

League of Women Voters of Delaware

POLICY ON NONPARTISANSHIP

- A. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We take action on public policy positions established through member agreement. We are political, but we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. **Although general members are encouraged to be active in party politics, members representing the League to the public are expected to conduct themselves in such a way as to preserve the League's nonpartisan public image.**
- B. State board members and lobbyists (except the president and the Voter Services chair) **may**:
1. sign nominating petitions;
 2. attend functions of political parties or candidates;
 3. serve as an election official;
 4. contribute to the campaigns of candidates of their choice.
- C. State board members and lobbyists **may not**:
1. be committee persons for a political party;
 2. serve in an elective office;
 3. run for office;
 4. work in any visible way, paid or volunteer, for the election of any federal, state or local candidate.
- D. Nonpartisanship does not mean that the League does not take positions on issues. The League has taken positions on issues, after member agreement, since the League of Women Voters was formed.
- E.. A board member or lobbyist who decides to run for public office or takes a policy making or advisory position on an office holder's staff must resign her/his League position immediately and make clear in any public statements that this has occurred. After considering how widely the person has been known as a spokesperson for the League, the board may issue a press release to make the resignation public. This policy applies whether or not the office in question is considered "nonpartisan" (e.g., some city or town councils).
- F. Potential conflicts of interest will be weighed in considering portfolio and/or project assignments.
- G. No political ads may be included in the *Voters* (newsletters)