

Nonpartisanship Policy

The League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township is a nonpartisan organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League takes positions and action on selected governmental issues after member study and agreement. However, the League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for public office. The nonpartisan policy adds strength to the League's positions on issues and makes possible wide acceptance of League voter service and educational activities.

The League strongly supports civic responsibility and recognizes that the League experience uniquely equips members for public life. It encourages all non-board members to participate fully, on an individual basis, in the activities of the political party of their choice. However, in order to preserve the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, the political activities of board members are constrained.

The League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township places the following limits on board members:

- Neither the President nor the Voter Service Chair shall run for or hold elective office, and neither shall serve in any position in a political party.
- The President and the Voter Service Chair shall not undertake any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party.
- Other board members shall not run for state or national elective office; they may run for local office, regardless of political designation, after consultation with the state and local Leagues.
- Board members may attend fundraising events, sign petitions, and make campaign contributions. However, no board member shall chair or administer fundraising or political campaigns, chair campaign events, or work in a public way in the campaign of a candidate at the national level, and shall abide by the state and local board's advice regarding state and local party activities.
- Board members may serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition; however, that board member does not represent the League unless officially designated as a League representative by the board or the League is named as holding a seat on that committee or board.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

If a board member does not abide by this policy or disregards the advice of the state League and local board, then that board member is disqualified from board membership.

Disqualification from board membership does not mean resigning from the League, nor does it mean that the board member cannot serve on the board at a later date. In some circumstances, the board, at its discretion, may allow the board member to take a leave of absence or to take an off-board position.

The local board of directors is responsible for carrying out the League nonpartisan political activity/conflict of interest policy in its community. This nonpartisan policy shall be reviewed annually by the full board at its first convened meeting of the year. Board members will be asked at that time to indicate any possible conflicts of interest and will be expected to come forward subsequently with any conflicts which may arise during the year.