

PROPOSED LWVS LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2025-26

The purpose of the 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 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. The following Local Program for 2025–26 is a listing of issues the LWVS will monitor, may promote via public education, and/or study and take action. 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 including early voting in-person and by mail, in the LWVS Bulletin, website, social media, email communications, and via banners and/or other media and governmental outlets.
3. Contribute to the preparation, publication, and distribution of vote411.org, including in LWVS communications and on the LWVS website.
4. Plan and sponsor candidate forums for elective offices representing Scarsdale.
5. Create, update, and publicize 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 service issues and coordinate efforts with other LWVS portfolios (e.g. Membership, Advocacy).
8. Participate with local leagues on the LWV Westchester voter service committee or any other similar LWV Westchester effort to provide voting information to the public.

ADVOCACY

Monitor issues that have been or are currently being studied by the LWVS or by the League of Women Voters at 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;
 - State and national constitutional conventions;
 - Outreach and advocacy training;
 - Action items identified by the county, state, and national Leagues.
2. Participate in advocacy training and, where appropriate, share effective practices with the membership and the community at large.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Actively create and seek opportunities to engage, partner, and collaborate with local schools and youth groups to educate and raise student awareness 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 educational activities, including but not limited to:
 - Educational programs in Scarsdale Public Schools and neighboring school communities;
 - Students Inside Albany program in area high 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.
3. Continue to participate in LWV Westchester-led youth programs such as Running & Winning and the Youth Corps.

SCHOOL ELECTION SYSTEM

Monitor and evaluate the nonpartisan nominating and election system 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 publicize and 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 an 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 when candidates other than the SBNC-nominated slate are on the ballot.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Monitor and evaluate development of the Scarsdale Schools budget and financing, including bond proposals, and other School District policies, processes, 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 and ask LWVS Board-directed questions, if appropriate.
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 an 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.
8. Monitor and recommend for study any issues that arise during the Board of Education's policy review initiative.

VILLAGE ELECTION SYSTEM

Monitor and evaluate the nonpartisan nominating and election system 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 publicize and 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 an 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 when candidates other than the Citizens' 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, processes 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 and ask LWVS Board-directed questions, if appropriate.
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 an 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.
8. Monitor and recommend for study any issues concerning the Village Code.

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 accessible;
 - Infrastructure, including utilities, road maintenance, water safety, and sewers;
 - Stormwater and flood management;
 - Safety and security;
 - Recreation (including the renovation of the Scarsdale Pool Complex); and
 - Village Comprehensive Plan (including Freightway development)
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 and ask LWVS Board-directed questions, if appropriate.

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, water, and light pollution;
 - Recycling, solid waste and waste water management, including pesticide use, leaf collection and disposal, and composting (with an emphasis on food waste);
 - Stormwater and flood management;
 - Drinking water quality;
 - Preservation of natural resources, including trees;
 - Sustainability and energy conservation; and
 - Regulation of wireless communications and cell towers.
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 and ask LWVS Board-directed questions, if appropriate.

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, action alerts and upcoming elections.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. LWVS Bulletin - Produce the newsletter published regularly during the League year and sent to a distribution list that may include but is not limited to current and past LWVS members, prospective members, certain other LWV officers and administrators, and other interested Scarsdale residents.
2. Eblasts – Send emails to a distribution list that may include but is not limited to 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, broaden, and improve the LWVS's social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube.
6. Coordinate with other LWVS portfolios to develop consistent, clear information dissemination and messaging to the membership and the community at large.

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, publicity (media outreach), 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 event, Annual Meeting, and other events, who are experts on issues of interest to LWVS members;
 - An annual Membership gathering 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 and lapsed members to renew their LWVS membership for the coming year and to solicit potential new members.

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

PROGRAM/EDUCATION

In coordination with LWVS portfolios where appropriate, develop and plan educational programs of interest, including identifying relevant speakers for LWVS events.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Plan programs of interest and identify relevant speakers for the Membership coffee and the Food for Thought event in the fall, the Annual Meeting in the spring, and other special events. 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. Annual Fundraiser/Social Event – Organize and host LWVS’s annual social gathering.
2. Finance Drive – Conduct LWVS’s annual appeal for financial support from members.