



Non-Partisan Policy League of Women Voters of Charlotte County

Adopted by the Board of Directors
November 23, 2009

- I. The League is a non-partisan political organization that encourages active, informed participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. The League's non-partisan policy gives the League credibility and effectiveness. It is, therefore, the responsibility of each League member to guard the League's non-partisan reputation to ensure that the League can render valuable and effective community service.
- II. All League members shall avoid discussing political parties and candidates at League meetings. No partisan material pertaining to political parties or candidates shall be brought to any League meeting, including position papers or pamphlets. Discussion of political parties and candidates is permitted at League meetings when the discussion concerns voter service related to parties and candidates, in general.
- III. Only the President of the local League, or the President's designee, is authorized to speak, whether verbally or in writing, for, or on behalf of, the local League.
- IV. A Board member shall resign upon officially declaring an intention to be a candidate for public office. The Board shall publicize any such resignation.
- V. The political activities of a spouse, significant other or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.
- VI. The following positions are sensitive Board positions, and the persons holding these positions shall be held to a higher standard of non-partisanship set forth below: President, Co-President, Vice-President, First Vice-President, Voter Service Liaison, Publicity Chair, and Board members who are publicly identified by the League.
 - A. Board members who hold a sensitive position may:
 1. contribute to political parties or candidates;
 2. attend political meetings if at least one candidate is speaking;
 3. hold office in other organizations, or on governmental advisory boards, provided the entity does not support or oppose candidates or oppose League positions;
 4. express publicly their personal views, designated as such, about non-League issues.
 - B. Board members who hold sensitive positions may not:

1. sponsor or host fund-raising events, or similar functions, for incumbents or candidates for state office;
2. work at a political party or candidate headquarters at the state level;
 3. distribute political party or candidate literature;
 4. speak at campaign gatherings supporting/opposing a candidate;
 5. state or indicate a political preference publicly, whether in writing, or orally, or by using campaign material;
 6. state or indicate opposition publicly to any League position;
 7. hold office in any organization or entity that opposes League positions or supports or opposes particular candidates;

C. Board members who do not hold sensitive positions may:

1. run for or hold office in other organizations or entities;
2. run for election to political office;
3. work at a political party or candidate headquarters;
4. distribute political party or campaign literature;
5. sponsor, attend or host fund-raising events or similar functions for incumbents or candidates for Federal or local offices.

D. Board members who do not hold sensitive positions may not state or indicate opposition publicly to any League position. Any written statement supporting or opposing candidates or legislation shall designate that the views are individual.

VII. In addition to the above, the President and Voter Services Liaison shall not run for, nor hold, any elective office. Other board members shall not run for, nor hold, state elective office, but may run for federal and local office, regardless of party designation, after consultation with the Local League President and the LWV Florida. The President and Voter Services Liaison shall not serve in any position in a political party. Other board members shall not serve in political party positions at the state level and shall notify the Local League President regarding holding federal and local party positions prior to doing so. The President and Voters Services Liaison may not attend fundraising events or make campaign contributions to candidates or administer fundraising or political campaigns, chair a campaign event or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate for office at any level. While other board members may not undertake such activities for candidates for state office but may do so for candidates for federal or local office, they should consult with the Local League President prior to doing so.

VIII. All Board members, whether holding a sensitive or non-sensitive position, should present to the Board for approval any intention or plan to engage in political activity.

IX. Political activity by a Board member not addressed by these guidelines will be reviewed by the Board as situations require. Board members shall present questions about specific situations to the Board if this policy does not resolve a question.

X. This policy shall be reviewed and adopted annually by the board of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte County.