



Non-Partisan Policy

The League of Women Voters – Harvard must preserve public confidence in the League's non-partisan stance. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for Harvard members about partisan political activities, and to assure that the League remains a non-partisan organization.

General Membership: The League encourages all members to be informed about and engaged in government and political activities at the local, state and national level. Harvard members who are not serving on the League Steering Committee may work for candidates or political parties of their choice, and run for elective office.

General members should not, however, presume to speak on behalf of the League, absent prior authorization from the Steering Committee in accordance with an approved League position.

Steering Committee Members: The guidance in this section applies to Steering Committee members other than Executive Committee members and Voter Service Chair/Co-Chairs, who are subject to the further restrictions set forth elsewhere in this policy. The Executive Committee consists only of the President/Convener, Secretary and Treasurer.

Members of the Steering Committee must use their discretion in participating in political activities, and take care that their personal opinions and positions are not mistaken for League positions in the public mind. The Steering Committee shall meet when necessary to determine the appropriateness of a given political action on the part of a Steering Committee member and whether any change in the individual's Steering Committee membership is necessary. All known parties involved in a possible breach of these guidelines are to be consulted as part of open fact finding.

This section includes examples of specific political activities as practical guidance for Steering Committee members, but the examples are not all-encompassing and can allow individual exceptions. Questions or possible exceptions should be brought to the Steering Committee for review and determination.

Examples of acceptable activities:

- Signing a candidate nomination form or other papers for ballot access
- Out-of-state campaign activities such as writing postcards, canvassing, distributing campaign literature, phone-banking or texting
- Attending a candidate coffee or fundraiser
- Advising a candidate informally
- Donating to a candidate or party
- Being a member of a local town political party
- Running unchallenged for a non-partisan elective office

Examples of unacceptable activities:

- Collecting signatures for a political candidate
- In-state and local campaign activities such as writing postcards, canvassing distributing campaign literature, phone-banking or texting
- Hosting a candidate coffee or fundraiser
- Expressing support for a candidate on social media
- Holding a sign for a candidate or wearing a candidate T-shirt
- Displaying a candidate car bumper sticker
- Hosting a lawn sign in support of a political party or candidate for elective office
- Serving as an officer of a local town political party committee or as a delegate/alternate to a political party convention
- Being a member of a political campaign committee or team.
- Running for a partisan or non-partisan elective office

Executive Committee and Voter Service Chair/Co-Chairs:

Executive Committee members (President/Convener, Secretary, Treasurer) and the Voter Service Chair/Co-Chairs must refrain from all partisan political activity, meaning any public, purposeful association with a candidate or political party via promotional efforts and other activities. Executive Committee members and the Voter Service Chair/Co-Chairs may sign nominating papers and attend candidate coffees and other candidate informational events, but must refrain from donations to or fundraising for a candidate or party, public endorsement of a candidate, or serving on a candidate's campaign committee.

This policy was adopted : June 18, 2026