

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY

League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County Adopted April 2023

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 Members and individual members of the LWV may act as private citizens, with the following guidelines:

Board of Directors

- The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the nonpartisanship of the organization.
- 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. However, board members, except for the President, may be elected or appointed to a political executive committee, as long as they do not represent themselves as League members.
- Except for the President, who has a special obligation to uphold the nonpartisanship of the LWV, Board Members **may** campaign for a political candidate.
- Board members may campaign for a ballot measure, such as a levy or referendum, if it is compatible with League positions on the issue.

Representing League

- When working with the public, 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 position.
- 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.
- 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.

Public Meetings

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

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 the Board of Directors
4/20/2023