



# Welcome to LWVGO!

Thank you for joining the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha and thank you for the financial support that your membership provides. We're excited to have you as a member and look forward to helping you to get the most out of your membership.

This document provides a quick guide to the organization and how you can get involved. We welcome questions and feedback; please email [web@omahalwv.org](mailto:web@omahalwv.org) with any membership or welcome-packet inquiries.

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## Ways to Get Involved

The following is a listing of opportunities for action and involvement. There no shortage of opportunities to follow your interests with the League; don't see what you're interested in working on here? Start your own committee!

Members and prospective members are welcome to join and contribute to any of the following working groups/committees. You can commit as little or as much time as you're interested in or able to invest, and opportunities are available to suit different schedules.

Contact the leader listed on any of the following groups to get started.

### Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

Leads the League effort to register voters. GOTV provides:

- League sponsored voter deputy registrar training
- Registrars upon request for general voter registration
- Voter registration at all naturalization ceremonies in Omaha
- Education and voter registration for government classes for Omaha area public schools
- Interface with community groups involved in voter registration
- GOTV tool kit including magnets, business cards, and other voter information
- Text messages and postcards contact to newly registered voters

Lots of opportunities!

**Contact:** Carolyn Thiel, [gotv@omahalwv.org](mailto:gotv@omahalwv.org), 402-670-9825, and Maryanne Rouse, [mbr614@cox.net](mailto:mbr614@cox.net), 402-301-3417

### Go Vote, Omaha! (TV show; filmed weekly)

Locally produced public access television/YouTube show covering public policy issues and providing candidate forums for elections. Volunteers willing to work on research for questions especially invited. Opportunities include on- and off-camera work. Shows are "filmed" on Thursday nights but booking and research can be done at other times.

**Contact:** Geri Simon, [gts1952@gmail.com](mailto:gts1952@gmail.com), 785-341-9876.

### Voters' Guide (nonpartisan voter info ahead of elections)

LWVGO produced printed and electronic guide (VOTE411.org) for candidates running in the primary and general elections. Opportunities include solicitation and compilation of candidate Q&A, layout, production and distribution of guide.

**Contact:** Kathy Lalley-Dewell, [votersguide@omahlwv.org](mailto:votersguide@omahlwv.org), and Rebecca Armstrong Langle, [rebeccaarmstrong7@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaarmstrong7@gmail.com)

### Dine & Discuss (monthly voter-education program)

Monthly evening meetings featuring a guest presenter on public policy issue for education and discussion. Open to the public. Opportunities in planning and running this event or just attend.

**Contact:** MaryLee Moulton, [mmoulton@omahalwv.org](mailto:mmoulton@omahalwv.org), 520-990-5944

## Observer Corps (weekly, monthly or quarterly meetings)

Observer Corps are a structured way for individuals to exercise their right to know. Responding to a decline in news coverage of local politics, an observer attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and through the League to the community. By attending public meetings of local governmental bodies/agencies, observers learn more about what their government is doing. They learn about the issues facing their community and are empowered to take action, if warranted. They also learn how issues are being addressed.

**Contact:** Alex Garrison, [web@omahalwv.org](mailto:web@omahalwv.org), 402-819-9794

## Public Policy Research

Tracking legislation of interest to the League during the Nebraska legislative session and contributing to the priority bills selected by LWVGO to support or oppose. Also conducts and publicizes research on policy and contributes to questions for candidate forums and other voter-education events. Committees include groups focusing on healthcare, immigration, environmental issues and public education.

**Contact:** Peggy Adair, [impa@centurylink.net](mailto:impa@centurylink.net), 402-630-3325, and Darci Garcia, [darci\\_m\\_garcia@yahoo.com](mailto:darci_m_garcia@yahoo.com), 801-636-6476

## Communications

Committee working on promoting the activities, mission and values of LWVGO through publication on the website and social media as well as in press releases and traditional media.

**Contact:** Kim Armstrong, [communications@omahalwv.org](mailto:communications@omahalwv.org), 402-250-0456

## Community Relations

Outreach to communities with a goal of diversity and inclusion. Participates in community events like parades and expos. Looking for members active with other community organizations to serve as a liaison with the LWVGO to foster cooperation.

**Contact:** Palistene Gray-Moore, [pgraymoore@cox.net](mailto:pgraymoore@cox.net), 402-453-5179

## Finance/Development

Working on individual, corporate, and foundation development, including grant writing.

**Contact:** Mary Ann Griffin, [grifma@msn.net](mailto:grifma@msn.net), 402-250-4873

## Red, White & You (letter-writing parties)

A monthly gathering to discuss a LWV approved issue over a glass of wine and write letters about that issue to elected representatives.

**Contact:** Krystal Fox, [kleefox@gmail.com](mailto:kleefox@gmail.com), 402-507-1823.

## Book Club: Daytime Meetings

Non-fiction book club focusing on history and politics. Meets second Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at Swanson Library.

**Contact:** Bev Traub, [bevtraub@msn.com](mailto:bevtraub@msn.com), 402-556-3711

## Book Club After Dark

Evening book club featuring non-fiction political and feminist reading.

**Contact:** Krystal Fox, [kleefox@gmail.com](mailto:kleefox@gmail.com), 402-507-1823.

## Documentary Club

Bi-monthly showing and discussion of documentaries focusing on voters, voting and issues important to the LWV. Open to the public.

**Contact:** Krystal Fox, [kleefox@gmail.com](mailto:kleefox@gmail.com), 402-507-1823

## Running & Winning (2019)

Biennial (next happening in 2019) one-day workshop for high school girls to encourage them to run for political office in the future. We invite women who are past or current elected officials to share their experience running for office. In partnership with the University of Omaha Service Learning.

Opportunities in planning and running this event.

**Contact:** Ann Chalson, [aschalson@cox.net](mailto:aschalson@cox.net), 402-392-0318

## Kim Culp Juvenile Justice Forum

Form educating the community about important issues regarding youth and juvenile justice in Nebraska.

Co-sponsored by the LWVGE, the NWV of Nebraska and Partnership4Kids. Opportunities in forum planning.

**Contact:** Joanna Lindberg, [joannaclindberg@yahoo.com](mailto:joannaclindberg@yahoo.com), 402-330-1192

## Election Day Staffing

Man the LWV office on election day to field inquiries from the public on voting issues.

**Contact:** Ann Chalson, [aschalson@cox.net](mailto:aschalson@cox.net), 402-392-0318

## League of Women Voters' 100th Anniversary (throughout 2020)

Work on events commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the LWV including a major luncheon or dinner.

**Contact:** Elaine Johnson, [elaineomaha@gmail.com](mailto:elaineomaha@gmail.com), 402-630-5199

## International Women's Day (March 9, 2019)

Annual occasions that honors the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present, and future. Planning for a day of action.

**Contact:** Ann Chalson, [aschalson@cox.net](mailto:aschalson@cox.net), 402-392-0318

## LWVGO YPs (Young Professionals)

Emerging group that meets in the evening to discuss upcoming events and LWVGO membership as younger/working members. College students and the young at heart welcome.

**Contact:** Alex Garrison, [web@omahalwv.org](mailto:web@omahalwv.org), 402-819-9794

## More About LWVGO

The League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha (LWVGO) is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### Mission Statement

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

### Vision Statement

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

### Value Statement

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

### Beliefs & Intention

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization that:

- acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels;
- builds citizen participation in the democratic process;
- engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

We believe in:

- respect for individuals
- the value of diversity
- the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities

We will:

- act with trust, integrity and professionalism
- operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public
- take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership
- acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.

### Membership Eligibility & Area Served

Any person (of any gender) over the age of 16 and self-described as living in the Greater Omaha area is eligible to become a member. LWVGO members automatically become members of LWVNE and LWV.

### Structure of the Organization

LWVGO is a local League, a locally organized, self-organized 501(3)(c). We receive support and take guidance from the national League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters of Nebraska but we govern ourselves and reserve the right to have additional policies and procedures.

## Board of Directors

We are governed by a board of directors. The [Board](#) consists of an Executive Committee of officers and directors. In our leadership, we also have committee chairs, but most chairs are “off-board.” The Board meets (generally; you can find more info on the events calendar on the website) at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at the LWVGO office, 15 S. 49th Ave.

## Membership Dues & Information

Membership is valid for one calendar year. Membership must be renewed by the end of the calendar year (12/31), regardless of the date that membership began. Membership may be gained/renewed online ([omahalwv.org/join](https://omahalwv.org/join)) or by mailing a check into the office.

### Dues Structure

*Financial assistance for membership dues is available upon request.*

First-Year Membership: \$47

Student Membership: \$22

Membership Renewal: \$62

Two Memberships (Same Household): \$92

## Policies & Positions

Although LWVGO does not endorse political candidates, we do take a stand on issues that arise in the political arena that affect us all. The organization as a whole supports or opposes laws. The deciding factors in deciding to oppose or support laws is directly influenced by whether or not the implementation of specific laws will hurt or help the communities we live in. LWVGO follows the policies and programs set forth by the national League of Women Voters. If there is no specific policy or program on a given issue, we initiate a study. Only after this study has been completed, do we support or oppose an issue.

LWVGO follows the LWV and LWVNE policy positions, available here:

<https://www.omahalwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LWVNE-PROGRAM-2018-2019.pdf>

To add or edit the program (our list of policy positions), LWVGO first commissions a study and then votes on any changes based on study recommendations at the annual meeting.