

**VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEER BEST PRACTICES
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREENVILLE COUNTY
(November 2019)**

Thank you for volunteering to register voters! It's crucial work, and you're the engine that makes it happen. When you are volunteering at a League of Women Voters event, you are representing the League, and we want to help you understand some "best practices" about how to do that.

The core concept is that the League is a nonpartisan organization, never supporting or opposing a political candidate or party. We expect (we hope!) that our volunteers have candidate and/or partisan preferences of their own. However, voter registration events are not the right arena for communicating those preferences.

- **It's important both to be nonpartisan and to appear nonpartisan.** When you're representing the League as a voter registration volunteer, please be careful, including with conversations you're having and with any social media posts you make. (Example: A private conversation with a fellow volunteer can easily be overheard.) (Example: Social media posts from League volunteer events that appear to favor a party or a candidate can damage the League's reputation and credibility.)

When volunteering, make a final check to ensure you aren't wearing a shirt or button that sends a partisan or candidate-related message.

- **Keep League voter registration and League advocacy separate.** The League has policy positions, and also, we want to be careful not to mix our political advocacy work with our voter registration and engagement efforts. At a voter registration event, the goal is to register and educate voters, not to persuade them about policy issues.
- **Avoid showing a preference for candidates.** When representing the League, it's important not to give what amounts to a personal endorsement of a candidate. (Example: "I care a lot about education policy, so _____ has my vote.")
- **Keep things positive as much as possible.** We want the face of the League to be friendly, respectful and positive. Also, dealing with the public has its downsides, and occasionally, people can be confrontational or otherwise difficult to deal with. When you are representing the League as a volunteer, please aim to avoid and to deescalate any unpleasant encounters wherever possible.

Thanks so much for the work you do with the League!