

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name of the League of Women Voters has a lot of history and a powerful legacy that continues to identify it today. It honors why we were founded and who created this organization.

Historically women have been intentionally excluded from political life and in many ways, women continue to be excluded. The name is saying women belong in these places, and the League works to bring women and all those who have traditionally been excluded into this political space. Showing up authentically with a DEI lens is critical to our mission and why becoming good allies in different spaces is so important for democracy. It doesn't mean that only women can be members or participate nor is it meant to erase the wide spectrum of gender identities.

Keeping our name is a reminder of the powerful legacy the League comes from and that so much more work still needs to be done to make sure democracy works for everyone.

Removing the word "women" wouldn't make us more inclusive. What makes us more inclusive are actions done every day to welcome all genders and races to the organization and empower their voice in democracy. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in League activities, join the League, and seek leadership in League should they desire. There are no plans to change the name of the League of Women Voters but continued conversation around the topic is welcome.

Combined statements from Melissa Currence, LWVUS Board Member (2020-2022) and Liaison to LWV Indiana and Eliza Dilberti, Manager, Governance and League Support, Staff LWVUS May 2022

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE UNITED STATES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.