

THE POLICIES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Last revised April 2023

Coalition Policy:

1. It is permissible for the League of Women Voters of Manatee County, Florida (hereinafter referred to as LWVMC or the League) to form or join a non-partisan coalition for the purpose of joint activity as long as the purpose of the coalition, as well as the action anticipated, is carefully outlined. Approval by the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as Board) is required. Possible conflict of interest between the various groups must be considered before the League participates in the coalition.
2. A Board member may serve on another community committee or board as liaison between that group and the League, with Board permission, as long as the joint project presents no conflict of interest. If such a conflict arises, the League and its representatives must disassociate themselves from the group, and if deemed necessary, a public announcement of the disassociation be made.

Nonpartisan Policy:

The Bylaws of the League of Women of the United States specify that the League "shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate." It is the responsibility of each member to carefully guard the League's reputation for nonpartisanship. To carry out this policy, the Board has adopted the following guidelines:

1. No political or candidate material may be distributed at League meetings by candidates, their representatives, League members or members of the public. However, candidates may appear, speak on issues, and distribute appropriate literature at a candidates' forum where opponents have also been invited and are in attendance.
2. Members of the League:
 - a. May participate actively in partisan politics, work for candidates, run for political office, and serve in elected office.
 - b. May express partisan views as individuals, but not as League members
 - c. May not solicit League membership while campaigning for a candidate or working for a political party.
3. Board members:
 - a. When representing the League: Board members may not express any partisan views or engage in any partisan activities when acting as a representative or liaison for the League.
 - b. When engaging in personal activities:
 1. May contribute to political parties and candidates, except for the League President and Voter Services Chair who may not.
 2. May participate in political activities, except for the League President and Voter Services Chair, who may not.
 3. Must exercise particular caution in areas where their active participation may be publicized and bring to question the League's nonpartisan stance
 4. May not serve on a board or other leadership position of a political party.
 5. May not host fundraisers for incumbents or candidates.
 6. May not publicly indicate a candidate or party choice, i.e., using car bumper stickers, wearing party or candidate buttons, etc.
4. Board members must resign from the Board:
 - a. Immediately upon declaring their candidacy for public office. The resignation should be released to the news media and published in the Voter newsletter. The decision

regarding eligibility of this member to serve on the Board again will be left to the discretion of the Board.

- b. Prior to working in a highly visible position for a political party or candidate.
5. Public office holders are not eligible to serve on the Board but may join the League and serve on committees.
6. When there is doubt as to whether a conflict of interest exists with a Board member's political activity, the matter shall be resolved by a vote of the Board, excluding the person(s) who may have the possible conflict.

Position Policy:

1. No one except the president or designee may officially state a League position or sign its letters.
2. Members may express their own views on issues as individuals, but they must make it clear that they are not speaking for the League, if the League position differs from their own.
3. A local League may determine its positions on local issues, after studying those issues. A local League may not take state positions unless already taken by the state or coordinated with the state League, or national positions unless already taken or coordinated with the national League.

League of Women Voters of the United States Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy:

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.