognize a member who has truly embodied the mission and spirit of the League of Women Voters. This is a person who, like The League of Women Voters has embodied patient, principled persistence — the belief that democracy is a practice, not an aspiration. This person has shown up consistently, taking on work and leadership because it was needed, and because they show their dedication through actions, and not just words. This person has shown their passion for empowering voters and defending democracy over the years, and demonstrated to all that democracy, at its core, is not a spectator sport.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

5: 00 Doors Open

5:30 Meeting called to order

- President's Year-End Review/Annual Report
- Updates to Bylaws
- Introduction of new board Members
- Approvals of bylaws and new board members
- Call for committee members and leaders
- Thanks to membership and leadership
- Spirit of the League Awardee Announced

6:00 Introduction of our Speaker: Professor Geoffrey Layman

7:00 Mixer Kick-Off

7:30 Silent Auction Winners Announced

7:45 Wrap Up

8:00 Doors Close