



League of Women Voters
Dare County, NC

NONPARTISAN POLICY GUIDELINES

1. Members of the League of Women voters of Dare County are encouraged to participate fully in the political process.
2. League members should not wear campaign pins to League functions or League pins to campaign functions. They should not express partisan political opinions at League meetings. No campaign material is to be passed out or lobbying done on behalf of a candidate by anyone attending a League function, except at candidates' forums, and then only outside the meeting room.
3. The League must maintain a careful nonpartisan stance in its Voter Services activities. It should avoid co-sponsorship of candidate-oriented activities with groups or organizations which endorse or have affiliations with candidates. If meetings or debates are planned, the moderator must be clearly neutral.
4. All Board members should carry out the responsibility of every voter in exercising the franchise. They should become informed about candidates. Board members (except as noted below) may participate in party activities and attend precinct meetings and caucuses. Board members should refrain from assuming highly visible roles in candidates' campaigns. If they wish to be active in a campaign, they should consult with the Board and assume off-board status until an election is over.
5. The President, Vice-President, Voter Services Director, and any other particularly visible Board member should not participate in partisan politics during their terms in office. However, they may serve on boards or commissions to which they may be appointed.
6. Board members shall not lobby or speak at a governmental meeting or hearing for a position to or in conflict with League of Women Voters positions. Board members have a right as individuals to lobby their own public representatives on any side of the issue. In doing so, they must make it clear they are not representing the League.
7. The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board member will be considered as separate and distinct from those of the Board member.
8. To avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, board members who file for elective office will immediately resign from the Board. Any notice that is released to the public or the League of Women Voters announcing the resignation of a Board member to run for political office must be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning member's candidacy.
9. The league of Women voters has a nonpartisan reputation sufficiently strong to ensure that gifts to the League of Women Voters of Dare County from office holders or candidates can be accepted without being misconstrued as endorsement of these donors. Financial contributions, however, must come from the candidate's personal accounts, not campaign funds.
10. Since the general policy can never cover every situation, the Board will need to deal with specific cases as they rise, considering the visibility associated with specific political activity.
11. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Board prior to the League of Women Voters of Dare County's annual meeting and approved by the membership as part of the annual meeting. Members shall be informed in the bulletin when the review and discussion will occur, so that interested members can participate.

ADOPTED APRIL, 1988

REAFFIRMED 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013