

Non-Partisan Policy of the Charlottesville Area League of Women Voters

MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE LWV-CVA

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League may take action on policies in the public interest, but shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

NON-PARTISAN POLICY

I. Purpose:

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League's effectiveness lies in its ability to take strong positions on issues in the public interest without regard to partisan affiliation. The League encourages participation in local government by informing citizens in our area about their rights and responsibilities as voters.

Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine non-partisanship will the League be able to render effective voter service activities and gain a wide base of support for its positions on governmental issues. The policy distinguishes between the League as an organization and the rights of its individual members.

II. The Policy as it applies to Members:

The League prides itself on having a diverse and informed membership. Its individual members are encouraged to participate fully in party politics and in government at all levels. Many League members have strong affiliations with political parties or candidates, or are elected officials themselves.

III. The Policy as it applies to the President/Spokesperson and Voter Services Chair:

a. The President/Spokesperson and the Voter Services Chair shall not serve in any titled position in a political party at any level.

b. The President/Spokesperson and Voter Services Chair shall not publicly support any candidate for elective office at any level.

c. Activities permitted under this policy include attending informational campaign functions and signing nominating petitions.

d. Activities prohibited under this policy include, but are not limited to, circulating nominating petitions, hosting fundraising or campaign functions, making campaign contributions, displaying lawn signs, wearing campaign insignia, or adding one's name to an endorsement.

IV. The policy as it applies to Board Members:

Board members must completely separate any partisan political activity from League roles and make sure their partisan political affiliation does not interfere with League responsibilities. They must resign from the Board prior to running for elective office.