

NON PARTISAN POLICY OF LWVSC

The League of Women Voters of Schenectady County (LWVSC) may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest, but it shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. All members take the responsibility for clearly identifying between personal opinions and the League of Women Voters Non Partisan Policy.

The Board of Directors of LWVSC is comprised of the following members: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Voter Services Chairperson; and Coordinator(s) of Candidate Forums. These members recognize that they have a special responsibility to see that their activities do not create a partisan impression or compromise the League's non-partisan policy. Members in the above-listed position(s) shall not run for or hold elective partisan office. If a member of the Board of Directors declares for an elective office, that member must resign from the LWVSC Board until they have completed their term of service in the elected or appointed office. At that time, they may be re-appointed to the LWVSC Board.

Additionally, the Board of Directors shall not take any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or political party. Members in these positions shall not participate in any political campaign in any way. All other elected or appointed board members must ensure that their personal political activities are not identified in the public mind in any way.

Likewise, LWVSC recognizes that some of its members serve in positions of responsibility within the League that do not necessarily require them to become a member of the Board, although they may request or be invited to do so. These members are defined as the "Leadership Team". They, too, bear a close identification with LWVSC and must also follow the guidelines of the LWVSC Non Partisan Policy.

If a board member or member of the Leadership Team wishes to pursue partisan public office, they must first bring the question of the proposed activity or position to the attention of the Board of Directors for consultation.

Public notices released by the League announcing the resignation of a board member for the purpose of pursuing an elective partisan office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning member's candidacy.

Recognizing that the League experience uniquely equips all members for public life and wishing to encourage them to utilize their knowledge and abilities, all LWVSC members are urged to participate fully in political activities, including seeking and accepting elective or appointive office in government, providing they are not a member of the Board or the Leadership Team and only as an individual, and not as a representative of LWVSC.

Political activities of a spouse or relative of a member of the Board of Directors, board member or member of the Leadership Team are to be considered as separate from the activities of these specified members of LWVSC.