

LOCAL LEAGUE RESPONSE FORM TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE

LEAGUE NAME _____

DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND NUMBER OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Please complete this response form and forward it to the state League by May 1, 2022. Local League members who participate in a Local League process may not submit an individual response to the update.

We are asking you to make three separate decisions on three Position Statements. You may concur with one, two, or all three.

- *Do you concur with the Position Statement on State Election Administration?*
- *Do you concur with the Position Statement on Local Election Administration?*
- *Do you concur with the Position Statement on Local and State Boards?*

The League of Women Voters of New York State believes that a more accountable, transparent, and professional state election administration would improve voter access and confidence in our elections. We believe that achieving these goals will require changes to the state constitution.

I. State Election Administration

- The League believes that New York State should create the position of chief election official in charge of election administration. This position could be combined with that of the Secretary of State or be a new statewide elected position with a fixed term. Any candidate for this office should not have been an elected official or a party official for some time prior to their election and could not run for any other elected office or party position during the term of office or for some time after the term ends. Ideally, the position should be nonpartisan.
- The chief election official should establish uniform statewide rules on voter registration, election administration and ballot access under state election law, and serve as an oversight authority to safeguard compliance of local election officials with these rules. The office should administer the statewide voter registration database, assist local election officials by providing training, and oversee the process of testing and certifying voting equipment.
- The chief election official should ensure accountability and transparency in state and local election operations by holding scheduled open meetings, maintaining accuracy and timeliness in election results reporting, and directing local election officials to hold public meetings and maintain correct and up-to-date public information on local election office websites and social media.

1. Do you have member agreement on the State Election Administration Position Statement?

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Comments: _____

Local Election Administration

- The League believes that local elections should be administered by a local election official appointed by the local elected governing body with a fixed term of office and removable for cause by either the appointing body or the chief state election official. This local election official should not have been a state or local elected official or party official for some time prior to their appointment. Appointment of the local election official should be done through a public merit-based process and the position should have standardized annual training requirements.
- There should be staffing and salary standards for employees of the local election office which include the local election official as a full-time employee. Adequate state funding should be provided to counties to hire and train professional staff. All vacancies should be publicly advertised and hiring should be merit based. All election administration staff should have standardized annual training requirements.

2. Do you have member agreement on the Local Election Administration Position Statement?

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Comments: _____

III. Local and State Boards

- The League of Women Voters believes that a bipartisan or multi-party state Board could provide certification of state election results and possibly other functions. Appointments to the Board could be made by the Governor alone or in combination with the legislative leaders, and/or the legislature, in a transparent and public process. The chief state election official could remove members of the Board for cause.
- The League believes that a bipartisan or multi-party local Board could be established to provide certification of local election results and possibly other functions such as qualifying voters. Appointments to the Board could be made by the local election official in a transparent and public process, subject to approval of local elected governing body.

The local election official could remove members of the Board for cause. Members could also be removed by the state chief election official for cause.

3. Do you have member agreement on the Local and State Boards Position Statement?

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Comments: _____

Mail, Fax or Email completed form by May 1, 2022.

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Questions: Call the League at 518-465-4162