

# MINUTES Democracy Maine Boards of Directors Meetings

League of Women Voters of Maine ♦

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

Saturday, October 26, 2024 ♦ 9:00 -11:00 am

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84960455105>

**In attendance:** Pamela Cox, Susana Hancock, Rick Lyles, Alison Smith, Ann Luther, Jill Ward, Maya Eichorn, Melissa Murphy, Alex Newell Taylor (left meeting at 10 am), Tobin Williamson, Ben Gaines (arrived at 9:30), John Brautigam (counsel), Anna Kellar (Executive Director), Allyson Gardner (staff), Jill Packard (staff).

## LWVME C4 Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** 9:01 am

### Administration (Pamela):

- Minutes from July 2024 were approved via email.

### Treasurer's Reports (Ann):

- C4 Treasurer's Report is pending; details will follow via email.
- DownEast Treasurer reported a closing balance of \$5,239.80.
- Note - the Executive Committee monitors spending and financial status bi-monthly.

### Maine Students Vote (Allyson):

- **Student Voting Summit Highlights:**
  - Held at Colby; improved experience compared to last year at KVCC.
  - Supported by All In grant; catered by Colby Votes team.
  - Engaged 52 attendees from 7 colleges and 5 high schools.
  - Emphasis on youth empowerment and political engagement.
  - Positive feedback on event impact and skills gained.
  - Discussions about attendance issues and potential schedule changes.

### Youth Council (Maya):

- National Youth Council is expanding with teams for social media, policy, and support.
- Maya will be attending the National Student Vote Summit to network.

### Development Committee Report (Pamela and Anna):

- The goal is 100% board donation; overall development was close to meeting the quarterly target.

- Will be receiving \$50,000 for ranked choice voting and an additional \$46,000 funding for youth initiatives.
- The board is encouraged to engage potential donors through personal outreach and will receive a form from Jill Packard.

## Governance (Jill)

- The Nominating Committee is to be led by Alison Smith.
- Policies
  - In this work, we are doing our due diligence.
  - [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)
    - We have changed this policy to reflect our current structure.
    - These have updates that we informally agreed to a while ago.
  - [Disclosure of Interest Statement](#) (Form)
    - We have changed this policy to reflect our current structure.
    - These have updates that we informally agreed to a while ago.
  - [Ethics Policy](#)
    - We have changed this policy to reflect our current structure.
    - This was a policy we created for our nonprofit rating, but is an important one to have
  - [Whistleblower Policy](#)
    - We have changed this policy to reflect our current structure.
    - This also was a policy we created for our nonprofit rating but is an important one to have
  - **Motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy, Disclosure of Interest Statement (form), Ethics Policy, and Whistleblower Policy as amended. Motion by Jill Ward, Second by Melissa Murphy. Unanimous Approval.**
  - [External Media Policy](#)
    - We have made changes to reflect our current structure.
    - There was a question about whether or not the group was on X.
    - The language needs to be changed to add “may” use social media and remove the language identifying specific social media instances.
    - Noted that Jen is best positioned to determine our placement in social media.
    - *Removed bullet regarding criteria.*
    - Suggested that this guides civil discourse and allows people to share their voices still.
    - The core question is whether our nonpartisan policy applies to people posting on our feed. Do we want to say that we do not endorse candidates or positions and don’t let it happen on our feed, or do we want to say that we do not endorse candidates or positions but let others?
      - We are trying to prevent the League’s nonpartisanship position from being impugned.
    - This will be sent back to the Governance Committee to return at the January meeting.
  - The Governance Committee would like to update and revise all of our corporate policies and structures.
    - The headers on all of the policies need to be changed.
    - **Motion to permit Jill Packard and the Governance Committee permission to change all corporate policies to reflect our new organizational structure. Motion by Jill Ward. Seconded by Melissa Murphy. Unanimously approved.**

### Executive Director's Report (Anna):

- Convention 2025 planning is underway. Convention will be on May 31; planning committee volunteers are being sought.
- Ongoing reorganization efforts aim for clarity and support for local Leagues.
- Upcoming discussions on local League structure and support.
- We are nearly done with the reorganization tasks. We've migrated banks and intentionally delayed some account closures, so we know everything is right. It's not final, but everything will be in one place by the next board meeting.
  - We need to look at the by-laws and the questions that come up with our local Leagues.
    - How do we strengthen local Leagues so that they feel confident in their experience and leadership?
    - How do the local Leagues work with the organization within the context of the by-laws?
    - There is some confusion about the purposes the Council of Local Leaders serves.
      - Anna wants to discuss the critical goals of strengthening local Leagues, what actions get us there, and some recommendations. That conversation should happen with the local Leagues and board members present.
      - Deb has been supporting the local Leagues.
      - This has a role in the DEIM Committee and the Governance Committee.
      - It will affect the Nominating Committee.
      - Also identified that there are emotional support needs as well.
      - We used to have a board that was made up of local leaders, but we then moved to a state-based structure.

### Program Committee Report (Melissa):

- Ongoing voter registration drives and observer training are the bulk of current programming during election season.
- We've been asked to support the Red Flag Initiative.
  - The program committee agreed to endorse this with reservations.
  - The reservation was that this policy area was far from our strategic focus of making democracy work.
  - We looked at this because of the shock and devastation of the Lewiston shooting, as well as the youth council's desire to support the work.
  - We are going ahead and endorsing the petition drive; that said, we are uncomfortable with League people doing this work. We do not want League people simultaneously working for the League while also working to collect signatures for this initiative.
    - The National League's position on gun safety is very strong.
  - Asked that there be a vote.
  - **Motion to approve support of the Red Flag Initiative. Motion by Alison Smith, Seconded by Ann Luther. Motion carries with Ben Gaines recusing himself.**
- Focus on expanding ranked-choice voting in Lewiston.

### DEI and Membership Committee Report (Ann):

- Intergenerational programming training planned post-election.

- Please read the [Membership Report](#) and the [Volunteer Report](#)
  - We've seen people step up from the volunteer pool when needed.
  - We must fill out our annual survey for our national league at the end of the year. We are looking to get more accurate estimates of our volunteer hours. Post-election, we will be better able to update areas with much activity.
  - We have been holding volunteer intake meetings once a week, and they are a good way to give people an impression of our work and sort them into the areas where they will make the most difference.
  - We are expanding ranked-choice voting to Lewiston with Maine Youth Power, two other organizations, and local volunteers.
    - We will be collecting signatures for a charter amendment on election day.

**Adjournment:** 10:49 am

### **Democracy Maine C3 Meeting Minutes**

- Called to Order at 10:49
- Minutes approved via email.
- Administration (Pamela)
  - [Minutes July 27, 2024](#)
  - C3 Treasurer's Report is pending; details will follow via email.
- **Motion to permit Jill Packard and the Governance Committee to revise all policies to reflect new organizational structures. Motion by Jill Ward, Seconded by Alison Smith. The motion carries unanimously.**
- **Acknowledgments:** The voter guide received positive feedback. Many are thankful for the work of Allyson and the Youth Engagement team.
- Adjourned at 10:54

### **Attachments**

- [Compliance Checklist](#)
- Treasurers' Reports
- [Board Minutes - 07/27/24](#)
- [Membership Report](#)
- [Volunteer Report](#)
- [Development Report](#)
- Policies (5)
  - [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)
  - [Disclosure of Interest Statement](#) (Form)
  - [External Media Policy](#)
  - [Ethics Policy](#)
  - [Whistleblower Policy](#)