



LWV

Annual Business Meeting

**League of Women Voters of
Greater Birmingham**

May 25, 2023

6:30 PM

via Zoom

League Principles

The following principles are held by the League of Women Voters at all levels - local, state and national. Unlike league issue positions in the Program, they are not subject to change. Like the Program issue positions, they are used to support or oppose relevant legislation and public policies.

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people, that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems. The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Mission of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Mission of the League of Women Voters Education Fund

The mission of the League of Women Voters of Alabama Education Fund (The Fund) is to provide funding for projects designed to inform and educate citizens of Alabama on issues of government and public policy in order to facilitate their active and informed participation in government.

Vision, Beliefs, and Intentions of the LWV

The goal of the League of Women Voters of the United States is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. We are a nonpartisan political membership organization. We: act after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels, build citizen participation in the democratic process, engage communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy. We believe in: respect for individuals; the value of diversity; the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities; the power of collective decision making for the common good. We will: act with trust, integrity and professionalism; operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public; take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership; acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.

Vision of the LWV for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

LWVGB is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

LWVGB recognizes that bias and prejudice are ingrained in our society, and will work to understand and counter these through policy, education, and membership outreach. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, political perspective or affiliation, marital status, parental status or family composition, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

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LWVGB Business Meeting 2021
Proposed Agenda

Call to Order	Cindy Lowry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming Remarks• Announcements• Introduction of Board	
Preliminary Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognition of Quorum,• Adoption of the Agenda• Report of 2022 Reading Committee,• Appointment of 2023 Reading Committee• Status of Bylaws	Cindy Lowry
Treasurer’s Report – Year-to-Date	Jameria Moore
Adoption of 2023-2024 LWVGB Budget	Judy Jones
Adoption of 2023-2024 LWVGB Program	Cindy Lowry
LWVGB Year-in-Review and Year-End Remarks	Cindy Lowry
Report of Nominating Committee and Election of New Board and Nominating Committee	Dana Ellis and Cindy Lowry
Remarks from the Incoming President	Julie Reese
Member Recommendations to the Board	Julie Reese
Adjourn Business Meeting	Julie Reese

**BYLAWS OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM
2023-2024
(Last revised May 24, 2021.)**

(Adopted March, 1960; Amended March, 1967; 1969; 1973; 1974; 1975; 1976; 1977; 1980; 1981; 1983; 1986; 1987; 1993; 1999; 2001; 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017. 2021)

**ARTICLE I
Name**

Sec. 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham (LWVGB). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Alabama (LWVAL) and of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

**ARTICLE II
Purposes & Policy**

Sec. 1. Purposes

The purposes of the LWVGB are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Policies

- a. Political Policy. The LWVGB shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- b. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. The LWVGB is fully committed to ensure compliance—in principle and in practice—with the LWVUS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

**ARTICLE III
Membership**

Sec. 1. Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVGB shall be voting members of the LWVGB, of the LWVAL and of the LWVUS; those who have

been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

The LWVGB recognizes Individual, Family, Student and Honorary Life Memberships.

- b. Associate Members. All others who join the LWVGB shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Terms of Office

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, no less than two nor more than six elected Directors; and not more than six appointed Directors. Elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual business meeting and shall serve a term of one or two years, as determined by the general membership, to ensure a staggered term of elected directors. The elected members of the board shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of those appointed shall expire at the conclusion of the next annual business meeting.
- b. Directors. With the consent of the Board of Directors, the duties, powers and portfolio of an appointed director may be shared by a co-director, whose appointment shall not count toward the allotted number of appointed directors. The co-directors shall share a single appointment and a vote.
- c. The Board of Directors may remove any Officer or Director of the League at a meeting of the Board of Directors expressly called for that purpose, by a vote of at least two-thirds, that such Officer or Director was in violation of Section 2 of Article IV or was recorded as absent from one-half of the Board meetings over a twelve-month period.

Sec. 2. Qualifications

No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member, in good standing, of the LWVGB. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization if that person engages in any activity which may jeopardize the nonpartisan policy of the League of Women Voters.

Sec. 3. Vacancies

Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 4. 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 same, subject to decisions voted upon

by the general membership. It shall set appropriate dues amounts for individual, family and student memberships. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention and the Annual Business Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

In executing the duties of their office, board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards, and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, they may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 5. Executive Committee

The Board of Directors may appoint an executive committee consisting of no fewer than three members of the Board. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as maybe delegated to it by the Board of Directors and shall report at the next regular meeting of the Board on all actions taken by the committee.

Sec. 6. Meetings

There shall be at least four regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of a majority of the Board. Such call shall include the business to be transacted, and only such business may be transacted.

Sec. 7. Quorum

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Any member of the board may participate in a meeting by means of an appropriate communications platform which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at a meeting. If a quorum is not achieved: The meeting may be adjourned; or a recess may be called while the necessary members are found; or a time to adjourn in the future may be set, allowing for decisions to be made by an appropriate communications platform. Such a time must allow a number of days for the board to discuss the issues. All those making the decisions must be able to access all opinions of the board.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers

The officers of the LWVGB shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The president shall serve one term after serving as vice- president. The vice-president shall be elected to serve one year as vice-president and the second year as president. A secretary and a treasurer shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an annual business meeting. All officers shall take office at the beginning of the next fiscal year. The president and the vice-president shall be elected yearly. The secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The treasurer shall be elected in even-

numbered years.

Sec. 2. The President

The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of president and perform other duties the Board shall designate. The president shall mentor the vice-president. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, the vice-president shall assume the office. If the vice-president is unable to serve, the Board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors. If no elected director is able to serve, the board shall direct the Nominating Committee to secure within one month a candidate for president. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be sent to members at least two weeks prior to a special general membership meeting called to elect a president. If a quorum is present, a president shall be elected by a majority vote.

Sec. 3. The Vice-President

The vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the president and the Board shall designate. The vice-president shall work with the president in preparing to assume the role in the second year of office. The vice-president shall speak for the president when authorized, shall chair the Board of Directors and other meetings in the president's absence, shall monitor League of Women Voters national and state deadlines, and shall work with essential committees. The vice-president shall in the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office.

Sec. 4. Secretary

The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec. 5. Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer shall be custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board. The treasurer shall present statements to the board at its regular meetings and an annual report at the annual business meeting.

- a. The treasurer may appoint a member to serve as assistant, with Board approval.
- b. An audit of the treasurer's books shall be made by a qualified person following the closing of the treasurer's term. A report of this audit shall be made to the presiding Board no later than the September Board meeting of that year and included in the minutes.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the LWVGB shall commence on the first day of June each year.

Sec. 2. Dues

Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of the anniversary month of the member joining the League. The anniversary date for members as of May 15, 2021 shall be September 1 except for those members who first joined during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Any member who fails to pay dues within three months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Sec. 3. Budget

A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors for adoption at the annual business meeting. It shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee

A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least three months prior to the annual business meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the annual business meeting. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson of the budget committee.

Sec. 5. Disposition of Funds

Upon dissolution, the LWVGB shall follow local, state and federal law to close out. Any remaining funds shall be distributed to the LWVAL or the LWVAL Education Fund as appropriate.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Sec. 1. Membership Meetings

There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be announced at least one month prior to each meeting, including time and location. Meetings may be held in-person or via an appropriate communications platform.

Sec. 2. Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall be held within three months prior to closing of the fiscal year, exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The annual business meeting shall:

- a. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- a. Elect officers, directors, members of the nominating committee;
- c. Adopt an adequate budget; and
- d. Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 3. Quorum

Fifteen percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the LWVGB.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations & Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall consist of at least three members. The chairperson and at least one member, who shall not be members of the Board of Directors, shall be elected at the annual business meeting. Nominations for these positions shall be made by the current nominating committee. Immediately following the annual meeting, the board shall appoint from its membership the appropriate number of members to the committee. The nominating committee may consist of more than three members as long as the ratio of appointed to elected members does not exceed 2:3. Any vacancy in the nominating committee shall be filled by a member appointed by the Board of Directors.

Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

- a. The chairperson and nominating committee members shall attend at least one Board meeting.
- b. The nominating committee shall select nominees for election by the membership at the annual business meeting and shall be authorized to recommend to the Board persons to fill vacancies during the year.

Sec. 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor

The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the annual business meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual business meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. Elections

The election shall be by ballot. When there is only one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for each nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX

Program

Sec 1. Authorization

The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention and supported by the Leagues as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Sec. 2. Program

The program of the LWVGB shall consist of:

- a. Action to implement the principles of the LWVUS.
- b. Those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Sec 3. Action by the Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations submitted by the voting members two months prior to the annual business meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program and items not recommended by the Board of Directors shall be sent to all members one month before the annual business meeting.
- c. Items recommended by the Board of Directors for proposed program may be adopted by a majority vote.
- d. Items not recommended by the Board of Directors for proposed program may be adopted by the membership at the annual business meeting provided that:
 1. The annual business meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote;
 2. The annual business meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

Sec 4. Program Changes

In the case of altered circumstances, program changes may be made provided that:

- a. Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and
- b. The proposed change is adopted by the membership by a majority vote at the meeting.

Sec. 5. Member Action

Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

Sec 6. Local League Action

The LWVGB may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVUS and the LWVAL.

ARTICLE X

National Convention, State Convention and Council

Sec 1. National Convention

Delegates to the convention of the LWVUS shall be selected by the Board of Directors in the number allotted the LWVGB under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS (Article IX, Sec. 1 and 2).

Sec 2. State Convention

Delegates to the LWVAL Convention shall be selected by the Board of Directors in the number allotted the LWVGB under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVAL. (Article VIII, Sec. 4).

Sec. 3. State Council

Delegates to the LWVAL Council shall be selected by the Board of Directors in the number allotted the LWVGB under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVAL (Article IX, Sec. 2).

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Bylaws

Sec. 1. The Bylaws Committee

The bylaws committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least five months prior to the annual business meeting to review and evaluate the bylaws of the LWVGB. It shall consist of three members one of whom shall be a Board member.

- a. Changes may be proposed by the committee, the Board of Directors or the membership. These shall be submitted to the State Board of Directors for review and subsequently sent to all members one month before the annual business meeting.
- b. The report of the bylaws committee shall be presented at the annual business meeting.

Sec. 2. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the annual business meeting, provided that amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Sec. 3. Copies for Members

A copy of the bylaws shall be made available to members by download from the LWVGB website, or by paper copy upon request. The Treasurer shall be responsible for seeing that each new member receives a copy of the bylaws when dues are first paid.

LWVGB Treasurer's Report

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Expenses (continued)

INCOME EXPENSES TOTAL 2022-2023 BUDGET

50		INCOME	EXPENSES	TOTAL	2022-23 Budget
51	Voter				
52	Advertising				600
53	Intra League Activities				
54	National Convention		1957.50	1957.50	2400
55	State Council/Convention				1000
56	Support for the League				
57	LWVUS @ \$32		1344.00	1344.00	2016
58	LWVAL @ \$10		714.00	714.00	840
59	Administration				
60	Board Tools				50
61	Committees				50
62	Operations				
63	Bank Charges				20
64	PayPal Fees		180.09	180.09	190
65	Supplies/Printing				50
66	Postage				15
67	P O Box		212.00	212.00	200
68	Telephone				174
69	Website and Social Media				318
70	Zoom				155
71	Finance Drive/Fundraising				150
72	Miscellaneous/Prepaid				
73	TOTAL EXPENSES			4611.69	9998
74					
75	Gain/Loss during Period			1289.62	Gain
76					
77	EDUCATION FUND				
78	INCOME				
79	Member Donations	271.52			300
80	Non-member Donations				
81	Other				
82	LWVUS EF Voter Grants				
83	From Ed Fund Reserves				
84	Total Ed Fund Income	271.52			
85	EXPENSES				
86	PMP to LWV		1344.00		672
87	Voter Service Projects/Forum				500
88	Printed Materials				250
89	Vote 411				
90	Total Ed Fund Activity	271.52	1344.00		
91	Ed Fund Gain/Loss during period			-1072.48	Loss
92					
93	ASSETS	Sep-22		May-23	Dues Assistance Fund
94	Regions Checking	6,463.57		9,920.22	Carryover 300.00
95	PayPal	\$1,515.14		133.51	Current Year 41.50
96	Money Market Fund	41,439.35		41,985.28 *	Total <u>341.50</u>
97	LWVGEF-LWVAL	5,525.20		6,395.20	
98	TOTAL ASSETS	54,943.26		58,434.21	
99					
100				*April Balance	
101					

LWVGB Proposed Budget 2023 – 2024

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4				Past Years		Current Year			
5			ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual	BUDGET	BUDGET	Comments
6			2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	
7				(11 months)	(11 months)	(thru 5/23/23)	(12 months)		
8	INCOME								
9	General Contributions								
10		Members	813.2	1,157.68	670	681.00	700	1000	
11		Non-Members	105	100		-			
12		Member In-Kind	23	11	100	30.00	150	500	With goal of keeping up with this more accurately
13		Non-member In-Kind				-	-		
14		Dues Assistance Fund	198.5	270	100	501.60	100	300	
15		Dues Assistance Used	-22	-110		(460.00)			
16		Membership Dues	6,004.50	4,597.50	5,200.00	4,385.00	4,725.00	4400	80x55; 10x25; 20x15
17		Miscellaneous Income	7.86						
18		Sale of Merchandise	308	50	-	-			
19		Grant/Fee Reimbursement		8.21	-		10		
20		LWV Grants							
21		Ed Fund Reimbursements	1,428.51		-	-			
22		From Current Reserves	-		4,206.00		4,203.00	3370	
23	Income Subtotal		8,866.57	6,084.39	10,276.00		9,888.00	9570	
24		Interest Income		134.16					
25		Interest - MM	55		150	547.54	110	400	
26		Interest - CDs	207.5						
27	Total General Income		9,129.07	6,218.55	10,426.00	5,551.53	9,998.00	9970	
28									
29	EXPENSES								
30		Advocacy			45		45		
31		Community Memberships			100		100		
32		Citizen Education							
33		Fingertips			-		-		
34		Speakers Bureau			-		-		

LWVGB Proposed Budget 2023 – 2024

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			Past Years			Current Year			Comments
			ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual	BUDGET	BUDGET	
			2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	
				(11 months)	(11 months)	(thru 5/23/23)	(12 months)		
66									
67									
68									
69									
70		Administration							
71		Board Tools			50		50		
72		Committees			50		50		
73		Operations							
74		Bank Charges			20		20		
75		PayPal Fees	201.98	161.46	190	180.09	190	200	
76		Supplies/ Printing			50		50		
77		Postage	23	11	15		15		
78		P O Box	148	188	165	212.00	200	220	
79		Telephone	165.75	168.53	166		174	180	
80		Website and Social Media	237.71	371.44	288		318	395	180 Bluehost; 96 Sitelock; Flickr 99, Google Storage 20
81		Zoom	152.88	140.14	155		155	155	
82		Finance Drive/Fundraising			150		150		
83		Miscellaneous/Prepaid			-		-	1200	New website 650 & Annual per member maintenance 550
84	TOTAL EXPENSES		6,520.58	5,121.57	10,426.00	4,611.69	9,998.00	9570	
85									
86		Gain/Loss during Period	2,608.49	-			-	0	
87									
88	EDUCATION FUND								
89	INCOME								
90		Member Donations	3,420.79	3,126.99	1,350.00	271.52	300	500	
91		Non-member Donations	50	50	-		-		
92		Other			-		-		
93		LWVUS EF Voter Grants			-		-		
94		From Ed Fund Reserves			259			650	
95	Total Ed Fund Income		3,470.79	3,176.99	1,609.00	271.52	300.00	1150	
96	EXPENSES								
97		PMP to LWV		784	784	1,344.00	672		
98		Voter Service Projects/Forum	2,500.00		400		500	500	Candidate Forum
99		Printed Materials		411.23	-		250	250	Bookmarks, handouts
100		Vote 411	300	400	425			400	
101	Total Ed Fund Expenses		2,800.00	1,595.23	1,609.00	1,344.00	1,422.00	1150	
102									
103	Ed Fund Gain/Loss during period		670.79	1,581.76	-	(1,072.48)		0	
104									

**League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
Proposed Local Program
2023-2024**

SUPPORT POSITIONS

Below are LWVGB support positions as previously adopted by the LWVGB Membership on May 21, 2022. No changes are recommended.

LWVGB also supports:

- **LWV Principles:**
[\(http://www.lwvgb.org/principles/\)](http://www.lwvgb.org/principles/)
- **Issue positions of the LWV of Alabama:**
[\(http://www.lwval.org/takeaction/positions/\)](http://www.lwval.org/takeaction/positions/)
- **Issue positions of the LWV of the United States:**
 [\(https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues\)](https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues)

I. Government

A. Urban Government - Recognizing the interdependence of the city and the suburb, and the importance of area-wide services, and supporting a strong, vital city responsive and sensitive to the needs of its citizens, the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham supports:

1. The cooperation of city and county governments;
2. The assumption of a more active role by the suburban cities in the search for:
 - a. Area solutions to issues which transcend jurisdictional boundaries (e.g. water quality, land use);
 - b. Equitable solutions of the funding issues specifically related to persons without money (e.g. transit, housing, health);
 - c. Creative solutions to the problems of the metropolitan area which are related to the urban crises;
3. Provision by the state government to local governments of the tools they require to solve their own problems;
4. A broad representative base of citizen participation on independent boards and agencies and effective methods of communication between citizens and the independent boards and agencies.

B. Jefferson County Government - The LWVGB believes that the government of Jefferson County must fulfill certain minimum criteria, including equitable representation of the population of the county; separation of legislative and executive powers; administrative accountability to the total electorate; and efficient and cost-effective operation. To meet these criteria, the League supports;

1. Separation of the legislative and administrative functions of county government;
2. Consolidation of administrative responsibility in a single office responsible to the total electorate by adopting a county manager form of government;
3. Election of the legislative body by district to 4-year staggered terms on a part-time basis. Commissioners should reside in their districts for at least one year before election and remain residents throughout their terms. Vacancies should be filled by special election.

The role of the legislative body is to enact laws, establish policies, appropriate funds, and appoint a professional county manager by a two-thirds vote to carry out its policies and administer county operations under its direction.

4. Appointment of a qualified, professional county manager trained in public administration or possessing equivalent managerial credentials. The manager should be exempt from civil service and should serve at the pleasure of the commission.

History Note: *The present commission form, [reference is to 1985] in combining the legislative and executive functions in one body and dividing specific administrative responsibilities among individual commissioners, lacks both efficiency and the American safeguard of checks and balances between the traditional branches of expanding governments. The consent decree of 1985 changing the commission to five members elected by district, has, in fulfilling the criterion of equitable representation, severely limited administrative accountability to the electorate, as well as decreased operating efficiency by further fragmenting the administrative function. Thus, restructuring of the county government is now imperative. Administrative responsibility must be lodged in a single office accountable to the total electorate, either by at-large election of a county executive or by appointment of a professional manager responsible to the entire county through the commission. While both of these forms are widely used by counties throughout the nation, the inclusion of another elected office appears to exceed the federally approved judicial parameters in effect at this time.*

II. Transportation - Adequate public transportation is a vital element in the well being of any urban area, impacting on land use, economic development, air quality, employment opportunities, and mobility for all citizens. As such, it should be considered a public service whose operation is subsidized along with other public services.

- A. To adequately serve the needs of the area, public transportation should be organized and funded at least on a countywide level, preferably encompassing the entire metropolitan area.
- B. An area wide public transportation service should be planned on the basis of needs and efficiency, taking into account such factors as traffic congestion mitigation, air-quality requirements, environmental quality and preferable land use. In order to accomplish this end funding must be area-wide and based on stable and equitable sources so that service will not depend on the willingness of individual municipalities to purchase service for their communities. LWVGB supports the LWV of Alabama position that calls for a dedicated portion of the state gasoline tax to fund public transportation. Another funding option is a fairly applied occupation tax. LWVGB believes the least preferable source of funding for public transit is the regressive sales tax.
- C. Representation on the Transit Authority* must be area wide and equitable. A group representative of all suburbs must make the selection of those who represent the municipalities.

* **Note:** *The current representation on the Transit Authority– 5 Birmingham/1 Jefferson County/ 3 representing the 3 municipalities purchasing the most service – clearly does not meet the standard in item C. above. Returning to the original concept of the*

enabling legislation with a 3 county/ 3 city/ 3 suburb division appears to be the most equitable.

III. Education - The League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham supports effective public education in the various school districts of Greater Birmingham including adequate financing of total needs, extension of public education prior to the first grade, encouraging public involvement in local schools, and encouraging efforts to accredit local schools.

IV. Administration of Justice - The League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham supports diversion from the criminal justice system of those who could be treated in specific programs; use of community-base facilities leading to better rehabilitation and successful reintegration of offenders into the community; more uniform sentencing; and greater use of pretrial release, and the protection of basic human and civil rights of prisoners.

V. Natural Resources

A. The League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham recognizes that it is the responsibility of the local government to help assure health and safety of citizens and their environment through adequate funding to enforce local, state and federal regulations and strong regulations that are at least as comprehensive as federal regulations, and LWVGB supports regulations and enforcement of legislation in the following areas that promote environmental quality with provision of reasonable incentives and adequate financing at the local level for

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Parks and Recreation
- Land and water related to Surface Mining
- Transportation corridors with nuclear waste or other hazardous waste transport

B. For the areas listed above the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham supports

- zoning and subdivision regulation designed to protect flood plains and prevent flooding; and assessment of urban runoff to determine water quality problems resulting from urban and industrial runoff.
- forfeiture of bond and denial of subsequent permits to owner-operators not complying with appropriate reclamation in surface mining.
- availability of specialized equipment and trained personnel to handle local accidents involving hazardous shipments and reductions in shipments of hazardous materials through methods that reduce the generation of waste shipments.
- efforts to focus public awareness on the dangers inherent in any serious accident involving shipments of high level, large quantity nuclear fuel and spent fuel wastes, and the inability of emergency procedures to prevent radioactive contamination.
- tight control of transport of nuclear materials and waste, including pre-notification and other regulations that would enhance control.
- the power of local government to regulate nuclear transport in the absence of adequate regulation at the federal and state levels. This regulation might include, if necessary, controlling or banning shipments of high-level, large quantity fuel and spent fuel wastes.

LOCAL ISSUE STUDIES

None are recommended.

ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS

To be determined by the 2023-2024 LWVGB Board of Directors and in consideration of Direction to the Board offered by LWVGB Membership at the Business Meeting on May 25, 2023.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	League Member	Phone	Email
President	Cindy Lowry	(205) 365-5576	earthycindy@gmail.com
Vice-President	Julie Reese	(205) 936-0536	pitviper.reese@gmail.com
Secretary	Judy Jones	(205) 396-9658	jjflowgoer@aol.com
Treasurer	Jameria Moore	(205) 868-3016	jameriamoore@gmail.com
Director	Ellen Buckner	(205) 910-9877	ebbuckner@gmail.com
Director	LaTanya Dunham	(205)901-5129	latanyadunham@gmail.com
Director	Scottie McClaney	(205) 612-0254	scottieymcclaney@yahoo.com
Director	Donna Reynolds	(205) 903-9443	donnafr@bellsouth.net

CURRENT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Position	League Member	Phone	Email
Chair	Dana Ellis	(205) 531-5668	danaellis865@gmail.com
Member	Carl F. Hill, Sr.	(214) 608-2953	pastorhillzsmbc@gmail.com
Member	Nancy Sales	(205) 591-8908	magoiannancy@yahoo.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM
Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of 2022-2023 of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham presents the following slate of officers, directors, and nominating committee members to be considered for election at the LWVGB Business Meeting on May 25, 2023. All Nominees have agreed to serve in the positions noted if elected by themembership at the 2023 LWVGB Business Meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	League Member	Phone	Email
President (2023-2024)	Julie Reese	(205) 936-0536	pitviper.reese@gmail.com
Vice-President (2023-2024)	Scottie McClaney	(205) 612-0254	envision.smcclaney@yahoo.com
Secretary (2023-2025)	Judy Jones	(205) 396-9658	jjflowgoer@aol.com
Treasurer (2023-2024)	Donna Reynolds	(205) 903-9443	donnafr@bellsouth.net
Director (2023-2025)	Stephanie Butler	(334) 714-4653	sfbutler33@gmail.com
Director (2023-2025)	Vivian Crump	(334)435-6751	vcrump@samford.edu
Director (2023-2024)	Ellen Buckner	205) 910-9877	ebbuckner@gmail.com
Director (2023-2025)	Cheryl Ransom	(205) 612-0254	cyransom01@gmail.com
Director (2023-2024)	Ida Tyree -Hyche Hill	(205) 601-8645	idatyreehyche@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair	LaTanya Dunham	(205) 531-5668	danaellis865@gmail.com
Member	Cindy Lowry	(205) 612-0254	scottieymcclaney@yahoo.com
Member	Leonette Slay	(205) 903-9443	donnafr@bellsouth.net

Submitted March 13, 2023, by the LWVGB Nominating Committee,

Dana Ellis, Chair
 Carl F. Hill, Sr.
 Nancy Sales

League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham

Year – in – Review

2023 - 2024

This has been another busy and productive year for the LWVGB chapter! After orienting our new board and officers in July, we hit the ground running focusing on a few key priority areas – voter registration, voting rights restoration, cultivating our new college affiliate group at Samford University, and rebooting some of our in person member gatherings as the pandemic began to subside.

VOTER SERVICES

We started out in the summer and fall of 2022 with many voter registration events, including a full day at the Shipt Headquarters in downtown Birmingham and multiple locations on National Voter Registration Day in September such as at America’s Thrift Stores in the area and on the Samford University Campus. In addition to robust voter registration activities ahead of Alabama’s big election of all the state offices and state legislature in November, we also continued our work with partners at the Office of Pardon’s and Parole. While the powers that be stopped allowing us to work inside the building, our committed volunteers continued this work weekly throughout most of the year operating on the public sidewalk outside the building and helping hundreds of voters restore and understand their voting rights. The VRR group was also invited to attend Drug Court and educate drug offenders that their voting rights have not been revoked. These efforts have helped register or restore the rights of over 60 voters since last summer. Kudos to board services chair and board VP, Julie Reese, as well volunteer and board member, Donna Reynolds, and VRR chair and past president, Dana Ellis.

COLLEGE AFFILIATE GROUP

The League of Women Voters of Samford University has been the pride and joy of our LWVGB chapter this year. Watching the commitment, leadership, and energy of these college students as they have grown their organization, achieving official organizational status on campus and winning awards, has given us all hope for the future of our work and our democracy. They hosted a nonpartisan debate on campus between the college democrats and college republicans. They won Organization of the Week in October and during the 2023 Campus Organization Awards, they were awarded the Community Connections Award and the Student Organization Leader of the Year Award for Jada Hunter, their Founder and President! Continued thanks go out to board member, Ellen Buckner, for her leadership as faculty advisor for this group.

MEMBER GATHERINGS

LWVGB Board began trying to move a few things off zoom this year and give our members the opportunity to reconnect. We held a fun gathering at a new book store in Birmingham called Thank You Books where we did voter registration and enjoyed refreshments with the wonderful bookstore staff and patrons. We brought back our annual holiday gathering in December hosted at a The Clubhouse on Highland and we celebrated the 103rd birthday of the LWV at one of our favorite bars, The Lumbar. Each of these events saw long-time members and new members coming together to build relationships and celebrate the work of the League.

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

In 2022 our long-time dedicated treasurer, Leslie O'Neil, resigned her post. We have had a hard time filling her shoes but we are moving along. Our financial state remains strong and our membership levels are strong and growing! We have also in the midst of all of the other work continued to put our newsletter The Voter roughly quarterly thanks to the hard work of board secretary, Judy Jones, Jean Johnson and our fabulous volunteer, Kelly Marshall!

Board members have engaged in several speaking engagements over the year with local clubs including Zonta International, HIVE/MAD zoom lunch talks and the Alabama Rivers Alliance Water is Life zoom talks. Our board president also moderated several of the LWVAL's Environmental Education Series programs.

Last but not least, we agreed to host the state convention this year in Birmingham and we have been blessed with the hard of board member Scottie McLaney heading up all of the logistics with location, lodging and catering.

It has truly been a wonderful year and we look forward to our continued work as we transition into the next year!

-- Cindy Lowry, President

In Memoriam

Rebecca “Becky” Faust Sylvester

1934 - 2022

Becky Sylvester was a leader and advocacy champion in the League of Women Voters. She was a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham and served as Co-president of the League of Women Voters of Alabama from 2003 to 2005 and President from 2005 to 2006. Becky’s vast knowledge of good and effective League practice at local, state (in Florida, Maryland, Arizona, and California as well as Alabama), and national levels made her a mentor to many in the League. Becky observed the Alabama legislature and testified for League positions before committees and directly with the lawmakers. To inform and rally public support for the League, she frequently gave media interviews and wrote effective opinion editorials. She inspired member and public action with her fact-supported calls-to-action. She initiated a program whereby local leagues interviewed legislators prior to legislative sessions to determine their positions and gain insight on their support for or opposition to key legislation. This information was vital to planning LWVAL advocacy focus and action during the session.



The League of Women Voters of Alabama has initiated the Wright/Sylvester Citizen Advocacy Award to honor Rebecca “Becky” Sylvester for her outstanding leadership and service to our organization. She will long be remembered and missed by many in the League. Becky passed away in Homewood, Alabama on September 11, 2022. Read more about Becky at:

<https://obits.al.com/us/obituaries/birmingham/name/gladys-sylvester-obituary?id=36478264>

Andrea Pearson Pennington

1944 - 2023

Andrea Pennington, a past president of the League of Women Voters of Mobile, died suddenly in Birmingham on March 11, 2023. She and her husband, Al, had recently moved to Birmingham, and she was a member of the LWV of Greater Birmingham at the time of her passing.

Andrea graduated from the University of Alabama Law School, and she and her husband started their law partnership in Mobile in 1974. She later became Assistant District Attorney and then Referee in Juvenile Court where she served for 31 years. Her profession was also her vocation, and she believed strongly in the potential of every child that came to her courtroom.

She was a member of the Community Board of the Junior League of Mobile, Volunteer Mobile, and a founding member of the Old Dauphin Way Association, as well as an avid tennis player throughout her life. She was a member of the Mobile Bar Association and the Alabama Bar Association for 47 years. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, and five grandchildren. Read more about Andrea at:

<https://obits.al.com/us/obituaries/mobile/name/andrea-pennington-obituary?id=50379182>





THE LEAGUE ONLINE

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