

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NEW CASTLE
NONPARTISAN POLICY

July 2024

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it takes positions on selected governmental issues, which is done only after members study and reach consensus at the national, state and/or local level.

The League recognizes the role of the political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters® of New Castle has established the guidelines below in consultation with the nonpartisan policies of LWV US and LWV New York. This policy is intended to serve as a general guide ; questions about interpretation and application to particular circumstances should be reviewed first by the LWVNC Executive Committee and then the Board of Directors as necessary. This policy is subject to review including by reviewing this policy with all Board members at the first meeting of each year at which each Board member shall sign the affirmation at the end of this policy.

- A. The President(s), First Vice President and Voter Service Chair may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate and may not engage in any partisan, political activities that will cause them to be publicly identified as supporting any political party.
- B. A League member who holds ELECTED political office shall be ineligible to serve on the League Board. Board members may serve on APPOINTED Boards and Councils.
- C. A Board member who is a candidate for elected political office must resign from the Board.
- D. Board members shall not hold office in a political club or party.
- E. Board members may not serve on any local political nominating committees or on any local campaign committees, including those which may intend to be nonpartisan.
- F. Board members may sign, but not circulate, nominating petitions.
- G. Board members may not host events for candidates or political parties. Board

members should not attend fundraising events for political campaigns or candidates and should not make campaign contributions to campaigns or candidates or to political parties or other entities contributing to campaigns or candidates who may appear on that Board member's election ballot.

H. The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member should be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member. In the event that a Board member's spouse or close relative holds or runs for national, state or local office or party position, the LWFNC Board shall consider whether that Board member should resign or recuse themselves from particular votes as necessary to maintain League nonpartisanship.

I. Board members should use discretion whenever speaking publicly on political candidates or policy issues. Public statements regarding League issues or positions should only be made by a member of the Executive Committee after clearing the statement with the Board to the extent practicable. With regard to public statements about non-League issues, Board members may voice their opinions at public meetings or in print, so long as they are clear that they are acting as private individuals and they do not identify themselves as League members when making the statement. Board members should not speak publicly or write letters for publication in opposition to a position adopted by the League as a whole or regarding candidates for public office.

J. The LWFNC policy on social media, <https://www.lwf.org/league-management/policies-guidance/nonpartisanship-social-media>, is incorporated into this policy by reference. LWFNC Board members will use good faith efforts to abide by this policy.

K. The LWFNC Board shall consider the partisanship of any organization, entity or individual before agreeing to any partnerships or collaborations.

L. Interpretation and application of these policies shall be discussed and resolved by decision of the Board. If a Board member is found to have willfully acted in violation of this policy, they will be asked to resign from the Board and are subject to a removal vote by the Board if they fail to tender their resignation

I have read and understand this nonpartisan policy and agree to comply with its provisions.

Name and Title

Date