

## **LWV MEPH Nonpartisan Policy**

*Approved by LWVMEPH Board on Jan 25, 2018*

The League of Women Voters Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, LWVMEPH values the many skills and types of experience that individual members bring to the League, 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.

Nevertheless, LWVMEPH believes that some basic limitations on members' political activity are necessary to protect the nonpartisanship of the League as an organization. In order to balance these goals, LWVMEPH adopts the following policy. *This policy may be reviewed and amended or readopted by the MEPH Board as needed.*

- 1. Conduct.** All members, when representing the League of Women Voters in communications and at League activities, must not promote their personal support for political parties or candidates.
- 2. Elected Office.** A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office at any level of government. A Board member may run for or hold a local non-partisan elective office, such as school board, city council and county commissioner, after consultation with and approval by the LWVMEPH Board. The President and Voter Service Chairs shall not run for, nor hold, an elective office at any level of government.
- 3. Political Party Office.** A Board member shall not serve in any executive committee position in a political party at any level of government (i.e. Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).
- 4. Political Campaigns.** A Board member shall not chair a partisan political campaign or administer fundraising for a partisan political campaign. In addition, the President and Voter Service Chairs shall not chair a campaign event, be a spokesperson, or work in any other public way in the campaign of a candidate for a partisan office at any level of government.
- 5. Caucus.** In our state of Minnesota participation in precinct caucus and the candidate endorsement process is as important as our right to vote. No restrictions shall be made on members or board members regarding their personal participation in precinct caucus and party conventions at any delegate level.
- 6. Media.** The President and Voter Service Chair shall not indicate her/his 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 her/him as President or Voter Service Chair of LWVMEPH. Public notices, including campaign literature, regarding a current or former LWV member running for office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of LWVMEPH endorsement.
- 7. Additional Clarification.** Board members shall present questions about specific situations to the LWVMEPH Board where the foregoing policies do not resolve the question.