

## **LWV-NEEDHAM NONPARTISAN POLICY**

Approved by LWVN board September 4, 1997; updated June 2001, February 2003 and November 2014

The League recognizes the role of the political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Needham has established the following guidelines.

### **Running for or Holding an Elected or Appointed Office**

The President and Voter Service Chair(s) may not run for elective office, except for Town Meeting Member. Other Board members may run for elective office, other than Town Meeting Member, with approval of the Board. Any Board member may accept appointment to public office or committee with approval of the Board.

### **Support of Candidates for Public Office**

The President and the Voter Service Chair(s) shall not under-take any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting or opposing any candidate for office or any political party.

At the **local level**, the President and the Voter Service Chair may not sign nomination papers for a candidate. The President and the Voter Service Chair(s) may not serve on a candidate's campaign committee, publicly endorse a candidate, or attend a fundraising event for a candidate. They may not make a financial contribution to any candidate's campaign.

At the **state and national level**, the President and the Voter Service Chair(s) may sign nomination papers for a candidate, but may not serve on a candidate's campaign committee, publicly endorse a candidate, or attend a fund-raising event for a candidate. They may not make a financial contribution. Other members of the Board of Directors do not have these limits on their support of candidates for public office.

### **Campaigning for an Issue**

Once the League (Local, State or National) takes a position on an issue, the President and the Voter Service Chair(s) may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position. They may also not publicly endorse an issue with no League position. Other members of the Board of Directors do not have limits on their ability to campaign for or against an issue.