

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY

Revised 1/16/2016

LWVAF Non-Partisanship Policy and Procedures

The League of Women Voters of Atlanta-Fulton County (“LWVAF”) does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. In order to preserve the nonpartisanship of the LWVAF as an organization, the following policies are hereby adopted:

Part I –Political Activities of LWVAF Members and Board Members

The LWVAF values the many skills and types of experience that individual **members and** Board members bring to the LWVAF, including those learned in public life through elective or appointive office. In fact, involvement in the public and political life of this country is something that the League of Women Voters recommends for all citizens and other members of the public. Some limitations on members' political activity, however, **especially** while they are serving as Board members, are necessary, as follows:

1. **Political and Community Participation by LWV members.** The LWVAF encourages the participation of its members who are not Board members in political and community issues and races, whether non-partisan or not. **Their participation in political campaigns and causes is authorized and encouraged, including endorsements, and contributions to any candidate or cause, whether on a local, state or national level.** However, no LWVAF member shall use his or her affiliation with the LWVAF to imply the endorsement of **his or her personal positions** by the LWVAF in any way-
2. **Elective Office.** A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office at any level of government, and if in violation of this policy shall be required to resign from the Board. **A Board member may run for a local nonpartisan elective office, after seeking and obtaining approval by the LWVAF Board.**
3. **Political Party Office.** A Board member shall not serve in any official position (any function with a title, including but not limited to chairperson, secretary, executive director, finance chairperson, post seat holder, or state committee member) in a political party or in any party-affiliated organization (e.g., Emily’s List, any Political Action Committee) at any level of the organization (local, municipal, county, state, or national).
4. **Political Campaigns.** A Board member shall not chair a political campaign, or administer fundraising for a political campaign, including but not limited to serving as a campaign's treasurer, nor chair a campaign event, act as spokesperson, or allow his or her identity as a LWVAF member to be associated with any partisan campaign. Board members other than the President, President-Elect, Vice President for Voter Services, and Vice President for Membership may endorse candidates (excluding candidates for election in Fulton County and Fulton County municipalities) provided that such endorsements do not identify that Board member's affiliation with LWVAF. Endorsements include, but are not limited to, displaying yard signs, allowing the Board member’s name to be included in a list of supporters for a candidate, displaying a bumper sticker or wearing a candidate’s

paraphernalia. Board members other than the President, President-Elect, Vice President for Voter Services, and Vice President for Membership, may make financial contributions **to any candidate** in amounts that by law are required to be reported. The President, President-Elect, Vice President for Voter Services, and Vice President for Membership may make financial contributions to candidates in amounts that by law are not required to be reported **for** a candidate for an elected office in Fulton County or in any of the municipalities or governmental subdivisions of Fulton County and local PACs related to Fulton County. No contribution to any candidate, campaign, political party or PAC can be made from LWVAF Funds.

5. **Limitations on President, President-Elect, Vice President for Voter Services, and Vice President for Membership.** Because of the visibility of their positions, and their specific responsibilities to ensure the fairness and nonpartisan nature of **League** publications and events, neither the President, President-Elect, the Vice President for Voter Services, nor the Vice President for Membership shall make endorsements **or** display yard signs for a campaign for an elective office in Fulton County or in any of the municipalities or governmental subdivisions of Fulton County. The President, President-Elect, the Vice President for Voter Services, and the Vice President for Membership are also prohibited from making financial contributions in amounts that by law are required to be reported ~~to~~ **for** a candidate for an elected office in Fulton County or in any of the municipalities or governmental subdivisions of Fulton County. The President, President-Elect, Vice President for Voter Services, and Vice President for Membership, may make financial contributions in amounts that by law are required to be reported to any candidate who is not a candidate for an elective office in Fulton County or in any of the municipalities or governmental subdivisions of Fulton County and local PACS related to Fulton County. The President, President-Elect, the Vice President for Voter Services, and the Vice President for Membership may make contributions to candidates for a state or national office in amounts that by law are required to be reported, and work for candidates for national or state office provided that in doing so they do not identify their affiliation with the LWVAF in any way.
6. **Social and Other Media.** A Board member shall not indicate his or her political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify his or affiliation with LWVAF.
7. **Approval or Clarification Required.** Board members must seek clarification or approval from the LWVAF Board about specific situations where the foregoing policies do not resolve any question of conflict with these nonpartisanship policies.

Part II – Use of LWVAF Name and Co-Sponsorship

1. **Use of LWVAF Name.** LWVAF will not allow its name to be used to imply that **it is a** partners for any particular event with a partisan organization that supports or endorses any political candidate or party.

2. **Collaboration With Other Organizations.** Often LWVAF will work with other organizations, and LWVAF will do so in co-sponsorship or collaboration with other components of LWV as well as non-partisan organizations previously approved for co-sponsorship by the Board.

List of Approved Co-Sponsors. The LWVAF will maintain a list of organizations that have been **previously** preapproved as co-sponsors that will be reviewed and approved on the same cycle as the LWVAF annual meeting.

3. **Procedure For Co-Sponsorship.** If any LWVAF member proposes co-sponsorship of an event and that co-sponsor is not already on the approved list, then the LWVAF member seeking approval of a co-sponsor not on the approved list shall present a written request via e-mail to the LWVAF Board so that the Board may discuss the co-sponsorship at a regularly scheduled Board meeting that is held at least one month prior to any promotion of the event. The written request should include the name of the organization and the information verifying the organization's non-partisan status for the LWVAF Board's review. If the LWVAF Board approves the co-sponsorship by a majority vote of the LWVAF Board at which a quorum is present, then the name of the organization shall be added to the LWVAF pre-approved list for the duration of the term of the pre-approval list.
4. **LWVAF Events:** The President (or the President-Elect if the President is unavailable) or the appropriate Vice President for an event (membership, voter services, program) must approve promotional materials and program materials prior to the distribution of the materials, and the promotional materials shall list all co-sponsors for the event. Co-sponsorship by the LWVAF is conditioned on the LWVAF and all approved co-sponsors being identified as a co-sponsors.
5. **Non-LWVAF Events That LWVAF Co-Sponsors:** The LWVAF President (or the President-Elect if the President is unavailable) or the appropriate Vice President who is involved with a non-LWVAF event that LWVAF is co-sponsoring must pre-approve the promotional materials used by the co-sponsors of LWVAF co-sponsored events prior to the distribution of said promotional materials to the general public. LWVAF must be identified as a co-sponsor.
6. **Event Flyers.** For any event in which LWVAF participates, it is permissible for LWVAF event flyers to be provided to organizations that are partisan, as long as the reproduction of such information is only as approved by the LWVAF.
7. **Co-Sponsorship Approval Prior to Board Meetings.** In the event that a LWVAF member has a requests for the approval of a co-sponsor that is not on the approved LWVAF Board list and the request must be approved or denied prior to the next regularly-scheduled LWVAF Board meeting, then the LWVAF member should submit a written request to the LWVAF President and the appropriate Vice President. The President shall decide whether to submit the written request to the entire LWVAF Board for approval via an electronic vote of the LWVAF Board, and the decision of the President in this regard shall be final.

Part III – Annual Review and Approval

This **Non-Partisan Policy** shall be reviewed and approved by the LWV membership at each annual meeting.