

## LWVFRA Nonpartisan Policy

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, it does take action on public issues based on positions reached by member consensus.

Although the League encourages its members to be politically active as individuals, it limits the political activities of Board members to preserve the League's nonpartisan position. Perception of partisanship damages what the League tries to achieve.

### All Members:

- Must keep League activity and political activity separate and distinct
  - May not distribute league materials and political party or candidate materials at the same time.
  - May not distribute partisan petitions or campaign information at League-sponsored events.

### In addition to the restrictions for All Members, Members Working on Voter Service Activities:

- Must refrain from publicly identifying their political preferences while working on voter service activities.
  - Must refrain from displaying bumper stickers, yard signs, or campaign buttons while working on Voter Services Activities.
- May attend informational political meetings and serve as election officials.
- May make financial contributions to candidates, as long as the member's name is not then used to solicit additional funds.
  - Must avoid meetings that are primarily focused on fundraising for political candidates.

### Elected Board Members:

- Have a special responsibility to ensure that the nonpartisan policy of the League is clear and uncompromised
  - Must not work in a significant way in a candidate's campaign
- Who have particularly sensitive portfolios must not engage in visible partisan activity during their terms of office
  - Must not hold an official position in a political party organization or in any organization that endorses candidates for public office
- Must not speak or work in any way against a League position
- May serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition that does not have a competing interest with the League. However, Board members must make clear that they do not represent the League unless officially designated by the Board as the League representatives.

**NOTE:** If there is doubt about the appropriateness of an activity, the Board member should ask for a decision from the Board. The political activities of a spouse or relative are considered separate and distinct from those of a Board member.

**Off-Board Directors / Nominating Committee:**

May engage in political activity since they are not voting members the Board

The nonpartisan policy shall be reviewed annually by the incoming Board.

**LWVFRA Diversity Policy**

The League of Women Voters, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Virginians in our Board and programs