

MAKE
EVERY
VOTE
COUNT

LWVK COUNCIL 2024
LAWRENCE, KS. APRIL 27TH



LWVK Proposed Operating Budget Narrative 2024- 2025

Budget Committee Members: Randi Thimesch (Chair), Sherri Grogan, Sara Funk

This budget excludes the endowment fund and the suffragist memorial fund.

The operating budget for next year, presented on the next two pages, proposes \$31,770 in income (first page) and \$49,803 in expenses (second page). It proposes the \$18,033 shortfall be absorbed by funds available in our checking account and short-term certificate of deposit.*

Column B shows actual income and expenses that occurred during the April 2022 - March 2023 fiscal year. Column C shows the budget for the most recent fiscal year (April 2023 through March 2024), while Column D shows actual income and expenses during the first ten months of that year (through January 2024). Column E contains the proposed budget for the next fiscal year (April 2024 through March 2025).

SUPPORT is mostly from Local Leagues' per-member-payments (PMP)--\$20 for primary and \$10 for additional in-household memberships--based on the official January 31, 2024, count. At-large members pay dues (\$60 primary/\$30 additional in-household) as they join or renew. Support for FY 24-25 is lower than in recent years due to lower membership.

LWV MEETINGS anticipated in the next fiscal year are Council (April 2024), Day at the Capitol (early 2025), and State League Day (Fall 2024). The income from these meetings is budgeted to match the expense of the meetings.

LWVK CONTRIBUTIONS in FY 23-24 were lower than budgeted, possibly because LWVK has not sent fundraising letters to members. Due to fewer members statewide, proposed budget contributions are lower than the previous year's budget.

GRANTS. Specific grants we might receive have not been identified, although we seek opportunities. Grant expenses are budgeted to equal grant income, although sometimes a grant reduces our normal expenses. That happened this past year when a \$5,000 grant from LWVUS reimbursed the Vote 411 expense. The grant was also used for voter education public service announcements. Recently the Kansas Leadership Center granted us 21 tuition-free training courses for our League members.

EXPENSES are divided between Program Services, which relate directly to our mission (advocacy, education, voter services), and Administrative Services. Compared to last year, the budget for Program Services is 9% higher and the budget for Administrative Services is 7% higher.

Actual expenses for FY 23-24 have been considerably lower than budgeted because we have not had a part-time administrative assistant for most of the year. As this is written, a replacement has not been hired, but is included in the proposed budget. In September 2023, LWVK moved its offices to save \$150 per month in rent. We do our best to control costs that are growing with inflation. In addition, accounting, tax filing, and governmental filings have grown more complex and expensive.

	2/29/24
* Capitol Federal Checking Account	\$30,330.63
Capitol Federal Certificate of Deposit	\$5,118.48

	A	B	C	D	E
1	DRAFT LWVK BUDGET 2024-2025				3/10/2024
2					
3		Actual	Budget	Partial Act. (10 mo)	Draft Budget
4	INCOME	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
5	SUPPORT	18,330.00	19,100.00	9,297.50	15,770.00
6	Emporia	660.00	1,040.00	220.00	870.00
7	Great Bend	620.00	220.00	220.00	200.00
8	Johnson County	5,370.00	5,300.00	2,650.00	4,050.00
9	Lawrence	2,930.00	3,330.00	832.50	2,020.00
10	Leavenworth	670.00	670.00	670.00	780.00
11	Manhattan	1,390.00	1,550.00	-	1,530.00
12	Salina	990.00	1,180.00	590.00	1,070.00
13	Topeka	2,250.00	2,540.00	2,540.00	2,590.00
14	Wichita	3,030.00	2,790.00	1,395.00	2,120.00
15	At-Large	420.00	480.00	180.00	540.00
16					
17	LWV MEETINGS	35.00	4,500.00	3,495.00	4,500.00
18	LWVK Convention/Council	35.00	2,000.00	3,495.00	2,000.00
19	Day at the Capitol	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
20	State League Day	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
21					
22	LWVK CONTRIBUTIONS	57,446.00	12,000.00	7,376.72	10,000.00
23	Donations*	57,446.00	12,000.00	7,376.72	10,000.00
24					
25					
26	GRANTS	2,000.00	1,000.00	4,250.00	1,000.00
27	Other**	2,000.00	1,000.00	4,250.00	1,000.00
28					
29	OTHER	170.14	-	184.15	-
30					
31	INTEREST	107.18	50.00	466.45	500.00
32					
33					
34	TOTAL INCOME	78,088.32	36,650.00	25,069.82	31,770.00
35					
36	*About \$47,500 of 2022-2023 donation passed thru to Wichita.				
37	** 2 grants in current FY=\$5,000 LWVUS for Vote 411 & voter ed public service announcements. 21 course regis-				
38	trations from Kansas Leadership Center (value \$3,128-\$8,379).				

	A	B	C	D	E
39					
40		Actual	Budget	Partial Act. (10 mo)	Draft Budget
41	EXPENSES	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
42	PROGRAM SERVICES***	61,771.74	15,450.00	10,759.40	16,850.00
43	Advocacy - Education****	45,792.82	1,000.00	(168.60)	1,000.00
44	Advocacy - Lobbying****	5,710.22	500.00	65.00	500.00
45	Coalitions/Partner/Support	-	500.00	103.00	500.00
46	Consultants	3,600.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
47	Voter Services	8.70	500.00	-	500.00
48	Public Affairs Reports	1,660.00	1,800.00	1,660.00	1,800.00
49	Study	-	50.00	-	50.00
50	VOTE411	5,000.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	5,000.00
51	Grant Expenses	-	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
52	Day at the Capitol	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
53	State League Day	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
54	Other	-	-	-	-
55					
56	SUPPORTING SERVICES	29,467.37	30,997.00	12,176.20	32,953.00
57					
58	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	22,471.64	24,005.00	8,630.22	25,765.00
59	Tax & State Filing Fees	250.00	575.00	1,565.00	1,565.00
60	Board	-	100.00	-	100.00
61	PO Box	212.00	250.00	256.00	250.00
62	Credit Card Processing Fees	123.54	300.00	164.16	300.00
63	Insurance	1,156.00	1,200.00	1,156.00	1,200.00
64	Payroll Expenses*****	11,345.45	13,500.00	792.30	16,000.00
65	Outside Accounting	1,283.30	2,000.00	1,350.00	2,000.00
66	Rent	3,868.37	4,220.00	1,808.35	2,400.00
67	Supplies/Equip/Upkeep	373.83	600.00	448.85	600.00
68	Telephone	537.14	500.00	449.72	550.00
69	Member Mgmt Software (Club Express)	1,914.77	360.00	300.00	400.00
70	Website & Zoom	1,407.24	400.00	339.84	400.00
71					
72	FUNDRAISING	1,063.05	1,600.00	164.69	1,200.00
73					
74	LWV MEETINGS	4,783.77	5,000.00	3,061.29	5,500.00
75	LWVK Convention/Council	654.47	2,000.00	1,567.89	2,000.00
76	LWVUS Convention/Council	4,129.30	3,000.00	1,493.40	3,500.00
77					
78	MEMBER RELATED	1,148.91	392.00	320.00	488.00
79	Local League/Member/DEI	685.31	200.00	192.00	200.00
80	At-Large PMP	384.00	192.00	128.00	288.00
81	Other	79.60	-	-	-
82					
83	TOTAL EXPENSES	91,239.11	46,447.00	22,935.60	49,803.00
84					
85	NET INCOME	(13,150.79)	(9,797.00)	2,134.22	(18,033.00)
86					
87	***Not shown are expenses from separate suffragist memorial fund, funded in prior fiscal years				
88	****Most of Advocacy and Lobbying in 2022-2023 passed thru to Wichita				
89	*****No employee most of 2023-2024				

Selection of the US President

LWVK concurs with the LWVUS position on the Selection of the President adopted at the 2010 Convention, shown below.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system— from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with enough information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

In order to achieve the LWVUS position on Selection of the President, LWVK advocates for the following policies and actions to be taken in Kansas:

- LWVK supports the state of Kansas joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
- Ratifying a constitutional amendment that would abolish the Electoral College and replace it with electing the US president by a direct popular vote.

Voting Systems

LWVK concurs with the LWVUS position on Voting Systems adopted at the 2020 Convention, shown below.

LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices.

Whether for single- or multiple-winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- ***Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.***
- ***Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities.***
- ***Are verifiable and auditable.***
- ***Promote access to voting.***
- ***Maximize effective votes/minimize wasted votes.***
- ***Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.***

- **Implement alternatives to plurality voting.**
- **Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail.**

The LWWUS believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policymaking bodies--legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards — that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g., gerrymandering).

The LWWUS supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

In order to achieve the LWWUS position on Voting Systems, LWVK advocates for the following policies and actions to be taken in Kansas:

- The adoption of electoral systems and policies that ensure the general election is more pivotal than the primary, regardless of the partisan makeup of the electorate. We oppose the adoption of separate runoff elections that would require voters to cast additional ballots after the general election.
- Voting systems that broaden voter representation in legislative bodies. Government bodies should adopt proportional election methods such as multi-winner ranked choice voting.
- Replacing block voting as an option for local at-large elections with a proportional election method
- Adopting voting systems that ensure the winning candidate for executive and other single-winner offices has majority support, using a method such as Instant Runoff Voting.
- Allocation of funding for the SOS and county election offices to purchase and certify voting equipment that supports these new voting methods, as well as funding for voter education when new methods are implemented.
- Continuing to use nonpartisan elections for local offices.

Election Administration

LWVK concurs with the LWWUS position on Voting Rights, shown below.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

In order to realize the LWVUS position on Voting Rights, LWVK advocates for the following policies and actions to reduce the barriers to voting in Kansas:

- Requiring election officials encourage voter turnout and participation in their official capacity.
- Allowing county election officers to continue to place remote ballot drop boxes in locations that are accessible and convenient for all voters at all hours.
- Ensuring the design of ballots that allow the secure and accurate tabulation of votes.
- Allowing voter registration on the day of an election for all eligible voters.
- Enable automatic voter registration when eligible voters interact with government agencies.
- State and local governments and agencies should be obligated to inform ex-felons that they are eligible to re-register to vote and provide guidance on how that can be done.
- Standardizing the voting process to give voters equal access and equal opportunity to vote, regardless of which county they live in.
- Add advance voting on the weekend for all counties.
- Raising the minimum number of days of advance voting
- Ensuring that all elections are adequately, publicly funded.
- Expand the availability of in-person advance voting to allow more voters to vote prior to election day
- Allow voting by mail to remain a secure, dependable, and accessible method for voters to cast their ballot.
- Making the general election day a holiday
- Reduce the Cost of Voting by making voting more accessible and less difficult.
- Recruit and retain Poll Workers and Election Officials
- Protecting the safety of election workers and voters
- Fight Voter Suppression and Misinformation
- Encourage would-be voters to make a voting plan
- Removing barriers to voting that exist for non-English speaking voters. We believe election offices should be more proactive in providing voting materials or translation services in multiple languages that allow all voters in the county a fair opportunity to understand what is on the ballot.
- Requiring election officials to inform voters of their ballot status so voters have an opportunity to cure provisional ballots in time for them to be counted.

Footnote: To learn more about alternate voting systems, LWV Washington created a comprehensive report on this topic. It is linked below:

<https://lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/Review%20of%20Election%20Methods%20-12-20.pdf>

LWVK Board Study Committee

Council 2024 Proposal

A committee of the board reviewed our position statements and recommends the following course of study for LWVK

1. Review of the position on School finance, to be voted on at 2025 convention (April 2024 - March 2025, 1-year update).
2. Development of a new position on election integrity and disinformation, to be voted on at council in 2026 (April 2024 - March 2026, 2-year study).
3. Statewide LWVK concurrence with the programs of study currently underway in Topeka and Lawrence regarding updating and revising our state position on climate change, to be voted on at Convention in 2027 (April 2024 - March 2027, 3-year concurrence to parallel the local Leagues).

All positions begin when LWVK can identify co-chairs.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers, two-year term, 2024-2026

2nd VP (Communications) - Beverly Hall, Topeka

Treasurer - Susan Quinn, Topeka

Elected Directors, two-year term, 2024-2026

Director (Intra-League Coordinator/Study Chair) - Vicki Arnett, Topeka

Director (Advocacy Co-Chair) - Teresa Briggs, Emporia

Continuing 2nd year of the term:

President - Martha Pint, Wichita

1st Vice President - Marlene Merrill (DEI Chair), Lawrence

Secretary - Lana Balka, Topeka

Director (Advocacy Co-Chair) - Cille King, Lawrence

Director (Intra-League Coordinator) - Janice Walker, Great Bend

Director (Membership) - Sara Funk, Johnson County, finishes Carol Benoit's term

Appointed after Council

Director (Voter Services) - Marie Hernandez, Johnson County, finishes Susan Quinn's term

Nominating Committee – Doris Ricks, Lawrence

Nominating Committee – Nancy Brown, Wichita-Metro