Specter campaign to drop disputed logos from TV ad

The League of Women Voters had objected. The spat was "a distraction."

> By Nathan Gorenstein INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Worried about bad publicity, U.S.

A · Sen. Arlen Specter's campaign reversed its position yesterday and said it would remove the logos of the League of Women Voters and Citizens Jury from a television commercial.

"We don't want to have a distraction from the campaign," said Shanin Specter, the Republican senator's son and adviser. On Thursday, Shanin Specter had said the logos would remain.

The change came after newspaper coverage of the league's contention that use of the logos suggested to the casual viewer that the nonpartisan league had endorsed the senator.

Shanin Specter contended the ad was not misleading, but said, "We concluded that one day of stories on the issue was enough."

Specter, who is running against Democrat Lynn Yeakel, included the logos in an ad stating — accurately — that the league-sponsored juries had rated Specter better than Yeakel in five of six votes.

The juries, one in Pittsburgh and one in Philadelphia, quizzed the candidates on the economy, education and health care.

It is that rating which is cited in the ad. Shanin Specter said the campaign is preparing a new ad that also cites the jury results, but does not use either logo.

Tam St. Claire, a league official, said the organization was satisfied with the Specter campaign's announcement. Asked how the league reacted to the announcement that the juries' results would still be used in a campaign commercial, St. Claire said, "We'll have to see what the next ad is."

There was no prior agreement forbidding use of the results in ads.

The candidates were out and about across the state yesterday. B4.