

Non-Partisan



The League of Women Voters of Appleton

APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

THE NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY OF THE APPLETON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is nonpartisan. As an organization, it does not support or oppose candidates for public office but acts only on those issues chosen by the membership for study and action.

The League believes that the political parties are essential to the American system of government and that the participation of informed citizens is beneficial to the political parties and to the system. Consequently, the League encourages its members as individuals to be active in the political parties, in finding and supporting candidates for public office, and in seeking election to public office.

Members of the League are not eligible to serve on the Board of Directors while seeking or holding elective public office. There are no other specific restrictions on the political activities of Officers and Directors, but it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, individually and collectively, to insure that the community has no reason to question the nonpartisan position as an organization.

THE APPLETON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY

January 1972

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The League, in order to maintain its non-partisan position, specifies that women filling leadership positions in the organization not take leadership positions in the political parties or in the campaign structure of individual candidates, whether partisan or non-partisan. It further specifies that no League member shall serve on the Board of Directors while she or a member of her household is holding or seeking public office.

The Appleton League is not so unrealistic as to believe that women as intensely interested in government and politics as League leaders are should abstain from all party and campaign activity. It does ask that its leaders be discreet in their activities so as not to call the attitude of the League as an organization into question. The more sensitive the League position and the more the holder of the position represents the League to the public, the more she should restrict her party and campaign activities.

Because many factors affect the degree to which a League leader may be politically active, the Board of Directors will deal with each individual case as it arises.

APPLETON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY
October 1970

The By-Laws of the League of Women Voters state that the League "shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate." This policy of nonpartisanship is an important strength of the League if it is to be of effective service to the community. In order to assure the non-partisanship policy for our League, all Board members, during their period of tenure, are expected to limit their political activity as follows:

1. WORKING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES:
The Executive Committee of the Board, Voters Service Chairman(men), Finance Drive Chairman and the Public Relations Chairman may have no active participation, although they may be a member of a party.
 - A. No clerical work at party or candidate headquarters.
 - B. No public speaking for a party.
 - C. No distribution of party literature.
 - D. The Executive Committee of the Board, Voters Service Chairman(men), Finance Drive Chairman and the Public Relations Chairman may attend public political meetings only providing it is not a fund-raising affair, and providing they behave in a manner which will not call attention to their position as a member of the League Board.
2. WORKING FOR CANDIDATES:
The Executive Committee of the Board, Voters Service Chairman(men), Finance Drive Chairman and the Public Relations Chairman may not work actively for a specific candidate or party in either a partisan or nonpartisan election:
 - A. By circulating nomination papers, although they may sign nomination papers.
 - B. By sending out literature for a candidate over her signature.
 - C. By making personal financial contributions (\$5 or more) to a candidate's campaign fund.
 - D. By publicly promoting an individual's candidacy.
3. RUNNING FOR OFFICE:
A Board member shall resign as soon as she or a member of her family has made a decision to run for political office.
4. NOMINEES FOR BOARD POSITIONS:
No League member is eligible to serve on the Board until a reasonable period has passed since her name has been publicly associated with one political party or candidate. The "reasonable period" shall be flexible, its length being determined by the prominence of the partisan role taken and the sensitivity of the Board position assigned. The "reasonable period" shall be as brief as possible, consistent with preserving the nonpartisan character of the League while still encouraging members to make their influence felt in political parties.

APPLETON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY - 19678

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I. WORKING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES:

A Board member may have no active participation, although she may be a member of a party.

- A. No clerical work at party or candidate headquarters.
- B. No public speaking for a party.
- C. No distribution of party literature.
- D. A Board Member may attend public political meetings only providing it is not a fund-raising affair, and providing she behaves in a manner which will not call attention to her position as a member of the League Board.

II. WORKING FOR CANDIDATES:

A Board member may not work actively for a specific candidate or party in either a partisan or non-partisan elections:

- A. By circulating nomination papers, although she may sign nomination papers.
- B. By sending out literature for a candidate over her signature.
- C. By making personal financial contributions (\$5. or more) to a candidate's campaign fund.
- D. By publicly promoting an individual's candidacy.

III. Running for Public Offices:

A Board member shall resign as soon as she or a member of her family has made a decision to run for a political office.

IV. NOMINEES FOR BOARD POSITIONS:

No League member is eligible to serve on the Board until a reasonable period has passed since her name has been publicly associated with one political party or candidate. The "reasonable period" shall be flexible, its length being determined by the prominence of the partisan role taken and the sensitivity of the Board position assigned. The "reasonable period" shall be as brief as possible consistent with preserving the non-partisan character of the League while still encouraging members to make their influence felt in political parties.