



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
SCARSDALE LWV NONPARTISAN POSITION**

*The League favors the concept of, and recognizes the value of a nonpartisan system for the selection of Village and School Board candidates in Scarsdale. We will continue to monitor the election systems in order to encourage the informed and active participation of our citizens. In the case of contested elections, the League will be governed by its voters service guidelines and principles.*

*adopted: 1982; revised: November, 1995*

*Historically, the League has also advocated that voters be better represented on the Procedure Committee of the village nonpartisan election system by reducing the number of appointed members and including the full retiring class of elected members from the Citizens Nominating Committee. Likewise, we have encouraged more reliance on public financing of the Village Election System.*

*adopted: 1960s; reiterated: 1977-present*

**NONPARTISAN ELECTION SYSTEMS CONSENSUS**

The League's goal is to facilitate the dissemination of information so that voters may make an informed decision in contested as well as uncontested elections. Thus, we strongly support a nonpartisan election system for Scarsdale which permits open discussion by candidates of community concerns and encourages participation by candidates in some type of forum before the election.

The League feels that deliberations on candidates should remain confidential so long as there are sufficient safeguards to assure the accuracy of the information given to the nominating committee. For example, we strongly urge that the Village Nonpartisan Resolution be amended to include the provision from the School Board Nominating Resolution, Article III, Section 6: "If the discussion that takes place at any time during the course of the third or any subsequent meeting creates questions that cannot be verified immediately, no further vote for nominees shall be taken at that meeting unless 2/3s of the members present are in favor of such action." Further, the League believes that confidentiality should be limited to deliberations on candidates. Because the resolutions governing the election systems provide for public involvement in the process of amending such resolutions, the League believes that it is imperative that procedures of the nominating committees, instructions concerning confidentiality given to the nominators, and any interpretations of the resolution requirements be a matter of public record. In addition, in the interest of inviting wider community participation, and because we believe that it is important for nominators to bring as much information as possible to their deliberations about potential candidates, the League recommends publicizing the names of potential candidates for School and Village Boards. The League anticipates this will stimulate voters to share their opinions with the nominating committees, thereby enhancing both openness and the perception of openness.

With these changes that encourage a discussion of ideas and allow for greater citizen involvement, voters will have a better opportunity to understand the amendments, assess the nominating procedures and make a more informed judgment in the electoral process.

*adopted: April 24, 1996*