



LWVAZ BOARD OF DIRECTORS NONPARTISAN POLICY 2021-2022

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. After careful study and member consensus, the League influences public policy through education and advocacy. The nonpartisan policy strengthens the League's positions on issues and makes possible wide acceptance of League voter service, citizen education, and issue advocacy activities.

As a founding principle since 1920, the League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for public office. It does encourage its members, as individuals, to participate actively in all aspects of the political process.

Some basic limitations on LWVAZ Board members' political activity, however, are necessary to protect the nonpartisanship of the League as an organization. The League's nonpartisan reputation is too important to risk. To this end, the Board members shall be diligently nonpartisan and avoid any appearance to the contrary.

The following examples are provided to elucidate, not to limit, this policy:

—Board members shall take great care that all LWVAZ meetings and functions adhere strictly to our nonpartisan policy in every detail and manner, and shall apply this policy by assuring that presenters at League functions and meetings understand the League's commitment to nonpartisanship.

—Board members shall avoid representing party positions at League meetings or speaking in a partisan way in any situation publicly identified with the League.

—A Board member must resign if she or he holds an elected partisan public office, is appointed to such an office, or files to run as a candidate for a partisan public office. A Board member must also resign if she or he is an elected officer of a political party or becomes an employee of a political party.

—Board members may run for, and serve in, elected nonpartisan positions. If there is any doubt as to whether a board member's service violates the nonpartisan policy the Board will consider the issue. If the Board decides that the nonpartisan policy would be violated, the member must choose to either cease the activity or resign from the board. The board's decision is final. Resigning from the board does not mean resigning from the league.

—If the member chooses to resign from the Board, the Board shall determine the timing of the resignation. The wording of the public notice of resignation should avoid any appearance of endorsing the resigning member's candidacy.

—A Board member may serve on a non-elected public board, commission, or committee if that body is clearly nonpartisan. Unless officially designated as a representative of the League, the member must act as an individual and may not speak for or represent the League without permission of the board.

—When the Board has approved and endorsed an issue campaign, League members can actively support that campaign, including signature gathering, organizing League events, and advocating and educating the public as League representatives.

—When acting as an individual, a Board member (with the exception of President and President elect) may contribute time and money to a candidate, or party, or any issue campaign, and may sign and circulate petitions, provided there is no suggestion or possibility of confusion that he or she is representing the League

—The President(s) and the President-elect may not hold office in another organization that supports or opposes political parties or candidates; sign or circulate a nominating petition for a candidate; publicly support a candidate for partisan political office; or publicly indicate their political affiliation.

—Political activities of a spouse or other relative of a Board member shall be considered separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

This policy shall be reviewed yearly and amended as needed.

Approved September 14, 2021