



League of Women Voters of Newton 2021 Annual Workbook

**Annual Meeting
June 13, 2021
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Virtual

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwodO2opj4tHNfTkHxSyUtl-i_pq0KEiL7s

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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League of Women Voters of Newton
2021 Annual Meeting
June 13, 4:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business Meeting

4:00 PM

Call to Order	M. Johnson
Appointment of Parliamentarian	M. Johnson
Vote to Approve Proposed Annual Meeting Rules	M. Johnson
Report of the Committee to Approve 2020 Minutes	P. Kirschner & J. Lovett
Appointment of Committee to Approve 2021 Minutes	M. Johnson
Scholarship Winners	E. Grody
Jane Leighton Award	F. Dweck
Presidents' Report	M. Johnson
Treasurer's Report	A. Kozinetz
Handbook & Position Statements Update	F. Dweck
Presentation & Adoption of Program	M. Johnson
Adoption of Revised Bylaws	F. Dweck
Presentation & Adoption of 2021-2022 Budget	H. Johnson/A. Kozinetz
Nominating Committee Report	L. Green
Election of Officers and Directors	M. Johnson
Member Direction to the Board	All

Adjournment

6:00 PM

Proposed rules for Annual Meeting: During debate on a motion, no member may speak more than once to that motion until all others who wish to speak have done so. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.

PROPOSED POSITION STATEMENT MODIFICATIONS

Recommendations to the 2021 Annual Meeting for Modifications to LWVN Positions

After a review of the current LWVN Positions, research into LWVMA positions and current practice in the City of Newton, and discussions regarding the intent and purpose of the Positions, upon a unanimous vote of the Board at its last regular meeting, the Board recommends the following modifications be made to the LWVN Positions:

It is recommended that certain text modifications be made to either update the language to reflect current standards and practices or clarify our position, or to delete certain provisions in instances where objectives have already been achieved or priorities have changed.

Some of the more substantive changes being recommended include:

1. Environmental Quality: delete notion that recycling should be voluntary as we currently have municipal recycling collection
2. Housing: add the word “affordable” to better define objectives for low- and moderate-income housing
3. Public Education: add support for attention to the health and safety of school buildings
4. Child Care: delete support for a child care coordinator as this function is no longer needed
5. Public Health: expand support of anti-smoking programs to support for substance abuse and addiction awareness programs
6. Library Services: delete requirement that priority be given to acquisition and delivery of books
7. Library Services: delete support for the branch library system

It is further recommended that the following Positions be added:

1. Environmental Quality: support of Newton Power Choice
2. Environmental Quality: support for the City’s Climate Action Plan

PROPOSED PROGRAM 2021-2022

(Issues for Study and Action)

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends adoption of the following Program for 2021-2022:

- All positions approved by the membership at the June 2021 Annual Meeting and listed on www.lwvnewton.org
- LWVN members are encouraged, through its board, to make our collective voices heard by advocating for our local legislative priorities and important issues of public policy as [citizen lobbyists](#).

Actions & Priorities in support of our position statements

- 1. CPA: Review CPA (Community Preservation Act) applications.** It is our intent to continue a focus on CPA proposals and establish a flexible and consistent methodology in how we accomplish this goal. In addition, the League will review how CPA funds are being utilized by the city in relation to the purpose and intent of the Community Preservation Act.
- 2. [Observer Corps](#):** An essential function of the LWVN is to identify members who will monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community/state and advise the Board of opportunities for action based on League positions.
- 3. Municipal Finance (chairperson needed):**
 - A. Through observation and review of documentation, take steps to bring transparency to the municipal budget process to show how the City is obtaining, spending, and investing funds.
 - B. Encourage citizen participation by educating the community about how the Executive and Legislative branches set priorities and how the decision-making model impacts budget decisions.
 - C. Engage members and inform the Board on issues related to LWVN municipal finance positions.
- 4. Education:**
 - A. Build on the successful efforts of our 2020 Civics Challenge by organizing and promoting community-wide civics challenges annually. The goals of the civics challenges are to foster a greater understanding of government, increase voter participation and engagement, and build community on a non-partisan basis.
 - B. Explore the possibility of a Civics Challenge oriented around the secondary schools which would have the added benefit of educating our younger citizens about their civic responsibilities, preparing them for their roles as future voters, and encouraging greater civic engagement.
 - C. Engage members and inform the Board on local, state and national education positions related to goals of the League.
- 5. Environmental Issues and Transportation:**
 - A. Support reducing vehicle miles traveled by advocacy for transit-oriented development, improvements in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and in public transit.
 - B. Support reducing pollution from transportation.
 - C. Support transition to sustainable energy, i.e., minimizing reliance on fossil fuels, demanding National Grid detect and repair gas leaks, insulating more buildings, and mandating electrification of new buildings.
 - D. Educate and update our community on issues related to trash removal, recycling, composting and water conservation.
 - E. Lobby for environmental legislation with other local Leagues and community organizations.
 - F. Hold educational forums on environmental and transportation issues.

6. Elections & Voters Service:

- A. Work to ensure transparency regarding the work of the Election Commission through the implementation of our Observer Corps.
- B. Continue, as much as possible, efforts to register new voters who are representative of the city's diverse socio-economic and racial populations through attendance at various locations around Newton, including NHA and other housing developments, the Farmer's Markets, Food Pantries, Village Days, high school and college events etc.
- C. Create opportunities to help Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other underrepresented members of our community to engage in issues and advocacy at local, state, and national levels, e.g., mail-in voting, equal access to all voters, and ranked choice voting.
- D. Organize and manage forums for contested municipal offices in the 2021 election. We will partner with NewTV to continue updating our approach and incorporate technology into the format.
- E. Continue to recognize and celebrate the work of Newton's poll workers after each election.

7. Land Use and Housing:

- A. Champion local zoning reform in harmony with established local, state, and national League Fair Housing positions and criteria.
- B. Work with city officials to ensure transparency and effectiveness relative to the establishment and implementation of Newton's Inclusionary Zoning lotteries to ensure that the disadvantaged communities have equal access to affordable housing.
- C. Stay informed of local land use and housing proposals, be prepared to make comments, ask questions, support or oppose according to LWV positions.
- D. Examine and work with the state League to support state level housing and zoning legislation.
- E. Assess effectiveness and relevance of LWVN housing and land use positions.
- F. Advocate for policies and programs that meet basic human needs by supporting programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families, including policies that will provide a decent affordable home for low-moderate income residents, especially very low and extremely low income living in Newton and those who wish to live here.
- G. Advocate for federal, state and local public funding to develop housing for very low and extremely low-income families. The housing should include services which will enable the families over a period of years to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Those services should be provided by persons training in mentoring and counseling and should include, but not be limited to, increased access to health care, and childcare; access to transportation; basic or remedial education and job training; and financial literacy training.

8. Action Plan to encourage better understanding of racial justice issues:

- A. Encourage the continued education of our members on fundamental aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- B. Utilize and implement tools provided by the LWVUS DEI training modules and other applicable resources to ensure members understand and are committed to achieving racial equity.
- C. Assess our programming, and adjust as needed, to encourage and welcome the Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), and other marginalized populations in Newton to participate in all LWVN programs and activities.
- D. Work to create opportunities for meaningful partnerships with the Newton Coalition of Black Residents (NCBR), and any other organizations representing underrepresented members of our communities through inclusive engagement and community capacity-building.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Board of Directors and Nominating Committee for the 2021-2022 Year:

Officers

Marcia Johnson	President
Ellen Grody	Vice President
Judy Jaffe	Clerk
Andrea Kozinetz	Treasurer

Directors (10 seats)

1. Bonnie Carter
2. Frieda Dweck
3. Theresa Fitzpatrick
4. Rhanna Kidwell
5. Lois Levin
6. Karen Manning
7. Josephine McNeil
8. Lisa Mirabile
9. Linda Morrison
10. Sharyn Roberts

Nominating Committee Off Board Members

Sue Rosenbaum	Chair
Pat Acton	Member 1
Barbara Lietzke	Member 2

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LWVN Charter Commission

No action was taken by this committee in 2020-21. It has been removed as a priority issue for 2021-22.

Community Preservation Observation

Members: Marcia Johnson, Judy Jaffe, Jack Lovett, and Linda Morrison.

The committee members observe the City's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meetings and advise the LWVN Board on proposals before the CPC.

This year, the committee followed the CPA proposals below:

COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program: LWVN supported the emergency fund to assist Newton households which have been negatively impacted by the ongoing pandemic. (5/9/2020)

Grace Episcopal Church tower, Belfry, and Spire Restoration: Although LWVN does not have a position on historic preservation by which to advocate/oppose, we did respond to the pre-proposal with questions about the proposed funding to stabilize and restore the church tower. (7/12/2020)

Golda Meir House: LWVN supported the Golda Meir House second application for CPA funds towards the proposed expansion/new buildings. (8/12/2020)

Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Project: LWVN supported the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Project that will reconfigure the area between Lyons Field and the Mass Pike to improve the infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, and to increase greenspace in that part of the City. (9/14/2020)

Education

Members: Jennifer Abbott, Frieda Dweck, Karen Manning, co-chairs.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Education Committee was unable to hold a Civics Challenge this year. Our hopes are high, however, to be able to once again successfully hold this event in the late winter or spring of 2022.

Elections

No action was taken by this committee. Going forward and beginning in the 2021-22 year, this committee will be merged with the Voter Service Committee due to the overlap in roles and responsibilities.

Environmental Issues and Transportation

No action was taken by this committee.

Land Use and Housing

Members: Josephine McNeil (Chair) and Marcia Johnson.

One of the issues that the LWVN has been following is the city's [zoning redesign effort](#). To that end, we provided an educational opportunity with The League Presents program on [Zoning Redesign](#) with Councilor Deb Crossley, Chair of

the Zoning & Planning Committee. We collaborated with the Topic Meeting and MARCOM teams to co-sponsor and produce a topic meeting on [Zoning Reform](#) featuring Jay Walter, a Newton resident and experienced local architect.

We wrote letters of support for:

- The Golda Meir House's second application for CPA funds towards the proposed expansion/new buildings.
- Dunstan East, in West Newton, a comprehensive permit for the project pursuant to Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- The League of Women Voters of Newton (LWVN) wrote in support of the Mark Development proposal for modifications to its redevelopment of the Riverside MBTA station parking lot and Indigo Hotel.

We also provided educational material on the [West Newton Armory](#) project by having a League Presents conversation with members of Newton's Planning & Development Department: Amanda Berman, Director of Housing & Community Development, and Eamon Bencivengo, Housing Development Planner.

Lastly, we took a giant step forward by including two new priorities in our program plan:

- Prevent or reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families, including policies that will provide a decent affordable home for low-moderate income residents, especially very low and extremely low-income living in Newton and those who wish to live here.
- Advocate for federal, state and local public funding to develop housing for very low and extremely low-income families. The housing should include services which will enable the families over a period of years to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Those services should be provided by persons training in mentoring and counseling and should include, but not be limited to, increased access to health care, and childcare; access to transportation; basic or remedial education and job training; and financial literacy training.

The League Presents

Produced by Maureen Reilly Meagher & NewTV.

Facilitated by Marcia Johnson

[A Conversation with Councilor Deb Crossley on Zoning Redesign](#) August 31, 2020

[Voting in Newton During the Pandemic with David Olson, Clerk of Elections, City of Newton](#) October 5, 2020

[Vote Yes on Question 2 and Support Ranked Choice Voting](#) October 19, 2020

[A Conversation with Susan Albright, President of the Newton City Council](#) November 30, 2020

[The Evolution of Fun & Entertainment During the Pandemic with Jerry Reilly](#) December 22, 2020

[VOTE16 Newton](#) January 26, 2021

[Saying Thank You and Good-bye – A Conversation with Outgoing City Clerk David Olson](#) February 15, 2021

[The West Newton Armory Project](#) March 20, 2021

[The VOTES Act with State Senator Cynthia Creem](#) **April 9, 2021**

[The City's Budget Process with Councilor Rebecca Walker Grossman & Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo](#) May 10, 2021

A Conversation with Gloria Gavis, Board Chair Newton Community Pride June 3, 2021

Marketing and Communications

Members: **Jen Abbott, Frieda Dweck, Karen Manning, and Lisa Mirabile.**

This year, the MARCOM team looked closer at its messaging process and made a few changes to the way it delivers its news and information through emails, social media, and the website.

Messaging by Email:

- LWVN no longer sends out weekly emails. Instead, we have implemented a plan to use
 - timely stand-alone emails for Voters Service announcements, events, and topic meetings, to ensure more targeted messaging
 - monthly updates to keep members apprised of League Presents episodes, LWVN letters of support, and other news
 - an annual newsletter to be sent out each summer, with paper copies to be made available at various city venues
- We have been growing our email list of non-members. We use this list to send emails about upcoming events that are open to the broader community. Our hope is that the more people that attend our events, the more visibility we gain for LWVN and the work that it does and the greater the potential to bring in more members.

Messaging by Social Media: LWVN consistently uses Facebook and plans to augment use of other social media platforms to promote its events and its calls to action.

Website changes: Additional changes were made to the website to make it more user-friendly and provide more current and up-to-date information for anyone visiting the site, whether they are members or non-members visiting the website for voter information or information about the priorities of LWVN, LWVMA or LWVUS. Updates to the website will continue as needed.

MARCOM - Handbook Subcommittee

Members: Jen Abbott, Bonnie Carter, Frieda Dweck, Lisa Mirabile.

The LWVN Handbook has not been updated since 2017. The subcommittee was formed to review and update the Handbook.

With the approval of the Board, the updated Handbook was posted on the website in electronic form. Membership information is kept in a separate password-protected document, also on the website.

Membership

Members: Bonnie Carter (chair), Ellen Grody, Andrea Kozinetz, Lisa Mirabile and Sharyn Roberts.

In January of each year, we report the number of members we have to the LWVUS. This number is used to calculate the amount of money we pass along to LWVUS and LWVMA. It is called the per member payment (PMP). This year we reported 150 members. We have seen some attrition, and as of May 1, 2021, have received membership dues from 154 members. The good news is that we have welcomed 16 new members since last year's Annual Meeting. The bad news is that we have not received renewals from 32 members, despite repeated emails, USPS mailings and phone calls.

I would like to thank members of the team: Andrea Kozinetz for receiving and depositing checks, Ellen Grody for maintaining the membership database with LWVUS, Lisa Mirabile for sending renewal notices, Marcia Johnson for helping with the mailing, and Sharyn Roberts for recruiting new members and working on member retention.

Membership Type	Number
50 Years+	9
Champion	10
Household member (primary)	20
Household (second member)	13
Individual PAID	86
Life	1
Student	2
Supporting	11
Sustaining	8

Municipal Finance

Members: Meryl Kessler (chair) and Nora Murad.

The newly formed Municipal Finance Committee began the year by producing for the LWVN Board, in September, an FY21 Budget Overview of the City of Newton's approved appropriations budget. In addition to providing a general analysis of the major categories of the final \$501.7 million budget, the FY21 Budget Overview examined in detail the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the municipal budget, discussed the influence of the police budget debate, and identified long-term budgetary considerations and concerns. Significantly, the Overview concluded that "[e]ven before COVID-19's impact, the City recognized the threat of a looming long-term structural deficit" (p.9) and that "the COVID-19 pandemic layers additional uncertainty on the City's short- and medium-term financial picture." (p.10)

Additionally, throughout FY21, the Committee chair monitored meetings of the Newton City Council Finance Committee and, in December, welcomed Nora Murad to the committee. In February, the Committee began looking at the City's newly issued Long-Range Financial Plan, Five-Year Financial Forecast and Capital Improvement Plan. In April, the chair announced that she will be stepping down as she will running for office. She and the LWVN president discussed transition of the committee to new leadership.

Newton Citizens Committee on Energy

Membership: Stephen Grody

Progress Achieved: One year ago, Dr. Halina S. Brown, Chair of the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy (NCCE) with Deborah J. Crossley and Susan S. Albright, respectively Chairs of the City Council's Public Facilities and Zoning And Planning Committees, had seen to the creation of the first ever technologically and economically feasible plan to meet the IPCC targets in the City of Newton, and to incorporating an initial 5-Year tranche as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan of November 19, 2007. The implementation work had then begun as a highly-leveraged public-private collaboration – among the Executive, represented by City employees, the Council, represented by the NCCE, and community organizations, comprised of 350 Mass. Newton Mothers Out Front, and Green Newton – to accomplish much with the least possible budgetary impact on the City.

Then came the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 (the "novel Corona virus"). Cash, time, and everyone's attention budgets tightened as all priorities shifted in response.

And still that collaborative approach and public-private team accomplished much. Each item listed here was more preparatory than productive. Each insignificantly reduced the number of tons of greenhouse gas emissions, if at all. Yet

each put in place a significant and systemic underpinning for the years and work ahead, as called for in those 30-Year and 5-Year plans laid.

1. Establish an Upgraded City Web Presence for the CAP Implementation – a Communications Implementation Team designed and made a professional-grade “on ramp”, so to simplify access¹ to the multiplicity of climate action subjects of interest to citizens.
2. Establish the City as Publisher of Energy Use Metrics – The citizen accessible presentation of the Assessors’ Database was augmented² with green highlights and Home Energy Rating System (HERS[®]) ratings³ on parcels with buildings permitted since adopting the Green Communities program in 2010. While the 1,037 ratings accumulated is a small fraction of the ~24,000 parcels in the city, that publishing was first of its kind in Massachusetts. It affords a glimpse of the energy use transparency about which the NCCE wrote.
3. Launched a Made-To-Purpose Newton Energy Coach Service⁴ Staffed by Volunteers – NCCE Members made and staff this novel service for the benefit of Newton property owners. Expert citizen coaches and the City Energy Coach answer questions and provide 1:1 advice on the energy and climate impact implications of home improvement decisions. Notably, the board of Green Newton put its shoulder in behind the development team with funding at a pivotal moment. N.B.: Apart from Green Newton, NCCE developments have been Member-funded and enjoyed no financial or technical support from government.
4. Defined the Need for and Role of “Energy Coach” and Staffed with a New City Employee – NCCE worked with City staff to interview, select and on-board a newly-defined role and employee whose job includes continuously improving the implementations of the Climate Action Plan, helping citizens on climate and energy topics, and participating in the reporting to the City Council on results the Executive has achieved each year. The City Council and Mayor made employment-related funding available.
5. Forged a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Utilities – Striking a cooperative working relationship with Eversource and National Grid was part of an overall plan to establish a Green Leadership Collaborative (GLC) to work with owners of the largest buildings and collection of properties on climate actions. While COVID-19 responses have delayed launch for the GLC, Mayor Ruthanne Fuller sealed milestone agreements with those utilities to work together toward that end.
6. Started a Cycle of Reporting by the Executive to the Council on Climate Progress Achieved – Another first of its kind, representing a significant accomplishment by the City Executive, rounds out the year of Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementations. City staff presented the first report of the City’s achievements under the CAP to the February 17th meeting of the City Council’s Public Facilities Committee.

Several of those achievements come from on-going activities and operations. The number of people volunteering time, skill, and effort is large and continues to grow. Nevertheless, the attention of NCCE leadership is shifting forward to starting work on the next set of recommendations and achievements called for in the climate action plan.

Current Activities

Presently, the NCCE is pursuing passage of ordinances in its work with the City Council. Those ordinances seek to require disclosure, by property owners, of energy used on each parcel in City limits – e.g., private residences, commercial buildings, non-Newton Public School educational venues, etc. The NCCE is leveraging 7 years of “lessons learned” from required energy disclosure in the City of Cambridge⁵ as well as the City of Boston⁶. Recently, Boston has

¹ **Take Action!**, <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/sustainability-and-climate>

² Green highlighted Assessors’ database parcels on the MapGeo.io web service from Applied Geographics, Inc. (appgeo.com)
[https://newtonma.mapgeo.io/datasets/properties?latlng=42.34,-71.21&themes=\["1909cbaa-0d9f-4351-931e-9a333d372146"\]&zoom=16](https://newtonma.mapgeo.io/datasets/properties?latlng=42.34,-71.21&themes=[)

³ Definitions by RESNET[®], <https://www.resnet.us/>

⁴ NewtonEnergyCoach.org, <https://newtonenergycoach.org/>

⁵ Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO), City of Cambridge Massachusetts, 2014,

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/zoninganddevelopment/sustainablebldgs/buildingenergydisclosureordinance>

⁶ Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO), City of Boston, Massachusetts, 2013, <https://data.boston.gov/dataset/building-energy-reporting-and-disclosure-ordinance>

set out for a further goal of setting and enforcing building performance standards for larger properties, though its City Council has yet to vote on proposed extension to the BERDO ordinance.

The NCCE's Green Leadership Collaborative initiative expects to rely, in part, on passage of one such ordinance in Newton to similarly focus on large properties. A working plan calls for convening the first meeting of that group of owners during 2022.

A different ordinance and system, privately developed for Newton, aims to facilitate disclosure of the raw amounts of energy consumed and greenhouse gas emitted at residences, the responsibilities owners of those properties have to residents of the City, and the opportunities afforded by potential improvements to those buildings.

Because ordinances are needed, attention now turns to the City Council to enable further climate action progress planned for to be made, to one degree or another.

Scholarship

Members: Nickki Dawes, Theresa Fitzpatrick, Ellen Grody, Andrea Kozinetz, and Josephine McNeil.

The Scholarship Committee successfully awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who have plans to continue their education, whether that includes college, vocational school, or other education. Criteria to evaluate the applicants include:

- The student lives in/goes to school in Newton. This would include public & private school students, METCO students, and students who are home-schooled.
- In his/her life and schoolwork, the student holds core values that are in alignment with those of the League
- The student has been actively involved in Newton's civic life or has a strong interest in civic engagement.

The Scholarship Committee was formed at the instruction of the members of the League of Women Voters Newton in June 2019. Since then, the committee has been meeting regularly to determine the process for selecting the candidates, managing the application process, and advertising the scholarships.

The committee decided to make the application electronic and used Google forms for the application. Applications were also available in paper format. The committee spent a lot of time developing the application and the corresponding rubric to evaluate the applicants. The League received 17 applications from graduating seniors for the 2 scholarships. Each member of the committee read and evaluated all 17 applications to come up with the 2 winners.

A key partner and one of the reasons for the large number of applicant responses was the marketing insight and advertising help from the MARCOM group. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank Jennifer Abbott, Frieda Dweck, and Karen Manning. Their help was invaluable!

The Scholarship Committee also spent time determining how to make these scholarships self-funding. One way is to pilot a "Back to school" drive for funds each September. Another plan is to modify the online membership form in PayPal to capture a donation for scholarships. Other ideas may develop in the future. To track these contributions, the treasurer is going to keep a separate line item in the budget, so it will be easy to determine how much is available for scholarships.

Topic Meetings

Membership: Frieda Dweck

Despite having to hold all our topic meetings virtually this year, we were quite successful in offering topic meetings on a broad range of issues in a broad range of formats. With the help of all members of the Board, we learned how to

navigate the technical difficulties of holding a virtual event, and even managed to attract our largest audience of attendees, with over 300 people attending our “Representing the 4th” event.

The following is a brief summary of the topic meetings held this year. More information about each topic meeting, as well as recordings of some of the events and additional resources provided, can be found on the [LWVN Topic Meetings](#) website page.

On **October 20, 2020** (Tuesday, 7:00-8:30pm) LWVN joined together with Project Citizenship, The Philanthropy Connection, The Wellesley Centers for Women, and LWVMA to hold a forum on **Voting is Voice: Women’s Suffrage and Beyond**. A panel of accomplished women reflected on why elections, voting and civic engagement matter so much, considering both the success and shortcomings of the suffrage movement; the empowerment of new voters today; and what future work remains to ensure all citizens can and do exercise their voting rights.

On **November 17, 2020 (Tuesday, 6:30-8:00pm)**, LWVN joined the **Newton Free Library** and Families Organizing for Racial Justice for a presentation by author Richard Rothstein on his book, **The Color of Law, A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America**. Rothstein argued with exacting precision and fascinating insight how segregation in America is the byproduct of explicit government policies at the local, state and federal levels, and offered several concrete suggestions for how to address the housing and economic inequities caused by these policies.

On **November 19, 2020** (Thursday, 7:30-9:00pm), LWVN hosted Newton resident and experienced local architect, Jay Walter, who delivered an informed and comprehensive presentation on **Newton’s Zoning Reform** - how the City Council is proposing to change Newton’s Zoning Ordinance, how those changes differ from current zoning, and what effect those changes will have on our community.

On **January 10, 2021** (Sunday, 3:00-4:30pm), an intimate group of LWVN and community members participated in an interesting and lively discussion of the book **Factfulness**. *Factfulness* explains how our worldview has been distorted with the rise of new media, how ten common human instincts can prevent us from seeing the world factfully, and how we can learn to overcome these innate biases to help separate fact from fiction when forming our opinions and to see the world more positively.

On **February 22, 2021** (Monday, 7:00-8:00pm), over 70 people joined us for a roundtable discussion on the **Use and Preservation of Crystal Lake**, with the Crystal Lake Conservancy. The discussion included a presentation by the Conservancy of the environmental sustainability of the Lake, followed by a discussion of the work the conservancy has been doing to ensure that environmental sustainability, what environmental concerns remain to be addressed, and whether the use of the Lake for swimming, boating, fishing, and other recreational uses affect those environmental concerns.

On **March 10, 2021** (Tuesday, 7:00-8:30pm), over 300 people joined us for the webinar: **Representing the 4th: A Conversation with Barney Frank, Joe Kennedy III, and Jake Auchincloss**. Moderated by Newton resident and journalist Gail Spector, we were treated to an informative and entertaining conversation with the three most recent representatives to the 4th Congressional District, all Newtonites, on a wide range of topics, including their experiences as congressmen representing the 4th, the current state of politics, whether to eliminate the filibuster, and more.

On **May 25, 2021** (Tuesday, 7:30-8:30pm), we engaged the younger members of our community in a panel discussion: **Voices of the Next Generation: A Youth Panel on Civic Action**. The panel included seven civically active members of our younger community and the discussion, facilitated by Nickki Dawes, centered on the importance of getting our younger generation more civically active.

Voters Service

Members: Bonnie Carter, Marcia Johnson, and Sharyn Roberts.

We experienced a very different year from our usual very in-person presence in our Voters Service activities. The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to pivot by holding our events, forums, and other functions virtually. We all became very familiar with the formats of SKYPE, Google Meet, and of course Zoom (among others) to see each other on computer. We instituted “dry run” rehearsals a few days before our virtual events to make sure that everyone was comfortable with the format.

There were no voter registration tables at the Farmers Markets, no Village Days, school fairs, nor any other in-person city celebrations. LWVMA did not hold its yearly Day on the Hill because Beacon Hill was closed due to the pandemic. Yet, we still had a very full year of Voters Service continuing to be very visible without actually being physically there. We are grateful to Marcia Johnson, our LWVN President, for her effective leadership ensuring that we fulfilled our Voters Service obligations.

We advised Boston College on registering their students to vote as was pertinent in their home state or using their college address, applying for absentee ballots, differing states’ deadlines, what constitutes appropriate voter identification, and concern about retaining their grants or scholarships.

We were lucky in August to have two newly graduated students from Newton South High School “womaning” a table at the reconstituted Farmers Market. They were part of the youth coalition Students of MA-04 concentrating their efforts on the 4th Congressional District (CD4) Primary with fact sheets on how to vote, and information on each of the eleven candidates highlighting their qualifications with QR codes directly linking voters to each of those candidates’ campaign websites.

All during the summer, we collaborated with the local Leagues of Brookline, Needham, Sharon-Stoughton, and Wellesley to co-sponsor the 4th Congressional District Candidate Forum; and with Waltham and Watertown for the 10th Middlesex District Candidate Forum before the Primary Election on September 1st. There were eleven candidates for the CD4 and two for the 10th Middlesex. Jo-Ann Berry of LWV Acton moderated the CD4 Forum, and Courtney Rau Rogers of LWV Norwood moderated the 10th Middlesex. We are thankful to BIG (Brookline Interactive Group) and NewTV for hosting these candidate forums and allowing us via Zoom, YouTube, and Vimeo to record and then electronically share these forums with the public by distributing and sharing with other television stations in the respective districts until the Primary.

On Wednesday, September 30th, LWVN co-sponsored an information session on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) with the Newton Free Library. Since this was a ballot question that was turned down by a majority of the voters in the November 2020 election, we feel that this is an issue that definitely needs more voter education.

We did encourage the community to access the lwnewton.org website for excellent voting information as they made their plan to vote by early voting, voting by mail, or in-person voting. Also included on our website were the candidates’ forums for the contested races. Thank you to Lisa Mirabile and Frieda Dweck for constantly updating our website. The LWVUS website vote411.org was a further option to find out exactly what was on an individual’s ballot. It included a Voters Guide showing the specific races on which to vote, the candidates’ biographical information, campaign websites, and responses to questions asked by the League showing where the candidates stood on issues.

On Tuesday, December 8th, we again partnered with the local Leagues in the CD4, for a virtual “Meet Congressman-Elect Jake Auchincloss.” We were guided by LWVUS who stated that these meetings are essential for setting the tone for this incoming 117th Congress and clarifying League priorities. The goals for this legislative interview were to develop a strong two-way relationship for future advocacy; impress LWV’s legislative priorities upon the congress person; learn about their legislative priorities and how LWV can bolster them; and build a relationship that will help strengthen already existing relationships on Capitol Hill. The CD4 League Presidents took turns asking questions about support for the “For

the People Act” (HR1); restoring the “Voting Rights Act”; combating the climate crisis and environmental justice; eliminating systemic racism and addressing police brutality; immigration; gun safety; international relations; and COVID-19 economic relief.

Since we could not thank the poll workers in person at our usual December Thank You Supper at City Hall, we partnered with City Councilors Alicia Bowman, Deb Crossley, Andreae Downs, Andrea Kelley, and Alison Leary and created a Letter of Commendation for Newton Poll Workers, which was read out loud at a full session of the Newton City Council on Monday, December 7, 2020, by the above-mentioned councilors and with the blessing of City Council President Susan Albright.

We also partnered with Mayor Ruthanne Fuller’s office assisting in creating a proclamation from the Mayor’s Office thanking David Olson, our City Clerk, and his election staff for their outstanding work in overcoming all kinds of obstacles to give us a fair and free election in September and November. This proclamation was presented to David by the Mayor and read out to his whole staff on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. The timing of this date was important to the League because it was close to when the Electoral College would certify the national vote on December 14th.

On March 7th, the Voters Service Team met by Zoom with Josephine McNeil who was following up on her direction to the Board at the last LWVN Annual Meeting in June. Josephine was encouraging the Board to act more on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), not only with differing peoples of color but also with differing socio-economic backgrounds. After listening to Josephine, the Voters Service Team came to the conclusion that we (LWVN) need a “statement of values” that accomplishes three things: strengthens our DEI efforts; improves our branding; reflects on how we, as the League, influence people. We came up with a “to do list” that will guide our future activities.

We supported Frieda Dweck and her Topic Meeting Committee, who on March 9th, featured an informative and amusing discussion amongst the last three people to hold the office of Congressman from the 4th Congressional District (CD4); Barney Frank, Joseph Kennedy III, and Jake Auchincloss. The recording of this meeting can be found on our website.

Our President, Marcia Johnson, sent a letter to Representative John Lawn, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Election Laws to support House Bill H5111 that would extend the mail-in and early in-person voting for our Special Election on March 16th. This would ensure that Newton voters would feel safe voting in upcoming elections and possibly increase our voter turnout.

And speaking of the Special Election... on March 16th, the City of Newton held this election to fill two Councilor-at-Large vacancies; from Ward One, left open by the sudden death of Allan (Jay) Ciccone, Jr; and from Ward Two with the resignation of Jake Auchincloss, who is now our Congressman from District Four (CD4). The League worked with NewTV to present two candidates forums, held virtually and back-to-back, on Monday, February 15th. They were recorded and rebroadcast frequently on the NewTV Government Channel until March 16th. Jennifer Lynch of LWV Salem was the moderator for these five candidates.

Due to some extremely negative and disturbing campaign tactics for the Special Election, the activities of which were called out by both Attorney General Maura Healey and the Boston Globe, the LWVN Voters Service Committee under the leadership of President Marcia Johnson, felt duty bound to create and present a vision statement of civility to counter any future alarming behavior. This vision statement of civility will be read out loud, from here on, before all future Voters Service events.

Long Version

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

—League of Women Voters vision statement

To honor this vision and to protect the strength of our local democratic process, the LWV of Newton urges all residents involved in Newton’s electoral process, whether as a voter, supporter, organizer, or candidate, to...

- Encourage respect for candidates and voters in all that you say and do.
- Maintain a high-level of integrity and reliability in all campaign activities.
- Ensure that communications are relevant, truthful, and fact-based.

- Become educated on the issues that are important to Newton's residents.
- Be open to honest debate.
- Maintain civility as we focus on our shared interest in Newton's future.

As we encourage everyone to participate in our democracy, we likewise encourage all to show one another other courtesies and respect –when speaking, listening, online, and otherwise engaging--especially where there may be disagreement.

Short Version

Just as the League believes that everyone should have the right to vote, we also believe that everyone should have the right to voice their opinion with courtesy and respect and be listened to with the same courtesy and respect, even in disagreement.

On Wednesday, April 28th, we held a virtual “Don’t Just Stand There...Run” Campaign Workshop with 17 people signed up. Our panelists were Marcia Johnson, LWVN President as moderator; David Olson, former Newton City Clerk; Bridget Ray-Canada, Ward One School Committee member; Ted Hess-Mahan, former Ward Three City Councilor; and Greg Reibman, President of the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, and former Newton TAB Publisher. Before the workshop began, Marcia read to everyone our newly minted vision statement of civility.

The LWVN has been closely following Senator Cynthia Creem's filing and shepherding of the VOTES Act on Beacon Hill. It is a comprehensive election reform bill that will modernize our election registration system and increase voter participation. The bill includes making permanent the voting measures that were put in place temporarily to overcome voting concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic such as mail in voting and early voting. It goes even further to allow same day voter registration. Senator Creem was a recent guest describing this bill on our “The League Presents...” program. The link to this program can be found on our LWVN website.

Also under discussion is the possibility of allowing residents ages 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections. LWVN wrote a VOTE16 letter to the City Council and endorsed City Council docket item #494-20 with some of our City Councilors. We requested a Home Rule petition providing legal voting rights to these 16- and 17-year-old residents under the EMPOWER Bill HD1132/SD1949. And we are currently looking to the Leagues from the communities of Brookline, Cambridge, Concord, Lowell, and Northampton, who may have supported this initiative, so stay tuned.

We've been attending webinars on “People Powered Fair Maps: Redistricting in MA”. This redistricting occurs every ten years based on the results of our national census. This process has already started in some districts and is expected to continue through the fall. LWVN is planning to take part in this process.

Thank you to our very busy LWVN Marketing Committee (Jen Abbott, Frieda Dweck, Theresa Fitzpatrick, and Karen Manning), who with Lisa Mirabile and Marcia Johnson prepared an updated trifold for voters, oversaw both a LWVN “Vote” mask and a more generic LWV face mask as fundraisers. They also designed and distributed our own LWV VOTE lawn signs. Our MARCOM Team has also been instrumental in making sure that our Voters Service activities were covered by news media (i.e., Boston Globe MetroWest, Newton Patch, and Newton TAB), and social media in press releases, on Facebook, our LWVN website, and other community websites (Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce, Village 14, etc.).

All throughout the year, we attended virtual sessions being held on different facets of Voters Service by LWVMA, LWVUS, the Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Boston University School of Public Health, Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center, NPR, PBS, American Promise, Newton Inspires, Senator Cynthia Creem, Yes on 2 Ranked Choice Voting, Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, Zoom.US, National Voter Registration, Common Cause, Suffrage100MA, non-partisan GOTV, Safe Elections Network, Nonprofit Vote, and other nonpartisan, collaborative groups.

The Voters Service Team is pleased to announce the addition of Linda Green to our group. Linda has agreed to once again, as she did a few years ago, manage and publish both our Voters Guides for the preliminary and general municipal

elections this year. Linda will encourage us to formulate, over the next couple of months, a few good League questions that will be asked of all the candidates. The Voters Service Team will then present these questions to our Board for editing and approval. Linda will then send these questions out to all the candidates giving them enough time to respond online before the preliminary election in September and the general election in November. Linda will be backed by Lisa Mirabile who has agreed to iron out any technical online difficulties.

LOCAL ACTION LOG

June 11, 2020 - Letter in support of Dunstan East, in West Newton, a comprehensive permit for the project pursuant to Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

August 12, 2020 – Letter in support of the Golda Meir House’s second application for CPA funds towards the proposed expansion/new buildings.

August 31, 2020 – A letter to the Mayor and Police Task Force complimenting the task force in how they handled a delicate situation along with process recommendations.

September 14, 2020 – Letter to endorse the CPC proposal for the Commonwealth Ave Carriageway project that will reconfigure the area between Lyons Field and the Mass Pike.

December 7, 2020 – A letter requesting the Joint Committee on Election Laws support Governor Baker’s request, on the City’s behalf, to allow Newton to use mail-in and early in-person voting for the special election to fill two vacant city council seats.

February 22, 2021 – Letter in support of City Council docket item #494-20 Request for a Home Rule Petition to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for residents aged 16 & 17 years old.

April 12, 2021 – Letter in support of Bike Newton’s petition for improvements in bicycle and pedestrian safety.

April 14, 2021 – Letter in support of funding a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the City’sFY’22 municipal budget.

May 7, 2021 – Letter in support of the revised Riverside project.

TREASURER'S REPORT

LWVN Treasurer's Report as of May 2021/Annual Meeting

Balances from Prior Report as of April 2020

Village Bank	Checking Account	9287
	Investment in Certificates of Deposit	10273 *
	Ending Balance	19560

Balances As of May 2021

Village Bank	Checking Account	11496
	Investment in Certificates of Deposit	10439 *
		21935

Difference from 2020(+) 2375

LWVN expected year end expenses:	
\$2,000	Scholarships
50	Misc. Annual Mtg.
100	Final Topic Mtg.

Balance League of Women Voters U. S. Ed. Fund April 2020		2120
	2020-2021 contributions (+)	1740
	2020-2021 withdrawals (-)	2648
	May 2021 Balance	2352

**CD opened with Village Bank, April 1998. 1.5% interest. Matures April 2023.*

990 Postcard filed with IRS (11.13.2020 for 2019)

Exempt from tax. Filed under LWVMA EIN dba. LWVN's gross receipts less than \$20,000.

A sincere thank you to LWVNewton members and friends who have been very generous this past year - so many "extra amounts" contributed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea I. Kozinetz

Treasurer

PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-2022

LWVN 2021-2022 Proposed Budget - 2021 Annual Meeting			
	YTD 2020-21 As of May-30- 2021	Budget 2020-21	2021-2022 Proposed Budget
INCOME			
<i>Dues</i>			
Individual memberships*	9,371.00	10,200.00	9,000.00
Secondary memberships	287.00	780.00	208.00
Contributions	750.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Dues	10,408.00	12,480.00	10,208.00
Annual Meeting	100.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Transfer from Ed Fund		0.00	2,136.00
Phonathon/Scharfman Grant	575.00	1,000.00	325.00
Fundraising	254.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
High School Scholarship Fund		2,000.00	2,000.00
Civics Challenge - Sponsor(s)		1,000.00	1,000.00
Interest Income	130.00	120.00	130.00
TOTAL INCOME	11,467.00	18,600.00	17,799.00
EXPENSES			
<i>Payments per Member</i>			
PMP - LWV US*	2,648.00	5,440.00	4,272.00
PMP - LWV MA	3,721.00	3,910.00	3,007.00
Subtotal PMP	6,369.00	9,350.00	7,279.00
<i>Fund Raising</i>			
Event	0.00	500.00	500.00
Phonathon	0.00	100.00	100.00
Subtotal Fund Raising	0.00	600.00	600.00
<i>Communications</i>			
Zoom	160.00	0.00	160.00
Vimeo	90.00	0.00	90.00
Postage		0.00	30.00
PO Box	140.00	140.00	140.00
Public Relations		0.00	300.00
Subtotal Communications	390.00	140.00	720.00
<i>Councils/Conventions</i>			
Council/Convention - LWV US	100.00	0.00	2,000.00
Council/Convention - LWV MA	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Subtotal US and MA Convention	100.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
<i>Board/Administration</i>			
Board Orientation		0.00	100.00
Membership	180.00	0.00	100.00
Adminstration	80.00	0.00	200.00
Training/workshops		0.00	0.00
Subtotal Board/Administration	260.00	0.00	400.00

LWVN 2021-2022 Proposed Budget - 2021 Annual Meeting			
	YTD 2020-21 As of May-30- 2021	Budget 2020-21	2021-2022 Proposed Budget
<u>Program</u>			
Meetings/Forums	60.00	750.00	750.00
Zoom Webinar Fees		0.00	300.00
<u>Subtotal Program</u>	60.00	750.00	1,050.00
Program Administration	0.00	500.00	250.00
Poll Workers Party	0.00	130.00	125.00
Holiday Party	0.00	250.00	250.00
Day on the Hill	0.00	200.00	150.00
Voters Service	0.00	850.00	100.00
Saturday Night at the Races	0.00	0.00	200.00
<u>Subtotal Program</u>	60.00	2,680.00	2,125.00
<u>Handbook</u>			
Handbook Printing	50.00	0.00	0.00
Handbook Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Subtotal Handbook Expenses</u>	50.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Annual Meeting</u>			
Annual Meeting Workbook Printing	0.00	100.00	100.00
Annual Meeting General Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
<u>Subtotal Annual Meeting Expenses</u>	0.00	100.00	1,100.00
<u>Miscellaneous Contributions/Dues</u>			
Annual dues / Newton-Needham Chamber	295.00	295.00	295.00
Annual dues payment to NewTV	100.00	100.00	100.00
Annual Contribution to LWVMA	150.00	250.00	250.00
Harvard/LWVNewton Archives	100.00	100.00	100.00
Highschool Scholarship		2,000.00	2,000.00
Mayor's Community Breakfast/Harmony Fund	100.00	225.00	225.00
Other non-profit contributions	350.00	0.00	300.00
<u>Subtotal Misc. Contribution Expenses</u>	1,095.00	2,970.00	3,270.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,324.00	16,840.00	17,494.00
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	3,143.00	1,760.00	305.00
Income reflects payments to LWVNewton and LWVUS Ed Fund.			
We use LWVUS Ed Fund to pay our Natl. PMP			

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISIONS

Bylaws Revisions

At the 2020 National Convention, amendments to the Article II and III of the LWWUS bylaws were adopted by the delegates. The first three articles of bylaws at all levels of the League should be essentially identical. So, any amendments to those articles need to be incorporated into our LWWN bylaws.

The amendments include the following changes:

1. Article II, Section 1. Purposes.

That provision now will read as follows: The purposes of the LWWUS are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation ["of citizens" has been deleted] in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

2. Article II, Section 2. Policies – is amended to include a new League policy committing to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
3. Article III, Section 2, Part A. Voting Members - is amended to include students in the list of types of memberships.
4. The updated bylaws have previously been approved by [unanimous vote of] the Board, and are appended to this workbook as Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

Bylaws League of Women Voters of Newton

Article I – Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Newton (hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as “LWVN”). This local league is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (“LWVUS”) and of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (“LWVMA”). (Collectively, the LWVUS, the LWVMA, and the LWVN are hereinafter referred to as the “League of Women Voters” or the “League”.)

Article II – Purpose and Policy

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

Section 2. Policy. The policies of the LWVN are as follows:

- (a) **Political Policy.** LWVN shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- (b) **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.** LWVN is fully committed to ensuring compliance, in principle and in practice, with LWVUS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVN shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

(a) **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVN shall be voting members of LWVN, LWVMA and LWVUS; (1) those who live within Newton may join LWVN or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of Newton may join LWVN or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for fifty (50) years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; and (4) those who were students, defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part-time with an accredited institution.

(b) **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVN shall be (1) a president or co-presidents (singularly or collectively hereinafter referred to as “President”), at the discretion of the Nominating Committee (as defined in Article VIII) and the membership; (2) one or more vice-presidents (singularly or collectively hereinafter referred to as “Vice-President”), at the discretion of the Nominating Committee and the membership; (3) a clerk (“Clerk”); and (4) a treasurer (“Treasurer”). In the event the Nominating Committee is unable to identify a person willing to fill the role of President and no nominations for such role are received from the floor at an annual meeting, all as in accordance with Article VIII herein, then the role of President shall be performed by a steering committee until such time as a President can be elected.

Section 2. Term of Office. The officers of the LWVN shall each be elected for terms of one year by the general membership at an annual meeting and shall take office immediately.

Section 3. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors. The President shall sign all contracts and other instruments when so directed by 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 usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and may perform such other duties as may be designated by the board of directors.

Section 4. The Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform such duties as the President and the board of directors may designate. In the event of the absence, disability or death of the President, the Vice-President, who shall be designated at the first meeting of the board of directors, shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until the next annual meeting. In the event that the Vice-President is unable to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall elect an officer, director, or member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

Section 5. The Clerk. The Clerk shall record and keep minutes of all business meetings of the LWVN and of all meetings of the board of directors. The Clerk may sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board of directors and shall perform all other duties as may be incident to the office. In the absence of the Clerk from any meeting of the membership or the board of directors, a temporary Clerk designated by the person presiding at the meeting shall record the minutes of the meeting.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the board of directors. The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board of directors at its regular meetings and an annual report at the annual meeting.

Article V – Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selections and Term of Office. The board of directors shall consist of (1) the officers of the LWVN, (2) no fewer than four and up to ten elected directors, each of whom shall be elected by the general membership at an annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified, and (3) up to ten appointed directors, each of whom shall be appointed from

time to time by the elected directors, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVN and shall serve for a term beginning with their appointment and ending at the conclusion of the next occurring 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 LWVN.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the board of directors other than that of the President may be filled until the next annual meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. A vacancy in the office of the presidency shall be filled in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 hereof.

Section 4. Absences, Resignation. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting of any member without a valid reason as determined by the President shall be deemed a resignation. An officer or director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board of directors. For purposes of this Article V, Section 4, notice given by email shall constitute written notice.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVN with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. The board of directors shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting, creating and designating such committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 6. Conduct of Business.

(a) **Regular meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board of directors annually.

(b) **Special meetings.** The President may call special meetings of the board of directors at any time, and the President shall call a special meeting of the board of directors upon the written request of one-third of the members of the board of directors. These meetings shall require at least twenty-four (24) hours notification to each member of the board. No action taken at any special board meeting shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to acknowledge receipt of notice of a special meeting, as long as that notice has been properly transmitted.

(c) **Presence Through Electronic Communication.** Directors and members may participate in a meeting of the board of directors by means of a conference telephone, any form of electronic communications equipment, and/or internet communication mechanisms, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

(d) **Electronic Business.** When the President deems it necessary to take action between meetings of the board of directors, the proposed action may be approved by electronic communication by a majority of the board of directors. At the next board meeting, the President shall read the proposed action and the results of the vote into the minutes; no further action will be required by the board of directors.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors then in office shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI – Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

Section 1. Composition. The executive committee shall consist of the officers with the President serving as chairperson. The President may invite to a meeting of the executive committee any person whose presence may be necessary or helpful in carrying out the specific business for which the meeting is called.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the board of directors from time to time and shall report to the board of directors on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board.

Section 3. Meetings. The executive committee shall meet at the discretion of the President.

Article VII – Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVN shall commence on the first day of July each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be payable when joining the LWVN and, thereafter, annually as determined by the board of directors. Any member who fails to pay dues within sixty (60) days, due notice having been given, shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit a budget for the ensuing fiscal year to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall provide for support of the LWVUS, the LWVMA, as well as for the LWVN.

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 ensuing fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting. The Treasurer shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Section 5. Financial Review. The books of the organization shall be reviewed prior to each annual meeting by a qualified person or persons who shall be appointed by the board of directors.

Section 6: Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution, for any cause, of the LWVN, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVN, shall be paid to the LWVMA. All other property of whatever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVN, shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then board of directors of the LWVN.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Membership

Section 1. Meetings of the Membership. There shall be at least three meetings of the membership each year, one of which may be the annual meeting. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the Membership. A special meeting of the membership shall be called by the Clerk upon the written request of the lesser of either; twenty (20) voting members, or fifteen percent (15%) of the voting members.

Section 3. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between May 15 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- adopt a local program for the ensuing fiscal year;
- elect officers and directors to the board of directors;
- elect the chair and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee;
- adopt a budget; and
- transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 4. Quorum. For the purposes of voting, ten percent (10%) of the members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the membership.

Section 5. Notice. Written notice of any meeting of the membership shall be given ten (10) days in advance. Written notice shall be satisfied by means of regular mail or by electronic communication.

Section 6. Presence Through Electronic Communication. Members may participate in a meeting of the membership by means of a conference telephone, any form of electronic communications equipment, and/or internet communication mechanisms, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the annual meeting shall be held in-person unless the board of directors determines, in its discretion, that an in-person meeting is not feasible. Participation by means of the electronic communication described above shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 7. Absentee or Proxy Voting. Absentee or proxy voting, whether for a meeting held in-person or through electronic means, shall not be permitted.

Article IX – Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee (“Nominating Committee”) shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the board of directors, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee.

Following the annual meeting, the board of directors shall appoint two of its members to the Nominating Committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board of directors.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations for directors and officers from the general membership, as well as develop its own list of potential nominees. The report of the Nominating Committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors as well as the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the members two weeks prior to the annual meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the members at the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. Election. Election to positions filled by vote of the membership at the annual meeting shall be by secret ballot, except that if there is only one nominee for an office, it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute election.

Article X – Principles and Program

Section 1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League of Women Voters as a whole (hereinafter the “Principles”). They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local programming.

Section 2. Program. The local program of the LWVN shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action (“Local Program”).

Section 3. Procedure. The Local Program shall be adopted according to the following procedures:

- the board of directors shall consider recommendations submitted by the voting members and shall formulate a proposed local program;
- the proposed local program shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting;
- a majority vote of the members attending the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of items in the proposed local program as presented at the annual meeting by the board of directors;
- recommendations for local programming submitted by voting members but not recommended by the board of directors may be considered by the members at the annual meeting, provided that the members at the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption.

Section 4. Program Changes. Changes in the Local Program in the case of altered conditions may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general meeting of the members at which any change is to be discussed; and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding general meeting of the membership where, in the case of a board-recommended change, a majority vote is obtained, or, in the case of a non-board recommended change, a two-thirds vote is obtained.

Section 5. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVN only when authorized to do so by the board of directors. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVN, the LWVMA, and the LWVUS.

Article XI – National Convention, State Convention and Council

Section 1. National Convention. The board of directors shall select delegates to national convention in the number allotted the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. State Convention. The board of directors shall select delegates to state convention in the number allotted the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVMA.

Section 3. State Council. The board of directors shall select delegates to state council in the number allotted to the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVMA.

Article XII– Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of *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 XIII - Notice

Section 1. Written Notice. Whenever written notice is required to be provided by these bylaws, such notice shall be deemed to have been satisfied by the giving of such notice by regular mail or any form of electronic communication.

Article XIV – Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members attending the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Adopted by the League of Women Voters of Newton in May, 1936

Bylaws Restated, Amended, and Approved: May 7, 2009

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Article IV, Section 1): May 27, 2010

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Articles I, II, III): May 30, 2012

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Article VII): May 22, 2014

Bylaws Restated, Amended and Approved: June 14, 2020

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Articles II, III) June 14, 2021

APPENDIX B

Proposed 2021 LWVN Positions

City Government

Charter

Support of an adequately paid mayor who shall, by Charter provision, devote full time to his or her office.

Support of a four-year term for Mayor.

Support a strong mayoral form of government (*adopted 2010*).

Support the practice of allowing the Mayor's appointment of department heads and members of multiple member bodies to become effective unless rejected by the City Council.

Support the present practice of allowing the Mayor to dismiss department heads without the approval of the City Council.

Support the position of Citizen Assistance Officer (*amended 2021*)

Support of a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor unless the vacancy occurs within the last nine months of his or her term.

Support of a nine-member School Committee, with eight members elected at large, one to reside in each ward, with the Mayor serving *ex-officio*.

Support abolishing School Committee term limits (*adopted 2010*).

Support of four-year staggered terms for School Committee and City Council (*amended 2010*).

Support of special elections to fill vacancies in the City Council and School Committee unless the vacancy occurs in the last nine months of the term, in which case it should be left vacant.

Support the implementation and regular updating of the Newton Comprehensive Plan (*amended 2010*).

Support the adoption of a Capital Improvement Program by resolution of the City Council.

Support the provision in Newton's governmental structure for free petition and initiative and referendum procedures.

Support the reduction of the size of the City Council with a mix of at-large and district representation or with at-large representatives with residency requirement (amended 2010).

Support elimination of 2% charter maintenance provision for schools (*adopted 2010*).

Administration

Support an administrative code that clearly delineates the function and responsibility of city departments and outlines the qualifications for department heads (*adopted 2010*).

Executive

Support the position of a CAO [chief administrative officer], appointed by and reporting directly to the Mayor. This position shall be appointed on the basis of education, training and experience in the accepted competencies and practices of local government management. A contract is desirable to ensure some job security and independence (*adopted 2010*).

Support the requirement that the Executive Branch submit timely, periodic long-range financial plans, and long-range strategic capital plans (*adopted 2010*).

Support the development and implementation of a personnel evaluation plan under the Executive Branch (by ordinance, not the charter) (*adopted 2010*).

Environmental Quality

Recycling

Support for recycling of solid waste in Newton by municipal collection (*amended 2021*).

The following criteria should be applied:

1. An established re-use for the recycled material
2. An educational program to promote citizen cooperation
3. And, in case of voluntary recycling, adequate supervision of collection depots

Sidewalk Snow Removal

Support of the ordinance requiring all owners and/or occupants to clear snow from the sidewalks abutting their properties (*amended 2021*)

Support of the ordinance requiring owners or occupants in business districts to clear snow from the sidewalks abutting their properties (*amended 2021*).

Support City plowing of sidewalks on school routes and main streets.

Support the continuing implementation of Newton Power Choice (*adopted 2021*)

Support the City's Climate Action Plan (*adopted 2021*)

Fiscal Policy

Support of equitable real estate assessment procedures and practices (*amended 2021*).

Support of minimum standards for the qualification of Newton assessors, with emphasis on experience and professional training.

Support of flexible methods of taxation between different classes of real estate property in Newton.

Support of periodic revaluation of real estate property in Newton at the discretion of the Board of Assessors, but at least once every 5 to 10 years.

Support of coordination of financial affairs within the government of the City of Newton.

Support of budgetary practices that would allow for an analysis of cost effectiveness of governmental programs and their possible alternatives.

Support strengthening the City Council audit process to achieve greater internal control (*adopted 2010*).

Support ordinance to require adoption of best financial practices (*adopted 2010*).

Support the adoption of a comprehensive capital planning process including clear links to long-term goals (*adopted 2010*).

Human Services

Equality of Opportunity

Support of policies, program and practices to provide equality of opportunity for all people in Newton with emphasis on agencies that foster diversity, equity and inclusion (*amended 2021*).

Housing

Support of measures to provide affordable housing for people of low income (*amended 2021*).

Support a local housing agency which reflects a diversity of backgrounds and the concerns of the tenants.

Support of the following measures to increase the supply of affordable housing for families of low and moderate income:

1. Affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families should be scattered throughout the city
2. New housing developments should be planned to accommodate a mixed socioeconomic group

3. Newton should continue to expand its leased housing program to reflect current economic factors
4. Private non-profit, cooperative, or limited dividend corporations should construct new affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families
5. The City of Newton should make available city-owned sites suitable for the construction of affordable low/moderate income housing; recommendations of the Planning Department should be considered in determining what sites are suitable for housing
6. The City Council should continue to implement its policy requiring that developers of new multiple-unit housing lease a certain percentage thereof for low-income tenants
7. Non-profit organizations, banking, and real estate organizations should work together to promote opportunities for low- and moderate-income families to buy their own homes

(Amended 2021)

Community Residences

Support of a wide range of locally-based facilities, including community residences for people with special needs.

Support of the following measures to facilitate their integration into the community:

1. All community residences in Newton must conform to appropriate licensing requirements and codes
2. The process for considering requests for site plan approval should include a public hearing, periodic review, and a procedure for ongoing neighborhood input
3. Dispersal of community residences is preferable to concentration in a particular neighborhood
4. There should be preference for Newton residents in regard to admission to community residences in Newton to the extent that funding sources and program characteristics are not jeopardized

Alternative Housing for Adolescents

Support for alternative housing programs for at-risk youths in Newton.

Support for education to promote acceptance in the community of programs to aid at-risk youths.

Support for community participation in the establishment and maintenance of community residences for at-risk adolescents.

Support for funding by the City of Newton to assist in alternative housing programs for at-risk adolescents.

(Amended 2021)

Public Education

Support of the policy of limited autonomy of school principals while recognizing the need for improved coordination among principals and central staff in regard to curriculum.

Physical Plant: School Buildings

Support of long-range educational planning for space needs by the School Committee and the use of the Inspectional Services and Building Department as prime planning resources in regard to school building needs (*adopted 2013*).

Support prompt and effective implementation of school building programs through coordination among the Mayor, the School Committee and the City Council, including presentation to the MA School Building Authority when appropriate (*amended 2013*).

Support of a long-range planning process emphasizing high quality educational standards and a balancing of educational resources to ensure appropriate and adequate capacity throughout the city using the following criteria (*amended 2013*).

System-wide flexibility to accommodate needed educational, community and family support services

- Age, condition and location of buildings, including health and safety (*amended 2021*)
- Effect on whole school community of receiving schools
- Financial implications, including need for capital improvements
- Size of school population as it relates to educational options and flexibility
- Equitable services offered citywide
- System-wide stability to avoid frequent disruption of siblings

Support of a class size policy as a necessary component of quality education at the elementary and secondary levels.

Support for an increase in school funding to reflect increasing enrollment and resulting educational needs (*amended 2013*). See also under "LAND USE."

Child Care

Support for child care services which are accessible, affordable and meet the various needs of children.

Support for funding to ensure access to quality child care services for all families, including:

1. A mix of funding from government, tuition and private sector sources
2. City-wide funding for school-age child care
3. In-kind contributions by city and school department

(*amended 2021*)

Support the use of school buildings for after-school childcare, understanding that the primary use of such buildings is for educational programs. To maintain and promote quality school-age child care (SACC) in Newton the League supports:

1. Adequate dedicated space and access to facilities in all elementary schools for SACC, with the belief that on-site, school-based, after-school child care better meets the needs of children
2. Independently run SACC programs, with planning and operation coordinated with the individual schools
3. Space and access to facilities within the school for SACC should have consideration in long-range planning by the School Department
4. Increase in enrollment capacity to allow space for all children
5. Professionalization of staff

Support long-range planning by the School Department, School Committee and Planning Department to include resources needed by SACC.

Public Health

Support of measures to improve public health in Newton for all age groups which include:

1. Measures to improve mental health programs
2. Fluoridation of the Newton water supply at the approved level;
3. Measures to improve public health education in Newton
4. Measures to implement programs and facilities approved by the qualified public health official
5. Optional in-school inoculation plan
6. A system-wide substance abuse and addiction awareness program to begin no later than middle school (*amended 2021*)
7. Measures to strengthen the enforcement of the current Massachusetts Department of Public Health standards for human habitation (*amended 2021*)

Library

Support for improved library services designed to meet the diverse needs of the community.

Support cooperation between the School Department and the Public Library.

(*Amended 2021*)

Recreation and Open Space

Support of improved recreational facilities in Newton.

Support of the use of school spaces for recreational purposes outside of school hours. (*amended 2021*)

Support of the following goals for recreation and open space in Newton:

1. Retention of appropriate portions of the recreation parks as natural areas, with adequate maintenance and improved access
2. Gradual provision of new recreational facilities to serve the entire city as need is established
3. Improvement of the neighborhood playground – playfield system
4. Development of linear open spaces with provision for maintenance

Support consideration of the plans and needs of the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission before city-owned land is made available to non-municipal interests.

Support improved cooperation and coordination among the appropriate city departments and agencies in planning, effecting and maintaining recreational facilities and improvement.

Support for a Master Plan that includes all public open spaces, parks and recreational facilities, playgrounds and playfields in the City of Newton, including those under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, School Department, Conservation Commission and state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) (*adopted 2006*).

Land Use

In all our land use positions, the LWVN's aim is to support the goals set forth in Newton's Comprehensive Plan (*adopted 2011*).

Housing

Support maintaining and creating the full spectrum of housing types to reflect and enhance the diversity of Newton's population and neighborhoods (*adopted 2011*).

Economic Development

Support Economic Development policies that retain and create businesses that contribute to the vitality of the community (*adopted 2011*).

Development – Mixed Use

Support new development and redevelopment projects that are mixed use, compact, transit-oriented, and/or that minimize adverse environmental impacts (*adopted 2011*).

Zoning

Support of zoning practices consistent with regional long-range professional planning (*amended 2011*).

Support of flood-plain and watershed protection districts in the zoning ordinance of Newton.

Opposition to building upon certain lands for ecological reasons.

Support of the following zoning techniques: a density bonus, cluster development and planned unit development – conditional upon safeguards for the open space that would result.

Support of the adoption of density and open space standards for the community.

Support of more intensive use of business districts subject to the absence of traffic increases detrimental to the surrounding area (*amended 2011*).

Support zoning ordinances that are clear and understandable. We encourage the City to consider new zoning practices in its ordinances (*adopted 2011*).

Support modification of zoning ordinances:

1. Support more flexible use of existing housing through zoning ordinances that allow the maximum number of accessory apartments while maintaining adequate density standards and concern for traffic. For equity, large lot districts should have a larger proportion of accessory apartments. The following restrictions should apply:
 - a. All buildings/units containing accessory apartments must be owner-occupied
 - b. Adequate off-street parking must be provided
2. Support modification of zoning ordinances to legalize existing accessory apartments, with restrictions
 - a. All buildings/units containing accessory apartments must be owner-occupied
 - b. Adequate off-street parking must be provided
3. Support strict enforcement of the Zoning Code

Planning in the Community

Support the implementation and regular updating of the Newton Comprehensive Plan (*amended 2010*).

Support the following goals for the future development of Newton:

1. An excellent school system
2. A well-distributed system of open spaces within the city

Redevelopment, Rehabilitation and Conservation

Support for community participation in the planning process to ensure that redevelopment benefits the original residents of the area as well as the community at large.

Opposition to financial loss being suffered by any person or business as a result of redevelopment. Displacement of a resident or a local business should take place only when prior planning and reasonable efforts to provide relocation in the area have failed.

Support of historic districts in Newton.

Closed School Facilities

Support of a procedure which sets priorities for the use or disposition of closed school facilities. Such a procedure should ensure citizen participation in planning and give consideration to alternate community needs and uses. (See also under "Public Education.")

Transportation

Support the LWVMA transportation position (*amended 2021*).

Newton transportation practices, policies, investments, and decisions, will be consistent with and support the City of Newton's public plans, goals and the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, with particular attention to Environmental Impacts (*added 2014, amended 2021*).