

LWVCC 2008 Annual Meeting Proposed By-Laws Change

NOTE: Carole Rebeiz is being nominated for a one-year term as President under the current by-laws. If this proposal is passed, a two-year term for President will become effective in May 2009, and the President-Elect elected this year will become President in 2009 to serve a two-year term.

Article V, Section 1, currently:

Article V Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The Officers of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County shall be a President, a President-Elect, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Each year a President-Elect shall be elected to serve one year as the President-Elect and then to serve the following year as the President. The other officers shall be elected to serve two-year terms. All officers shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. All Officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall take office on July 1. The Second Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The First Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

*Article V, Section 1, currently,
with proposed deletions (strikeouts) and additions (underlines):*

Article V Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The Officers of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County shall be a President, a President-Elect, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. ~~Each year a President-Elect shall be elected to serve one year as the President-Elect and then to serve the following year as the President.~~ The other officers, except for President-Elect, shall be elected to serve two-year terms. All officers shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. All Officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall take office on July 1. The Second Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The First Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The President-Elect shall be elected in even-numbered years and serve a one year term, and then, in the odd-numbered year, take office for a two year term as President. The President-Elect may, during the term as President-Elect, serve as an officer or director on the Board, if elected to such office in the prior or current year. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Article V, Section 1, with proposed changes:

Article V

Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The Officers of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County shall be a President, a President-Elect, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The officers, except for President-Elect, shall be elected to serve two-year terms. All officers shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. All Officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall take office on July 1. The Second Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The First Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The President-Elect shall be elected in even-numbered years and serve a one year term, and then, in the odd-numbered year, take office for a two year term as President. The President-Elect may, during the term as President-Elect, serve as an officer or director on the Board, if elected to such office in the prior or current year. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Rationale for the proposed change to Article V, Section 1:

This proposal has two changes which grew out of our presidents' experiences since 2001:

- 1: the President would serve a two year term as had been done previously and,
- 2: the President-Elect could serve as an officer or director while holding the office of President-Elect.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2001 the members amended the LWVCC by-laws to change the term of President to one year, and to create an office of President-Elect. A person elected as President-Elect would serve in that capacity for one year and then serve the following year as President. The purpose of the change was to make it easier to find someone willing to take on the job as President, and then to give that person a learning year.

This change has not worked as well as was anticipated. In actual practice, nominating committees have had difficulty slating anyone as President-Elect and when that position is not filled at the Annual Meeting, the next year's President remains undetermined.

Why return to a two year term for the President? A one year term for a President is too short to engage in long term thinking and planning. Finding someone willing to serve two years may be a challenge but the benefits of the longer term for continuity will be important.

Why change the wording on the President-Elect? The position of President-Elect has relatively few responsibilities. In that position, without any of the other duties that are delegated to the different officers and directors, the person does not really learn that much about the officers' roles and the Board's responsibilities. It is certainly important to know who is going to be President the next year, so the proposal would designate a President-Elect for the second year of the President's term, while the person could continue to serve in a board position, and contribute substantively to the League's activities.

It could be argued that we have not had enough experience under the recent change to change the By-laws again, but we think both changes will benefit the League.