

**League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle
Nonpartisan Policy**

Adopted February 7, 2018

LWVCC does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League's nonpartisanship is essential to the effectiveness of the League's voter service and citizen education work and provides a solid foundation for the League's work on issues. The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle may take action on governmental measures and policies in accordance with its positions, but it shall not support or oppose a political party or a candidate.

League experience uniquely equips our members for public life. Wishing to encourage members to utilize their knowledge and abilities, individual League members are urged to participate fully in political party activities. Board members' activities, however, must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan status.

The League expects all Board members to use personal discretion and common sense in considering how their individual actions may reflect upon the League and its nonpartisanship. Whenever a Board member is uncertain whether an action would be permissible under this nonpartisan policy, the matter should be brought immediately to the President, who will refer it to the Board for consideration. In applying this policy, the Board may take into account:

- the sensitivity or visibility of specific board assignments or functions,
- the League's credibility as an effective nonpartisan political organization in the community, and
- the visibility associated with a specific political activity.

No Board member shall run for or hold elective public office, except in the case of certain Town of Carlisle offices, unless approved by the Board in advance. If a Board member declares a candidacy for an elective public office (other than a Town of Carlisle office approved by the Board), the member shall resign from the Board. The League will announce the resignation of a Board member prior to running for office; such an announcement should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning Board member's candidacy.

A Board member may serve on appointed public boards, commissions, committees, or coalitions—provided that such Board member shall notify the Board upon accepting such an appointment—and provided further that a Board member serving in any such appointed position does not claim to represent the League. The Board may designate a LWVCC member to serve as a League representative to a local board, committee, commission, or coalition.

The President and the Voter Service Director shall refrain from all partisan political activity. If a Board member wishes to support a local candidate, by serving on a campaign's committee in the capacity of Chair, Treasurer, or Director of Fundraising, then that Board member must resign from the Board for the remainder of the year.

The President and the Voter Service Director cannot:

- make contributions to a political candidate or party,
- campaign for a political candidate or a party,
- attend candidate fundraising events where donations are required,
- publicly endorse a candidate, or
- serve on a candidate's campaign committee.

In addition, no Board member may nominate a candidate for local elected office.

All Board members may sign nomination papers for a local, state, or national candidate.

All Board members may attend public political functions and candidate coffees or other informational meetings for local, state, and national candidates.

A Board member may not work publicly on a local, state, or national issue in opposition to a League position or action. Working publicly on an issue includes serving on a PAC or Ballot Committee, holding signs, circulating petitions, signing a support ad, and writing a letter to the editor.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

This nonpartisan policy shall be discussed by the Board at least annually and updated as necessary.