

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY 2004-2005 BOARD POLICIES

The League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Item 1

The President or her/his designee shall be the sole spokesperson for the League on all matters concerning official actions for the general membership, the Board of Directors and the executive Committee.

Item 2

All letters on any subject that expresses the **League's view** must be signed by the President. Where appropriate, a letter may be co-signed by a committee chair.

Any public statement made by a designee of the President on behalf of the League must have the President's approval before release.

A copy of any communication appearing under the LWV-TLC letterhead, or where reference to the League appears as part of the closing, will be sent to the President who will maintain a league file for these. Where it applies, a committee chair will also maintain a similar file.

No member may use a LWV-TLC letterhead or refer to the League in a letter closing when expressing a personal opinion.

Item 3

Board members may actively participate in neighborhood and community petitioning processes on any issue not in conflict with League positions. Should a Board member choose to chair or serve as treasurer of a ballot or levy committee, that members must abstain from voting on any endorsement request for that issue.

A Board member may not publicly speak or work against a League position in any way.

Item 4

Board members may belong to political parties and political interest groups, however the President and Voter Service Chair shall not participate actively in any party.

Should the President or Voter Services Chair choose to run for office or to actively campaign for a candidate, that Board member shall request a leave of absence, in writing, from the Board of Directors. The leave should begin on the date the candidate files, or as soon as the member publicly accepts the position, and end no sooner than the

actual election date. The approval of a request for a leave of absence must appear in the minutes of the Board.

While on a leave of absence from the Board a person may not write letters for the Board or chair Board committees. A Board member on a leave of absence from the Board may participate in all regular membership activities of the board.

Item 5

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member are to be considered separate and distinct from the activities of the Board member.

Item 6

A Board member may serve on any public board, commission, committee or coalition. However, that Board member does not represent the League unless officially designated as a League representative by the LWV-TLC Board.

The League may take the initiative in recommending people to serve on appointed public commissions and committees. The League may suggest guidelines for the qualifications for the appointees and may suggest several people who fulfill these qualifications. If asked by those responsible for making such appointments to suggest a name, the League may respond with its best suggestion. The person or person suggested needs not be League members.

Item 7

Coalitions may be formed or joined to provide additional effectiveness to the overall efforts to achieve the League's organization, advocacy, or educational goals. Although there need not be a League position on every issue with which the coalition is concerned, the aims of the coalition must not conflict with League positions. The joining or resigning from a coalition shall be a Board decision. The League representative(s) to a coalition must have the prior approval of the League President or designee before making any formal or public statement of the League's position on a specific issue. If a coalition concentrates its activities on supporting or opposing candidates, then the League shall divest itself of association.

Item 8

Local program changes, in the case of altered conditions, will be made according to Section 2-E(1.2) in Article IX of the LWV-TLC Bylaws (Amended May 1987 and approved 1993). Program change recommendations will be adopted by a majority vote of those present at a general membership meeting.

Item 9

Non-League information may appear in the League Voter with the approval of the Board or President. The President must give final approval to each edition of the *Voter*. Any public statement made on behalf of the League, including all letters, must have the President's approval before release.

Item 10

The following Order of Business will be used for all regular Board meetings. The agenda may be adopted with flexibility.

1. Call to order
2. Announcements*
3. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (s)
4. Acceptance of financial report
5. Old business (items for action only)
6. New Business (items for action only)
7. Comments and Discussion
8. Adjournment

*Board members are encouraged to send or e-mail a written report to the administrative vice president in advance of the board meeting if they have (a) an announcement of either a League or other organization's meeting; (b) a request for volunteers for a League activity; (c) a report of a committee's past and future activities; (d) a request for funds.

Item 11

LWV-TLC does not permit release of its membership list, nor can the list be used externally without Board approval.

Item 12

The Board of Directors will undertake a review of current LWV-TLC policies by the first Board meeting in September of each calendar year. Policy changes will be adopted by a majority vote of voting members present at any Board meeting, provided all Board members have received written notification of both the current and proposed policy statements.

Item 13

The LWV-TLC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV-TLC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership, and programs.

The LWV-TLC affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV-TLC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Item 14

The Executive Committee will consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair. This committee will facilitate administration of the League business between Board meetings and may initiate emergency action. All action taken between regular meetings of the Board shall be reported to the Board of Directors. Executive Committee meetings are open to any Board member.