

LWV-W Policies

Political Activity Policy

The LWV of Women Voters of Wilmette is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV takes action on issues; it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

State and National Level. All LWV members, with the exception of the President and Voter Services Chair, are encouraged to participate in state and national partisan politics, provided they act only as individuals and never in the name of the LWV. A Board member must resign to run for public office or to manage a campaign.

Local Level. No Board member may run for or hold local public elective office. The President and Voters Service Chair may not campaign actively for any local party or candidate running for local public office. Other Board members may participate provided they act only as individuals and never in the name of the LWV. A Board member may serve in an appointive office as long as there is no conflict with LWV positions. The President and Voter Services Chair may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a non-LWV issue. If the Board has no President, the Vice President(s) should not be allowed to be actively involved in any campaign or public political activity.

General Policies. A Board member who resigns in order to run for public office will be eligible for LWV Board office again six months after the election. Questions concerning this policy shall be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Board. The nonpartisanship policy of the LWV shall be made clear to each prospective Board member prior to nomination or appointment to office.

Standing Rules

1. Donations or contributions by the League of Women Voters of Wilmette (except in lieu of rents or fees for goods and services) shall be made only in support of LWV program and action, and must be approved by the Board.
2. LWV-W membership in any coalition or outside organization shall be undertaken only in support of LWV program and action, and must be approved by the Board.
3. No announcement on behalf of any other organization shall be made at any LWV meeting except by permission of the Board.
4. No services, products or tickets of any other organization shall be sold at any LWV meeting except by permission of the Board.
5. Petitions for any candidate may be circulated after LWV meetings.
6. No other petition shall be circulated at any LWV meeting except with permission of the Board, and with an explanation of the LWV's position in regard thereto.

7. Joint LWV activities involving financial obligations of more than \$30 shall be approved by the Boards or Executive Committees of all participating LWVs. Approval will be shown by a letter, signed by each President, containing a description of the joint activity, an estimate of the total cost, and the portion of that cost to be borne by each participating LWV. A contract with a provider must be signed by a representative of each participating LWV.

Candidate Forum Participation Policy

Constitutional Eligibility. The candidate must meet the requirements of the Illinois and the United States constitutions.

Formal Campaign. The candidate must show evidence that a formal campaign is being waged, such as campaign headquarters, campaign staff, position papers or campaign appearances. A candidate who has filed a notarized declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate and shows evidence that a formal campaign is being waged will be included.

Voter Interest. The candidate must demonstrate significant voter interest and support.

Candidate Participation. In the event that one candidate in a field of two does not appear, the forum should not proceed under LWV-W auspices. If one candidate in a field of three or more does not appear, the forum may be held. A spokesperson for the missing candidate(s) may deliver an opening statement only. The LWV-W will reserve the right to determine that its criteria for candidate participation have been met.