

LWVIL BOARD 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 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 program.
3. **Political Party Office.** The President, Voter Service Vice President/Director, Issues and Action Vice President/Director, board members visible in high profile League activities and the staff shall not serve in any position in a political party or local caucus. Board members may run for/accept political party positions at any level after consultation with the state board and notification to the local League President(s) if a local position is involved.
4. **Campaign Contributions.** The President, Voter Service Vice President/ Director may not attend fundraising events or make campaign contributions to candidates for state or national office or to PACs (Political Action Committees). All board members may do so for candidates for local office. The staff may not make campaign contributions to candidates for state or national office.

5. Political Campaigns.
 - A) The President, board members and the staff shall not work in any way 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, and staff shall not work in any way in the campaign of any candidate for U.S. President or U.S. Representative, State Senator or Representative, or other regional office. Further, the President 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 or executive committee about the level of involvement in the campaign.
6. Off-board members visible in high profile League activities shall be considered as board members for the purpose of this policy. The state board shall determine which board members, off-board members and staff are considered "visible in high profile League activities." Questions not covered by this policy shall be resolved by the board.
7. This policy shall be reviewed by the board on a yearly basis prior to the election cycle.

**The League of Women Voters of Illinois • 332 S. Michigan Avenue • Suite #634, Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312/939-5935 • Fax: 312/939-6887 • info@lwvil.org • www.lwvil.org**