

LOCAL POSITIONS GOVERNMENT

LOCAL FINANCES Adopted 2011

Since Proposition 13 in 1978 and subsequent propositions and legislation took away the ability of localities to set local tax rates each city sets its own spending priorities. We support local municipal budgeting with a flexible approach suitable to the appropriate community. Support measures to ensure revenues that are flexible, suitable and sufficient to meet changing priorities for local government services, that emphasize equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as meet current and future needs of municipal financing. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each. We strongly support proactive measures to ensure fiscal accountability and transparency in government budgets.

PUBLIC BUSINESS Revised 1979

Support for the proper conduct of public business requiring open meetings with advance notice and posting of agenda, closing of agenda before meeting, prompt availability of all public records, and sufficient notice of vacancies on boards and commissions prior to appointment. In addition, public bodies should consider certain criteria prior to appointment of board or commission members, regularly evaluate the work and areas of responsibility of each board or commission, and encourage citizen participation. Each board and commission should annually reevaluate goals and provide an orientation program for its members.

REDEVELOPMENT Adopted 1998

Support of redevelopment programs which adhere to the intent and spirit of the law. Redevelopment projects should include a clear, concise definition of "blight" and prevent the inclusion of developments which would occur without government assistance. Redevelopment programs should be detailed and specific in description, implementation, and costs and should be subject to local public review. Redevelopment Agencies should inform the public of agency activity by timely disclosure of information, by issuing accurate news releases of activities to local papers, and by issuing a factual report (written in layman's terms) at least annually through cities' news letters or other distributive media. Recommend the addition of an Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Task Force to consult with the Redevelopment Agency on large projects. Support the Agency by maintaining contemporaneous and accurate records of all redevelopment assistance. Support continued activity in addressing housing concerns for low-income renters and new home owners.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LAND USE Revised 1989, 2002

Support general plans and ordinances for cities in the Claremont area which include concern for social health, economic health, and an environment beneficial to all life. The plans should include all State mandatory elements and optional elements that are important for the uniqueness and needs of the community, i.e., energy, fiscal, recreation/education technology, and governance. Sustainability should be a theme throughout the general plan.

A method should be devised so that policies from existing master plans and specific plans are included in the plans. An Environment Impact Report (EIR) shall be prepared for the plans. It should be reflected throughout the plans and the entire EIR should be a part of the general plan appendix. Support for regular review of general plans that will include the required State yearly review by the planning commissions and a ten-year review and revision by the entire community. Broad based citizen education and participation should be a part of general plan amendment or revision. This participation might include city website, city newsletter, cable TV, a LWV speakers bureau, a citizens futures fair, issue identification workshops, position paper workshops, school projects for and with children, and appointed task forces and/or committees. Support policies to acquire, preserve, and/or create greenbelt, wilderness, plant, wildlife, natural resource, geologically unique, wilderness park, and other open space areas. Support the annexation of all land in a City's sphere of influence. Encourage the formation of a quasi-governmental

local Conservancy under an independent board to hold open space land, and the use of a wide variety of ways of financing land preservation. In the case of Claremont implement the hillside ordinance and support the evaluation of annexation in terms of their long-range environmental, social and economic costs and benefits. Support a system of well-located parks for present and future needs. Encourage creative solutions to new residential development. Encourage communication and cooperation with the Regional Planning Commission, and urge San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties and other jurisdictions to implement these policies.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT Adopted 1996

Support actions by local government to promote solid waste reduction, including, but not limited to, providing services and information which advocate waste prevention, recycling, composting and green waste programs. Support education of the public towards ecological and long term waste management ethic, including high technology approaches to waste information.

TRANSPORTATION Adopted 1973: revised 1981

Support transportation systems for the Claremont area based on actual need with priority given to environmental, health, social, and safety factors. Support for a balanced and coordinated network of public transportation agencies to provide mobility for all residents in Claremont area, financing provided by revenues from fares and subsidies from all levels of government; and improved city circulation plans especially for commercial vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Support energy conservation, air pollution control measures and encouragement of alternatives to the automobile.

WATER Adopted 2006

Support for policies, decisions, and practices that recognize clean and adequate water as essential to human life. Support for public ownership of water rights and utilities as vital public resources to ensure that public goals and purposes are reflected in policies and rates, including the prevention of any future acquisition of water resources by any non-public entity, international cartel, or other private interest or operation. Support for rate-setting based on actual costs of operation, with attention to economic fairness, taking into account costs of supplying water and quantity used, and recognizing, regardless of ownership, the inevitability of continued increases in water costs and ongoing maintenance expenses. Support for transparency in operations and rate-setting with regular reports to the public of financial records and policy decisions. Support for planning, development, maintenance, and operation of the water system in the best interest of residents and environment, with attention to long range issues of sustainability: conservation, recycling and reuse, reduction of urban run-off, coordination of surface water and ground water supplies, and increased efforts to limit use of imported water. Support for public acquisition of the local water system, converting the privately owned company to a city-owned water company by the use of public financing, believing that public control is worth the cost, even if high, and has long-range advantages to rate-payers and to the community.

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT WELFARE Adopted 1989

Support for the provision and improvement of accessible and preventive health and welfare services for all children and adolescents and their families in the Claremont Area. Included should be medical and mental health and services for pregnant and parenting teens. Education of the community in the needs of children and youth is an essential part of this position.

CHILD CARE Adopted 2001

Support policies and programs that ensure all children needing child care will receive quality care in a safe, healthy environment provided by well educated, qualified staff using developmentally appropriate practices. Support class sizes and adult/child ratios based on ages and needs of children. Support a living wage and financial support for professional education for all staff. Support program planning during the regular paid work schedule as a basic part of program quality. Support policies and programs that ensure all parents needing child care will have affordable, accessible care in the area where they live or work as well as flexible hours to meet parents' work schedules. Support a seamless, well-publicized, regional referral system to provide parents with information in locating child care in a timely manner. Support

long-term, consistent funding, including federal and state subsidies, for public child care programs and incentives for development and continuation of child care businesses. Support cooperation and coordination between public and private programs and effective administration at the state, county, local and school district levels.

EDUCATION Revised 1979

Support of sound fiscal and administrative policies which provide sufficient funds for operation expense and capital improvement, long range planning, increased communication between administrations, school boards, and school district residents. Support of an integration policy which encourages desegregation of the public schools, an integrated education experience, and multicultural educational programs.

Added 1983: Support for an educational program which imparts intellectual knowledge and skills, fosters personal growth and creativity, equips students for productive work, and prepares them for responsible citizenship. The schools should actively foster high expectations for all students at all levels; provide effective incentives for improved achievement for educators and students; cultivate the higher order thinking processes; provide a broad, balanced educational program for all students; and increase time and opportunities for learning while decreasing class size. Support for community and family involvement in providing effective and adequately financed education.

HOUSING Adopted 1993, updated 2003 with approval of the Executive Board

Support a proactive position, leading to affordable housing for a wider range of economic levels and family compositions because affordable housing is necessary to a true sense of community. Support the development or enhancement of creative efforts among the city, other public sectors, and the private sector. These efforts should remedy existing problems as well as anticipate population trends in our region. Support the adoption of an inclusionary Housing Ordinance to compel developers to include affordable units in housing projects.

HUMAN NEEDS Adopted 1993

Support adequate programs which meet human needs including those for seniors, youth, disabled, and individuals of all ages, and the reflection of this commitment in appropriate governmental budgets.

LIBRARY Adopted 1995, reviewed 1996

Support of reliable sources of long term funding for full service public libraries and the strengthening of school library facilities and services.

MENTAL HEALTH Adopted 1984, revised 1995

Support for mental health services, available to all, emphasizing the importance of integrated client services (counseling, schooling, job placement, housing, medical treatment and hospitalization, if necessary) and the use of local, county and client committees for evaluation. We believe in a wide range of services, including in-patient and out-patient for acute and chronic cases. These services must be adequately financed from public and/or private funds to service a growing population with increasingly unmet needs.

WELFARE Adopted 1984

Support for continued and improved supportive services for welfare recipients; dissemination of information, continuation of emergency assistance and General Relief; and in-service training for eligibility and social workers increased.