

**LWW** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SCARSDALE  
P.O. Box 495  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

March 12, 2026

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Ms. Joceyln Zoland and Ms. June Deng  
SBNC Administrative Committee/Election Co-Chairs  
SBNC Administrative Committee  
P.O. Box 172H  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Also sent via email to:** [sbncelection@gmail.com](mailto:sbncelection@gmail.com)

Re: LWVS Consensus Statement re 12/2024 SBNC Election

Dear Ms. Zoland and Ms. Deng,

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (“LWVS”) thanks you for your service as chairs of the School Board Nominating Committee Administrative Committee (SBNC AC) and for the work undertaken by all active members of the SBNC AC in recruiting candidates for SBNC and running the election. LWVS further thanks Ms. Zoland and Ms. Jenny Simon Tabak for attending LWVS’s information session on January 30, 2026, to discuss the December 3, 2025 SBNC election, and for your thoughtful responses to LWVS’s questions.

In its independent oversight capacity, LWVS monitors the SBNC elections to ensure transparency, organization, and legitimacy of the elections, as those elections are the democratic component of Scarsdale’s nonpartisan school election system. Immediately following the information session, LWVS held a consensus meeting for members only as part of its annual study. LWVS’s comments and suggestions are set forth below.

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## **1. SBNC AC Functioning and Leadership Transition**

LWVS commends the SBNC AC for successfully filling the leadership roles of election chair, resolution chair, secretary, treasurer, and webmaster, and for securing sufficient participation from the remaining members to cover all election-related responsibilities. LWVS commends the SBNC AC's use of existing electronic records which were very clearly reviewed in depth in preparation for its work this year, and supports its plans for a debrief session to review this year's activities as a means of refining best practices.

LWVS notes that, for the second year in a row, the election chairs were serving the first year of their two-year terms on SBNC AC, and were therefore new to the experience of running the SBNC election. LWVS had previously expressed concerns about the impact of prior SBNC Resolution changes on leadership transition and institutional knowledge, particularly the amendments that eliminated the SBNC AC succession plan from vice chair to chair. Regardless of whether the practice is codified in the SBNC Resolution, LWVS continues to recommend that the SBNC AC return to a more formalized leadership transition process by which an election vice chair trains under an election chair for a season and then steps into the role of election chair for the second year of the two-year term. Having a staggered term pairing of chair and vice chair should facilitate retention and transfer of institutional knowledge and also flatten the learning curve for the incoming election chair.

LWVS continues to recommend allocating time in the spring to reflect on the impact of SBNC Resolution changes instituted over the past few years, to begin the process of onboarding next year's leadership, to assess the finances, and to plan for next year's election season. LWVS values continuity and preservation of institutional knowledge in writing and, to that end, encourages the SBNC AC to resuscitate its longstanding practice of generating a formal written report at the end of the election season to describe the process and to memorialize lessons learned for the benefit of future SBNC AC members.

## **2. Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, and SBNC Resolution**

LWVS recommends that the SBNC AC monitor and re-evaluate whether the process of filling unanticipated vacancies with individuals elected to serve a full new three-year term rather than the one-year or two-year remainder of the unexpired term is the right course of action. In this respect, prior to the 2020 amendments to the SBNC Resolution, ten members of SBNC ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of the 30 voting members) routinely rolled off SBNC and onto SBNC AC, along with occasional unplanned vacancies, and would need to be replaced by those running in the SBNC election. However, LWVS notes that 57% of the seats on SBNC were open this past year and needed to be filled in a single election cycle. While recruitment efforts in 2025 succeeded in filling all of the empty seats, 17 of the 30 voting members on this year's SBNC are first-time participants in the nominating process and lack the experience and history of the prior year's deliberations. All 17

newly elected members will then roll off SBNC simultaneously in 2028 and create yet another cycle requiring a disproportionate number of seats to be filled at once (assuming they all complete the full length of their three-year terms).

Extreme volatility in the number of seats to be filled makes recruiting candidates unduly burdensome in specific years, has the cascading effect of creating uneven transition of knowledge and resources, and creates major fluctuations in the number of individuals serving on the AC to fill leadership roles, propose and evaluate SBNC Resolution amendments, recruit new SBNC candidates, and run the SBNC election. As LWVS has previously stated, “LWVS reiterates its concern with the likelihood of fluctuations in the numbers of individuals rolling off SBNC any given year and disparate experience levels in the representation across neighborhood-based election units caused by the 2020 amendment that allowed all SBNC voting members to serve a full three-year term regardless of whether they were elected to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term.”<sup>1</sup>

LWVS also reiterates its request that the SBNC AC publish and publicize information about proposed resolution changes earlier to ensure sufficient time for members of the public to review, evaluate, and provide feedback before the ballot needs to be finalized.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, the results of any referendum also should be communicated clearly so as to explain which amendments passed and their impact through as many channels as possible in a timely fashion after the vote. Such publicity efforts – on proposed amendments and with regard to all SBNC pre-and post-election publicity in general – should begin with but not be limited to the SBNC website and include other means such as announcements in PTA eblasts, press releases to local online news media, posting on social media, outreach to other community organizations, and the development of an SBNC mailing list starting with the existing contacts in SBNC’s files (e.g., past and present SBNC members, donors, and prospective SBNC and Board of Education candidates).

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<sup>1</sup> See [2025 SBNC Resolution Amendment Consensus Statement](#) dated 11/28/25, pp. 5-6, [2024 SBNC Election Consensus Statement](#) dated 5/31/24, p. 2, and [2020 SBNC Resolution Amendment Consensus Statement](#) dated 1/10/20, pp. 5-6.

<sup>2</sup> As stated in the [2025 SBNC Resolution Amendment Consensus Statement](#) dated 11/28/25, p. 4, “LWVS stands by its previously stated position that the SBNC Resolution be amended with an eye towards increasing the timeline and publicity requirements for proposing amendments and views the current requirement of a public meeting at least three weeks prior to the election to be a floor, rather than a ceiling, in terms of such efforts. LWVS also notes that, despite prior year lapses in compliance, the public meeting required in the current wording of the SBNC Resolution to be held by the SBNC AC should not be conflated with LWVS’s own information sessions, and should be scheduled and publicized independently by the SBNC AC.”

### **3. Recruiting Candidates for the SBNC Election**

LWVS commends the SBNC AC for recruiting 25 candidates to run for the 17 open SBNC seats. As described during the presentation, candidate recruitment efforts started in the late summer and included announcements at several PTA meetings and PTA and SMS events, press releases in Scarsdale10583.com, posts in neighborhood Facebook groups, and submissions in the PTA weekly eblasts. LWVS commends the SBNC AC for reviving the practice of in-person attendance at PTC/PTA and school events to raise awareness. LWVS also commends the SBNC AC members for conducting extensive personal outreach through direct phone calls and emails and for the thorough and comprehensive outreach efforts to recruit candidates this year.

LWVS continues to strongly encourage the SBNC AC to maintain the goal of fully-contested elections (i.e., two or more candidates per vacancy) in order to provide voter choice and ensure a democratic process in the SBNC election, a process wherein nonpartisan SBNC members are elected by the voters. The ideal of a fully-contested election has been the central democratic part of the SBNC process. While there may be individual elections or periods of time when contested elections are not possible, LWVS affirms that this aspirational goal should remain.

### **4. Election (Pre-Election Publicity, Election Brochure, Polling, Tabulation, Voter Turnout)**

LWVS commends the SBNC AC for its concerted communication efforts through multiple outlets, especially those likely to reach parents of school-aged children, such as submissions to the PTA eblasts and the SUFSD Superintendent's weekly updates, posting flyers at PTA, school, and community events, speaking at PTA, school, and community events, direct outreach to current and former SBNC members and other community leaders, and requests to many different community organizations. In sum, SBNC AC outreach was extensive and followed many reinvigorated best-practices. LWVS strongly encourages the SBNC AC, however, to continue to brainstorm and work towards implementing strategies to communicate even more effectively with empty-nesters and senior citizen residents of Scarsdale, including expanded outreach to community organizations beyond those associated with parents of school-age children. LWVS additionally recommends adding a form to SBNC's website where residents seeking information on elections can opt-in to receiving communications.

For the second consecutive year, SBNC AC chose not to mail an election brochure or postcard, citing budgetary constraints. LWVS supports and promotes informed citizenship and views the election mailer as an effective tool of community outreach, particularly to residents who are not on the receiving end of SBNC AC's other channels of communication. To that end, LWVS emphasizes the continued importance of ensuring that full candidate biographical information and any proposed Resolution amendment information be made accessible to the public in multiple formats, including a mailer to all residents that could be in the form of a postcard with QR code (as a cost effective mailed tool, versus a full brochure of content). While LWVS understands the costs of

producing and mailing an election reminder to residents are high, the benefits are considerable. In the absence of the *Scarsdale Inquirer*, reaching all residents through some mechanism becomes all the more important.

LWVS appreciates the sign on Mamaroneck Road on election day indicating that a vote was occurring and suggests additional signs be posted in the vicinity of the Kelwynne and Heathcote Road intersection to further inform potential voters of the voting location. These types of “vote here” signs, when posted in high visibility areas, catch the attention of passers-by. LWVS commends the SBNC AC for working closely with the CNC to ensure shared efficiencies (shared signage, ballot boxes, etc.) and also to reduce confusions to the general public, since these 2 elections are now held so close together.

LWVS further recommends the following items to the SBNC AC, to ensure efficiency and accuracy during the election process:

- Thorough and timely proofreading of the printed ballot, to avoid any format issues that might confuse or dissuade voting.
- Collection of email addresses at the point of voting, to facilitate future robust ongoing communications regarding the SBNC activities.

LWVS commends the SBNC AC for staffing the polling site and ensuring the integrity of the process. LWVS suggests notifying the School District census officer of the problems identified, exploring the possibility of obtaining an electronic, sortable voter roll or a better organized hard copy, and discussing how the voter roll confusion may be addressed in the future.

The following table is included as a means of tracking voter turnout trends historically:

|                 | 12/2025  | 12/2024 | 1/2024   | 2023      | 2022      | 2021   | 2020    | 2019    | 2018     | 2017     | 2016     | 2015      | 2014      | 2013     | 2012     | 2011    |
|-----------------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Edgewood        | 93 (13)  | *13(0)  | *70 (?)  | 41 (5)    | +130 (22) | +(119) | *21 (?) | *25 (?) | 96 (?)   | +39 (?)  | *22 (0)  | +34 (5)   | +50 (17)  | 58 (6)   | 101 (?)  | 65 (?)  |
| Fox Meadow      | 212(74)  | +31(0)  | *10 (?)  | *39 (1)   | 103 (17)  | +(151) | *26 (?) | *38 (?) | +161 (?) | 107 (?)  | +69 (5)  | *107 (93) | 85 (36)   | 73 (24)  | 138 (?)  | +84 (?) |
| Greenacres      | *35(0)   | **0(0)  | *54 (?)  | +115 (44) | +83 (4)   | +(149) | *19 (?) | *61 (?) | *46 (?)  | +115 (?) | *23 (4)  | +41 (10)  | 92 (29)   | +49 (6)  | 76 (?)   | 103 (?) |
| Heathcote       | +86(10)  | *8(0)   | *32 (?)  | *17 (5)   | *31 (5)   | *(32)  | *37 (?) | +73 (?) | +101 (?) | *20 (?)  | *30 (4)  | 73 (21)   | 85 (19)   | +42 (19) | 108 (?)  | +31 (?) |
| Quaker Ridge    | *43(15)  | *11(0)  | *22 (?)  | 85 (109)  | 101 (21)  | (104)  | *34 (?) | *43 (?) | *56 (?)  | +74 (?)  | *30 (0)  | *42 (5)   | 78 (34)   | 57 (6)   | +105 (?) | 98 (?)  |
| TOTAL (mail-in) | 469(112) | 63(0)   | 147 (42) | 461 (164) | 448 (69)  | (555)  | 137 (?) | 240 (?) | 460 (?)  | 355 (?)  | 166 (13) | 297 (134) | 390 (135) | 279 (61) | 528 (?)  | 381 (?) |

Data in parentheses ( ) indicate the number of mail-in ballots

\* indicates uncontested election

+ indicates fewer than twice the number of candidates for each vacancy

\*\* indicates that no candidates ran for election in that unit

| Amendment #         | 1           | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 8           |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Y/N (mail-in) | 328/21 (84) | 329/17 (84) | 226/41 (84) | 332/13 (84) | 308/38 (84) | 287/52 (84) | 299/33 (84) | 320/16 (84) |

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## 5. Finances and Fundraising

In relation to the SBNC AC finances, LWVS encourages the SBNC AC to do the following:

- Create a budget every year with revenues and expenditures and create a full accounting as part of its fiduciary duties to pass along as an historical record to the incoming SBNC AC.
- Undertake whatever fundraising is necessary to afford the expenses associated with the physical mailing of an election brochure.

For reference, the chart below shows information assembled from prior years.

| TYPE OF EXPENSE   | 12/2025    | 12/2024 | 1/2024 | 2023    | 2022    | 2021    | 2020       | 2019       | 2018    | 2017    | 2016       |
|-------------------|------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|------------|------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Printing (mailer) | N/A        | (?)     | (?)    | \$1,560 | ^\$812  | ^\$731  | ^\$839.91  | \$1,288.50 | \$1,199 | \$1,287 | \$1,061.62 |
| Postage           | N/A        | (?)     | (?)    | \$1,226 | \$1,131 | \$1,064 | \$1,066.97 | \$1,038.36 | \$976   | \$988   | \$988.16   |
| P.O. Box Rental   | \$169      | (?)     | (?)    | \$126   | \$126   | \$114   | \$118      | \$118      | \$118   | \$126   | \$110      |
| Web hosting       | \$26       | (?)     | (?)    | \$13    | \$13    | \$13    | \$13       | \$13       | \$13    | \$13    | \$13       |
| Other             | **\$704.05 | (?)     | (?)    |         |         | #\$252  |            |            |         | +\$3    | *\$60.68   |
| TOTAL             | \$899.05   | (?)     | (?)    | \$2,925 | \$2,082 | \$2,047 | \$2,037.88 | \$2,457.86 | \$2,306 | \$2,409 | \$2,233.46 |

# Scarsdale Inquirer ad

+ PayPal transaction fees

\* Website domain

^ Postcard mailer

\*\*Election Costs including printing of ballots, purchase of signs/ballot box, food for staff

## 6. Conclusion

LWVS appreciates the SBNC AC's stewardship of the nonpartisan school election system, an outstanding example of civic participation. LWVS hopes that the SBNC AC will view this letter as a tool to facilitate discussion of strategies for continuing to improve the system. LWVS respectfully requests the dissemination of this statement to all members of SBNC and SBNC AC for their consideration, and thanks all members for their volunteer service to the community.

Sincerely,



Beth Cukier  
President  
League of Women Voters of Scarsdale



Shilpa Spencer  
School Election Systems Portfolio Chair  
League of Women Voters of Scarsdale

Cc: Jenny Simon Tabak, SBNC Chair, [sbncchair@gmail.com](mailto:sbncchair@gmail.com)  
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