SBNC AC Responses to LWVS Information Session Agenda
re Proposed SBNC Resolution Amendments
Friday, November 21, 2025
10:30 am at Scarsdale Village Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room
or via Zoom
Meeting ID: 852 9290 1522
Passcode: 421311

1. **Overview of Process**

    a. **Please describe the process and timeline by which the election date and the amendments were proposed initially (e.g., what individuals or groups were involved in setting the election date and in drafting the amendments, from whom did the Administrative Committee solicit feedback and when did that occur, what decisions were made concerning soliciting community input).**

The election date was set based on several factors, including the need to be able to have new SBNC training/orientation prior to the first meeting in January, foot traffic at SMS to increase voting, and to allow time for a snow date should the initial date get cancelled. The Election Chair and Vice Chair decided on the dates given the above factors and after discussions with last year's Election Chair, current SBNC Chair and Vice Chair, and SMS PTA Programming Chairs.

Amendments to the School Board Nominating Committee Resolution, Scarsdale Union Free School District (the "Resolution") were proposed initially to the full Administrative Committee for consideration and discussion after discussion among the Resolution Chair, the Election Chair, the Election Vice Chair, the Chair of the School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC), and the Vice Chair of the SBNC. Proposed amendments were presented by the Resolution Chair, informed by feedback from SBNC members, BOE members, other members of the community, and by previous LWVS consensus statements. The full Administrative Committee met in October to consider amendments and to vote on proposed amendments, and, in accordance with II.C.4(a) of the Resolution, the amendments proposed to the community were those proposed amendments approved by a majority of the voting members of the Administrative Committee present at an Administrative Committee meeting on October 13, 2025, attended by 20 members. In accordance with II.A.3(b) of the Resolution, the Election Chair and the Resolution Chair did not participate in that vote.

The Administrative Committee convened a public meeting on November 5, 2025 (the "November 5 Public Meeting"), at Rooms 170-72 at the High School (the rooms in which the School Board meets) and over Zoom, at which the Administrative Committee received feedback from several community members, including the President of the Scarsdale Forum. This public meeting complied with II.C.4(b), and was publicized through Scarsdale10583.com, Scarsdale Buzz, PTA newsletters and the SBNC website.

Following the November 5 Public Meeting, the Administrative Committee determined to revise certain of its proposed amendments. Please see the below.

b. How did the Administrative Committee reach decisions on whether to incorporate, reject, or modify any suggestions made or received?

This is pending; the Administrative Committee is reviewing possible revisions this week.

c. Did you consider any changes to the SBNC Resolution to address the leadership succession plan, as discussed in the League's 2023 consensus statements[1]?

Certain members of the Administrative Committee conferred regarding this suggestion in the League's 2023 Consensus Statement, and were of the view that while the specific Election Chair succession protocol suggested by the 2023 Consensus Statement could be a goal, the Resolution should not be amended to dictate this specific succession protocol suggested by the 2023 Consensus Statement.

The view of these Administrative Committee members was informed by the recent experience in the community of difficulty in recruiting volunteers for various roles, including roles associated with the SBNC and the Administrative Committee. This year, the leadership of the Administrative Committee is working to ensure that there is thorough documentation with respect to each of the Administrative Committee leadership roles, so that Administrative Committee members considering and/or holding these positions in the future will have the benefit of information about past practice and the view of predecessor Administrative Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs about best practices.

No member of this year's Administrative Committee advocated for an amendment to the Resolution relating to succession protocol.

d. Did you consider any changes to the SBNC Resolution to address the three-year staggered term system, as discussed in the League's 2023 consensus statement[2]?

Yes; changes of this nature were considered by Administrative Committee members, but it was decided not to amend the Resolution to change the current term system. One view within the Administrative Committee was that the system works well currently, incentivizing community members to run to fill seats that become open as a result of resignation or another reason.

[1] See 2024 SBNC Election Consensus Statement dated 5/31/24, p. 2, 2023 SBNC Election Consensus Statement dated 1/27/23, p. 3, 2022 SBNC Election Consensus Statement dated 2/14/22, p. 2, 2020 SBNC Election Consensus Statement dated 2/27/20, p. 4, and 2020 SBNC Resolution Amendment Consensus Statement dated 1/10/20, pp. 3, 4.
[2] See 2024 SBNC Election Consensus Statement dated 5/31/24, p. 2, and 2020 SBNC Resolution Amendment Consensus Statement dated 1/10/20, pp. 5-6.

e. What additional resolution changes were seriously considered, if any, that will not be addressed by the proposed amendments this year?

The Administrative Committee considered and voted upon the following additional proposals for amendment to the Resolution:

1) Addition of PTC representatives to the Administrative Committee, similar to the appointment of representatives of SNAP and the TVCC;

2) Removal of the prohibition in III.C.2(c) on the SBNC questioning candidates for SBNC nomination "on their views or stances in connection with specific issues," on the view that the prohibition is drafted too broadly; and

3) Removal of the prohibitions in III.C.2(d) on the SBNC accepting or seeking references from sitting members of the Board of Education or current employees of the School District.

f. Please describe the steps and timeline taken to publicize the amendments to the Resolution?

Consistent with the above:

The proposed amendments were publicized through the following modalities:

Posting on the SBNC Website

Sharing with scarsdale10583.com, which published notice of the November 5 Public Meeting as well as the press release about the election

Inclusion in PTA newsletters

Standalone posting on Scarsdale Buzz regarding the November 5 Public Meeting

Inclusion in the LWVS newsletter

Providing ballots at the Scarsdale Public Library

Convening of the November 5 Public Meeting, which was publicized via methods identified above.

g. What public comments have you received concerning the proposed amendments?

We received comments at the November 5th Public Meeting. No other comments have been received to date.

h. Do you anticipate any changes as a result of the public comments you have received?

Yes. We anticipate:

1) a change to the draft language regarding solicitation of public comment; and

2) a change to the draft language regarding follow-up questions to candidates for SBNC nomination.

2. Proposed Amendments & Rationale

The rationale for each was discussed at the November 5th Public Meeting.

a. Proposed Amendment No 1: Clarification that three is a maximum, not a required number, for the number of individuals to be appointed by the Scarsdale Neighborhood Association Presidents (SNAP) and the Town and Village Civic Club (TVCC) to the Administrative Committee, which supervises election to the School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC).

- **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: Create flexibility so that SNAP and TVCC can add up to 3 rather than having to appoint 3. If one looks at the history: SNAP and TVCC do not always appoint 3 members.

b. Proposed Amendment No 2: Replaces references to the Scarsdale Forum with references to the Town and Village Civic Club (dba Scarsdale Forum).

- **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: TVCC is a 501(c)(3) organization having the same officers and members as the Scarsdale Forum, a 501(c)(4) organization.

c. Proposed Amendment No 3: In the case of a tie when electing officers of the Administrative Committee, the Election Chair will vote to break the tie.

- **Please explain the rationale for this change and the choice of Election Chair rather than Resolution Chair to break a tie.**

Rationale: As per the League's 2024 Consensus Statement,If one wants to break a tie, you only want one position to be able to break the tie. The Election Chair is the Chair that effectively runs the Administrative Committee – see, e.g., II.A.3(a), II.B.1, and II.C.1. Accordingly, it makes sense for the Election Chair to break a tie.

d. **Proposed Amendment No 4: In the case of inclement weather or an emergency and the SBNC election cannot be held, the Election Chair will determine a plan for an alternate date in consultation with the Administrative Committee.**
   - **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: The Resolution currently states at II.C.3(g) that in the event that Scarsdale schools are closed on the date determined for the SBNC election, "the election will be held the next day that school is in session." That has proven to be impracticable. The proposed amendment requires the Election Chair to develop a plan for a replacement election date, but does not specifically legislate all details and rather leaves those to the discretion of the Election Chair in consultation with the Administrative Committee.

e. **Proposed Amendment No 5: Would provide for an option of drop boxes on Election Day.**
   - **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: Would make it easier to vote, e.g. if a voter is sick, or an emergency comes up and it is too late to rely on mailing a mail-in ballot.

f. **Proposed Amendment No 6: The Resolution Chair has discretion as to how to pursue dialogue with community members regarding any resolution changes that will appear on the SBNC ballot.**
   - **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: The Resolution would still require the Administrative Committee to gather feedback from the community about proposed resolution amendments, but it gives the Resolution Chair more flexibility as to how to gather that feedback. Technology has changed, and there are many ways to engage with people.

g. **Proposed Amendment No 7: Amend to provide that SNAP and TVCC would no longer have the right to appoint non-voting members to the SBNC**
   - **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: This would track to what has been adopted for the CNC, reflecting a move to independence for both organizations.

h. **Proposed Amendment No 8: Allow for follow up after the BOE Candidate presentations to resolve open ended candidacy questions.**
   - **Please explain the rationale for this change.**

Rationale: This provides an option to the SBNC to ask follow up questions if there are unresolved issues/questions after the BOE candidate presentations. These follow up questions will still follow the same guardrails that are in the Resolution.