

NONPARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY
FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

(updated July 2011)

The League of Women Voters of New York State is a nonpartisan organization which does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members, as individuals, to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action.

The state board believes that League members should be encouraged to seek and accept elective or appointive office in government. However, at the same time, state board members recognize that, as a result of their close identification with the League, they have a special responsibility to see that their activities do not create a partisan impression or compromise the nonpartisan policy of an individual board member's local League. Therefore, the LWVNYS imposes the following restriction in order to preserve the nonpartisan nature of the organization.

State board members shall not run for any elective partisan office.

Members of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of New York State:

- Shall not hold office in a political club or engage in partisan activity or serve on a campaign committee, or have their names listed for making contributions.
- May hold appointed positions on state, county and local boards and commissions.
- May not attend or host fundraising events
- May serve on other boards, provided that the corporation does not endorse political candidates or otherwise engage in activity that would violate the League's nonpartisanship policy.
- Any conflict arising between the two entities should be brought to the attention of the state board.

State board members shall bring the question of any prospective activity which may have potential conflict to the board for consultation.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are considered separate from the activities of that board member. However, in the event that a board member's spouse or close relative holds or runs for national, state, or local office or party position, the board member shall consult with the board or executive committee about their relative's activity or position and the board member's level of actual and/or perceived involvement with the position or campaign. The determination of whether such activity should disqualify the board member from retaining the directorship or voting on a particular matter shall be made on a case by case basis.

(Adopted by the board of directors 6/4/95; revised 7/11/98; revised 3/12/2008; revised, revised 11/12/09, revised November 11, 2010; revised July 29, 2011)

Prohibition to Filing Complaints

The League of Women Voters of New York State will not participate in the filing of a complaint against an individual with any New York State ethics or lobbying regulatory agency without prior Board approval which may be obtained by a majority of email responses.

(Adopted by the board of directors 11/11/09)