



NOMINATION FAQs

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What does the state Board (LWVWA) do?

The LWVWA Board supports local Leagues as they work to protect democracy and support an engaged and informed electorate. The core functions of the Board include supporting Voter Services, Civics Education, Advocacy, Membership; Communications; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. As with all non-profit boards, the Board is responsible for Fundraising, Strategic Planning and Evaluation and Budget Development and Oversight.

What is the Legal Structure of the Board?

The LWVWA is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization governed by two separate but affiliated corporations and Boards. The LWVWA is a 501(c)4 corporation and is the “advocacy arm” of the of the LWVWA. The LWVWA Education Fund is a 501(c)3 corporation that works to educate voters. That includes supporting the functions of Voter Services, Civics Education, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Except for the Treasurer of each, Board members serve on both Boards. Per IRS requirements, donations to the LWVWA Education Fund are tax-deductible, but donations to the LWVWA advocacy arm are not.

How the Work Gets Done

Board members support the work of local Leagues through statewide meetings, Board and statewide committees, affinity groups, grants to local Leagues (through the Education Fund), and support of the Lobby Team. LWVWA provides training, resources, support, and communications for and among local leagues.

Why do League members choose to apply for LWVWA Board positions?

There are many reasons why members might choose to apply for a Board position. Generally, however LWVWA Board members work collaboratively toward the goals of LWVWA to:

- expand their commitment and understanding of the League,
- share Leagues’ successes with other League members,
- continue to build leadership skills, and
- help set the future for the LWVWA.

Am I a good fit for the Board?

The LWVWA Board work is complex and calls for all kinds of skills and backgrounds.

We seek individuals who are creative, collaborative, hard-working and with interest in and/or experience in:

- Accounting, financial management skills and experience
- Advocacy
- Communication and Public Relations
- Coordination of committees, volunteers
- Development
- Editing
- Event Planning
- Grant Writing
- Information technology
- Teaching, presentation, development of educational material
- Language skills and/or cultural experience with underserved communities

What is the term of a Board position?

Board members serve for two years. The state Board does not have term limits, and you will have an opportunity to apply for another term at the end of the term.

Can I keep my local League position if I become a LWVWA Board member?

You are not restricted from committing to both local League and state Board leadership positions but should consider the demands on your time and the quality of work you could accomplish in two positions. Once on the LWVWA Board, you might consider your state Board responsibilities as primary while committing to less-demanding work in the local League.

How often are Board meetings held?

Meetings are generally held monthly, with yearly schedules determined soon after the appointment of Board members. There will be a Board retreat during the summer, as well as an orientation meeting for new members. Board meetings are currently scheduled consecutively on the same day. The days and times of future meetings will be determined by the new Board based on the availability of all members.

Where are Board meetings held?

The LWVWA Board meetings are held both in person and on Zoom. Schedules are determined annually.

How long do meetings usually last?

The Boards meet once a month, the meeting generally lasts between 4 and 6 hours. The meetings typically require 2-4 hours of preparation time.

Are some expenses, like travel, reimbursed?

Yes, some expenses are reimbursed. Travel is eligible for reimbursement; other expenses like necessary supplies are reimbursed through submitting proper paperwork. The reimbursement policy is stated in the [LWVWA Policies and Procedures September 2021](#) (see pp. 7-10).

How much time outside of Board meetings should I expect to spend on Board business?

Typically, there is a minimum of 15-20 hours per month required, depending on the member's portfolio(s) and interest.

Do I choose the portfolio or are they assigned?

Generally, it is a combination of choice and assignment. The Board member and the LWVWA President come to an agreement based on need, Board member's skills and desires.

What are Portfolios?

The LWVWA Board of Directors is organized using a portfolio system. This system provides focus for directors and ensures responsibility for League programs and mission work. Portfolios may vary depending on the LWVWA needs and Board member interests. The current Board has Portfolio Chairs for: Civics Education; Research Project; Development; Local News; Internal Communications; Membership; Program/Debates and Lobby Team.

Portfolios may include Communications, Voter Services, Fundraising and Development, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Advocacy, Special Projects, Events, Outreach, Membership, MELD (Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development), Civics Education, Program, or others as needed.

As a Board member am I expected to make an annual financial contribution? Is there a suggested amount?

While no minimum amount is expected, it is important that all Board members contribute financially because it sends a message that the Board is supporting the organization with their financial contributions as well as their time. The amount a Board member contributes is confidential.

What is the League's nonpartisanship policy? Can I support candidates and display signs supporting candidates?

The President, the Advocacy Portfolio director, the Lobby Team chair, issue chairs, and the Voter Services Portfolio director may not participate in any partisan political activity during their term of office on the state Board because they are highly visible leaders who must embody the principle of the nonpartisan policy of the League of Women Voters. Other Board members are free to support candidates and parties in their individual capacities.

What technical skills are required of Board members? Does the Board provide technical skills training?

The [job description](#) outlines the skill set expected of a Board member:

- Skill in one or more specific areas of Board responsibility, such as finance, communications, organizational development.
- Skill in working with teams and consensus building.
- Have or be willing to learn basic computer literacy skills (e.g., Email, Microsoft 365, Microsoft Teams).
- Access to a working email account.

How are potential candidates identified?

The LWVWA Nominating Committee searches the membership to find potential candidates. The committee uses a variety of methods to find potential candidates – advertising in LWV publications, meeting you through statewide events and committees, contacting local League Presidents for recommendations, and responding to questions you might have about Board work. Please consider contacting a Nominating Committee member directly with your interest.

Many current and past Nominating Committee members have served or are serving as Board members and can be a great source of information about Board work. They would be glad to share their experiences with you.

In League,

LWVWA 2023-2025 Nominating Committee:

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