

LWVK concurs with the national LWV position on Election Systems adopted during the 54th National Convention in 2020:  
***LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices.***

***Whether for single- or multiple-winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:***

- ***Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.***
- ***Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities.***
- ***Are verifiable and auditable.***
- ***Promote access to voting.***
- ***Maximize effective votes/minimize wasted votes.***
- ***Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.***
- ***Implement alternatives to plurality voting.***
- ***Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail.***

***The LWVUS believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policymaking bodies--legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards — that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g., gerrymandering).***

***The LWVUS supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.”***

In order to achieve the outcomes in the LWV position, LWVK encourages state and local governing bodies in Kansas to adopt the following policies that:

- Simplify the voting process and reduce the cost of administering elections. We encourage the adoption of election methods that do not require separate primary elections or runoffs, allowing all voters to fully participate in the process on the day of the general election.

*Unaffiliated voters are not eligible to participate in Kansas primaries, so in some situations their vote will have less leverage than voters who are eligible to participate. Moving the entire process to the general election will make all votes count equally.*

- Broaden voter representation in legislative bodies. Government bodies should adopt proportional election methods such as multi-winner ranked choice voting.

*Proportional election methods are methods where seats are allocated by vote share. For example, if a party receives 40% of the vote in a proportional method, they'd win 40% of the seats.*

- Replace block voting as an option for local elections with a proportional election method

*Block voting allows a single group of voters to win every seat up for election. A proportional election method would provide more broad voter representation.*

- Ensures the winning candidate for executive and other single-winner offices has majority support, using a method such as Instant Runoff Voting.

*When more than two candidates are on the ballot it is possible for a candidate to win with less than 50% of the vote. Using an alternative election method like Instant Runoff would ensure the winning candidate is the one with the most support.*

- Allocate funding for the SOS and county election offices to purchase and certify voting equipment that supports these new voting methods, as well as funding for voter education when new methods are implemented.

*Election administration is decentralized in Kansas by county. If the state establishes a new election method, counties may need to purchase or upgrade voting equipment so they can conduct elections using that new method.*

- Requires election officials encourage voter turnout and participation in their official capacity.

*This aligns with the League mission to encourage individual participation in the political process.*

- Ensures the design of ballots that allow the secure and accurate tabulation of votes.

*New election methods may require a new ballot design. It is important for the ballots to be designed in a way that preserves voter intent and prevents possible tampering.*

- Enables voter registration on the day of an election for all eligible voters.  
*Reduces a barrier to voting. Removes the #1 reason provisional ballots are rejected - half of the rejected JoCo provisionals were unregistered voters. Improves voter turnout of young and minority voters. Simplifies voter outreach efforts like Souls to the Polls because unregistered voters could participate.*
- Standardize the voting process statewide to encourage voter participation and reduce voter confusion  
*Voter outreach could be more uniform across the state. Organizations could send out reminders and not worry about whether counties have started or not. Easier to reach family/friends who live in different counties about voting. Less chance of political manipulation - clerks/commissioners who oppose early voting wouldn't have the power or opportunity to change the start date as they want.*
- Make the general election day a holiday
- Allow voting by mail to remain a secure, dependable, and accessible method for voters to cast their ballot.  
*In order for voting by mail to be dependable, a reasonable grace period must remain in place so ballots that are postmarked on election day will still be counted.*
- Allow county election officers to continue to place remote drop boxes in locations that are accessible and convenient for all voters.  
*Remote drop boxes are a secure way for county elections offices to collect mail ballots. Placing them in convenient locations around the county gives voters a fallback option if a voter is not confident in the speed of their mail service.*
- Expand the availability of in-person advance voting to allow more voters to vote prior to election day.  
*State law gives counties a wide range of options for handling advance voting. They are able to set the total number of days when advance voting is available, the hours of when the voting sites are open, and the number of advance voting sites.*
- Reduce the Cost of Voting by making voting more accessible and less difficult.  
*The harder it is to vote, the fewer people participate in voting. Cost of voting is a term borrowed from <https://costofvotingindex.com/>*
- Recruit and retain Poll Workers and Election Officials  
*People who work the polls are more likely to understand the voting process and trust that elections we are running are fair and free reflections of the will of the people.*
- Fight Voter Suppression and Misinformation

*Not only has the Voting Rights Act of 1965 been eroded over time since the 2013 US Supreme Court decision of Shelby v. Holder which leads to voter suppression, the constant drumbeat of voter fraud, acts to suppress votes.*

- Encourage would-be voters to make a voting plan

*Facilitating the formation of a voting plan (i.e., implementation intentions) can increase turnout by 4.1 percentage points among those contacted, but a standard encouragement call and self-prediction have no significant impact.*

*Among single-eligible-voter households, the formation of a voting plan increased turnout among persons contacted by 9.1 percentage points, whereas those in multiple-eligible-voter households were unaffected by all scripts.*

- Require election officials to inform voters of their ballot status so voters have an opportunity to cure provisional ballots in time for them to be counted.

*Provisional ballots need to be cured by correcting a deficiency in the process of casting the ballot (no ID, wrong precinct, different address that doesn't match registration, voter's name changed, etc.)*

- Continue to use nonpartisan elections for local offices.

*LWVK is a nonpartisan organization so it seems natural to support the continuation of nonpartisan elections.*

*LWVUS position on Citizen's Right to Vote*

***The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.***

LWVK concurs with the LWVUS position on Selection of the President adopted in the 2010 convention:

***The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system— from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with enough information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection***

***process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.***