

Information for members regarding 501c consolidation

On April 1, 2024, by a vote of 10 to 4, the League of Women Voters of Portland Board of Directors voted to accept the recommendation of our 501c committee, reorganize our Portland League structure, and consolidate our activities, including administration and membership, into one 501(c)(3) organization and maintain an inactive (or dormant) 501(c)(4) entity to hold the Endowment Fund in the event that future conditions warrant lobbying expenditures in excess of what our 501(c)(3) can spend. The 501c committee conducted thorough research on 501c organizations throughout our 2023-24 year. Members are encouraged to read the committee's full report.

This change will require bylaw changes, which require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the membership. The plan is to prepare the necessary bylaw changes once members agree to the concept of the change and have the membership vote on the bylaw changes in May 2025.

Four members of our Board who did not agree with the committee's recommendation will propose an alternative and plan to ask members at this Annual Meeting to support their proposal, rather than the Board's motion. Given the time constraints of our Annual Meeting, the complexity of the issue, and the constraints of parliamentary procedure, the Board decided on May 6 to postpone a member vote on the 501c matter, in order to allow more time for members to discuss and understand these differing plans for LWVPDX's nonprofit status.

We'll provide an introduction and Q&A today, with discussion in Discussion Units and a member vote by email this summer or fall.

Introduction to 501c and LWVPDX in 30 minutes

1. What we have now - Carolyn Buppert, President
2. Board's plan for consolidation - Pamela Clark, 501c Committee Chair
3. Alternative - Debbie Aiona, Action Chair
4. Q&A