

LWVHC Policy #14 NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The League of Women Voters purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The credibility of the League rests on its non-partisan position that does not support or oppose political parties or candidates. It is political only in the sense that it takes positions on selected government issues after study and agreement by members, in order to protect the League's non-partisan reputation, it is important that the members and the public understand the following:

As a League

- The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest.
- The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- The League must maintain a careful non-partisan stance in its voters service activities.
- When cosponsoring or forming coalitions with other groups or organizations, the League must be clear that the activities engaged in do not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

As a League Member

- At any League-sponsored activity, including informal social events, members should not engage in partisan discussions or activities.
- Members are urged to participate fully in party activities on an individual basis.
- Although members are encouraged to be active in local political activities, a League member shall refrain from political activities at League functions. **They may not wear candidate buttons or insignia of any party to League meetings nor distribute partisan information.**

As a League Board Member

- The President, the Voters Service Director and any other board members whose position is deemed sensitive shall not run for or hold elective office and shall not participate in any political campaign in any way.
- Other Board members must resign from the League Board before declaring for elective office. The resignation must be prior to

the onset of the political activity and must appear in the membership newsletter. Any notice that is released to the public or to the membership by the League relating to such resignation should be worded carefully to avoid appearance of endorsing the resigning member's candidacy.

Board members shall not undertake any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party.

- Board members shall not chair or administer fund raising or political campaigns, chair campaign events or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate.

Any exceptions to this policy shall be considered by the Board of Directors on an individual basis.

The non-partisan policy shall be reviewed annually by a committee, appointed by the President. The committee report will be submitted to the Board for approval. The Board approved policy will be published in the newsletter.

Adopted 6.16.99

Reviewed and modified by Committee and Board 10.06.05

(See bold print)

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