

## LWV GREATER CLEVELAND BOARD NONPARTISAN POLICY, 2016-17

Involvement in public and political life is something the LWV recommends for all members and citizens. Nevertheless, the LWVGC Board believes that some basic limitations on the political activity of board members and chapter chairs, while they serve in that capacity, are needed. Specifically:

1. The President(s), Voters Service Chair(s), and Chapter Chairs shall NOT engage in any overt partisan political activity, including attending fundraising events, displaying partisan campaign materials or taking other actions that imply support. They will exercise caution where spouse activity is involved, recognizing that spouses do not always hold the same political opinions.

Hereinafter, "board member" includes chapter chairs. "Board" means LWVGC board.

2. ELECTED OFFICE – A board member shall not seek nomination or election to any elective office at any level of government. She/he may accept nonpartisan appointive office only after consultation with and approval by the board.

3. POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY – A board member shall not hold any position above that of individual member in a political party committee at any level of government.

4. POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS – A board member shall not chair a political campaign, conduct fundraising for a political campaign, chair a campaign event, be a spokesperson or work in any other significant, visible way in the campaign of a candidate for any political office.

5. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS – A board member's name shall not appear on any endorsement lists for candidates or parties to which she/he may have contributed as an individual.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE – A board member shall disclose annually, at the beginning of the League year, any paid work, political involvement, appointed or elected participation on any governmental agency, board or commission, volunteer activities and any other situation that may represent a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest. Any changes to that disclosure arising during the year shall be reported as they occur.

7. PERMISSIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY – A board member (except as noted above) may sign petitions, attend candidate or party events, serve as poll workers, contribute to candidate and issue campaigns, and be appointed to boards or commissions where League principles or positions are not in conflict. Board members may participate actively only in those issue campaigns which are supported by League positions or where League has no position.

8. SITUATIONS NOT COVERED BY THE ABOVE – A board member in any situation where she/he is the public face of the League or its chapters shall consult the president(s) or chapter chair in advance, or act on the spot with deference to the spirit of this policy.

*Approved August 20, 2016*