

NONPARTISAN POLICY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE FLINT AREA

- I. League as an Organization
League Bylaws state: “The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It may not oppose or support any political party or candidate.” The first sentence empowers the League to take action on political issues. The second sentence constitutes the League’s nonpartisan policy: The League as an organization does not support or oppose any political party, candidate for elective office (whether running under a party designation or in a “non-partisan” election), office holder or any group supporting candidate.

- II. General Membership of the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area
Non-Board members are urged to participate fully in the party of their choice. League members should seek an active role in the nomination of candidates for public office, run for office, stimulate public discussion of candidates and issues during the campaign and in general take part in the political activities of their choice. Naturally, when individual League members air their partisan views, they do so as individuals, not as representatives of the League.

- III. Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area
The Board of Directors is responsible for carrying out the nonpartisan policy in the community and for seeing that there is membership understanding and public awareness of the League’s nonpartisan stand. In the interest of maintaining and protecting the nonpartisan policy, no member of the board shall engage in political activity during her/his term in office. Board members’ activities shall be such that they cannot be reasonably interpreted as support or opposition to any political party, candidate or issue not covered by League position. The spirit of the nonpartisan policy shall not be to see how much political activity is possible within the policy, but to be actively and honestly nonpartisan. Even though Board members may not run for office, work publicly for a candidate, or sponsor political functions, Board members should be encouraged to:
 1. Exercise the right and responsibility of every voter.
 2. Make contributions to the political party or candidate of their choice.
 3. Go to political functions to become informed.

4. Be appointed to public commissions and committees and participate in coalitions. (If any of these violate the nonpartisan policy, then the League members should make it clear that the League does not support the candidate, issue, etc.)

In the event a Board member decides to run for public office, resignation is required. The executive board shall decide the period of time which must elapse (at least 90 days) before a member who has run for or held office may become a board member. It should also be noted that the political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of a board member.

IV. Interpretation and Review

Final responsibility for interpretation of the nonpartisan policy rests with the local League board. Some board positions are less visible than others and the holder may be able to be more politically active. In determining individual case the local board will use its own discretion. In borderline cases, they shall be resolved in favor of the nonpartisan policy.

This policy shall be reviewed annually by a nonpartisan policy committee composed as follows: Public Relations Chairperson, Voters Service Chairperson, Nominating Committee Chairperson, one other Board member (to be appointed by the Board) and one other off-board member (to be appointed by the Board).