

# Political .... But Non-Partisan

## Greeley-Weld County LWV Non-Partisan Policy



Since its founding, the League of Women Voters committed to neither support or oppose any political party or candidate for public office. This tradition continues today to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics. The nonpartisan policy has added strength to the League's position on issues. It has made possible wide acceptance of League voter service and other educational activities.

Nonpartisan means that the League never supports or opposes political parties or candidates or appointees. All League members need to remember that the League's reputation for fairness is long-standing and hard-won and needs to be guarded.

- Although we DO NOT support candidates, we do research, recommend, and support ballot issues that are supported by League positions.
- The League is a political organization and encourages members to participate fully in the party of their choice. It is an advantage to the League to have politically active members, and equally important, it can be a personally satisfying experience.

*"In the League of Women Voters, we have an anomaly; we are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we're going to educate for citizenship. In that body we have got to be non-partisan and all-partisan. Democrats from Alabama and Republicans from New Hampshire must work for the same things."* Carrie Chapman Catt at the League's founding in Chicago, 1920

### What does this mean for Members?

- Individual League members are encouraged to be politically active. However, when they participate in partisan activities, they may not identify themselves as representing the League.
- A League will be a strong and effective political force to the degree that it can deal with and accept controversy and live with uncertainty.

### League Statements

No member (including officers) may speak for the League unless they have first obtained review and approval by a majority of the members of the Leadership Council of the proposed statement.

## Key Member Responsibilities

Certain individuals who have high public visibility as officers or leaders of the League (Key Members) are restricted from partisan activity.

- Chair/Spokesperson
- Advocacy Chair
- Voter Service Chair
- Moderators

(Moderators fall under the nonpartisan policy for the issue or offices under discussion and only for the pertinent election cycle. Moderators should be League members who are publicly perceived as impartial persons as determined by the leadership council. If, in an emergency situation, no League member can be found, a non-League member must be approved by the Leadership Council.)

Members of the Leadership Council have the responsibility of maintaining the nonpartisanship of the organization.

If a key member of the Leadership Council plans to engage in political activity, that member must consult the Leadership Council as to whether the activity would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship.

Should a conflict of interest arise between a key member's employment and/or public service and their role in the League, that key member must consult the Leadership Council with any concerns or questions they may have.

Key members may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate or for a non-League issue.

Members of the Leadership Council may not run for elective office.