

LWVO Nonpartisan Policy Statement

(Revised 9/18/03)

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. However, it shall not support or oppose any party or candidate.

Board members shall not run for or hold elective office. If a Board member declares for an elective office, the member shall resign from the Board. Public notices released by LWVO announcing the resignation of a Board member to run for political office shall be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning Board member's candidacy.

Board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan position. The President and Executive Director shall not participate in any partisan way at any level. Board members shall not undertake any action at the state level that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office, or any political party, or any issue on which LWVO has taken no position. In such matters, Board members shall not: 1) chair or administer fund raising; 2) chair campaign events; or 3) work in a significant way in a campaign. When board members do participate in a partisan manner in local elections and politics, they are urged to exercise discretion in the amount of activity and visibility, keeping in mind the potential impact of any such political activity on the League of Women Voters.

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 LWVO Board.

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

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.