

League of Women Voters of Okaloosa County Nonpartisan Policy

Adopted May 9, 2016

The League of Women Voters maintains the community's respect because it is known to be a nonpartisan organization concerned with good government and responsible citizenship. Board members are encouraged to seek and accept non-League positions in government and private sector, as these external contacts, skills and experience benefit and enrich the League. However, limitations must be imposed on Officers' and Board members' political activity to protect League's nonpartisan reputation.

1. Elected Office. The Officers and Board members may not run for or hold any elective office. They must resign from office/board **before** declaring an intention to run for public office. The resignation should be released to the news media and published in the *Voter*. The member may not serve on the Board again for at least six months after the resignation, provided there is no further partisan political activity on the member's part. Final decisions regarding time and the situation will be left to the discretion of the Board.
2. Political Party Office. The President, Voter Service Chair and Action Chair may not serve in any position in a political party. Other Board members may not serve in political party positions at the state or federal level, but may serve at local level after consultation with the President and Board.
3. Campaign Contributions. The President, Voter Service Chair and Action Chair may not attend fundraising events or make campaign contributions for candidates. Other Board members may attend fundraising events and make campaign contributions for candidates at any level, but must do so without indicating an affiliation with League.
4. Political Campaigns. Officers and board members may not raise funds for or participate in the campaign of a candidate for office at any level. Officers and Board members must resign **before** working actively for a candidate. The member may not serve on the Board again for at least six months after the resignation, provided there is no further partisan political activity on the member's part.
5. Officers and Board members MAY:
 - a. Serve on public commissions or committees either as a Board-approved League representative or as an individual. If serving as a League representative, the member must adhere to League positions. If serving as an individual, the member may follow his or her own dictates.
 - b. Attend political meetings (other than obvious fund-raising events for President, Voter Service Chair or Action Chair only), particularly to personally hear candidates for office. They may attend political meetings on the basis of individual judgment, keeping in mind League's nonpartisanship.
6. Officers and Board members MAY NOT:
 - a. Hold candidate coffees or other meetings unless all candidates are included.
 - b. Publicly indicate a candidate or party choice (e.g., bumper stickers, buttons, yard signs, etc.).
 - c. Publicly disagree with established League positions.

Note: Political activities of spouse, partners or relatives of Officers and Board members are considered as separate and distinct.
7. League members should contribute to the nonpartisan principles of the League of Women Voters.
 - a. Express partisan views as an individual, not as a League member.
 - b. Refrain from expressing personal partisan opinions or displaying advertisement concerning present or prospective elected officials or political parties at all League functions (except for candidate forums that include all candidates).
 - c. Not solicit League memberships while campaigning for a candidate.
 - d. Not use League meetings as occasions to advance an individual candidacy.
 - e. Not serve on certain League committees when he/she is running for political office or where there could be a possible conflict of interest.
8. ALL MEMBERS, including Officers and Board members, should be registered to vote in the party of their choice, and members not on the Board are urged to participate actively in partisan politics.