

Nonpartisan Policy
League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson
Adopted 1996; Revised and Readopted June 1, 2018

General Principles

The League of Women Voters (at the national, state, and local levels) is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government. After careful study and member consensus, the League influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The LWV Greater Tucson does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does encourage its members, as individuals, to participate actively in all aspects of the partisan political process.

League's nonpartisan reputation is too important to risk. The aim is always to avoid any misunderstanding of League character and purpose.

Obligations of Members

It is the responsibility of every League member to clearly differentiate between her/his personal opinion and the League position.

League members may contribute time and money to a candidate or party and they may sign and circulate petitions on any issue, including nominating petitions for a candidate and petitions, provided there is no suggestion or possibility of confusion that they are representing the League. The only petitions that may be circulated at League events are those that have been approved and endorsed by the League Board.

Written and oral reports and emails related to a League business must be consistent with the mission and goals of the LWV. Reports and emails should be nonpartisan, not derogatory, not inflammatory, and nondiscriminatory. In writing and speaking on League issues, all members should be respectful of others, and try to understand the others' points of view, and not engage in personal attacks.

Additional Obligations of the Board of Directors

The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the fact of nonpartisanship of the organization.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be diligently non-partisan and they shall avoid any appearance to the contrary.

The following examples elucidate and do not limit this policy. Specifically:

Board members shall take great care that all meetings of the LWVGT adhere strictly to our nonpartisan policy in every detail, in every nuance and regarding every speaker.

Board members will avoid representing party positions at League meetings or speaking in a partisan way in any situation publicly identified with the League.

Board members shall not run or hold any elected office.

Board members, with the exceptions described below, may contribute time and money to a candidate or party and they may sign and circulate petitions on any issue, including nominating petitions for a candidate and petitions, provided there is no suggestion or possibility of confusion that they are representing the League. The only petitions that may be circulated at League events are those that have been approved and endorsed by the League Board.

Activities of a spouse, partner, or relative of a Board member shall be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

President, President-Elect, and the Voter Service Chair

In addition to their above obligations as Board Members, The President, President-Elect, and the Voter Service Chair may not sign a nominating petition for a candidate; contribute time and money to a candidate or party; sign for individuals, or circulate petitions for a candidate.

The Observer Corp

Observer Corps Chair shall not sign petitions or donate money to any governing Board [body?] being observed by any member of the Observer Corps.

The Observer Corp Chair also may not circulate any candidate's petition.

Any observer to a governing body shall not sign petitions or donate money to candidates for that governing body.

These restrictions are in addition to the obligations of the Observer Corp as members or Board members of the League.

Representing the League

Only the President or his/her appointed representative may speak in the name of League.

When representing the League's point of view to any organization, the state legislature, or any other public body, the League's Registered Lobbyists or other spokespersons shall strictly adhere to this nonpartisan policy. We need to be reminded of this when we are

making any public statement including any statement made in emails, in social media sites, or websites while representing the League.

Adopted 1996; Readopted October 2003; October 2007; July 2009; Revised August 2010; Readopted June 2011; May 2012, August 2013, June 2014, May 2016; Modified and Readopted October 2016, May 2017, Revised and adopted June 2018.