

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY
BOARD POLICIES**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

DEFINITIONS:

Partisan: When used as an adjective, refers to a political party.

Election: Includes special, primary and general elections.

Nonpartisan election: An election in which none of the candidates represents a political party.

League: In this Policy, refers to the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley.

POLICY:

1. No member of the League shall support or oppose any political party or any candidate for a partisan office at an official League activity. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing political buttons, distributing promotional material and soliciting contributions.
2. No League member may be a candidate for elective public office in a partisan election and simultaneously hold a League Board position.
3. No League member may serve as an officer of a political party and simultaneously hold a League Board position.
4. No League Board member may use her/his official authority or influence for purposes of interfering with or affecting the results of any partisan election.
5. Nonpartisan election activity is unrestricted.

No Board member of the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley may participate in a Board activity that places her/him in a position of conflict between private (personal, business or professional) interest and the League's interest.

Board members who have affiliations or financial interests that are conflicts of interest, or create even the appearance of conflicts of interest, with their official duties shall disqualify themselves from Board decisions until such conflicts cease to exist.

FUNDRAISING POLICY

All LWVLVV development efforts shall be directed towards advancing the organizational goals and program priorities established by the LWVLVV Board of Directors.

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The LWVLVV shall not enter into any financial relationship (investment, fundraising, cause-related marketing, gift solicitation or gift acceptance) which is incompatible with the principles, priorities and mission of the LWVLVV. The Board shall exercise appropriate discretion when identifying and soliciting prospective donors or partners.

For purposes of this policy, cause-related marketing is defined as a business relationship whereby a company uses the League of Women Voters' name in its marketing or public relations campaigns. The League is compensated for the use of its name and does not perform any services for that company as part of the agreement. Any other relationship is considered a "partnership" and does not fall within these guidelines.

Approval by the LWVLVV Board of Directors shall be required for any cause-related marketing relationship.

DIVERSITY POLICY

The LWVLVV, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVLVV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The LWVLVV recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The LWVLVV subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

The LWVLVV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the region in its board and programs.

POLICY ON COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The board must explicitly approve LWVLVV membership in all formal coalitions and partnerships as well as the acceptance of a League position on the board/advisory board of another organization. Formal coalitions are those that have permission to use the League name.

In the case of informal coalitions or meetings, the appropriate board must be informed at its next meeting whenever the LWVLVV begins participating in such a group on a regular basis.

The following criteria shall guide the LWVLVV board in determining whether or not to join a formal coalition or to attend the meetings of an informal group on a regular basis:

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- The group's major goals are in accord with the LWVLVV program and/or organizational priorities.
- The group's activities will bring added effectiveness to the League's overall efforts to achieve its advocacy, educational and/or organizational goals.
- The group's major issues mesh with LWVLVV positions or priorities, although there need not be a League position on every issue with which the group is concerned. The aims of the group must not conflict with the LWVLVV positions.
- The members of the group are organizations with which the LWVLVV can work effectively. The LWVLVV has confidence in the leadership of the group and may itself serve in a leadership capacity with the group.
- The goals and activities of the group as a whole are nonpartisan. Very few, if any, members of the group endorse candidates.
- Resource demands involved in working with the group (including staff and volunteer time as well as direct and in-kind expenses) are worth the investment.

The president shall make appointments or assignments for League representation with all coalitions, partnerships and regular meeting groups.

Once a year, the LWVLVV board shall review the list of coalitions and partnerships to determine whether continued membership should be approved. All groups to which the LWVLVV is represented by a board member or off-board volunteer shall be included on the list.

PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY

Official statements shall be made for the League only by the president or someone authorized by the president.

Official League observers should restrict speaking at public meetings to questions of clarification.

POLICY ON LEAGUE ROSTER

The roster of a local League is for the use and convenience of its members in carrying out League work. Its use by other organizations or groups must have board approval prior to the use of the roster.

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POLICY ON PROGRAMS

The chair of each committee shall prepare position papers on local program items following consensus. These papers shall include majority and minority opinions and as much detail as necessary for clarification of position. They shall be published in the VOTER and a copy kept in the president's file.

POLICY ON NOTIFICATION OF NON-DEDUCTIBILITY

Funds given to the League, a 501(c)(4) organization, are non-deductible as a contribution. Notification must be stated in all materials requesting payments, i.e., dues notices, contributor forms. However, deductions to the Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, are deductible to the extent of the law.

GUIDELINES FOR LEAGUE WORK ON ISSUES

The mission of the LWVLVV is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. To stay true to our mission and our nonpartisanship and to acknowledge the challenges of working in a multilevel organization, we have developed a number of policies and procedures that govern our program work:

- The League must have a position before it takes action.
- League positions are derived from member study of issues selected by members and from member agreement obtained through consensus or concurrence.
- League studies examine all sides of an issue, providing balanced and fair information that members use as the basis for deciding what governmental changes are needed.
- The chair is the official spokesperson for an MAL Unit unless she/he designates another member to speak. Unless authorized otherwise, members lobby in their own names, not in the name of the League.
- Local studies focus on issues that can be addressed by local government.
- MAL Units may use locally adopted positions or relevant state or national positions to lobby their local elected officials.
- We never lobby as League members in opposition to a League position, but, as individuals, we are free to lobby as we choose.
- The program work at each level of League is directed by the board at that level.
- Leagues are asked to respond to action alerts from the state League and the LWVUS. To lobby at the state or national level when lobbying has not been requested by the board at that level, Leagues seek permission from the appropriate level before acting.

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- The League speaks with one voice, coordinating action with other affected Leagues, or other levels of the League, when the need arises.

The goal of League program work is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. We recognize that broad-based citizen involvement is key to resolving the complex problems that confront our society today. In carrying out our program activities, therefore, we seek to engage both our members and our fellow citizens in the process of bringing about positive change.