



Bylaws Guidance for Leagues

Under state law, Leagues must maintain compliance with their governing documents. Knowing that some of the upcoming membership changes will conflict with local and state League bylaws, Leagues will need to amend their bylaws to align with these changes. LWVUS trusts that state and local Leagues will endeavor to make these amendments in advance of the implementation of ChapterSpot in January 2025 but will not consider Leagues non-compliant with the [League Responsibilities Policy](#) for not doing so before the end of 2026.

As Leagues begin the process of amending their bylaws to consider the membership changes, the following types of passages should be reviewed. Leagues can also use this [Sample Bylaws Template](#) as a tool for updating their bylaws.

Dues Setting

Any language that specifies the dues rate or how dues amounts are determined should be amended. Options include:

- Removing passages that reference who sets dues and how.
- Replacing with less specific language, such as the language in the [LWVUS bylaws](#), “All members shall pay membership dues except those exempted from paying dues [in Article III].”
- Replacing with language referencing LWVUS, e.g., “Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy.”

Membership Categories

Membership categories are listed in Article III of the [LWVUS bylaws](#). If and when these articles change, these articles automatically convey to each state and local League because these articles must be consistent. If your League’s bylaws make reference to membership categories in other articles, these should be removed.

If your League’s bylaws reference other categories of membership or mechanisms by which to create them, this may or may not be in conflict with the upcoming changes.

Dues Nonpayment

It has yet to be determined how long the grace period after nonrenewal will extend before a member is removed from the active member roster. If a League has language specifying this period, it is recommended that it either be removed or be replaced by a reference to LWVUS policy, e.g. “Members who fail to renew within the period specified by LWVUS will be removed from the roster.”



Termination of Membership

Per the [LWVUS Member Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#), only LWVUS can revoke membership. As Leagues are giving consideration to amending their bylaws regarding nonpayment of dues, language addressing the termination of membership for other reasons should also be removed.

Per-Member Payment

Any references to per-member payment (PMP) should be removed.

Renewal Dates

References to fixed renewal dates should be removed or replaced with language that indicates a rolling renewal cycle, e.g., "Membership lasts for one year after joining or renewal."

Additional Considerations

Individual Leagues may have other bylaws passages that conflict with the changes to the way membership is handled that do not fall into one of the above categories. If a League has questions about if and how a passage needs to be changed, please reach out to governance@lww.org.