

LWVFA Nonpartisan Policy

Revised 2018

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine nonpartisanship will the League be able to render effective voter service and gain a wide base of support for its positions on governmental issues. However, the League does take action on public issues based on positions reached by member agreement.

All Members

All members are expected to keep their League activity and their political activity, both partisan and nonpartisan, completely separate and distinct. For example, at League sponsored activities and meetings, members may not discuss partisan political matters, distribute partisan information or petitions, or display campaign buttons or insignia for a candidate or a political party. They should not display League bumper stickers or signs with those for partisan political candidates.

Board members

The LWVFA shall not elect or appoint to the Board any member who has, within the prior six-month period, held or run for an elective political office. Board members shall not run for or hold an elective political office. Any member who declares for such an office must resign from the Board.

- They may serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition; however, that Board member does not represent the League unless officially designated as the League representative by the Board.
- They may attend informational political meetings and campaign/party events in a non-leadership capacity; make financial contributions in an inconspicuous way; perform administrative or clerical work in a campaign office; attend nominating meetings in the absence of primaries; and serve as election officials.
- They may not hold an official position in any party organization or in an organization whose purpose is to endorse candidates for political office.
- They may not speak or, in any public way, work against a League position.
- They may not participate in political activity if it would cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for public office or any political party.
- The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.
- Board members who have any doubts about appropriate activities should request a decision from the Board at its next meeting.

Co-Presidents, Voter Services Director(s), and Action Director(s)

While the League urges its members to be politically active as individuals, the activities of the Co-Presidents, Voter Services Director(s) and the Action Director(s) have certain restrictions:

- They shall not indicate their political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in public meetings or the media, including on social networking sites.
- They may not hold an official position in an organization whose purpose is to endorse candidates for political office; chair or administer fundraising or political campaigns; chair campaign events; sign political endorsement ads, write candidate support letters, or work in the campaign of a candidate.
- They may attend informational political meetings and campaign/party events in a non-leadership capacity; attend nominating meetings in the absence of primaries; and serve as election officials.

The incoming Board shall review this policy annually.