

LWVTV Non-Partisan & Other Policy Statements

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, politically active organization. While we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate, we welcome members of all political parties and independents to our membership. We also take action on government measures and policies in the public interest. Because League membership is made up of highly motivated and active people, it is sometimes difficult for League members and for the public to separate an individual member's commitment to League's non-partisan policy and the individual's personal commitment to a party or issue. To avoid potential conflicts, this policy statement was adopted by the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

It is an advantage for the League to have politically active members. All League members must take responsibility for clearly differentiating between their personal opinions and League positions. They shall not distribute League material at the same time as material for a party or candidate. Non-Board members are encouraged to participate fully in the party of their choice at all levels of activity. Board members shall not undertake any action which will cause the League to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party. They may not hold the offices of chair, vice-chair, treasurer or secretary of party district or state committees, or hold the office of national committeeperson. Individuals on the Board (except President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Voter Service Chair may consider accepting other party offices with the concurrence of the Board.*

CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

League members are encouraged to participate in political campaigns and to run for election to office. Board members may not run for elective office including such local offices as mayor, borough assembly, city council or school board. Board members may not serve as campaign chair or treasurer for any of the foregoing positions. The President, Vice-President, and Voter Service Chair may not endorse, publicize, nor work for any local, state, or national partisan candidate. Board members may run for non-partisan elective offices such as charter commissions and delegate to a constitutional convention. Board members, except the President, Vice-President and Voter Service Chair may campaign for a ballot issues on which the League has no position. Board members may not be associated publicly with ballot issues in opposition to League positions.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Partisan activities in which the above named officers and Voter Service Chair may not participate include: (Interpretation to be made by the Board.)

1. Holding or actively seeking an elective office.
2. Having an official position in a party organization, or in an organization endorsing candidates for public office
3. Participating conspicuously in campaigns for individuals in such a way as to publicly identify the League member with said individual. This includes but is not limited to the display of yard signs, bumper stickers and buttons for a candidate.
4. Contributing conspicuously to any candidate or party in such a way as to identify the League member with said individual.
5. Publicly speaking at party organization meetings (Attendance, and voting for precinct officials are encouraged).
6. Carrying a petition for a candidate, or for an issue on which League has no position, or a conflicting position.
7. Acting as hostess or taking an active part at a coffee or rally for candidates of one party. (Attendance is encouraged).
8. 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.

The Board may wish to advertise its non-partisan policy generally during elections.

Adopted 1979; Revision adopted 1990; Amended 1991; Reaffirmed 1999; Revised to reflect 2014 bylaws change, 2015; Revised 2020.

PUBLIC BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

If the League is asked to recommend someone to represent League on a commission, that person must speak for League and be responsible to the Board. If not asked for a recommendation, League may wish to recommend individuals for certain commissions. The Board should determine in each case whether the person will speak as an individual or for the League. Even if a commission member represents the League, the Board is not bound to support the recommendations of the commission. In all cases where individuals represent League, whether on a commission or giving testimony, the Board should be sure that the individual understands League's position on the issue.

COALITIONS

League may join coalitions while taking action on any issue, at the discretion of the Board. If the coalition endorses candidates or becomes involved in other issues as well, the Board may issue a statement disassociating itself from those aspects of the coalition

Adopted 1979; Reaffirmed 1990, 1991

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

DUES WAIVER

A dues waiver may be given at the discretion of the Board for any interested parties on limited income who wish to participate actively in League work. Names of interested parties may be submitted by any League member to the membership chair who shall bring them before the Board for confirmation of waiver.

LAPSED MEMBERSHIP

A dues notice will be sent to each member one month before renewal date. If there is not a response, at least one additional notice will be sent. At least one additional notice will be via the USPS. If there is not a response, membership will be considered lapsed a day before the LWVUS collects membership data for PMP (Per Member Payment). The Membership Chair or a designated Board member will attempt to make personal contact with the lapsed member and discuss dues waiver, if appropriate.

NEW CITIZEN INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

As a means of actively involving new citizens in the governmental process, League may (the membership chair may) give a free one-year membership to new citizens who show interest in League.

Adopted 1979; Reaffirmed 1985, 1986; Amended, reaffirmed 1988; Reaffirmed, 1991; Revised 2020.