Lima Rotary Political Activity Policy

It is the intent of the Lima Rotary Club to remain neutral in the political arena. The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, in an effort to ensure political neutrality, the Lima Rotary Club hereby adopts the following policy:

**POLITICAL PRESENTATIONS – GUEST SPEAKERS**

1. Candidates who are running for office and individuals who are viewed as intending to run for office may not be a guest speaker at Rotary during the last 120 days prior to the primary election through the general election.
2. Proponents of issues may not be guest speakers during the last 120 days prior to the election when the issue is presented to voters.
3. **A political debate or equal presentations may be scheduled provided opponents present on the same day.**

**POLITICAL PRESENTATIONS – THREE TO FIVE MINUTE PLUG**

1. Members of Rotary who are running for office or are viewed as intending to run for office may make a three to five minute political speech if a $25 contribution is made to the Lima Rotary Foundation
2. Members of Rotary wishing to promote or oppose a political issue, may do so with a $25 contribution to the Lima Rotary Foundation. Such promotion or opposition may be in the form of written information, a short video or a three to five minute talk.

**MEMBERSHIP IN ROTARY**

If a candidate for political office applies for membership to Rotary, such application shall be tabled until after the election. Following the election, the Board shall consider the application in compliance with the Constitution which states, “Persons elected or appointed to public office for a specified time shall not be eligible for active membership in this club under the classification of such office. This restriction shall not apply to persons holding positions or offices in schools, colleges, or other institutions of learning or to persons who are elected or appointed to the judiciary. Members who are elected or appointed to public office for a specified period may continue as such members in their existing classifications during the period in which they hold such office.”

Adopted by the Board: