

League of Women Voters of Appleton Nonpartisan Policy

Introduction

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League takes action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after member study and agreement.

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 LWV-Appleton Board of Directors has established the following guidelines.

General Policies

1. All statements made in the name of the League shall be cleared through the President or the President's designated representative(s).
2. Non-Board League members are encouraged to run for office and participate actively in the party of their choice.
3. Discussion of candidates shall be avoided at all League meetings except in connection with Voter Service discussion of all candidates.
4. Other than invited speakers, no one may distribute materials at a League meeting without prior approval of the President. Campaigning politicians or their representatives cannot campaign or distribute campaign literature in League meetings.

5. Only petitions approved by the Board may be circulated at League meetings.
6. Members may not identify themselves as League members when publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.
7. Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernable. These members should be fully aware of League positions.
8. Members may serve on governmental committees at their own discretion. Members only represent the League when officially designated a League representative by the Board. If the appointment is League-related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the committee's responsibilities.
9. Members in the leadership roles at League meetings and other League-sponsored public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.
10. The membership directory shall not be used by members for other than League business nor shared with any organization other than the LWV.
11. To avoid misunderstanding, if a situation is not clearly defined and regulated under this policy, a League member shall seek Board advice.

Board Members

1. The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the nonpartisanship of the organization.
2. If a Board member plans to engage in political activity, that

member must seek a Board decision as to whether the activity would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship.

3. The President, Vice President(s) and Voter Service Director may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate or for a non-League issue.
4. A Board member shall resign from the Board before publicly declaring candidacy for elective office.
5. The Board President, Vice President(s), and the Voter Service Director MUST NOT sponsor candidate coffees or other fundraising parties or events; permit her/his name to appear in any media endorsement; hand out or display campaign literature including partisan yard signs; act as campaign manager or treasurer for a candidate; or hold office in a political party.
6. The Board President, Vice President(s), and the Voter Service Director MUST NOT make financial contributions to political parties and candidates.
7. A Board member MAY:
 - Attend partisan political meetings as an individual but not as a representative of the League.
 - Accept appointments to Advisory Boards as an individual but not as a representative of the League.
 - Participate or hold office in other community organizations. When doing so, it must be clarified whether she/he is serving as an individual or as a representative of the League. If participating as a League representative, she/he will be expected to adhere to established LWV positions, if applicable.
 - Express publicly through letters to the editor, etc. personal views as an individual but not as a representative of the

League.

8. The Board President, Vice-President(s), Voter Services director should generally not participate in the activities listed in #7 above.
 9. 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. However, in the event that a Board member's spouse or close relative runs for national, state, or local office or party positions, the Board member shall consult with the Board or executive committee about her/his level of involvement in the campaign.
 10. To avoid misunderstanding, if a situation is not clearly defined and regulated under this policy, a League Board member shall seek Board advice.
- Approved by the Board of Directors of LWV Appleton on March 4, 2015.
 - Next review date Spring 2017.