

LWVM Non-Partisan Policy

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan with respect to candidates and parties, but we do advocate based on our positions and issues. (See [Where We Stand](#) and [Impact on Issues](#).)

The following Nonpartisanship Policy was approved at the League of Women Voters of Marblehead Steering Committee meetings of December 8, 1998 and August 29, 2000, modified and approved in February 2005, August 2006, September 2007, September 2008, December 2017, April 2023, October 2023.

The League of Women Voters of Marblehead is a nonpartisan group. In order to ensure that this non-partisanship is clear in the public mind, the Voter Service chair may not engage in partisan political activities, as follows:

1. The Voter Service chair may not run for elective office
2. They may serve as an appointed official only if this has been approved by the remainder of the Steering Committee who shall keep in mind the goals of this policy; which is to ensure that League nonpartisanship is clear in the public mind.
3. They may be active in a political party or campaign, but must limit their activities as follows:
 - a. May help or attend but may not give or sponsor any individual candidate's gathering;
 - b. May sign nomination papers;
 - c. May not allow their names to be published in connection with a party or candidate, (e.g. public endorsement), even if contributions must be limited to avoid such publication; this does not apply to campaign finance disclosure law that requires release of names to public.
 - d. May assist with a political campaign's mailings, but may not sign any cards or literature, nor allow names to be printed on such cards or literature;
 - e. May not wear a candidate's button;
 - f. May not allow a candidate's sign to be posted on their property;
 - g. May not publicly declare support for a candidate.
4. Any Steering Committee member must bring questions about her/his political activities to the board for its recommendations prior to action.
5. Steering Committee members (and general League members) who are active in partisan groups or who campaign for candidates should always make clear that they are acting as individuals and not as representatives of the League.

Our discussion of the nonpartisan policy led to the following interpretations, which are non-binding but may lend clarity to the original intent for Voter Service Chair:

- **“They may not run for elective office”** – They would resign from the League's position first;
- **“They may serve as an appointed official and continue as Voter Service chair only if the appointment has been approved by the remainder of the Steering Committee, who shall keep in mind the goals of this policy”** – For example, appointment by Selectboard to fill vacancy on School Committee or appointment to Finance Committee.
- **“They may be active in a political party or campaign, but must limit their activities as follows: May help or attend but may not give or sponsor an individual candidate's gathering;”** – Our interpretation is that you can bring cookies but you can't have the gathering at your house.
- **“They may not serve as chair of Voter Service or on the Voter Service Committee during a campaign of which she or he is a candidate for elected office”**