



URGENT RESOLUTION

RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR

BACKGROUND

This resolution addresses racial injustices experienced by Black People, Indigenous People, and all People of Color (BIPOC) in our country. Racism is at the core of the national upheaval following George Floyd's death on May 25, therefore it is fitting that League of Women Voters members consider how to address racial justice while carrying out the public policies of LWV.

We ask that delegates to the 54th Convention of the League of Women Voters resolve to advocate throughout our country for the eradication of systemic racism within every level of government; for the end of excessive force and brutality in law enforcement; and for equal protection under the law regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation.

This resolution is based on LWV positions found in the *Impact on Issues 2018-2020, Individual Liberties* (p.31), *Equality of Opportunity* (p.68); and in LWV's *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy* (lww.org/league management).

The two "Resolves" of this resolution will be voted upon sequentially on Saturday. Look for motion #136 which is for the First Resolve and for motion #139 which is the Second Resolve. Voting on #139 will follow immediately after voting on #136.

Please contact any of these authors of the Resolution if you have questions or concerns:

Evelyn Maddox (MO), emaddox64111@gmail.com

Pinny Sheoran (AZ), pinnysheoran@gmail.com

Vedna Heywood (MA), vklacombe@gmail.com

Regina Tillman (NYS), rmt371@liver.com

Ashley Raveche (CA), ashleyraveche@gmail.com

Carol Jones (DE), sundiallee@aol.com

Susan Clark (MN), seclark612@comcast.net

Hannah Burling (NM), hannahburling@gmail.com

Nancy Miller (MO), njsmill@gmail.com

RESOLUTION

RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR

SUBMITTED BY

LWVMO, LWVAZ, LWVCA, LWVDE, LWVMA, LWVMN, LWVNM, LWVNY, LWVAL, LWVCT, LWVIA, LWVKS, LWVMD, LWVNJ, LWVOH, LWVSC, LWVTN, LWVUT, LWVOR, LWVFL

1. **Whereas**, the killings of George Floydⁱ and countless other Black people have focused our nation's attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism in law enforcement and the justice system; and,
2. **Whereas**, Black people and all historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement ⁱⁱ; and,
3. **Whereas**, delegates to the 2020 League of Women Voters (League) Convention are outraged by these injustices in law enforcement that unfairly target Black people and all people of color; and,
4. **Whereas**, the current crisis is a result of racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and all people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and,
5. **Whereas**, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism.ⁱⁱⁱ We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge^{iv} to be; and,
6. **Whereas**, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. We have openly acknowledged that our past has been marred by racism^v and we will continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI)^{vi}; and
7. **Whereas**, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights ^{vii}; therefore,

8. **Motion #136 - We Resolve First**, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and,
9. **Motion #139 - We Resolve Second**, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC)^{viii} deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”^{viii}

ⁱ May 29, 2020 LWVUS Response to Police Killing of George Floyd, <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwvus-responds-police-killing-george-floyd>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.vox.com/identities/2016/8/13/17938186/police-shootings-killings-racism-racial-disparities>; <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/11-15-Police-Force.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ The Constitution of the United States of America, Article I, Section 2(2)

^{iv} Pledge of Allegiance, <https://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm?vm=r>

^v “Facing Hard Truths About the League’s Origin,” August 8, 2018, <https://www.lwv.org/blog/facing-hard-truths-about-leagues-origin>,

^{vi} See Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

^{vii} See LWVUS Position on Equality of Opportunity, Pgs 8 & 10, Impact on Issues 2018-2020/Equality of Opportunity, <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

^{viii} Pledge of Allegiance, <https://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm?vm=r>; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policiesguidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

LOCAL LEAGUE SUPPORTERS

LWV Albany County, NY
LWV Canton OH
LWV Charleston Area SC
LWV Cincinnati Area OH
LWV Clemson Area of SC
LWV Columbia-Boone County MO
LWV Dayton OH
LWV Grand County UT
LWV Greenville County SC
LWV Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area SC
LWV Horry County SC
LWV Hudson OH
LWV Kansas City, Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties MO
LWV Knoxville-Knox County TN
LWV Lake County OH
LWV Licking County OH
LWV Los Angeles CA
LWV Metro Columbus OH
LWV Metro St. Louis MO
LWV Needham, MA
LWV Northern Portage County OH
LWV Oberlin CA
LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset NY
LWV Salt Lake UT
LWV San Francisco CA
LWV Seattle-King County WA
LWV Southwest Missouri
LWV Spartanburg County SC
LWV Toledo-Lucas OH