

LWVWA Resolutions Committee

How to submit a Resolution for consideration at the 2023 State Convention

Submitting a Resolution at Convention can be an impactful way to make the League of Women Voters of Washington's collective voice heard on important topics. Following are some answers to questions, and a few do's and don'ts in submitting your resolution, as well as the proposed convention rules governing Resolutions.

Who can offer a Resolution at Convention?

Any registered delegate to LWVWA Convention may offer a resolution. Members of local leagues and members at large who are not delegates to convention should contact their local President, or one of their delegates representing their local league to carry their resolution.

How long should my Resolution be?

There is no specific length specification or restriction, but a well-constructed Resolution is about a page long, sometimes two pages for very complex issues. One could write as few as one Whereas statement, and one Be it Resolved statement, or multiple Whereas statements, and up to an equivalent number of Be it Resolved and Be it Further Resolved statements. Three to seven of both Whereas and Be it Resolved paragraphs are "normal". *Keep in mind, the shorter and more concise it is, the more likely people are to read it.*

How do I turn it in to the Resolutions committee?

There are two ways to submit a resolution:

- Through the online portal, **linked to the convention rules in Rule E.2** in the online workbook.
- In-person at the convention prior to 6pm on the first day (Friday) of the convention. Resolutions turned in at the in-person table will also be uploaded to the online portal, under the rules, and the delegate presenting the resolution will need to answer the intake questions (who, what, why) on the online portal.

What is the deadline for submissions?

- 6pm, Friday, May 5. A delegate may meet this deadline either by uploading their resolution by themselves, or bringing it to the resolutions table at the convention.

Is this a hard deadline, or is there some wiggle room?

- *This is a hard deadline, and members offering resolutions should make themselves aware of it.* The rationale is that the Resolutions Committee immediately begins processing resolutions for inclusion in the committee report at the various points the committee must report out to a plenary session during the convention.

Where do I find the online portal?

The form is published online on the LWVWA convention website, and **is linked to the convention rules in Rule E.2** in the online workbook.

Where do I find the in-person submission table at the convention?

The in-person table will be open at the convention from 9:00am – 11:00am, and 4:30pm – 6:00pm on Friday, May 5, in the same location as the other informational tables in the convention hotel, and will be clearly signed.

Is there a difference between turning my resolution in online and turning it in on paper in-person at the convention?

There is no difference in terms of eligibility for consideration, as long as it is turned in by the deadline. The purpose of the resolutions booth at the convention is to ensure that any delegate with questions before they submit their resolution, or with technology concerns can turn in the resolution on paper, and have it loaded to the online portal. The difference is that if you turn it in in-person at the convention, the resolutions committee will help you upload it to the online portal at the table on-site. Your resolution will still go through the same process, regardless of whether you received help uploading it to the portal in person at the convention or uploaded it before the convention.

Is there an advantage to getting my resolution in early?

Yes. If you get your resolution in at least one week before the convention, the resolutions committee will review your resolution before the convention, and if there are any concerns with it, or ways it does not conform with the rules, you will be notified and the resolutions committee can work with you before the convention.

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Appendix A: Sample Resolution

What should my resolution look like?

Here is a sample Resolution:

WHEREAS, The conflict between people in the Pacific Northwest over whether Pineapple belongs on a Pizza has raged since Pineapple first was placed upon a Pizza, and

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that the 1962 World's Fair held in Seattle was the first place in the world to offer specifically a Canadian Bacon and Pineapple Pizza, although pineapple, papaya and green pepper pizza had been served in Portland, Oregon since 1957, and

WHEREAS, even if one accepts that a Pizzeria in Toronto, Canada, may have served Canadian Bacon and Pineapple Pizza just a month before the 1962 World's Fair opened, it is irrefutable that Seattle was the first place in the United States where Canadian Bacon was teamed with Pineapple and served on Pizza.

Finally, WHEREAS, Because Canadian Bacon and Pineapple Pizza is the number one most loved pizza by people in the Pacific Northwest and the state of Washington, we urge the following actions:

Be it RESOLVED, that as a public policy, Pineapple in all its cut, sliced, and diced forms are publicly welcomed on Pizza in Washington state,

Further, Be it RESOLVED, that education of the public on the goodness of Pineapple on Pizza is undertaken by public agencies as budgets allow and opportunity arises, and a page of voter education on the excellence of Pineapple on Pizza be placed in each General Election Voters Guide,

Further, Be it RESOLVED, that our elected representatives on all levels embrace and promote the goodness of Pineapple on Pizza, and move to advance Pineapple on Pizza legislatively at all opportunities,

And finally, that Canadian Bacon (real or vegan) and Pineapple Pizza be named the official Pizza toppings of the State of Washington.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please reach out to Resolutions Chair Myra Howrey at: edfundtreasurer@lwvwa.org

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Appendix B: Annotated Proposed Rules – section E, Resolutions

Proposed Rules regarding Resolutions at the LWVWA Convention (excerpt from full proposed convention rules):

E. Resolutions

1. Any registered delegate to LWVWA Convention may offer a resolution.
2. Delegates must use the form available online: [Resolution Submission form](#) and are encouraged to submit the Resolution prior to Convention.
3. Resolutions must be submitted using the form published online which is linked to Rule E.2 in the online workbook. The form is due by the deadline published in the Convention Agenda. This is a hard deadline, and members offering resolutions should make themselves aware of it.
4. At least two weeks before the Convention, the President shall have appointed a Resolutions Committee consisting of a current state board member and at least two other League members.
5. The Resolutions Committee shall meet at the Convention at a time announced. The purpose of this meeting shall be:
 - a. To hear each delegate who wishes to explain its resolution to the Resolutions Committee
 - b. To consider whether each resolution meets the requirements as to form, notice or exception to notices and the following criteria:
 - i. Consistent with Bylaws and Principles
 - ii. Consistent with League program positions and the position is identified on the Resolutions Submission Form
Explanation: The submitter must identify the League position at the time of submission. It must be covered by a state or national position, and not circumvent the program process. Policy, program, or budget, may not be created, developed, or amended by virtue of a Resolution. There are appropriate processes for such activity.
 - iii. Addresses a single, topical issue
Explanation: This means that we don't cover forestry management in the same resolution as supporting saving the Orcas. This also means we do not cover funding at the same time as the policy proposal in one resolution.
 - iv. Requires time-sensitive governmental action
Explanation: Requires action within an immediate to two-year time frame which we, as the League of Women Voters wish to call out. A proposal covering a longer time would be more appropriate for a study, or a change to the strategic plan.
 - v. Likely to have an impact on the single topical issue as described
Explanation: Must be specific and concrete, and be actionable, whether it's sending a press release or sending a letter to a legislative body, or asking our legislative advocacy team to include it among the policy issues they are working.

- vi. Consistent with the current stated legislative priorities
Explanation: This means current issues consistent with existing League positions. The resolutions process cannot be used to bypass the established budget, policy, studies or position processes.
- vii. Can be implemented using existing League resources
Explanation: This includes money, people hours, and knowledge. Resolutions cannot require League funding or resources to be set aside for a project

6. The Resolutions Committee shall report its findings on all submitted resolutions—Proposed Resolutions are either reported affirmatively or determined to not meet the stated criteria. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee will announce those findings to the Convention at the beginning of the plenary session on Sunday morning.
7. Any resolution reported affirmatively by the Resolutions Committee may be moved for consideration by the Convention following adoption of Program. Any motion to appeal a ruling of the President regarding the presentation of resolutions shall require a two-thirds vote.
8. Debate and action on resolutions shall take place after action on Proposed Program, Concurrences, and Not-recommended Program items. Adoption requires a majority vote.
9. Those who desire to make Resolutions may consult with the Resolutions Committee prior to deadlines to be sure that Resolution meets form and content requirements.