

League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh
Non-partisan Voter Registration; Encouraging Party Selection

When the League of Women Voters is conducting voter registration, candidate forum, or any voter services event, all League volunteers must behave in a 100% non-partisan manner.

LWV Non-Partisan Policy

To volunteer with the League of Women Voters at voter registration events, you must maintain a non-partisan demeanor throughout. That means, you cannot say ANYTHING that could be interpreted as support or opposition of any candidate, office holder, or any political party when you are engaged in voter registration activities. We each have our own personal political inclinations. That is fine. We just cannot express them when we are registering voters. People we meet must feel comfortable registering to vote and enrolling in whatever political party they prefer.

Question: Can LWV members be politically active?

YES, the LWV encourages its members to be politically active, with a few exceptions for specific officers, like president, voter service chair, and development chair. That is, all others may be a member of a local party committee, distribute nominating petitions, work for a candidate, attend a campaign event, place candidate signs in their yard, etc.

Question: May we suggest a person enroll in a party rather than "no party affiliation" so they could be eligible to vote in a primary election?

YES, the League of Women Voters encourages people to enroll in a party so they can vote twice a year instead of once a year. Being non-partisan, we cannot suggest or describe any political party in any manner whatsoever.

Enrolling in a Party to be able to vote in a Primary is a very confusing concept for many new citizens and young voters. They may not be ready to declare a party affiliation now. That is fine. They can check "None - No Affiliation" now. Then, they can go online at **VotesPA.com** (a great website from the PA Department of State) at any point in the future to select a party.

PA has a Closed Primary system. (The LWV Pennsylvania has been lobbying for years to get this changed.) Please note that the registration form itself says that only Republicans and Democrats can participate in primary elections in PA. So, we CAN say that in order to vote in the Primary, they must choose one of those two - although there are two other official parties in PA (Libertarian and Green.) Independent is not an official party in PA.

jbc 071821