

League of Women Voters of Alameda Nonpartisan Policy

Definition: The League of Women Voters as an organization neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates.

Policy Statement: Responsibility for the maintenance of the League's reputation as a non-partisan group rests with the League Board. League Members must consult the Board if questions or conflicts arise. In making decisions, the Board will rely to a large extent upon the whole situation.

Education vs. Advocacy: League education involves presenting all sides of an issue, while advocacy is promoting specific League positions. To maintain impartiality, education and advocacy should be handled separately, and by different League leaders when possible.

Personal Partisan Activities: Board members can privately support political parties or candidates as long as their League position is not advertised or used in these activities. Public identification with the League should not accompany partisan actions.

Approval Requirements: Board members wishing to engage in activities that could blur the line of nonpartisanship should seek prior Board approval.

Implementation and Enforcement: The Board ensures that both individual and group actions remain nonpartisan. The Board retains discretion to approve or deny specific requests for activities that may appear partisan.

Permissible Activities for Board Members:

- League Board members may serve on appointed Boards, Commissions, or Committees.
- Board members may engage in private political activities, as long as these activities are not publicly linked with their League role.

Restricted Activities for Board and Other Members:

- League Board members may not hold or run for partisan elective office, or serve in an official position in a political party.
- The President, Advocacy Chair, and Voter Service Chair may not take a public or active role in elections or recalls of candidates.
- Moderation of candidate forums is prohibited if a League member has pledged support or opposition for a participating candidate.
- League members must not advocate ballot measure positions at events where the pros and cons are being presented.

Board Resignation Due to Political Activity: Board members must resign from the Board before publicly engaging in political activities that contravene nonpartisanship. The resignation must detail the political activity and resignation date.

Adopted: November 2024