

LWVTV Nonpartisan & Other Policy Statements

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, 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 nonpartisan 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.

Interpretation of individual policies may be made by the Board. The Board may wish to advertise its nonpartisan policy.

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.

- a. Non-Board members are encouraged to participate fully in the party of their choice at all levels of activity.
- b. 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.
 1. Board members 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.
 2. 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. 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.

- a. Board Members
 1. May not run for elective office including such local offices as mayor, borough assembly, city council or school board.
 2. May not serve as campaign chair or treasurer for any of the positions listed above.
 3. With the exception of the President, Vice President and Voter Service Chair, may campaign for a ballot issues on which the League has no position.
 4. May not be associated publicly with ballot issues in opposition to League positions.
 5. May run for nonpartisan elective offices such as charter commissions and delegate to a constitutional convention.
- b. The President, Vice President, and Voter Service Chair
 1. May not endorse, publicize, nor work for any local, state, or national partisan candidate.
 2. May not campaign for ballot issues on which the League has no position.
 3. May not hold or actively seek an elective office.
 4. May not have an official position in a party organization, or in an organization endorsing candidates for public office.

5. May not participate 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.
6. May not contribute conspicuously to any candidate or party in such a way as to identify the League member with said individual.
7. May not publicly speak at party organization meetings (Attendance and voting for precinct officials are encouraged.)
8. May not carry a petition for a candidate, or for an issue on which League has no position, or a conflicting position.
9. May not host or take an active part at an event or rally for candidates of one party. (Attendance is encouraged.)

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 accountable 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.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

- a. 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.
- b. Lapsed Membership—There may be a grace period at the discretion of the Board but a nonpaying member shall not remain on the membership roll beyond one day before the date on which the League of Women Voters US collects membership data for Per Member Payment purposes. The Membership Chair or a designated Board member will attempt to make personal contact with the lapsed member and discuss a dues waiver, if appropriate.
- c. 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.
- d. Household Membership - When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the dues shall be the full amount for one member and one-half the amount for each additional member.
- e. New Citizen Introductory Member - As a means of actively involving new citizens in the governmental process, League (the membership chair) may give a free one-year membership to new citizens who show interest in League.

Adopted 1979; Last amended 2021.