



URGENT RESOLUTION

RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

Proposed by the Leagues of Women Voters of Missouri, Arizona, California, Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, and New York

**Adopted by the League of Women Voters of the US
at the 2020 National Convention, June 27, 2020**

1. **Whereas**, the deaths of George Floyd and countless other Black people have focused our nation's attention on 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; 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**, we have a crisis as 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 life¹ have been impacted; and,
5. **Whereas**, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism.² We must work to end white privilege and dispel the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge³ to be; and,
6. **Whereas**, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment, we recognize the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. Yet, our past has been marred by racism and it is time to acknowledge this so that we can continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI)⁴; 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 rights⁵; therefore,

8. **We Resolve First**, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, to prevent 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. **We Resolve Second**, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black people and all people of color deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done to Black people and all people of color across the nation so that, regardless of race, racial mixture, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, gender or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”.

¹ 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>

² May 29, 2020 LWVUS Response to Police Killing of George Floyd, <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwvus-responds-police-killing-george-floyd>

³Pledge of Allegiance, <https://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm?vm=r>

⁴ See Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

⁵ See LWVUS Position on Individual Liberties, Pgs 7 & 31, Impact on Issues 2018-2020/Individual Liberties, <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>