

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2017-2018

The purposes of League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (LWVS) shall be to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

The following Local Program for 2017-2018 is a listing of issues the LWVS will monitor, and may promote via public education, and/or study and take to action. The League of Women Voters has local, county, state and national positions, which are the basis for League action. Our Local Program supports these county, state and national League positions where applicable. Each issue listed below has an “Outlook For Work” that identifies specific actions for that issue, but these lists should not be considered exhaustive and none of the action items is mandatory. Further, the order of the following issues and action items does not denote priority and thus leaves the LWVS the flexibility to act as circumstances warrant and the board and membership see fit.

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service is fundamental to all League work, providing nonpartisan education and factual information on registration, voting, candidates, ballot issues and elections to our membership and the public, and promoting adult and student citizen participation and voting in elections.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Coordinate, conduct and/or review voter registration actions and provide education services and factual information.
2. Prepare, publish and publicize registration and voting information in the LWVS Bulletin, website, social media, email communications and via other media and governmental outlets.
3. Contribute to the preparation, publication and distribution of the county-wide *Voters Guides* and the national Vote411.org website, including promoting of both in LWVS communications and on the LWVS website.
4. Plan and sponsor candidate forums for elective offices representing Scarsdale.
5. Create, update, print and distribute the “They Represent You” brochure, with updates posted to the LWVS website.
6. Support the LWV Westchester’s coordination of League member attendance at Naturalization Court by sending LWVS members to welcome and distribute voter information to new citizens on mutually agreed-upon dates each year.
7. Seek out opportunities to educate members of the community on Voter Services issues and coordinate efforts with other LWVS portfolios (e.g. Membership, Advocacy).

ADVOCACY

Monitor issues that have been or are currently being studied by the LWVS or by the League of Women Voters on the county, state and/or national levels. Inform our membership of developments and, from time to time, study and take action on certain issues. Identify and propose new issues that may be of interest to LWVS membership for study.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Participate individually or with other Leagues across the county, state and/or country to monitor, study and otherwise inform our membership and the community at large on various issues, including but not limited to:
 - Money in politics;
 - Voter rights/accessibility and voting reforms;
 - Raising the age of jurisdiction in the adult criminal justice system;
 - State and national Constitutional conventions;
 - Outreach and advocacy training;
 - Action items identified by the county, state and national Leagues.
2. Coordinate the development and implementation of a training program for the membership and the community at large to learn skills for outreach and advocacy on issues.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Actively create and seek opportunities to engage, partner and collaborate with local schools and youth groups to educate and raise the awareness of students in the areas of civics and political engagement, including voting and political advocacy.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Continue to create and support youth engagement and education activities, including but not limited to:
 - Students Inside Albany program in area high schools
 - Political Jeopardy in Scarsdale Middle School
 - Women's Suffrage education in area schools
 - Scarsdale nonpartisan system education in area schools
2. Coordinate, conduct and/or supply materials and information for voter registration initiatives for newly eligible voters in area high schools.

VILLAGE ELECTION SYSTEM

Monitor and evaluate the nonpartisan nominating and election process for the election of the Mayor and trustees of the Village Board, including study of the nominating and election processes.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Monitor the activities of the Procedure Committee (PC), including but not limited to:
 - any proposed changes to the policies, procedures and/or governing resolution;
 - its efforts to recruit candidates for the Citizens Nominating Committee (CNC);
 - its activities to run the CNC election.
2. Publicize notice of the LWVS's general membership and consensus meetings regarding the most recent CNC recruitment and election process and the village Mayor/Trustee election process.
3. Conduct a general membership meeting to inform the membership and community at large on the most recent CNC election process, and a LWVS members-only consensus meeting to evaluate the most recent CNC election process and provide recommendations to the outgoing and incoming chairs of the PC for the coming year's election process.
4. Monitor and analyze elections where candidates other than the Non Partisan Party are on the ballot.

SCHOOL ELECTION SYSTEM

Monitor and evaluate the nonpartisan nominating and election process for the election of members of the School Board, including study of the nominating and election processes.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Monitor the activities of the Administrative Committee (AC), including but not limited to:
 - any proposed changes to the policies, procedures and governing resolution;
 - its efforts to recruit candidates for the School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC);
 - its activities to run the SBNC election.

2. Publicize notice of the LWVS's general membership and consensus meetings regarding the most recent SBNC recruitment and election process.
3. Conduct a general membership meeting to inform the membership and community at large on the most recent SBNC election process, and a LWVS members-only consensus meeting to evaluate the most recent SBNC election process and provide recommendations to the outgoing and incoming chairs of the AC for the coming year's election process.
4. Monitor and analyze elections where candidates other than the Non Partisan Party are on the ballot.

VILLAGE BUDGET

Monitor and evaluate development of the Village budget and financing, including bond proposals, Village-wide property revaluations, and other Village policies, process and procedures.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Attend budget-related Village Board, Finance Committee and other relevant Village board or council meetings open to the public, including any meetings related to proposed or actual Scarsdale-wide property revaluations and tax reassessments.
2. Review Village budget-related documents, including those related to proposed or actual Scarsdale-wide property revaluations and tax reassessments.
3. Make periodic reports to the LWVS Board to keep the officers and directors up-to-date on the Village budget development process.
4. Work with Village administration officials and Trustees in preparation for the LWVS general membership and consensus meetings on the Village budget.
5. Conduct a general membership meeting to inform the membership and the community at large about the proposed Village budget for the coming year.
6. Conduct a LWVS members-only consensus meeting to evaluate the proposed Village Budget and provide recommendations to the Village administration and Trustees for the final budget for the coming year.
7. Monitor and recommend for study any other issues relating to the Village budget that arise during the budget development process, and coordinate with other LWVS portfolios as appropriate.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Monitor and evaluate development of the Scarsdale Schools budget and financing, including bond proposals, and other School District policies, process and procedures.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Attend budget-related Scarsdale Board of Education and Budget Session meetings open to the public.
2. Review School budget-related documents.
3. Make periodic reports to the LWVS Board to keep the officers and directors up-to-date on the School budget development process.
4. Work with School administration officials and Board of Education members in preparation for the LWVS general membership and consensus meetings on the School budget.
5. Conduct a general membership meeting to inform the membership and the community at large about the proposed School budget for the coming year.
6. Conduct a LWVS members-only consensus meeting to evaluate the proposed School Budget and provide recommendations to the School administration and Board of Education for the proposed budget for the coming year.
7. Monitor and recommend for study any other issues relating to School financing that arise during the year, and coordinate with other LWVS portfolios as appropriate.

PLANNING & ZONING

Monitor and, from time to time, study and take action on issues related to planning and zoning in or affecting Scarsdale.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Evaluate and recommend action on Scarsdale planning and zoning issues, including but not limited to:
 - development, including Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and lot coverage;
 - land use, including historic preservation and open space;
 - housing, including fair, affordable, workforce, age restricted, senior and accessory;
 - infrastructure, including utilities, road maintenance, water safety and sewers;
 - storm water and flood management;
 - safety;
 - recreation; and
 - the Village Comprehensive Plan

2. Monitor and recommend for study issues arising from any of the activities of the various Village Land Use boards, committees and councils, including the Village Board of Trustees, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. Make periodic reports to the LWVS Board to keep the officers and directors up-to-date on planning and zoning issues.

LWVS COMMUNICATION

Actively use various written and electronic means to keep LWVS members and the community at large informed about League of Women Voters activities, events, advocacy issues and developments and action alerts.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. **LWVS Bulletin** - Produce the newsletter published five times during the League year and distributed to League members. The Bulletin is printed in hard copy and mailed once in the fall and in the spring and e-mailed to members three other times during the year.
2. **Eblasts** – Send emails to a distribution list including all current and past LWVS members, prospective members, certain other LWV officers and administrators and other interested Scarsdale residents.
3. **Website** – Maintain, update and improve the LWVS website (lwvs.org) on a regular basis as the central point for information about and from the League of Women Voters (local, county, state and national) for LWVS members and the community at large.
4. **Publicity** – Provide information to the public about League of Women Voters (local, county, state and national) activities, programs, events and the results of LWVS studies, via print and electronic media.
5. **Social Media** – Maintain, update and improve the LWVS’s social media accounts, including Facebook and Twitter.
6. Coordinate with other LWVS portfolios to develop consistent, clear information dissemination and messaging to the membership and the community at large.

ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABILITY

Monitor and, from time to time, study and take action on issues related to environmental/sustainability issues affecting Scarsdale.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Monitor, evaluate and recommend action on any environmental or sustainability issues raised by the activities of the various Village Land Use boards, committees and councils, including the Village Board of Trustees, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, including but not limited to:
 - air, noise and water pollution;
 - recycling, solid waste and waste water management, including pesticide use, leaf collection and disposal, and composting;
 - storm water and flood management;
 - drinking water quality;
 - preservation of natural resources, including trees;
 - sustainability and energy conservation; and
 - LED street lighting.
2. Coordinate with other LWVS portfolios as appropriate.
3. Make periodic reports to the LWVS Board to keep the officers and directors up-to-date on environmental/sustainability issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Actively recruit and retain LWVS members and cultivate member participation in League work.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Develop opportunities to educate the community about the League's work through informational programs, events, advocacy activities, and social events, including but not limited to:
 - Book discussions related to issues of interest to LWVS members;
 - Featured speakers at the LWVS *Food For Thought* and Annual Meeting luncheons who are experts on issues of interest to LWVS members;
 - An annual Membership Coffee where new, current and prospective members can meet other members in a relaxed social setting and hear an informational presentation.
2. Maintain and update the database of LWVS members for local use and for reporting to LWVUS.
3. Conduct the annual Membership Drive campaign to encourage current members to renew their LWVS membership for the coming year and solicit potential new members.

4. Coordinate with other LWVS portfolios to develop opportunities to grow membership.

PROGRAM/EDUCATION

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Plan programs of interest and identify relevant speakers for the LWVS's *Food for Thought* Luncheon in the fall and the Annual Meeting Luncheon in the spring. These events are open to the public.
2. Coordinate with other LWVS portfolios to develop program/education goals.

DEVELOPMENT

Identify, organize and execute activities and events to raise funds, in addition to membership dues and donations, to sustain the work of the LWVS.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. **Winter Fundraiser** – Organize and host the LWVS's annual social gathering in January.
2. **Finance Drive** – Conduct the LWVS's annual appeal for financial support from members.