

Nonpartisan policy - WBL LWV

Revised and adopted 4/19/2018

LWV WBLA is nonpartisan in both our education and advocacy. We support the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We encourage our members to be informed participants in political activity. As a nonpartisan organization, we neither oppose nor support a political party or candidate even when the office is unaffiliated with a party. We take action on selected governmental issues only after study and consensus by our members.

1. Board members who are candidates for political office should resign from the Board or take a leave of absence during their campaign.
2. When members are candidates for elective office, they may mention their involvement in LWV as long as they do not infer League endorsement.
3. The President, Voter Service Chair, Action Chair and moderators will refrain from involvement in political campaigns during their terms of office; such involvement would include having one's name on campaign literature or social media, displaying yard signs and hosting political gatherings. Attending a precinct caucus is permitted.
4. No League member who is highly visible in a political party, closely associated in some way with a candidate, or identified with an issue under discussion at a League sponsored candidate event should be involved in running that event.
5. The League position on an issue is never stated by the League during a public candidate forum.
6. Co-sponsorship of voter service activities is encouraged, but can present problems of perceived bias. If LWV WBLA's name is on a project, League guidelines for non-partisanship and fairness must be agreed upon ahead of time and followed. If the group has endorsed issues or candidates before the forum, the League should not be involved.
7. The League wants to encourage citizen involvement and provide experienced moderators for the community. It does not want to participate in poorly conceived or executed forums. If a League member is asked to moderate for a different group, she/he must explain our nonpartisan policies to them and consider the following questions: What is the motivation of the sponsoring group? Have all candidates been invited? Are they attending? If not, why not? What are the issues in this election? What is the format? What are the ground rules? Are the candidates aware of them? Will timers and ushers for collecting questions be provided?
8. All voter service projects, including candidate forums, should include a disclaimer that the League neither endorses nor opposes candidates for political office.