

Plymouth Area League of Women Voters

Non-partisanship Policy

adopted 8/7/10

Political parties and individual participation in all levels of government are integral parts of our form of government. The League urges, not only citizens at large, but also its own members to work individually in the parties and on behalf of candidates and issues of their own choice. However, in order to maintain the nonpartisan nature of the League itself, the Voter Service Chairperson shall refrain from all political activity. Involvement of other chairpersons is prohibited in campaigns for offices that relate directly to their portfolios. For example, the Education Chairperson must not be involved in a school committee campaign. The Legislative Action Chairperson must not be involved in the campaign for state legislature. All other board members may be active politically at all levels-national, state and local, but are to use their judgment as to how visible they should be. The Board will decide on any questions that may arise.

Board of Directors

The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the fact of the nonpartisanship of the organization. If a Board member plans to engage in political activity, that member shall seek a Board decision as to whether the activity would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship. The Voter Service Director may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate or for a non-League issue.

League Positions

Once a League (local, state or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

Representing League

Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernable. These members should be fully aware of League positions.

League Roster

The League's roster is not to be made available to non-League use without Board consent.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Leadership Team member. This policy shall be reviewed annually.