



Policies of the League of Women Voters of Wake County

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- 101. Dues are \$60.00 per individual, \$90.00 for a household, and \$30.00 for a student. Dues may be paid in two installments, one in July and one in November.
- 102. Nationally recruited members will be requested to consider renewing their memberships at the appropriate time through the LWV of Wake County rather than LWV-US.
- 103. The LWV-Wake membership lists are available to all members for conducting business of the League. Any other use, including sale of a list, must be approved by the Board.

SECTION 2. MEETINGS

Payment for any uncancelled reservation for an activity requiring a fee must be made by the person who made the reservation.

SECTION 3. REIMBURSEMENTS

- 301. Advance approval by the President/Leadership Team Chair must be obtained by those who want unbudgeted reimbursement for gas expenditures to out-of-town workshops and those who want unbudgeted reimbursement or registration fees at workshops.
- 302. Reimbursement of dues paid by a League member who represents the League of Women Voters of Wake County in another organization will be decided by the Board of Directors/Leadership Team on a case by case basis.

SECTION 4. PARTICIPATION ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.

- 401. The League of Women Voters of Wake County encourages the participation of its members on governmental boards and commissions. Only current members of the League of Women Voters of Wake County will be officially supported for appointment to public service positions.
- 402. All decisions regarding participation on a board or commission should be made by the Board/Leadership Team. If time does not permit, a decision can be made by the Executive Committee/Leadership Team Chair. The Board/Team shall be informed at the earliest opportunity of any decisions made by the Executive Committee/Leadership Chair.
- 403. In making appointments to boards or commissions, the Board/Leadership Team should consider the following questions regarding potential League representatives:
 - a) Is the Leaguer knowledgeable about national, state, and local LWV positions on matters to be considered by the commission?

- b) Is the Leaguer well versed and interested in the subject to be addressed by the commission?
- c) Can the Leaguer meet the time requirements of commission membership?
- d) Does the League have any conflict of interest with respect to matters to be considered by the commission?
- e) How well will the Leaguer represent the League?

404. The appointee can only support League written positions when speaking for the League.

405. The appointee is to report to the Board/Leadership Team as necessary to apprise it of commission actions.

SECTION 5. COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

The League of Women Voters of Wake County will enter into cooperative relationships with other groups, organizations, and agencies only after due deliberations and approval by its Board of Directors/Leadership Team. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Participation in a coalition.
- b) Appointing representatives to attend meetings and participate in discussions.
- c) Appointing representatives to attend a workshop or a training session.
- d) Paying dues.
- e) Making a financial contribution.
- f) Co-sponsoring an activity.
- g) Soliciting members to work in an activity not sponsored by this League.
- h) Making the membership list available to anyone other than members of this League, except as provided in Policy 103.

SECTION 6. STATEMENTS BY THE LEAGUE

Public statements made in the name of the League of Women Voters of Wake County must be presented to the Board/Leadership Team for approval or given to the Executive Committee/Leadership Team Chair prior to the presentation for their approval.

SECTION 7. NONPARTISANSHIP

The League supports and endorses issues, programs, and positions. In addition, the League encourages all citizens, including League members, to become informed and active participants in the political process and in their government. At the same time, the League, as an organization, does not support, endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elective office or office holder. This applies to both partisan and nonpartisan offices. The League will not co-sponsor a candidates' forum or debates with any organization that endorses candidates.

For the purposes of this document "partisan political activities" are defined as: run for office,

attend precinct meetings, serve as precinct officers, serve as party officers, campaign for and/or donate money to candidates, host fundraising events, display yard signs, wear campaign pins and engage in other activities to support parties and/or candidates.

701. Guidelines for League Activities

- a) League meetings and events are nonpartisan and are not an opportunity to espouse partisan viewpoints.
- b) Campaign literature for any candidate may be displayed at League events provided all candidates for the office are allowed to attend and display materials.
- c) The League of Women Voters of Wake County's nonpartisan reputation is sufficiently strong to ensure that donations from officeholders or candidates can be accepted without being misconstrued as an endorsement of those donors.

702. Guidelines for League Members

- a) League members are encouraged to participate in the political process. League members may run for office, attend precinct meetings, serve as precinct officers, serve as party officers, campaign for and/or donate money to candidates, host fundraising events, display yard signs, wear campaign pins, and engage in other activities to support parties and/or candidates.
- b) However, League members should remember, that the League, as an organization, is nonpartisan and, when stating their partisan views, members should emphasize that they are speaking as individuals and are not representing the League.

703. Guidelines for Board Members/Leadership Team

Recognizing that the League experience uniquely equips members for public life and wishing to encourage members to utilize their knowledge and ability, non-Leadership Team members are encouraged to participate fully in political activities (on an individual basis).

- a) The Board of Directors/Leadership Team is responsible for carrying out the nonpartisan policy in the community and for seeing that League members and the community understand the policy.
- b) The President and the President-Elect/Leadership Team members in the following positions: Chair, Communications Coordinator may not participate in political activities during their terms in office. In the absence of a President and/or President-Elect, the Board shall decide who on the Board may not participate in political activities.
- c) The Board/ Leadership Team should identify other members who perform highly visible League roles in the community may not participate in political activities. Such visible roles may include, but are not limited to Public Relations, Voter Services, and other spokespersons for the League. The Board/Leadership Team will annually decide who is included in this category, although members may be added if League activities thrust a member into the public realm.
- d) No Board/ Leadership Team member shall run for or hold elective office. If a Board/ Leadership Team member declares for an elective office, the member should resign from the Board/Leadership Team.

- e) The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board/Leadership member shall be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board/Leadership Team or a League member.
- f) A Leadership Team member may serve on any public board, commission, committee or coalition; however that Leadership Team member does not represent the League unless officially designated as a League representative by the League Leadership Team.

Section 8. STAFF

801. In the event the League considers hiring staff, the President/Chair shall appoint a personnel committee composed of Board/Leadership Team members. The committee shall solicit applications, screen candidates, and present a recommended candidate to the Board/Leadership Team for employment.

802. The president/convener is responsible for supervising activities of the staff. Any requests for staff assistance must be directed to the president/chair, who shall have final authority in determining tasks to be assigned to staff.

803. In the event that there are insufficient fund for staff personnel, the League office shall be maintained by its members.