From March 2026 Voter

LWV-PA Responds to Accusations of "Partisanship"

Considering the League's renewed focus on defending democratic institutions and standing firmly for constitutional principles, it is important that we clearly articulate what our status as a *nonpartisan* organization means—both to ourselves and to the public.

When we speak out in defense of voting rights, the rule of law, separation of powers, or equal representation, some may interpret that advocacy through a partisan lens. We should be prepared for that possibility.

Here is the League of Women Voters' position, which is our longtime and strictly held stance for the 100-plus years of our existence: We are nonpartisan. *Nonpartisan* means ***we do not support or oppose political parties or candidates***. However, it does *not* mean that we remain neutral on issues or policies. The very existence of the League's mission attests to this.

Our mission has always been, and remains, to *safeguard democracy by supporting voters and their voting rights*. Our work in service of this mission is not accomplished through alignment with any particular political party or candidate, but rather by supporting policies that align with our mission. Clarity, consistency, and calm resolve are essential as we continue this work—especially in moments when defending democratic norms may invite criticism or backlash.

For more than a century, the League has

- hosted candidate forums open to all qualified candidates,
- published voter guides covering all sides,
- studied issues through a member-driven consensus process, and
- advocated based on adopted positions—not party platforms.

We welcome members and supporters from across the political spectrum who share a belief in:

- informed voters
- fair and accessible elections
- accountable government
- separation of powers and constitutional governance

The League's strength comes from our credibility. Remaining nonpartisan is not optional for us—it is foundational to our mission and required by our 501(c)(3) status.

Sometimes, when we defend democratic processes, our work may align with, or challenge, actions taken by officials in one party or another. When that happens, it is not because we are partisan but because our commitment is to democracy itself. Our advocacy is issue-based, not party-based. We do not ask, "Which party benefits?" We ask, "Does this strengthen democracy?" That is the standard we apply—consistently, regardless of who is in power.

- If we speak up, it's because the issue affects voters, not because of party politics.
- We do not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties. Ever.
- We study issues carefully, adopt positions through member consensus, and advocate based on those positions, regardless of who is in office.
- If defending voting rights, fair elections, or the rule of law appears partisan, that's not because we favor a party; it's because we are defending democracy itself.
- Our loyalty is to the Constitution, rule of law, and informed voters—*not* to a party and *never* to a person.

On March 28, 2026, a No Kings rally will be held in various locations around Los Angeles County. The League supports the right of all to make their voices heard, and in this case we support the No Kings rally because it aligns with pro-democracy, pro-rule of law norms. So let's rally, march, and speak up for democracy!

—Martha Y. Zavala, Advocacy Director