

LWVC Positions GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

CAMPAIGN FINANCING Adopted 1973; updated 1976

Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions which will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office

CONSTITUTION Adopted 1957; updated 1965-1967

Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified State Constitution; provisions which enable the Legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly and with responsibility clearly fixed and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state legislature.

ELECTION SYSTEMS Adopted 2001; modified 2003

Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM Adopted 1985; updated 1999

Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS Adopted 1981

Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES Adopted 1998

Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

REDISTRICTING Adopted 1988; amended 2007

Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. Support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body.

STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES Adopted 1969; updated 1975; new positions 1976, 1977, 1981, 1995

Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates, and tax expenditures; that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable, and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and that encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broadbased local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue, with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, and easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly.

VOTING RIGHTS Adopted 1972; reviewed 1986

Support measures that will protect every citizen's right to vote and ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

AGRICULTURE Adopted 1983; updated 2015

Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource that must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long-term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs that include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy that affects agriculture should ensure a sustainable water supply the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance.

AIR QUALITY Adopted 1971; updated 1973

Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards.

ENERGY Adopted 1978; updated 1980, 2006; amended 2007

Support development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Adopted 1986, 1987

Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bioaccumulation, air pollution, and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures.

LAND USE Adopted 1975

Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation.

SOLID WASTE Adopted 1973

Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resources recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials.

TRANSPORTATION Adopted 1981; revised 1985; new position 1991

Support a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

WATER Adopted 1959; updated 1961, 1967, 1971, 1979

Support measures that promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans

CHILD CARE Adopted 1989, Readopted 2004

Support state and local policies, legislation and programs that meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality child care.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM Adopted 2003

Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-

range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs. **EDUCATION: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELVE Adopted 1973; updated 1985, 2005**

Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program.

HOUSING Adopted 1970; updated 1973, 1993

Support equal opportunity in housing. Support measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, adequate housing for all Californians. Support action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.

JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY Adopted 1997 and 1999

Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, that serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and that rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services which work with children, youth, families and schools. Support community efforts to provide safe, supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interest of the child in preference to those of any other individual.

LEGAL AID Adopted 1971; revised 1983

Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services. Support adequately funded, government supported legal assistance programs that provide legal aid to those unable to pay.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE Adopted 1998

Support an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.

LWVC Action Policies

LWVC Children and Family Policy: LWVC is committed to the principles that all children are entitled to safe, nurturing care and that caring for children is a societal as well as a family responsibility. LWVC supports programs and policies that would effectively coordinate and integrate services that meet basic human needs, prevent or reduce poverty, and promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Growth Management Action Policy [Although primarily intended to assist in analyzing state legislation on growth management, it may also be used by ILOs and local Leagues in taking local (city, county, regional) action on growth management.]: An integrated overall state planning effort should provide for the management of growth (*LWVC Land Use #2*). To accomplish this requires clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, competent personnel, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government (*LWV Principles*). Provision should be made for the efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public (*LWVC Intergovernmental Relationships in Brief*). All levels of government assigned growth management planning regulatory responsibilities must provide for the following:

- Involvement of citizens in the earliest planning and regulatory stages and throughout the growth management process
- Adequate funding of the public information process
- Development of mechanisms to minimize conflict of interest on the part of persons who make growth management decisions (*LWVC Land Use #6*)

Offshore Oil/Gas Exploration, Development, and Production Action Policy: The League of Women Voters believes that policies, procedures and regulations governing offshore oil and gas activities should support the goal of wise management of resources in the public interest, with a high level of protection of the environment. Decisions on leasing, exploration, production, transport and abandonment must be the result of a process that provides opportunity for full citizen participation and that recognizes the appropriate role of local agencies.

The orderly and prudent development of petroleum resources must be guided by national and state energy policies that recognize those resources as finite. We urge a decreasing reliance on fossil fuels and an increasing emphasis on conservation and renewable energy sources. Because of this and because of the impacts on the California coast that would result from increased offshore oil/gas activities, the League calls for a long-term suspension of both lease sales and new projects in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and state Tidelands.

Sustainable Communities Action Policy: The concept of sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with the fundamental principle of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations.

“Sustainable thinking” calls for integrating the goals of the separate League program areas. As a result, the problems or issues to be resolved may be seen in a different light, and new means of resolution may be indicated.

For more information: www.lwvc.org