

Nonpartisan & 100 Years Strong!

Regional Training 2019



“The choice made in 1920 to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate for public office continues today to ensure that the League’s voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.”



Basic elements in every League's nonpartisan policy

Each state and local League board should formulate a policy that best reflects existing conditions in its League, as well as the political climate and traditions in its community.

Resources

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/developing-and-implementing-nonpartisan-policy>

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Nonpartisan Statement.

“The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.”



1. Guidelines on permissible activities for board members

A state board member may accept appointment to, or run for, a local political office if:

- the election does not require a party affiliation,
- the board of the local League involved gives approval, and
- the state League board approve

LWVTX Board and League at Large leaders

- are encouraged to vote in the primary of their choice.
- are encouraged to participate in political activities but must first consult the state board if they are in doubt as to whether their activities could compromise the League's nonpartisanship.



2. Restrictions on certain board positions

State Board

- The state board president, the chairs of the advocacy and education committees, the voters service coordinator, and others the public strongly identifies with the state League and the executive administrator shall avoid political activities that may give the appearance of partisanship.

League at Large Leadership Team

- League at large spokesperson/presidents and voter services coordinators shall avoid political activities while on the leadership team that may give the appearance of partisanship.
- Other team members who have **public roles**, such as those who routinely conduct candidate forums or serve as a debate moderator should be conscious of appearing partisan.



Restrictions on certain board positions

Both State Board Members & League at Large Leadership Team Members

- shall **not** run for office in a partisan race or accept a partisan appointment.
- shall avoid indicating their political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify them as a member of the team.



3. A policy on how to handle resignations when a board member resigns to engage in political activity.

Both State Board members and League at large Leadership Team

- shall **not** run for office in a partisan race or accept a partisan appointment.

League at Large Leadership Team

- If a League at large team member declares for an elective office, the team member shall resign from the team, but may continue to be active in the League and return to the team when appropriate.



4. Key points to consider in this process include the following:

- The sensitivity or visibility of specific board assignments or functions,
- The extent to which the public identifies a board or off-board member's activities with those of the League,
- The sensitivity or visibility of specific board assignments or functions,
- An overall assessment of the League's credibility as an effective nonpartisan political organization in the community,
- The visibility associated with a specific political activity (such as participating in partisan social affairs, signing petitions, making campaign contributions, or serving as a campaign manager).



Let's practice the nonpartisan policy...

A League wants to be listed as a partner in their local Women's March on Women's Equality Day. The event is promoted as nonpartisan. You find out the Mayor is giving a speech.

Can your League participate as a partner?

Resource:

League Participation in Marches & Events

LWWUS: [Criteria for League Participation in Marches & Events](#)



Let's practice the nonpartisan policy...

A League has been asked to partner with an organization to register high school students. You find out this organization supported candidates in the last election.

What do you do?



Let's practice the nonpartisan policy...

Your board member comes to you and says she is considering running for city council. She wants to know if this will impact her work on the board.

What is your answer?



Let's practice the nonpartisan policy...

My League at Large's president wants to attend a fundraising event for a local candidate with one of the other board members.

What do I say?



Let's practice the nonpartisan policy...

You are the president of the local League/League at large.

You have been asked to present at a neighborhood Democratic Club on the voters guide.

What do you do?

Let's practice the nonpartisan policy...

A member of your League at large leadership team posted on their private Facebook page that they were supporting a candidate.

What do you do?

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

