

**BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
BLOUNT COUNTY**

**Article I**

**Name**

The name of the organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Blount County (hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVBC, or, as the League). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as the LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Tennessee.

**Article II**

**Purpose and Nonpartisan Policy**

Sec. 1. **Purpose.** The purposes of the LWVBC are set forth in the following non-partisan mission statement:

*As a nonpartisan group of women and men, we seek to organize and foster open conversation, education, and voter registration. It is our aim to empower people to engage fully in the political process.*

Sec. 2. **Nonpartisan Policy.** The LWVBC may not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Non-board members may participate fully on an individual basis in political activities including running for and holding political office. The president and other board members shall not run for or hold office. If a board member declares for an elective office, the member should resign from the board. Board members shall not undertake any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate or party. A board member may serve on a public board, commission, or committee; however, the board member does not represent the League in that capacity unless designated a League representative by the League board. The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

**Article III**

**Membership**

Sec. 1. **Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the Leagues shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. **Types of Membership.**

A. **Voting Members.** Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the LWVBC shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS; (1) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (2) those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to the LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

## **Article IV Officers**

Sec. 1. **Election, Qualifications, and Term.** The officers of the LWVBC shall be a president, a vice president/president-elect, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the LWV and shall be elected at the May meeting to hold office July 1 through June 30. Terms of office shall be 1 year.

Sec. 2. **The President.** The President shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the board, or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee, may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes in the absence of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the board may direct. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, the vice president shall assume office. If the vice president is unable to serve, the board shall fill the vacancy.

Sec. 3. **The Vice President.** The vice president shall perform such duties as the president and the board direct. The vice president also functions as a president-elect in preparation to succeed the president.

Sec. 4. **The Secretary.** The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the membership and the board and shall collect and maintain all meeting minutes. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board and shall perform such other duties as the president and board shall direct.

Sec. 5. **The Treasurer.** The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an annual audit/review of the books; shall maintain deposits in a financial institution; and shall receive and pay bills of the League.

## **Article V Board of Directors**

Sec. 1. **Selection, Qualifications and Term.** The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVBC and three directors elected by the League membership at the annual meeting in even years for terms of two years beginning on July 1. Board vacancies may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Sec. 2. **Powers.** The board shall manage and supervise the business affairs and activities of the LWVBC subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall accept responsibility for such matters as the national or state board may from time to time delegate to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as specified by these bylaws.

Sec. 3. **Executive Committee.** The four elected officers shall function as an executive committee of the board and shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by

the board and shall report to the board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board.

Sec. 4. **Meetings.** At least five meetings of the board shall be held annually. The president may call special meetings as needed. More than three consecutive, unexcused absences from regular board meetings shall constitute a resignation.

Sec. 5. **Quorum.** A majority of the members of the board of the LWVBC shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article VI Meetings**

Sec. 1. **Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least five business meetings of the membership each year. The time and place shall be determined by the board. The board may call special membership meetings and shall call such a meeting upon the written request of fifty percent of the voting members.

Sec. 2. **Annual Meeting.** An annual meeting shall be held between April 1 and June 30 of each year, the exact date to be determined by the Board. The annual meeting shall adopt a local program for the ensuing year; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee, adopt a budget; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

## **Article VII Nominations and Elections**

Sec. 1. **Nominating Committee.** The nominating committee shall consist of three members. The chair and two members shall be appointed at the annual meeting.

Sec. 2. **Report of the Nominating Committee.** The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers, directors, and members of the upcoming nominating committee, shall be sent to the members one month before the annual meeting. The chair shall present the report of the committee at the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter.

Sec. 3. **Election.** Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

## **Article VIII Principles and Program**

Sec. 1. **Principles.** The Principles are the concepts of government adopted by the national LWVUS convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local programs.

Sec. 2. **Program.** The program of the LWVBC shall consist of action to implement the national Principles and those local governmental issues chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and action. Voting members may make recommendations to the board, and the board shall consider recommendations and formulate a program proposal to be sent to the members at least one month before the annual meeting. The annual meeting shall adopt programs by a majority vote.

Sec. 3. **Program Action.** Members may act in the name of the LWVBC only when authorized to do so by the board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVBC, the LWV of Tennessee, and the LWVUS.

### **Article IX Financial Administration**

Sec. 1. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVBC shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

Sec. 2. **Dues.** Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of the anniversary month of the member's joining the League. Any member who fails to pay dues within three months shall be dropped from the membership roles.

Sec. 3. **Budget Committee.** The president shall appoint a committee of two to assist the treasurer in preparing an annual budget. The proposed budget shall be sent to the members one month before the annual meeting.

Sec. 4. **Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.** In the event of the dissolution of the LWVBC, all moneys shall be paid to the LWV of Tennessee after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property shall be disposed of to such person or organization as the board in its absolute discretion may designate.

### **Article X Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

### **Article XI Amendments**

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