

**BYLAWS**  
**of the**  
**League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**

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***ARTICLE I Name***

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (LWVCM). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

***ARTICLE II Purposes and Policy***

**Section 1. Purposes.** The purposes of the LWVCM shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

*LWVCM, which is organized under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, shall operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and in a manner consistent with Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, LWVCM shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of LWVCM shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.*

**Section 2. Policy.** The LWVCM may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support nor oppose any political party or candidates.

*Section 3. Office. The office and location of LWVCM shall be in such a place in Mecklenburg County, NC as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors.*

***ARTICLE III Membership***

**Section.1. How Composed.** The membership of the LWVCM shall be composed of voting members and associate members. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

**Section 2. Types of Membership.**

- a) Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVCM shall be voting members of the local League, LWVNC and the LWVUS.

(1) Individuals who live within the LWVCM area may join LWVCM or any other local League.

(2) Those who reside outside the LWVCM area may join LWVCM, join another local League, or become state members-at-large.

(3) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

**b) Associate members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members. They are not eligible to vote on LWVCM officers, budget or program at the Annual Meeting or vote on League consensus or concurrence issues. In all other League activities Associate Members may participate as regular members. Persons under 18 may be admitted as Associate Members.

## ***ARTICLE IV Officers***

**Section 1. Selection, Qualification and Term.** The officers of the LWVCM shall be a president (or co-presidents or a management team); a first vice president, a second vice president; a secretary and a treasurer. However, when there are co-presidents or a management team, a second vice president shall not be required. They shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The president, the first vice president and the secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The second vice president and the treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Board may elect new members to fill vacancies for unexpired terms of all offices.

**Section 2. The President.** The term president shall refer to the president, a co-president or any member of the management team as appropriate to the circumstances. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The president, in place of the treasurer, may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The president shall have authority to supervise activities and manage the organization and to perform other duties as designated by the Board.

**Section 3. The Vice Presidents.** Each vice president shall perform such duties as the president and Board may designate.

**Section 4. The Secretary.** The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to this office.

**Section 5. The Treasurer.** The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of LWVCM funds, shall deposit them in a timely manner in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall make disbursements the same only upon order of the Board. The treasurer shall present statements to the Board at its regular meetings and a ~~annual~~ financial report at the Annual Meeting.

## ***ARTICLE V Board of Directors***

**Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.** The Board of Directors shall consist of officers of the League, six elected directors, and not more than six appointed directors. One-half of elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members 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 appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

**Section 2. Qualifications.** No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the LWVCM.

**Section 3. Vacancies.** In the event of the absence, disability, resignation, death or disqualification of the president, the first vice president shall assume all duties of the president and shall serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which time a regular election shall be held to fill the post. Any other vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term of any office. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

**Section 4. Powers and Duties.** The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such committees as it may deem necessary.

**Section 5. Meetings.** There shall be at least nine 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 written request of five members of the Board. The Board at its discretion may arrange to conduct its meetings by telephone conferencing, video conferencing, and email, provided that all members of the Board have access to the electronic media used.

**Section 6. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Any one or more members of the Board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, as outlined in section 5, above, allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

## ***ARTICLE VI Financial Administration***

**Section 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVCM shall commence on the first day of July of each year.

**Section 2. Dues**

- a) Dues shall be set at each annual meeting, and shall be payable on the first day of July.

- b) Dues of new members may be pro-rated for the first year at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- c) Life memberships may be granted to any voting member of the League of Women Voters who attains 50 years as a member of the LWVUS. No further dues will be collected and all privileges will be retained as a voting member.
- d) Household membership dues shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors..
- e) The Board at its discretion may reduce dues for youth or members requesting assistance.

**Section 3. Budget.** A budget for the next year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

**Section 4. Budget Committee.** A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the next year. The budget approved by the Board of Directors shall be sent to all members at least one month before the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall serve as an ex officio member of the Budget Committee.

*Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of LWVCM for any reason, all money and securities which may at the time be owned or under the absolute control of LWVCM shall be distributed at the discretion of the board to the Citizen Education Foundation which is exempt under section 501(c)(3) after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met; or if this organization is not in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to the LWVUS Ed Fund which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.*

## **ARTICLE VII Meetings**

**Section 1. Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least four meetings for members each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting shall be held between April and June, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors.

- a) The Annual Meeting shall:
  - 1) Adopt a local program for the next year;
  - 2) Elect officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee.
  - 3) Adopt a budget; and
  - 4) Transact such other business as may properly come before it.
- b) Ten percent (10%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
- c) Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

## ***ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections***

**Section 1. Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, three non-Board members and two members of the Board. The chairman and two members shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Two other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Report of the 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 at least one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. After the report of the Nominating Committee is presented to the annual Meeting, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

**Section 3. Elections.** The election shall be by ballot; however if there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote shall constitute election.

## ***ARTICLE IX Program***

**Section 1. Principles and Authorization.** The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of a Program.

**Section 2. Program.** The Program of the LWVCM shall consist of Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities as hereafter defined:

- a) The Current Agenda shall consist of such current local government issues as the Board or membership shall choose for concerted action.
- b) The Continuing Responsibilities shall consist of those positions on local governmental issues to which the LWVCM has given previous attention and on which it may continue to act.

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

- a) All program items that come before the Annual Meeting must be considered by the Board prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b) The Proposed Program recommended by the Board shall be sent to all members at least one month before the Annual Meeting.
- c) A majority vote of members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the Proposed Program recommended by the Board.

- d) Recommendations for Program submitted by members prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that:
- 1) The Annual Meeting may consider a non-recommended item upon a majority vote, and
  - 2) The Annual Meeting shall adopt a non-recommended item by a 2/3 vote.
- e) A change in the adopted Program may be made provided that information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and voted upon.

**Section 4. Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

### ***ARTICLE X National Convention, State Convention and Council***

**Section 1. National Convention.** The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date of which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the LWVCM under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

**Section 2. State Convention.** The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted to the LWVCM under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVNC.

**Section 3. State Council.** The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that Council in the number allotted to the LWVCM under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVNC.

### ***ARTICLE XI 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 Amendments and Adoption***

**Section 1. Amendments.** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

**Section 2. Adoption.** The bylaws above were adopted as amended at the LWVCM Annual Meeting of *June 1, 2017*.