

LWVO/EF BOARD CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

(Revised 9/09, 9/13)

Please Note: These are state League guidelines. Local Leagues may wish to apply these principles as they develop their own conflict of interest policies.

- I. **Securing Appointments.** LWVO may encourage and assist League members in securing appointment to government boards, commissions, and committees. These recommendations shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Recommendations for appointment to politically sensitive positions, including those for which party affiliation is a requirement, should be made with care. Unless clearly designated, appointees are not official representatives of the League.
- II. LWVO recommendations for appointment of non-League members shall also require approval of the Executive Committee.
- III. **Serving on Boards.** The president, board members and the executive director may serve on other boards, excepting where a requirement for such service is affiliation with a particular political party. However, if a serious conflict arises between the two entities, it should be brought to the attention of the state board.
- IV. **Lobbying.** The president, the executive director and board members shall not lobby for a position in opposition or in conflict with an LWVUS or LWVO position. Board members have the right as individuals to lobby their own members of Congress or the General Assembly on any side of an issue, so long as such lobbying does not conflict with any League position, but in so doing they must make it clear that they are not representing the League.
- V. **Testimony on Behalf of Other Organizations.** Board members and the executive director may not testify on state legislation on behalf of another organization without approval of the president. The president may not testify on state legislation on behalf of other organizations unless the organization is a coalition partner.
- VI. **Employment.** The board shall evaluate and resolve any questions of conflict of interest arising from a board member's employment.
- VII. **Compensation for Services.** No board member shall be compensated for serving on the board. A board member and/or her/his company may be compensated for direct products for services provided to the organization, such as payment for printing services. In such cases, a minimum of three bids is required to be obtained by the organization, and disclosure is required regarding the relationship of the board member to the bidding entity. Furthermore, the board member related to the bidding entity shall not vote on or influence in any way the bid selection.

- VIII. Stipends. The president or board members may not receive payment for state League projects while sitting on the policy-making board that is responsible for administering the project.
- IX. Honoraria. Honoraria received in cash by the president, board members and the executive director shall accrue to the LWVO or the LWVOEF. De minimus non-cash gifts may be accepted by the president, board member or executive director.
- X. Review. This policy shall be reviewed by the board on a yearly basis.