

Recommended bylaws amendments for consideration at the  
May 24, 2023 LWVPDX Annual Membership Meeting  
(All revisions are highlighted. Additions are in bold and underlined. Deletions are shown with  
strikeouts.)

**BYLAWS OF THE  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PORTLAND, OREGON**

**ARTICLE IV**  
Board of Directors

**Section 4. Powers and Duties**

B. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President(s), the Vice Presidents, the Secretary, **and** the Treasurer. ~~and a member of the Communications Team.~~

**REASON FOR THIS AMENDMENT:** There is no longer a good reason for requiring the *Voter* Editor or another member of the Communications Team to meet with the Executive Committee. When the *Voter* was printed and bulk mailed to all members, the *Voter* editor needed to discuss its contents with the LWVPDX officers as early as possible. Making sure the *Voter* includes the most up-to-date information is easy now that the *Voter* is sent electronically and reviewed by the President the day before it is sent. In addition, members of the Communications Team may be notified by email, text, phone or video call about any urgent information they need to send to members or the public.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
Program

**Section 2. Program.** The Program of the Portland League shall consist of concerted study of chosen local public policy issues and action to implement the Principles, using LWVUS, LWVOR and LWVPDX positions adopted after study **or concurrence**. The Portland League may take action in the public interest on local governmental ballot measures and policies in conformity with the Principles of the LWVUS.

**Section 3. Action by the Annual Membership Meeting.** The Annual Membership Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

A. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Membership Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program;

B. The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Membership Meeting;

**C. Any member who plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a Portland League position by concurrence with a position statement of another League or Leagues shall submit the recommendation to the LWVPDX board as specified in Section 3A of this Article. Any member, group of members, or the LWVPDX board, that plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a Portland League position by concurrence with a position statement of another League or Leagues shall send the proposed position statement, background information, including pros and cons on the issue, and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement, to all Portland League members at least a month before the Annual Membership Meeting. Adoption of a concurrence requires a 2/3 vote.**

**D. With the exception of the two-thirds vote required to adopt a position by concurrence, a A** majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Membership Meeting shall be required for adoption of **the other** subjects in the proposed program as presented to the Annual Membership Meeting by the Board of Directors;

**DE.** Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Membership Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Membership Meeting provided that:

1. The Annual Membership Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote, and
2. The Annual Membership Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.

**EF.** In the case of altered conditions during the year, a change in the adopted Program (i.e., to add, drop or modify an adopted study or an approved position) may be made provided that:

1. Information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a board meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and voted upon, and the general membership has had an opportunity to respond.
2. At the next Annual Membership Meeting, members may ratify or modify the Board's decision.

**REASONS FOR THESE AMENDMENTS:** The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Oregon allow adoption of advocacy positions by concurrence with the position of another League that has studied the issues. When a local position is inadequate to address current issues and there are neither enough volunteers nor time to complete a study, the Portland League also should have the option to adopt another League's carefully researched position by concurrence. By adding "or concurrence" in Section 2, we clarify that LWVPDX can use positions adopted after concurrence as well as after study. In Section 3, we are providing the steps necessary for the LWVPDX to adopt a position by concurrence. This amendment copies the language in the LWVOR and LWVUS Bylaws. The LWVOR and LWVUS language provides assurance that the reasons for adopting the position by concurrence will be carefully considered and explained by the proposers. Because a new subsection C has been inserted, the following subsections become D, E and F. The new subsection D includes the two-thirds vote required for concurrence along with the majority votes required for other subjects in the proposed program.

**ARTICLE IX**  
Financial Administration

**Section 5. *Endowment Fund Committee.*** Third paragraph.

The Endowment Fund may receive non-tax-deductible donations in the form of 1) donor-designated contributions and bequests, 2) undesignated bequests, and 3) other contributions designated by the Board. The **primary** investment objective of the Endowment Fund is ~~to retain and, when possible, to increase the value of the fund, while at the same time producing~~**so that** a reasonable return for **annual** distribution **can be accomplished**. Therefore, the Fund will be invested by the Endowment Fund Committee with long-term growth and total return as the highest priorities. Endowment Fund moneys will not be co-mingled with the League's general operating funds. ~~In addition, t~~The Endowment Fund Committee **will take whatever actions are necessary** to maintain a fund value of at least the amount of principal that was ~~the originally donated amount~~**contributed**. **The Committee acknowledges the continuing loss of purchasing value of the Fund and will strive as a secondary objective to sustain and increase purchasing power of the Fund, by adjusting the annual distribution rate percentage set annually in January each year.**

**REASONS FOR THESE AMENDMENTS:** Endowment Committee Chair, Phil Thor's proposed wording changes are to clearly establish increasing the value of the fund as the committee's primary objective, but to allow the committee to strive toward maintaining purchasing power as a secondary objective, through adjusting of the annual distribution percentage.

**The *Endowment Fund Guidelines* quote Article IX, Section 5, Endowment Fund, and must also be amended by a vote of the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting, with the same amendments that the membership adopts for the Bylaws.**