**League of Women Voters of Chicago February 20, 2023**

**LWV CHICAGO BOARD POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization. The LWV Chicago never endorses or opposes political parties or candidates, but we are political in that we encourage informed and active participation in government while influencing public policy. Moreover, the Board of Directors of the LWV Chicago may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest.

The LWV Chicago believes that its Board members should not only be allowed, but also encouraged, to seek and accept elective or appointive office in government and responsible positions in the private sector. At the same time, the League recognizes the need to impose some restrictions in order to preserve the nonpartisan nature of the organization. With this objective in mind, the LWV Chicago board adopts the following policies:

1. Elected office: The President, Director of Voter Service, and the Executive Director/Office Administrator (if the position is filled) shall not run for any federal, state, county or municipal elective office even if the position is non-partisan or non-paid. Other Board members may run for federal, state, county or municipal elective office but must take a leave of absence from the Board while campaigning, even if the position is non-partisan or non-paid.

If the Board member is elected to a partisan or paid political office, the Board member must resign from the LWV Chicago Board. If the Board member is elected to a non-partisan or non-paid office, the LWV Chicago Board will consider whether the Board member can perform the required duties without being in conflict with the League’s policy of non-partisanship or, instead, must resign from the Board. Factors to be considered are the Board member’s role with the LWV Chicago. For example, Board members with portfolios on specific issues shall not publicly take positions, even as individuals, on those issues in ways that conflict with League positions. A Board member must act solely as an individual, not as a representative of the LWV Chicago, in any elected or appointed position.

2. Appointed Office: The President, a Board member, or the Executive Director/Office Administrator (if the position is filled) may accept appointment to non-partisan or non-paid federal, state, county or local commissions, boards or committees where such service would not be in conflict with League programs or policies. Appointment to complete the term of an elected partisan or paid office is subject to the terms applicable to elected office. In no event shall a Board member represent the League unless officially designated as a League representative by the League Board.

3. Political Party Office: The President, Director of Voter Service, and the Executive Director/Office Administrator (if the position is filled) shall not serve in any position in a political party. Other Board members may run for/accept political party positions at any level but must notify the LWV Chicago Board. Any visible partisan political activity must be kept separate from the Board member’s role with the LWV Chicago.

4. Campaign Contributions: The President, Director of Voter Service, and Executive Director/Office Administrator (if the position is filled) may not host, organize or attend fundraising events or make campaign contributions to candidates for federal state, county or municipal office or to PACs (Political Action Committees). Other Board members can engage in such activities so long as they act solely in their personal capacity and not as representatives of the LWV Chicago.

5. Political Campaigns: The President, Director of Voter Service, and the Executive Director/Office Administrator (if the position is filled) shall not work in the campaign of any candidate running for federal, state, county or municipal office. Other Board members may participate in political campaigns and party politics so long as they maintain the League’s nonpartisan policy and act solely in their personal capacity.

6. If the position of President is vacant, all references to the President apply to the Executive Vice President.

7. Spouse, partner or close relative: The political activities of a spouse, partner, or relative of a Board member should be considered separate and distinct from the activities of a Board member. Concerns about the role of the Board member in the campaign of a spouse, partner or close relative should be raised with the Executive Board

8. Board members should seek the advice of the Executive Board if there is any question about the application of this policy.

9. This policy shall be reviewed by the LWV Chicago Board in a timely manner prior to an election cycle.

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