

Resolution 2013 - Presidential Debates

Whereas, the LWVUS *Position on Process* calls for the League to be involved in activities that "Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates"; and

Whereas, the LWVUS *Position on Citizen's Rights* calls for the League to be involved in activities that "Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making"; and

Whereas, the LWVUS has a distinguished history of sponsoring candidate debates including national Presidential debates in 1976, 1980 and 1984; and

Whereas, in 1988 the major parties formed a Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) which instituted policies that forced the LWVUS to withdraw from a role in the debates and has resulted in a situation where the CPD has strictly limited the role of journalist moderators, avoided addressing controversial issues, and failed to provide a non-partisan forum open to third party and independent candidates for President; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the League of Women Voters of Washington meeting in Convention, May-June 2013, send a letter to the LWVUS board within one month, urging that

- the LWVUS shall host Presidential Debates in 2016, inviting all national candidates who meet qualifications set by the national LWV Board, including invitations to the two major party candidates plus two or more independent or third party candidates.