

**The League of Women Voters
of
Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties**

2009 Annual Meeting Workbook

League of Women Voters Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Rules for the 2009 Annual Meeting

Composition: The Annual Meeting is open to members of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (LWVODC), their guests and visitors.

Debate: Only members of the LWVODC have the right to speak. Members may not speak twice to the same question so long as a member who has not spoken wishes to speak.

Motions: The Secretary or Chair may request that motions of amendments of substance be put in writing.

Parliamentary Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order will control the general conduct of the meeting, except where superseded by the Bylaws or Annual Meeting Rules.

Proposed Program: A majority vote is required for adoption of all program recommendations.

Quorum: Ten percent of the paid local membership constitutes a quorum.

Rules Change: These rules may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

Voting: Only members of the LWVODC in good standing may vote. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of any measure, except where the Bylaws specify otherwise.

2009 Annual Meeting
May 14, 2009, 10 a.m. – noon

AGENDA

Welcome	Joyce Colaiace, Vice President
Introduction of Speaker	Carol Rist, <u>Voter</u> Editor
Advocating for Prison and Juvenile Justice Reform, Universal Health Care Reform, and Immigration Issues	Ellie Kinnaird, NC State Senator

BUSINESS MEETING

Call To Order	Joyce Colaiace
• Remarks and Recognition of the Board	
• “Making Democracy Work” Award Presentation	
Credentials Report	Cynthia Wertz, Webmaster
Parliamentarian	Carol Rist
• Adoption of Rules	
Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting	Ruth Ann Groh, Secretary for Barbara Nettlesheim
Treasurer's Report for 2008-2009	Rita Weimer, Treasurer
Proposed Budget for 2009-2010	Rita Weimer
Proposed Program for 2009-2010	Joyce Colaiace
LWVODC Local Positions Adoption	Joyce Colaiace
Membership Report	Evelin Brinich
Nominations: 2009-2010 Officers & Directors	Ruth Ann Groh
• Nominations from the Floor	
• Election of Officers and Directors	
Unfinished Business	Joyce Colaiace
New Business	
Adjournment	

**Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting
League of Women Voters of
Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties**

May 15, 2008

The LWVODC Annual Meeting was held at the “Extraordinary Ventures Facility”, 200 South Elliott Road in Chapel Hill, from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM.

Dawn Shamp read from her recently published book “*On Account of Conspicuous Women.*” After questions and answers by the author, our State President, **Judie Burke**, read a quote from Dawn Shamp’s book (pg 111), taken from an announcement from League of Women Voters in Goldsboro before the November 1920 election. **Burke** then presented Ms. Shamp with the first “*Making Democracy Work*” award.

Following the award ceremony refreshments were served.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by President **Vicki Boyer**. She reported on the public comment session at the Chapel Hill Town Hall about the Public Financing Pilot program of Town Elections which was approved by the NC Legislature in 2007. It will allow qualified candidates to run on public financing after raising many small contributions, the amount depending on the office. **Vicki** spoke for LWVODC and reminded the Town Council about the importance of this voluntary “Voter-Owned Elections” program.

The LWVODC has been asked to work together on a program at Carrboro’s Cybrary: “Voting for Books” is an adult reading program. She encouraged the incoming LWVODC Board, members, and others to participate.

Recognition of the Board

Vicki thanked all the Board members for the work accomplished in the past year and referred Leaguers to refer to the various reports in the workbook to see what the board members had accomplished. She called for the Board to stand to be recognized.

Credentials Report

Joyce Colaiace reported that 32 LWVODC members were present and **Vicki Boyer** declared that this represents the required quorum, with more than 10% of the paying membership (175) present.

Parliamentarian and Adoption of Rules

Vicki Boyer requested a motion to accept **Carol Rist** as Parliamentarian, and to accept Rules as stated in the workbook for the 2008 Annual Meeting, seconded by **Barbara Hardison** and **Bessie Carrington**. Motion passed unanimously.

Carol Sherrod presented the 2007 Minutes, **Vicki Boyer** moved to adopt minutes as written and contained in the 2008 workbook. Motion seconded by **Lynne Kane** and **Amy Miller**, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Bessie Carrington reported that the budget presented today on page 15 in workbook keeps close to the budget of our fiscal year which ends on June 30. There were no questions. **Vicki** declared the Treasurer’s Report accepted as submitted.

Proposed Dues Increase

Vicki Boyer addressed proposed dues increase represented in the proposed budget. She explained the necessity of the dues increase, as our PMP's (per member payment) to National and State are expected to increase and there would not be much left of our present \$45 dues. We actually would have left \$6.50 for work for our local League, after the deductions for the National and State PMP's. Our League has not raised the membership fees for 10 years. She looked at the List Serve for Leaders to compare our dues with those of other Leagues around the nation and found that most Leagues charge dues between \$45 and \$70, so we are not out of line by charging the suggested increase of \$10.00. **Bessie Carrington** stated that the money is needed for renting meeting facilities as all places, including churches and libraries now charge fees. She also said that Program (and places to meet to have them) is at the heart of the League, and many members attend them. We are saving money by not having a meal today, only snacks, and members were asked to contribute \$5 as our present budget would not have covered all refreshment costs.

Vicki stated that the Extraordinary Ventures Facility sets up tables and chairs, which is of great help, as Board and members have been setting up our meeting rooms, very difficult for an aging membership. **Judie Burke**, our State League President, stated that PMP for the LWV-NC will increase but is not sure when. Bessie said that today's budget proposal is based on the stated PMP increase of National and anticipated increase of the State League. **Carol Rist** moved to accept the dues increase, seconded by **Mary Ann Gross** seconded; motion carried.

Proposed Budget for 2008-2009

Submitted by Carol Rist, Chair and Bessie Carrington, Treasurer

Bessie Carrington, Treasurer, referred to page 15 in the workbook and stated that the proposed dues increase is contained in the Budget Proposal, which was worked out by the Budget Committee. **Lynne Kane** asked if the budget numbers contained the funds for the Talvitie Membership Fund which funds two scholarships; Bessie replied yes. **Cindy Wertz** inquired if the budget includes payments we can or may be able to obtain from the National, State and our CEF funds; **Bessie** stated that it was. **Ruth Groh** wanted to know if we were planning any fundraisers. The answer was, none at present as it was not known if someone would take over from **Nancy Salmon** the collection of data and the production of the "*Citizens' Guide*", which was a successful fundraiser for many years (**Nancy** resigned earlier in 2008). We did have an excellent response to this February's year's "*Citizens' Guide*". It is hoped that volunteers will come forward to continue publication of the "*Citizens' Guide*".

Carol Rist moved for adoption of the budget as proposed, seconded by **Barbara Hardison**; motion carried.

Proposed Program for 2008-2009

Carol Rist referred to page 16 of the workbook and presented the following 2008-2009 Program Priorities for the League Year beginning on July 1, 2008:

1. Fair and adequate taxation at all levels of government
2. Campaign Finance Reform
3. Affordable healthcare for all
4. Affordable housing for all
5. Public Education
6. Immigration

Questions/Comments:

Rita Weimer commented that six items were too many in view of a very small board. A discussion followed and **Vicki Boyer** responded that the new board would determine what it could do. **Bessie** wanted to be sure that campaign financing (#2) was to remain a very important item. **Evelin Brinich** stated that Health care (#3) is well covered by our health care committee. **Carol Rist** reminded members that the public Education item (#5) can be applied to the national and state programs. **Carol Rist** moved to adopt Program as presented, **Mary Ann Gross** and **Bessie Carrington** seconded, motion adopted.

Proposed Bylaw changes

Carol Rist referred members to please read about the changes on page 17 in the 2008 workbook. She stated that they be consistent with the national League's. She pointed out the actual text changes. Motion to adopt as presented by **Vicki Boyer**, seconded by **Barbara Nettesheim**; motion adopted as proposed.

Nominating Committee Report

Jan Richmond, chair, thanked the nominating committee for the very difficult work in getting board positions filled. The committee presented the following slate for the Board 2008-2009:

President: none nominated, First Vice President: **Joyce Colaiace**, Second Vice President: none nominated, Secretary: **Ruth Ann Groh**, Treasurer: **Rita Weimer**, Nominating Chair: none nominated.

Directors 2008-2010: Membership: **Evelin Brinich**, The Voter Editor: **Carol Rist**, Off Board Webmaster: **Cynthia Wertz**.

Richmond commented that all nominating committee members made many calls to ask members to volunteer for positions, but could not find volunteers for President, 2nd Vice President, or Nominating Chair. She stated that nominations from the floor will be welcomed. In order to nominate a candidate from the floor, the nominee must first give her/his consent.

She reports that two members have agreed to direct Voter Service as off board positions, **Anne von Amsberg** and **Miriam Thompson**. **Richmond** has agreed to help them and will be calling on members to form committees for registering voters and to organize and conduct forums. She expressed hope that many members would assist her.

Members of the nominating committee were **Carol Rist**, **Evelin Brinich**, **Mary Ann Gross**, **Elsie Cunningham** and **Jan Richmond**, chair.

Boyer asked to adopt the nominating Committee's slate as stated in the workbook. Motion was adopted.

Unfinished Business

Joyce Colaiace thanked **Vicki** for the hard work and the leadership she provided our League throughout the year, which was made more difficult due to resignations from the board. The Board thanked **Vicki** and presented her with flowers as a token of their appreciation.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Vicki asked for a motion for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted May 29, 2008 by Barbara Nettesheim, Secretary

2009 Annual Reports

Joyce Colaiace, 1st Vice President

In the absence of a President for the League year, 2008/2009, I acted in place of this office as Administrative Coordinator, along with the other members of the Board which consisted of a Treasurer, Secretary and two Directors, Membership and the Voter newsletter editor. Two off-Board positions, Webmaster and Voter Service, were called upon in support of the Program for the year. The five-member Board carried out the mission of the League with leadership, commitment, and support. All Board members planned and executed the programs for the year and decisions were made with this collective body of individuals as a team.

The goals the Board focused on were Voter Registration and Voter Education, Health Care Reform, National Popular Vote Education and Consensus, Education in the Community, Public Policy and Civic Engagement. Along with the aforementioned programs, the Board was responsible for fiscally maintaining the budget, communicating with the membership via the Voter and the Website, recruiting and renewing members, and exploring collaborations with other organizations for education or action. Read the other Board member reports for specifics on the type and number of programs that were offered this year.

In my administrative capacity, I was responsible for the following: Responding to both State and National League inquiries, providing feedback to the Board on legislative actions, alert actions and e-mails requesting membership or League information. I also participated in some of the general member programs and voter service events. I developed a Chatham County Commissioners Race questionnaire that was published in a local Chatham newspaper, and I assisted in a Student Election Assistants program at a local high school allowing student to assist during the past election at the polling sites.

This year's Board accomplished the Purpose and Policy of the LWVODC through its active participation in government and those government issues selected in the goals for the year. This Board welcomes the active participation of all of its members for the remainder of the year and for the following year.

Evelin Brinich, Membership

The membership data base was updated locally and nationally on a regular basis. Three listservs were maintained, one for each county, to facilitate electronic mailing of the Voter and other League communication. The League membership directory was updated regularly and sent to the webmaster and made available on the local League website with password protection.

Membership renewal invoices were sent out in a revised format in mid May and resulted in an 80% return rate prior to September 1. New local, national, and prospective members received welcome packets including a personal letter, League brochure, recent Voter, and Member Handbook (members only). A membership orientation was held this spring to introduce 4 new local, 3 national, and 2 prospective members to the League's activities.

The January 2009 Per Member Payment numbers provided to the Treasurer to report to the National League were: 107 individual local members, 14 local member households at 2 members each, 11

local honorary members, 28 individual national members, and 1 national member household with 2 members each.

Carol Rist, Voter Editor

During the past League year, eight issues of the Voter have been published. The Voter has been distributed electronically to all League members, members of the North Carolina General Assembly who represent Orange, Durham or Chatham Counties, and city council members and county commissioners in our three counties. A hard copy of the Voter has been sent to League members who pay \$10 extra per year to cover the cost of printing and mailing, to all honorary members of the League (those who have been members for fifty years or more), to local libraries and to local newspapers.

Anne von Amsberg, Voter Service

Voter Service activities in Chatham County took on various forms: A questionnaire was developed by the LWVODC for the Pittsboro Commissioners' race. The responses to the questionnaire, by those running for office, were published in the Chatham County Line newspaper. The three County high schools were asked to select high school students to participate in the NC State Student Election Assistants program. Several County students worked at their respective polling places during the November election. Several LWVODC members also participated as election site workers or observers during the election.

In Durham County, there are more than 172,000 registered voters, and 78.95% voted in the general election. The registration efforts mounted by many organizations ensured an electorate that was ready, qualified, and informed. Voter registration took place at Duke Hospital, under the direction of Bercedis Peterson, while Sheila Kendrick volunteered at Lincoln Clinic.

In Orange County, LWV members from all three counties participated in day-long voter registrations at A Southern Season on several Saturdays. These volunteers, plus others, and a medical student set up voter registration at the UNC Hospital on several dates. Many LWVODC members joined Wake County members in volunteering repeatedly during September and October at the new Citizenship and Immigration Services in RTP. The newly sworn citizens were eager to receive voter registration forms, as well as detailed information about voting.

Cynthia Wertz, Webmaster

The LWVODC website is maintained and updated on a regular basis to ensure that it contains timely and accurate information for both League members and the general public. The total number of requests for information from our web pages from July 1, 2008 until the end of March 2009 was 117,675, which represents an 11.7% increase over the same period last year. The LWVODC website includes the online Citizen's Guide, which was updated this year to include the websites of the various national, state and local elected officials, government offices, and services to make it easier to obtain more detailed information. The LWVODC Board of Directors decided not to produce a paper copy of the 2009 Citizen's Guide because of the lack of resources.

2009 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$8,041				
Category	April-09	Year to Date July 08-April 09	2008-2009 Budget	Dollar Difference	YTD % of Budget
Income					
Citizen's Guide		\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
Contributions					
Contribution LWV ODC	\$10	\$990	\$800	-\$190	124%
Talvitie scholarship		\$5		-\$5	
Voter postage		\$250	\$400	\$150	63%
TOTAL Contributions	\$10	\$1,245	\$1,200	-\$45	104%
Dues					
Membership Hshd 08-09	\$0	\$1,196			
Membership Indiv.08-09	\$55	\$6,095			
Student		\$0			
TOTAL Dues	\$55	\$7,291	\$8,800	\$1,509	83%
Fund raising		\$0	\$0	\$0	
Transfer from CEF		\$2,409		-\$2,409	
Program Income		\$260		-\$260	
TOTAL Income	\$65	\$11,205	\$11,000	-\$205	102%
Expenses					
Audio-Visual		\$0	\$300	\$300	0%
Web site		\$346	\$350		99%
Copying					
Voter	\$35	\$247	\$300		82%
Printing Citizens Guide		\$0	\$1,000		0%
Membership		\$223	\$450		50%
Other Copying		\$42	\$50		84%
TOTAL Copying	\$35	\$512	\$1,800	\$1,288	28%
Dues Refund					
Meetings		\$860	\$1,600	\$740	54%
Misc		\$36	\$50	\$14	72%
Per Member Payment to LWV					
LWV NC		\$1,708	\$1,854		92%
LWV US		\$3,846	\$3,859		100%
TOTAL PMP to LWV		\$5,554	\$5,713	\$159	97%
Postage and Delivery					
P.O. Box		\$70	\$72		97%
Voter	\$42	\$142	\$215		66%
Other Postage & Del.		\$8	\$100		8%
TOTAL Postage & Del	\$42	\$220	\$387	\$167	57%
Subscriptions and Publications		\$0	\$50	\$50	0%
Supplies, Bus	\$36	\$36	\$100	\$64	36%
Telephone	\$59	\$297	\$450	\$154	66%

<u>Category</u>	Year to Date		2008-2009 <u>Budget</u>	Dollar <u>Difference</u>	YTD % of <u>Budget</u>
	<u>April-09</u>	<u>July 08-April 09</u>			
Travel		\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
TOTAL Expenses	\$172	\$7,861	\$11,800	\$3,939	67%
Income-Expenses April	-\$107	\$3,344		-\$4,144	
Ending Balance	\$7,934	\$7,934			

Citizen's Education Foundation

Beginning Balance	\$1,381	\$1,790			
Deposits	\$0	\$2,000	\$800	-\$1,200	250%
Expenditures	\$0	\$2,409			
Ending Balance	\$1,381	\$1,381			

Talvitie Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$250	\$355			
Income	\$0	\$5			
Scholarships	\$0	\$110			
Ending Balance	\$250	\$250			

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LWVODC Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>2007-08</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2008-09</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2008-09</u> <u>Est. Actual</u>	<u>2009-10</u> <u>Budget</u>
Income				
Citizens Guide	\$1,535			
Contributions				
Contribution LWV ODC	\$830	\$800	\$980	\$750
Talvitie scholarship	-\$40		\$5	
Voter postage	\$330	\$400	\$250	\$250
TOTAL Contributions	\$1,120	\$1,200	\$1,235	\$1,000
Dues				
Membership Hsehd 2008-09	\$1,450		\$1,196	
Membership Indiv 2008-09	\$5,243		\$6,095	
Student	\$30		\$0	
TOTAL Dues	\$6,723	\$8,800	\$7,291	\$7,000
Fund raising	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Transfer from CEF	\$300		\$2,409	\$1,000
Program Income	\$1,245		\$260	
TOTAL Income	\$10,623	\$10,000	\$11,195	\$9,000

<u>Category</u>	<u>2007-08</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2008-09</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2008-09</u> <u>Est. Actual</u>	<u>2009-10</u> <u>Budget</u>
Expenses				
Audio-Visual	\$220	\$300	\$0	
Web site		\$350	\$346	\$200
Copying				
Voter	\$517	\$300	\$378	\$270
Membership	\$715	\$450	\$223	\$300
Other Copying	\$767	\$50	\$42	\$75
TOTAL Copying	\$1,999	\$800	\$643	\$645
Meetings	\$2,481	\$1,600	\$1,205	\$970
Misc	\$207	\$50	\$86	\$50
PMP to LWV				
LWV NC	\$1,620	\$1,854	\$1,708	\$1,869
LWV US	\$1,724	\$3,859	\$3,846	\$3,738
TOTAL PMP to LWV	\$3,344	\$5,713	\$5,554	\$5,607
Postage and Delivery				
P.O. Box	\$68	\$72	\$70	\$80
Voter	\$303	\$215	\$200	\$110
Other Postage & Delivery	\$216	\$100	\$8	\$54
TOTAL Postage & Del.	\$587	\$387	\$278	\$244
Subscriptions and Pub.	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$50
Supplies, Bus	\$48	\$100	\$75	\$100
Telephone	\$407	\$450	\$357	\$384
Travel	\$748	\$1,000	\$750	\$750
TOTAL Expenses	\$10,041	\$10,800	\$9,294	\$9,000

LWVODC Proposed Program 2009-2010

The LWVODC Program, which is proposed by the Board of Directors, is printed in the Voter one month prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed Program is submitted to the voting members at the Annual Meeting for discussion and adoption. The adopted Program guides the new Board of Directors as they plan meetings, forums and other activities during League year. This process is not intended to exclude other League interests. Rather, because of limited resources, it helps the Board to identify priorities, focusing on (but not limited to) specific government-related issues in Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties.

The LWVODC Board of Directors proposes the adoption of the following program priorities for the League year beginning July 1, 2009.

1. Fair and adequate taxation at all levels of government

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Plan a forum in any of our three counties to consider local tax proposals to raise revenue for infrastructure needs resulting from population growth.

2. Campaign finance reform

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Plan a joint program on campaign finance reform with Democracy NC; support Chapel Hill public financing pilot project.

3. Affordable healthcare for all

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Plan a forum in any one of our three counties to educate the community about issues affecting health care reform.

4. Affordable housing for all

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Support ongoing state and local efforts to end homelessness and to provide affordable housing.

5. Public Education

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Continue to inform ourselves and the public about No Child Left Behind and other test-based accountability programs.

6. Immigration

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Promote informed involvement in immigration policy at all levels of government.

LWVODC Local Positions

A League's Position reflects its membership's understanding and agreement on a particular public policy issue. In formulating a Position, the Board of Directors, either prior to seeking member agreement through concurrence or following member agreement through consensus, identify the Position in terms broad enough to enable the League to initiate, support, or oppose a variety of specific legislative and executive proposals over a period of time.

Once the Board of Directors has finalized a Position, it is announced to members and can be shared with the public. It becomes part of the League's Position statements, and the Board can begin taking action on it immediately. The statements of Positions must be readopted each year by League members at the Annual Meeting (or Biennial Convention) in order to remain on the program of issues for possible action.

The following Positions are those that have been adopted by the LWVODC. The date of initial adoption and the date of a modification and adoption are indicated in parentheses.

Campaign Finance

- The LWVODC supports Lobby Reform on the State and Local level. We support an independent ethics commission to review the reporting process of the legislative and executive branches of government (2006).

County Budget Process

- Support for a long-range Orange County budget plan that includes establishment of goals and priorities, for operating expenses and for capital improvements (1988).
- Support for clear communication in the Orange County budget process (1988).
- Support for a long-range local government budget process that includes establishment of goals and priorities, for operation expenses and for capital improvements (2006).
- Support for clear communication in the budget process (2006).

Criminal Justice

- Support for action to increase citizen safety by decreasing the number of drunken drivers (1983, 2006).

Education

- Support for the Chapel Hill School Board in its assignment of pupils on a non-discriminatory basis (1960).
- Support redistricting policy that maintains racial balance and continuity of individual educational experience. Support improvement of quality of integration within the schools and individual classrooms (1978).
- Support of action to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro school bus transportation system (1979).
- Support for adequate funding of the capital needs of Chapel Hill/Carrboro and Orange County school systems (1984).
- Support redistricting policy that maintains racial balance, continuity of individual educational experience and supports the quality of integration within the schools and individual classrooms (2006).

- Support actions to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of school bus transportation systems (2006).
- Support for adequate funding of the capital needs of local schools (2006).

Election Laws

- The LWVODC supports same-day registration at one-stop sites. This legislation will allow a person who misses the cut-off for registration (25 days before the election) to go to a one-stop voting site when they are open, show proper ID, register and vote (2006).

Greenways

- Support for the greenways system and open space (1984, 2006).

Growth and Development

- Support of a sound planning program through which public improvement, policies, and regulations are coordinated for the orderly and attractive development of the community (1964, 2006).
- Support of joint planning as the best process for managing growth cooperatively in the areas of Orange County surrounding Chapel Hill and Carrboro (1986).
- Support for joint planning as the best process for managing growth cooperatively in our districts (2006).
- Public facilities should be adequate before new development is permitted (1987).

Individual Liberties

- The LWVODC recommends education of the public on the particulars of the Patriot Act and the impact on their civil liberties. We advocate for changes in the law to protect our civil liberties through emails, visits and calls to our federal representatives and senators (2006).

Local Government

- Local governing boards should adopt written ethics codes and local municipalities should adopt the state statute for candidates reporting all campaign contributors who give more than \$100.00 (1989, 2006).

Public Relations

- Support for public recreation for the Chapel Hill area (1961, 1974).
- Support for public recreation (2006).

Redistricting Reform

- The LWVODC believes that redistricting locally should be representative of and apportioned on population and effectively represent minority citizens. We strongly believe that the public should be educated regarding partisan gerrymandering (2006).

Taxes

- The LWVODC supports an Earned Income Tax Credit and supports an equitable and efficient system of taxation (2006).

2008 – 2010 LWVODC Officers and Board of Directors

Officers (2008-2009)

President	Vacant
First Vice President	Joyce Colaiace
Second Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Ruth Ann Groh
Treasurer	Rita Weimer

Board of Directors (2008-2010)

<i>Membership (off board, 2009-2010)</i>	Evelin Brinich
The <u>Voter</u>	Carol Rist
Webmaster (off board)	Cynthia Wertz

Board of Directors (Appointed 2008-2009)

Voter Service	Anne von Amsberg
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2009-2010 Officer Nominations

Officers (2009-2010)

President	Vacant
First Vice President	Vacant
Second Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	<i>Ruth Ann Groh</i>
Treasurer	<i>Rita Weimer</i>

2009-2010 Board of Directors Nominations

Board of Directors (2009)

Director	<i>Joyce Colaiace</i>
Voter Service	Vacant

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ORANGE, DURHAM AND CHATHAM COUNTIES

BYLAWS

Revised May, 2008

ARTICLE I. Name

Section 1. *Name.* The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, hereinafter referred to in these Bylaws as LWVODC. This local league, consisting of three units representing the three counties, is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, hereinafter referred to in these Bylaws as LWVUS and LWVNC respectively.

ARTICLE II. Purpose and Policy

Section I. *Purpose.* The purposes of the LWVODC are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. *Political Policy.* The LWVODC shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section I. *Eligibility.* Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall *be* eligible for membership.

Section 2. *Types of Membership.*

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS;

(1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;

(2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at large;

(3) 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

Section 1. *Enumeration and Election of Officers.* The officers of the LWVODC shall be a President, a First Vice president, a Second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting and. take office at the beginning of the fiscal year. Two persons may hold any of these offices. Each person may vote on the issues.

Section 2. *Terms of Office.* All officers shall be elected for one-year terms. They may, however, be re-elected to the same or another office after their term of office expires.

Section 3. *The President.* The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of 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 an ex-officio 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 perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 4. *The Vice Presidents.* The Vice Presidents in order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, disability or death of the President possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. If neither Vice President is able to serve as President, the Board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected Directors. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board shall designate.

Section 5. *The Secretary.* The Secretary shall keep minutes of all general meetings of the League and of all meetings of the board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident *to the office.*

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 designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the President or the Board. The Treasurer shall present financial statements to the Board at its regular meetings and an annual financial report to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V. Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee 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.

ARTICLE VI. Board of Directors

Section I. *Number. Manner of Selection and Term of Office.* The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the league, six elected Directors and not more than six appointed Directors. Three Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the league. The terms of the office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting. The appointed directors shall have the same rights and responsibilities as the elected directors, and will attend board meetings, and be part of the quorum for voting.

Section 2. The immediate past President shall remain on the Board for the next year following his or her term as an ex-officio Board member. No ex-officio Board member shall be counted for the purpose of staying within the number of board members allowed. An ex-officio board member will be part of the quorum for voting.

Section 3. *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 LWVODC.

Section 4. *Vacancies.* Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be

deemed a resignation. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall assume the responsibility to fill a vacancy where upon it shall be voted by the board.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the voting membership. It 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. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 6. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating Committee shall consist of a Chair nominated by the current Nominating Committee and elected at the Annual meeting and three persons from the membership appointed by the president with one member from each unit. The Nominating Committee Chair should attend board meetings and shall have voting privileges at said meetings. An additional member from the Board of Directors shall be chosen by the Board. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this Committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and Chair of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections. The election shall be by ballot, except that when there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for each nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote *and voting* shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE VIII. Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVODC shall commence on the first day of July each year, beginning July 1, 1988.

Section 2. Dues. Annual per *member* dues shall be determined by the membership. Dues shall be the same for voting members and for associate members. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, annual dues for them shall be one and one-half the per member dues. Dues shall be payable by July 1. Any member who fails to pay dues by October 1 of any fiscal year shall be dropped from the membership rolls. A member transferring to the league from another League, which has a different rate of membership renewal, will be assessed a pro-rata share of our membership fee to cover any time elapsed between the end of the membership year of the former League and the beginning of the Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties League's membership year.

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

Women Voters on all its levels of activity.

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 year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer or the Finance Chair shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the Budget Committee.

Section 5. *Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.* In the event of dissolution, for any cause, of the LWVODC, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVODC shall be paid to the LWVNC after the Board of Directors has paid or made provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the LWVODC. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed which may at a the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVODC 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 LWVODC.

ARTICLE IX. Meetings

Section 1. *Membership Meetings.* There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year, with additional meetings to be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. *Annual Meeting.* An Annual Meeting shall be held during the month of May, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. It shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- b. elect officers and directors and the chairman of the Nominating Committee;
- c. adopt an adequate budget; and
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. *Quorum.* One-tenth of the members shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the LWVODC.

ARTICLE X. Program

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

Section 2. *Program.* The Program of the LWVODC shall consist of action to implement the principles and those local governmental issues chosen by the Annual Meeting for concerted study and action.

Section 3. The Annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members at least one month before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented to the Annual

Meeting by the Board of Directors.

d. Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that:

- i. the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote;
- ii. the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.

e. Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that:

- i. Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting;
- ii. Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 4. *Member Action.* Members may act in the name of the LWV only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board of Directors.

Section 5. *Local League Action.* The LWVODC may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by the LWVUS as stated in the principles.

ARTICLE XI. National Convention, State Convention and Council

Section 1. *National Convention.* The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWVODC under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

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

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

ARTICLE XII. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. *Parliamentary Authority.* The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order 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. Amendments

Section 1. *Amendments.* These Bylaws may be amended at any Annual meeting using the following procedures:

- a. All recommendations shall be submitted to the membership in writing at least one month before the Annual Meeting.
- b. A two-thirds vote of all voting members present and voting shall be required for adoption of amendments.