

LWVCC Nonpartisan Policy

Adopted February 7, 2018

Amended October 12, 2021

Amended September 7, 2022

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 (or a Board member if there is no formal position of President) for consideration of the full Board. In applying this policy, the Board may take into account:

- ⑩ the sensitivity or visibility of specific board assignments or functions,
- ⑩ the League's credibility as an effective nonpartisan political organization in the community, and
- ⑩ the visibility associated with a specific political activity.

No Board member shall run for or serve in the position of Town Moderator, or run for or serve as a member of the Select Board or School Committee in either the Town of Concord or Carlisle while serving on the LWVCC Board. If a Board member declares a candidacy for one of the three positions noted above 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 run for other elective Town offices and/or 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 elected or 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 (or Treasurer, if there is no formal position of President) and the Voter Service Director shall refrain from all partisan political activity. This means that the President (or Treasurer, if there is no formal position of President) and the Voter Service Director may not:

- ⑩ make contributions to a political candidate or party,
- ⑩ campaign for a political candidate or a party,
- ⑩ attend candidate fundraising events where donations are required,
- ⑩ publicly endorse a candidate, or
- ⑩ serve on a candidate's campaign committee.

If a Board member wishes to support a 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.

A Board member wishing to support a candidate by other means may, solely in their individual capacity:

- ⑩ make contributions to a political candidate or party,
- ⑩ campaign for a political candidate or a party,
- ⑩ attend candidate fundraising events where donations are required,
- ⑩ publicly endorse a candidate, or
- ⑩ serve on a candidate's campaign committee.

In all such cases, the Board member shall make every effort to ensure that the member's position on the LWVCC Board does not appear in the candidate's publicity or other materials. This requirement is intended to avoid misrepresenting the individual Board member's endorsement as being that of the LWVCC Board or the LWV organization which would be contrary to this Nonpartisan Policy.

In the case that the League is organized to operate without a designated President, to ensure transparency and adherence to the League's nonpartisan guidelines all Board members will disclose in writing, at the beginning of the League year in July, the names of the political candidates and parties they expect will be recipients of their contributions and activities in the upcoming year. Board members shall update their disclosures in writing monthly, including when there have been no changes to their initial disclosures, in advance of the upcoming Board meeting. These disclosures will be included in meeting minutes, where it will also be noted that the contribution amounts to these candidates and parties are available on the State (ocpf.us) or Federal (fec.gov) websites.

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

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.

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