

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY

Political Activity Policy

As approved on August 9, 2016 [no changes made since 2013]
Approved changes on 9/11/18 Approved without changes October 8, 2019

Approved with changes June 9, 2020

The League of Women Voters of Cook County (“LWVCC”) is a nonpartisan political organization. The Board of Directors of the LWVCC may take action on governmental measures and policies consistent with the policies, principles and positions of the LWVCC (which includes those of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region, the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region and the national League of Women Voters). The LWVCC will not support or oppose any party or candidate. The LWVCC Board believes that LWVCC Board Members and others active in the LWVCC should not only be allowed, but also encouraged to be active politically. At the same time, the LWVCC recognizes the need to impose some restrictions in order to preserve the nonpartisan nature of the organization. With this in mind, the LWVCC Board adopts the following policies:

1. Elected Office. The LWVCC President and Voter Service Chair shall not run for or serve in any elected office. LWVCC Board Members and Observers shall not run for or serve in any national, state, regional or county elected office. If any of these individuals do so, that individual shall resign the position. The LWVCC shall release a public statement, if deemed appropriate, announcing the resignation, but avoiding the appearance of endorsing the person resigning. In general, LWVCC Board Members and Observers, other than the President and Voter Service Chair, may run for and serve in locally elected office, regardless of party designation, after consultation with the LWVCC Board and notification to the president of any local league(s) involved. In the event that the LWVCC Board determines that the public’s perception of the LWVCC being nonpartisan could be jeopardized as a result of the Board Member’s or Observer’s running for or serving in locally elected public office, the LWVCC Board may require that person to resign as a board member or observer.
2. Appointed Office. The LWVCC President, Board Members, Observers, and Voter Service Chair may accept appointment to national, state, regional, county or local non-elected commissions, boards or committees where such service would not be in conflict with LWVCC policies, principles and positions.
3. Political Party Office. The LWVCC President and Voter Service Chair shall not serve in any position in a political party or local political party caucus, but may serve as an election judge. In general, LWVCC Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Observers may run for or accept political party positions at any level after consultation with the LWVCC Board and notification to the president of any local league(s) involved if a local position. In the event the LWVCC Board determines that the public’s perception of the LWVCC being nonpartisan could be jeopardized as a result of the Board Member’s, Committee Chair’s, or Observer’s running or accepting such a party position, the LWVCC Board may require that person to resign as a board member, committee chair, or observer.
4. Campaign Contributions. The LWVCC President and Voter Service Chair may not attend fundraising events or make campaign contributions to candidates for local, county, regional, state, or national office or to Political Action Committees.

5. Political Campaigns.

- a. The LWVCC President, those designated by the LWVCC Board as “Highly Visible Board Members or Chairs,” and the Voter Service Chair shall not work in the campaign of any candidate running for any county office. An LWVCC Observer shall not work in the campaign of any candidate for county office that would serve on a board that is being observed by that Observer for the LWVCC. In addition, the LWVCC President and Voter Service Chair shall not work in the campaign of any candidate running for regional, state or national office. Further, the LWVCC President shall not work in the campaign for any candidate for local office.
 - b. The LWVCC President, Highly Visible Board Member or Chair, other Board Member, Observer, or Voter Service Chair shall consult with the LWVCC Board with regard to that person’s involvement in the campaign in the event that person’s spouse, partner, or close relative runs for a county, regional, state, or national party position. In the event the LWVCC Board determines that the public’s perception of the LWVCC being nonpartisan could be jeopardized as a result of that involvement, the LWVCC Board may require that person to resign from her/his position with the LWVCC.
6. All references in this policy to “President” or “Voter Service Chair” shall also mean “Co-Presidents” or “Voter Service Co-Chairs.” All references to “Board Members” shall mean people who are serving in elected or appointed positions and do not mean the local league representatives to the Board, who are not under any restrictions pursuant to this policy.
7. Questions not covered by this policy shall be resolved by the LWVCC Board.
8. This policy shall be reviewed by the LWVCC Board at least once each fiscal year at or before the September Board meeting.