

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS –
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION BYLAWS
Revised May 29, 2024, at the Annual Meeting**

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the **League of Women Voters - Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization**, hereinafter referred to as **LWV-UMRR ILO**. This Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to as **LWVUS**.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1: Purposes. The purposes of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** are to:

- a. encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.
- b. emphasize the preservation of our water resources within the Upper Mississippi River Basin watershed.

Section 2. IRC Section 501(c)(3) Purposes

This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3: Policy. The **LWV-UMRR ILO** shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Section 4: The LWV-UMRR ILO adheres to the Policy of LWVUS. The **LWV-UMRR ILO** is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households and communities and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: State leagues within the Upper Mississippi River Basin shall be eligible to be dues paying members of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**.

Section 2: All local leagues of states that are member leagues shall be eligible dues paying members of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**.

Section 3: All league members of dues-paying local leagues in communities within the Upper Mississippi River Basin region shall be members of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**.

ARTICLE IV – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Voting members of the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as Board) shall consist of the officers (chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and past chair); up to three representatives appointed by each of the member state LWVs; a communications director; and other such members as prescribed in the bylaws in Article IV Section 7.

Section 2: Enumeration, Qualification and Terms of Officers

The officers of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** shall be a chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and a vice-chair (chair elect). All offices may be jointly held by co-officers; co-officers shall share one vote. All officers shall be members of **LWV-UMRR ILO**. The chair and vice-chair shall be elected at the annual meeting in each odd numbered year to hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The secretary and treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting in even numbered years to hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Chair shall be elected for no more than two successive terms of two years. Terms shall begin July 1.

Section 3: The Chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the organization and Board. The chair shall be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The chair shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office, shall sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes in the absence of the treasurer, and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 4: The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the annual meeting and meetings of the Board and distribute them to Board members. The secretary shall perform such other duties as directed by the Board.

Section 5: The Treasurer. The treasurer (or an alternate to be appointed by the Board shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer and other person(s) designated by the Board shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank and disburse the same upon order of the Board. The treasurer shall present statements to the Board at its regular meetings and a report to the annual **LWV-UMRR ILO** meeting. The treasurer, in consultation with the Board, shall be responsible for arranging for an annual financial review or audit of the books. The Board shall choose the financial reviewer(s) or auditor.

Section 6: The Vice Chair (Chair Elect). The vice chair shall perform the chair's duties in the absence of the chair. The vice chair shall perform such other duties as directed by the Board. The past chair may also assume the duties of the chair if requested by the chair or vice-chair to do so.

Section 7: The LWV Boards of member states shall each appoint three representatives to serve as directors. Each director position shall have one vote. The terms of the representatives shall be two years without term limits; reappointment shall occur each two years. Any vacancy of a

representative position may be filled by the LWV-UMRR Board of Directors pending final approval by the appropriate state LWV Board. It shall be the responsibility of directors to act as a liaison to their respective state Board for communication and information purposes. However, the appointed directors are not required to be a members of their state Board.

Section 8: Director of Communications. An additional director shall be appointed by the Board to serve as the director of communications with the responsibility of developing and maintaining online communications to members and the public. The term of the director of communications will be two years without term limits.

Section 9: Powers. The Board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall select delegates to member state conventions and councils and to national conventions and national councils. It may accept responsibility for such other matters as the national or state Boards may from time to time request. It shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Section 10: Quorum. A quorum shall consist of 30% of voting members of the Board and include at least one representative from all but one of the member state leagues. Any one or more members of the Board may participate by means of electronic communications, including conference telephone, allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 11: Meetings. There shall be at least six (6) regular meetings of the Board annually. Members of the Board shall be notified of all regular meetings at least one (1) month previous to such meeting. The chair may call special meetings and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of four (4) members of the Board.

Section 12: Written Consent. In accordance with Section 181.0821, Wis. Stats., any action that would be taken at a meeting of the Board, except for filling vacancies on the Board or on committees or removing any director or officer, may be taken without a meeting if initiated by the President (Chair) and a consent in writing setting forth the action to be taken, is signed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all of the directors, provided all directors receive notice of the text of the written consent and of its effective date and time. Any such consent signed by two-thirds (2/3) of all of the directors has the same effect as a two-thirds (2/3) vote taken at a duly convened meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present and may be stated as such in any document filed with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. For purposes of this section, "in writing" includes a communication that is transmitted or received by electronic means, including electronic mail ("email"), and "signed" includes an electronic signature, as defined in the same way.

Section 13: Attendance. An officer or director who misses three unexcused consecutive meetings may be removed by a vote of a simple majority at a regular Board meeting. State board presidents will be asked to have their boards appoint a replacement representative to the **LWV-UMRR ILO** Board if a state representative has been removed for this reason.

Section 14: Vacancies. If a vacancy in an officer position or the position of director of communications occurs, the Board will appoint an individual to fill that position until the term is completed.

ARTICLE V – ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1: Date. The date of the annual meeting shall be determined by the **LWV-UMRR ILO** Board.

Section 2: Place. The location of each annual meeting shall be determined by the **LWV-UMRR ILO** Board. The place shall rotate around the member states or be virtual.

Section 3: Composition. The annual meeting shall be composed of the following voting delegates:

- (a) One delegate from each member league that is current in its dues payment. Any league may designate a member of another league to serve as its proxy.
- (b) Members of the Board.
- (c) Standing committee chairs or a representative of them. If a committee chair is not already a delegate, they are entitled to one vote at the annual meeting.

Section 4: Qualification and Voting. All delegates (whether a Board member, delegate member, or committee chair) shall be a member of a dues paying league and shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 5: Powers. The annual meeting shall consider and authorize a program for study and action, shall elect officers, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may properly come before it. Each committee chair shall report, in writing, with appropriate comments, actions, communications, and other information to continue the operations of the Board.

Section 6: Required representation at Annual Meeting/Quorum. At least one league from each member state and at least one-fifth (1/5) of the member local leagues must be represented at the annual meeting for any actions to be taken. Decisions can be approved by a simple majority of the voting delegates registered at the annual meeting. The communications director or other Board appointee(s) shall credential delegates, administer the method for voting, and tally votes.

ARTICLE VI– NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, up to two (2) of whom may be members of the Board. There shall be a member from each of the member states. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall not be a member of the Board and shall be elected at the annual meeting. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board.

Section 2: Suggestions for Nominations. At least four (4) months prior to the annual meeting, the chair of the Nominating Committee shall request suggestions for nominations for offices and Nominating Committee chair to be filled. The request will be made to the president of each

member league. Suggestions shall be sent to the chair of the Nominating Committee at least two (2) months before the annual meeting.

Section 3: Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, and the Nominating Committee chair shall be sent to the member leagues at a minimum of one (1) month before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the annual meeting during the business session. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. The election shall be conducted at the time specified in the annual meeting agenda.

Section 4: Election. The election may be by a written ballot, including the use of a poll during a virtual meeting, and phone-in attendees must verbalize their votes. When there is but one (1) nominee for each office, the annual meeting can move to accept the slate by acclamation. A majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE VII – PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1: Principles. The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the LWVUS. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state and local program.

Section 2: Program. The program of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** shall consist of:

- (a) Activities in support of the principles and program of the LWVUS
- (b) Those environmental issues that affect the Upper Mississippi River Region and are chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and focused activities.

Section 3: Annual Meeting Action.

- (a) At least four (4) months in advance of the annual meeting the Board shall send to the presidents of local and state leagues a status report of the current positions with explanations of activities taken under each position, and a request for program recommendations for the next year. The Board shall ask for evaluation of the current positions, may ask for suggestions for study and/or focus and may make its own suggestions for study and/or focus.
- (b) Local and state league boards may make recommendations for a program to the Board at least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting.
- (c) The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the members at a minimum of 45 days before the annual meeting.
- (d) The annual meeting shall be given a list of all program items submitted to the Board but not selected by the Board in addition to the Board proposed program. The annual meeting may amend or modify the Board proposed program by adopting a program item by a two-thirds vote of those present.
- (e) The annual meeting shall adopt a program by a majority vote of those present.

(f) Between annual meetings the Board may choose to pursue an issue not selected at the previous annual meeting.

Section 4: Action on LWV-UMRR ILO Program.

Action may be taken in the name of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board(s). Such action must be in conformity with, and not contrary to, positions taken by the **LWV-UMRR ILO**, the LWVs of member states and the LWVUS.

ARTICLE VIII –COMMITTEES

Section 1: Standing Committees.

(a) Nominating Committee: See Article VI. Section 1.

(b) The **LWV- UMRR ILO** Board shall appoint members of the Action Committee at the Board meeting following the annual meeting in even-numbered years. Additional members may be appointed by the Board throughout the year. The Action Committee shall elect its officers in even-numbered years and as needed. A quorum of the Action Committee shall be two-fifths (2/5) of the members. The Action Committee shall consider actions delegated or requested by the Board, including recommendations for Board actions and implementation actions, as delegated by the board.

(c) The LWV—UMRR ILO Board shall also appoint members of the Communications Committee at the Board meeting following the annual meeting in even-numbered years. Additional members may be appointed by the Board throughout the year. The Communications Committee shall elect its officers in even-numbered years and as needed. A quorum of the Communications Committee shall be two-fifths (2/5) of the members. The Communications Committee is responsible for the monthly UMRR newsletter, the website and needed email communication with member Leagues.

Section 2: Special Committees. The Board may appoint special committees to carry out the functions it deems necessary.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS HELD ELECTRONICALLY

Section 1: Electronic Meetings. The annual meeting, meetings of the Board, and committee meetings may be conducted through use of an adequate electronic platform.

ARTICLE X – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

Section 1: Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of **LWV- UMRR ILO** shall conform to that of the League of Women Voters of the United States

Section 2: Dues. Annual dues per each member league shall be determined by the Board. Any change in dues will be voted on at an annual meeting and will need to be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the delegates voting.

Section 3: Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose at least four (4) months before the annual meeting. Committee members shall

represent the geographic diversity of the member state and local leagues. The treasurer shall be, *ex officio*, a member of the budget committee but shall not serve as chair. The chair shall be a Board member.

Section 4: Budget. The Board shall submit to the annual meeting for adoption a proposed budget to provide support for **LWV-UMRR ILO**. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each state league president and to each local league president not less than 45 days before the annual meeting.

Section 5: Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**, all moneys, securities, and all funds shall be distributed equally among the member state leagues after all debts and other obligations have been met.

Section 6. Nonliability of Directors. The directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation.

Section 7. Indemnification by Corporation of Directors and Officers. The directors and officers of the corporation shall be indemnified by the corporation to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of the state in which the ILO is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation.

Section 8. Insurance for Corporate Agents. Except as may be otherwise provided under provisions of law, the Board may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the corporation (including a director, officer, employee, or other agent of the corporation) against liabilities asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the articles of incorporation, these bylaws, or provisions of law.

ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Parliamentary Authority. The rules in the 12th edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII– AMENDMENTS

Amendments to Bylaws. These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by two thirds (2/3) vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted by a member league to the Board at least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting. The Board may appoint a bylaws committee to review and make recommendations for amendments for consideration at the annual meeting. The Board shall send any proposed amendments to the presidents of the member leagues at least 45 days prior to the annual meeting. Failure of presidents of local leagues to notify their members, or of state leagues to notify their boards, of the proposed amendments shall not invalidate the adoption of such amendments by the annual meeting.