

## LWVIL ORGANIZATION POLITICAL (NONPARTISAN) ACTIVITY POLICY

Please Note: This is a state League policy. Local Leagues, as they develop their own political activity policies, are urged to apply these principles.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization. The Board of Directors of the LWVIL may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. However, it cannot support or oppose any party or candidate. The LWVIL board believes that League board members should not only be allowed, but also encouraged, to seek and accept elective or appointive office in government and responsible positions in the private sector. At the same time, the League recognizes the need to impose some restrictions in order to preserve the nonpartisan nature of the organization. With this objective in mind, the state board adopts the following policies:

1. **Elected Office.** The President shall not run for any elected office. Board members and the staff shall not run for national or state elective office. If the President, a Board member, or the staff chooses to run for a state or national elected office, that person shall resign the position. The League shall release a public statement announcing the resignation, avoiding the appearance of endorsing the candidacy. Board members and staff may run for local office, regardless of party designation, after consultation with and approval from the state Board and notification to the President(s) of the local league(s) involved.
2. **Appointed Office.** The President, a board member or the staff may accept appointment to national, state or local commissions, boards or committees where such service would not be in conflict with League position.
3. **Political Party Office.** The President, Voter Service Chair/Co-Chair, Issues and Advocacy chair/co-chair, board members visible in high profile League activities (determined by self-identification or LWVIL Board) and the staff shall not serve in any position in a political party or local caucus. Board members may accept a political party positions at any level after consultation and approval from the state board and notification to the local League President(s) if a local position is involved.
4. **Campaign Contributions.** The President, Executive Director and Voter Service Chair/Co-chair may not attend fundraising events or make campaign contributions to candidates for state or national office or to Political Action Committees (PACs). All board members and other staff may do so for candidates for local office.

5. Political Campaigns.

A) No board member or staff member shall participate in the campaign of any candidate running for U.S. Senate or for Illinois executive office. In addition, the President, board members visible in high profile League activities (determined by self-identification or LWVIL Board), and staff shall not work in any way in the campaign of any candidate for U.S. President or U.S. Representative, or State Senator or Representative. Further, the President or Executive Director shall not work in any way in the campaign of any candidate for local office. Before working in the campaign of a candidate for local office, board members and the staff shall notify the President(s) of the local League(s) involved.

B) In the event that the President's, board member's or a staff member's spouse or close relative runs for a state or national office or a party position, the board member or staff shall consult with the board about the level of involvement in the campaign.

6. Off-board members visible in high profile League activities. The state board shall determine which board members, off-board members and staff are considered "visible in high profile League activities."

7. Questions not covered by this policy shall be resolved by the board. This policy shall be reviewed by the LWVIL board on a yearly basis prior to the election cycle.