



RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Goal & Objectives

Introduction

The National and State League of Women Voters has called for “prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government the eradication of systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and, to 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”.

Within Amherst, the Town Council, in a Resolution of November 2020, affirmed its commitment to eradicating “the effects of systemic racist practices of Town government and Town-affiliated organizations, and will review and revise its policies, procedures, bylaws, values, goals, and missions through an anti-racism lens to foster an unbiased and inclusive environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, and negative stereotyping toward any person or group.”

The Amherst League of Women Voters, with its mission to establish policy positions and advocacy on significant local issues, established a Racial Justice Task Force in June 2020, which is now a permanent League Committee. The Racial Justice Committee’s broad goal is:

Goal

To increase the League’s informed and active participation with Amherst Town government and the community at large to advance racial justice, equity, and well-being, and to collaborate with individuals, groups, and organizations to support the implementation of Amherst Town’s Resolution.

Specific Objectives for 2021/2022

1. Consult with and support the Town Council, the Town Manager, and other town government organizations implementing the programs recommended by the Community Safety Working Group and approved by Town Council.
2. Facilitate and co-host the development of a network to build understanding, trust, and collaboration with groups and individuals working toward racial justice, equity, and well-being in Amherst.
3. Plan, organize, and host regular educational events for the League and the public.
4. Produce regular communications about our work for both the League and, using local media, the Amherst community.
5. Disseminate and promote the findings, guidance, and recommendations of the two reports produced by the RJC: *Indicators of Racial Equity and Justice for Amherst* [October 2020], and *Building a More Diverse Amherst Town Government* [May 2021].
6. Undertake further research and reporting, as deemed useful, to inform the League, Town Government, and the Amherst community.
7. Seek to diversify the membership of the Amherst League, increasing BIPOC active membership.