League of Women Voters of Greater Brockton (LWVGB)
Non-Partisan Policy

Purpose:
Nonpartisanship toward candidates and political parties is critical to the effectiveness of the League of Women Voters of Greater Brockton (LWVGB)'s unique voter service and citizen information work. It also provides a strong foundation for the work done in support of issues. The purpose of this policy is to enable LWVGB as an organization to continue serving voters, providing information to citizens, and engaging in lobbying and campaigning on issues. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine nonpartisanship will the League be able to carry out effective voter service activities and gain a wide base of support for its positions on governmental issues. This policy distinguishes between the League as an organization and the rights of its individual members.

General:
The League encourages participation in local government by informing the citizens of Brockton about their rights and responsibilities as voters.

The Policy as it Applies to Members:
The League prides itself on having a membership composed of diverse, informed citizens. Its individual members are encouraged to participate fully in party politics and in government at all levels. Many League members have strong affiliations with political parties or candidates and some are elected officials themselves.

The Policy as it Applies to Board Members:

1. **Appointive Office:**
   A board member may accept an appointment to local commissions, boards, or committees if such service does not conflict with League principles or the LWVGB program.

2. **Elected Office:**
   Anyone running for or holding any partisan elective office at any level of government, or serving as a campaign manager for a candidate running for elected office, may not serve as a Board of Director.

3. **Political Party Office:**
   The president and board members holding voter service portfolios shall not serve in any position in a political party at any level. Other board members may serve on a local political party committee, but must notify the LWVGB board.

4. **Support of Candidates for Public Office:**
   a. The President and Voter Service Chair shall not publicly support any candidate for political office at any level. Activities permitted under this policy include attending informational campaign functions and signing nominating petitions. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, circulating nominating petitions, hosting fundraising or campaign functions, making campaign contributions, displaying lawn signs, or adding one's name to an endorsement.

b. The President and Voter Service Chair should use discretion to ensure that their personal political activities are not identified with LWVGB in the public mind.

5. **Other Board Positions Outside the League:**
   Board members may not hold leadership positions (either active or honorary) in any group whose stated position conflicts with League principles or the LWVGB program.

6. **Conflicts with the Policy:**
   Any Board member in conflict with this policy shall be required to resign from the Board. Any Board member who has resigned due to a conflict may be reappointed by the Board when the conflict no longer exists.

Clarification of the Policy:
If any questions arise regarding this nonpartisan policy, the matter will come before the Board for interpretation and discussion. Final decisions about implementing this nonpartisan policy rest with the Board of Directors.

Annual Review:
LWVGB shall review this policy annually. Any changes must be approved by the Board.