

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY

League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County Adopted February 2021

The purpose of this policy is to assure the credibility of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County as a nonpartisan organization which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine nonpartisanship will the League be able to render effective voters service and gain a wide base of support for its positions on governmental issues.

Board of Directors

- The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the nonpartisanship of the organization.
- The Board Member must recognize that due to their position with the League, they have a special responsibility to uphold the League's position of nonpartisanship and shall not engage in any activities that may compromise the position of the League.
- Before engaging in any political activity while on the board, the Board Member must receive a determination by the Board of Directors as to whether the activity would negatively impact the League's position on nonpartisanship.
- The President, Vice President, and Voters Service Director may not campaign for a political candidate or for a non-League elective issue and may not serve on a political executive committee.

League Positions

- Members of the League may not publicly identify themselves as members of the League, and then express opinions in direct opposition to positions held by the League.

Representing League

- When working with the public or community, League members must always be informed and aware of the League's position on issues and nonpartisanship. When acting as a League representative, a member should not engage in any communications or activities that could serve to undermine the League's positions.
- Public statements, petitions, and on-line solicitations of any kind made on behalf of the League must first be approved by the Board of Directors.

Serving on Commissions

- Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointment is League related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the commission's responsibilities.

Member Candidacies

- Board Members should not run for or hold any elective office and should formally resign from the board at the time of filing for candidacy.
- Public notices released by the League announcing the resignation of a Board Member to run for political office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning Board Member's candidacy.

League Meetings

- Members in the leadership roles at local league and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.
- Only Board of Directors-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings.

Political Activities of Family Members

- The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board Member should be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board Member.

League Roster

- The League's roster is not to be made available for non-League use without Board consent.

Adopted by Board of Directors 02/18/2021