

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The standard of behavior for the League of Women Voters of California and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund is that all board members, staff and volunteers scrupulously avoid conflicts of interest between the interests of the LWVC/LWVCEF on the one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding potential and actual conflicts of interest, as well as perceptions of conflicts of interest.

Each board member has a duty to place the interest of the League foremost in any dealings with the League and has a continuing responsibility to comply with the requirements of this policy.

No member of the LWVC/LWVCEF board of directors, or any of its committees, shall derive any personal profit or gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of his or her participation with the LWVC/LWVCEF.

Each individual shall disclose to the LWVC/LWVCEF any personal interest which he or she may have in any matter pending before the LWVC/LWVCEF and shall refrain from participation in any decision on such matter.

No board member may obtain for her/himself, or for members of her/his immediate family, or for other organizations of which she/he is also a board member or a key staff member, a material interest of any kind from her/his association with the League.

The materials, products, designs, plans, ideas, and data of the LWVC/LWVCEF are the property of the League and may not be given to an outside firm or individual except through normal channels and with appropriate authorization.

If conflicts of interest arise from the employment, business interests, or other activities, interests or obligations, they must be brought to the attention of the LWVC/LWVCEF board for discussion and resolution. The board members shall not be present for any discussion or vote in connection with the matter. The minutes of the meeting shall reflect that the conflict of interest was disclosed and that the interested person was not present during the discussion and decision on the matter.

Board members may serve on other political boards. While the LWVC/LWVCEF boards may encourage and assist League members to secure appointments to nonpartisan public government boards, commissions, and committees, unless clearly designated, appointees are not official representatives of the League.

The LWVC/LWVCEF board members who are employed by, or who serve on the boards of other organizations, may find it necessary to lobby state legislators on a variety of issues. Board members shall not lobby for a position in opposition to or in conflict with a League position. On issues where the League has no position they must be scrupulous in avoiding the impression that they represent or have the support of the League.

Board members may not accept stipends, grants or fees for service for any LWVC/LWVCEF projects because they sit on the policy-making board that is responsible for administering the grant.

Board members may accept gifts and honoraria on behalf of the League.

Board members who are employed by businesses or organizations which receive government contracts may not be involved in the LWVC/LWVCEF work or stands in that issue area.

DISCLOSURE

A copy of this policy shall be given to each board member at the beginning of her/his term of office. The policy shall be reviewed at the first meeting of the duly elected board of directors.

Each LWVC/LWVCEF board member shall submit a Disclosure of Interest Statement using the attached form, at the beginning of each term or upon appointment to the board of directors.

The LWVC/LWVCEF first vice president shall be responsible for collecting the statements.

In the event that there is a material change in the information given in an individual's disclosure statement, she/he shall report the change promptly to the LWVC/LWVCEF president. A new form shall be filed with the first vice president.

