

POLICIES for LWVSNM

(Approved by Board 4-2-2020: Parts I, II, and III Approved by Members 4-18-2020)

Policies

I. Nonpartisan Policy (Adopted April 13, 2019)

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues, which is done only after members study and reach agreement.

The League recognizes the role of the political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters has established the following guidelines:

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

All members, including Board members, may engage in the following activities; signing nominating petitions, serving as election officials, serving as clerical volunteers for candidates for office. All other political activities in which a Board member may wish to engage should be subject first to his/her own scrutiny, and, in case of question, should be discussed with the Board.

The President, the Voter Service Director, the chair of the candidate's forums, the chair of voter registration and the editor of the Voters' Guide may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate. In consistently campaigning for or against non-League Issues, Board members must identify their interest as personal and not League-sponsored.

Any Board member who plans to run for elected office should pro forma submit his/her resignation to the Board. The Board should consider the visibility of the Board position in deciding whether or not to accept the resignation. Any candidate for elective office who continues his/her Board membership must not use his/her Board position in campaign appearances or literature. Candidates for public office should not participate in the planning of League Voter Service activities.

League Positions

Once League (local, state, or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

Representing League

Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernable. These members should be fully aware of League positions. It is the obligation of the Board to make the representative aware of relevant League positions.

Serving on Commissions

Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointment is League-related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the commission's responsibilities.

Member Candidacies

There should be no special notice in the VOTER of the candidacies of active League members.

League Meetings

Members in the leadership roles at unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

Only Board of Directors-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings.

League Roster

The League's roster is not to be made available for non-League use without Board consent.

II. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)

LWVSNM is an organization fully committed to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers to strengthen democracy.

III. Board of Directors

A. Organizational Responsibilities (In alignment with the LWVUS)

1. Make decisions on behalf of LWVSNM, putting the interests of the organization before personal and professional interests.
2. Work collaboratively and embrace different perspectives.
3. Fulfill legal responsibility of ensuring that the organization complies with the applicable federal, state, and local laws and adheres to its mission.
4. Support and affirm the organization's mission impact.
5. Serve as a liaison with individuals interested in the Leagues' mission in outlying areas.

6. Serve on Board committees as assigned.
7. Work collaboratively with other nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations.

B. Fiduciary Responsibilities

1. Ensure adequate financial resources are available for the League's mission.
2. Review and understand LWVSNM financial statements.
3. Understand and approve the League's budget ensuring that the budget reflects the overall strategic direction and advances the long-term fiscal health of the League.
4. Approve new expenses not reflected in the annual budget greater than \$50.
5. Ensure that the appropriate annual audit is performed.
6. Financially support the organization (as appropriate to an individual's means).

C. Planning and Development Responsibilities

1. Develop a strategic plan.
2. Participate in and support program planning.
3. Develop the strength of the board itself through training, self-assessment, and board education.

D. Conflict of Interest and Loyalties

1. Review conflict of interest bylaw annually and revise as needed.
2. Institute a procedure for managing conflict of interest.

The following section needs revision and was not approved at Annual Meeting 4-18-2020

IV. Vetting Members who Mentor or Work with Vulnerable Groups on Behalf of the LWVSNM

The LWVSNM Board has the responsibility to make members aware of issues (e.g. protection from cruelty, injury, or neglect and ensuring that children are in safe and effective care) related to working with vulnerable groups (including but not limited to youth, elderly, and disabled).