

NON-PARTISAN CHAPTER, POLITICALLY ACTIVE MEMBERS: FINDING THE BALANCE



PHI MU DELTA

Fraternalities and Sororities often strive to maintain a non-partisan stance while supporting their members' rights to political expression. This discussion aims to explore how chapters can navigate this delicate balance, fostering civic engagement without endorsing specific political parties or ideologies.

Desired Outcomes



- Understanding of the importance of chapter non-partisanship
- Clarity on how to support individual members' political expression
- Strategies for promoting civic engagement in a non-partisan manner
- Ideas for creating an inclusive environment for diverse political views

Ground Rules for Civil Discourse



1. Listen to understand, not to respond
2. Speak from your own experience using "I" statements
3. Respect others' rights to hold different opinions
4. Avoid personal attacks or generalizations about groups
5. Seek common ground and shared values
6. Be open to changing your perspective



Remember, the goal is to find a balance that respects our organization's non-partisan nature while empowering members to be engaged citizens. This discussion should help us navigate this complex terrain thoughtfully and respectfully.

Discussion Questions

Why is it important for our chapter to maintain a non-partisan stance? What are the potential benefits and challenges?

How can we support individual members' rights to political expression while keeping chapter activities non-partisan?

The CIRCLE research project at Tufts University asserts that only 19% of young adults have heard from political parties or campaigns. How can our chapter encourage political awareness and engagement without endorsing specific parties?

What does "non-partisan civic engagement" look like in practice for our chapter? Can you give some examples?



How can we ensure that our chapter's community service and philanthropy efforts remain non-partisan while addressing important social issues?

What guidelines should we establish for political discussions or activities within our chapter house or during chapter events?

How can we create a welcoming environment for members across the political spectrum while maintaining our chapter's non-partisan stance?

What role should chapter leadership play in maintaining non-partisanship while supporting members' political rights?

How can we leverage our diverse political perspectives to enhance our chapter's discussions and activities without becoming partisan?

CIRCLE data shows that young people care about a wide range of issues. How can our chapter address these issues in a non-partisan way while encouraging members to be politically active?



CIRCLE is an independent research organization focused on youth civic engagement in the United States. It conducts extensive research on youth participation to improve opportunities for all young people to learn the skills they need to participate in civic life, with a focus on addressing systemic barriers for marginalized and underrepresented youth.



Phi Mu Delta stands out among fraternities for its founding principle of democracy. Since its establishment in 1918, this brotherhood has been dedicated to shaping young college men into future ethical community leaders, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and local service.