

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ADOPTED PROGRAM

2006 - 2008

Positions are based on consensus achieved through study by all local Leagues and adoption of a position statement at annual convention. Amendments are made only after additional study. Program positions must be reaffirmed every two years at Convention.



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

An Inter-League Organization

**Beach Cities - Beverly Hills - Claremont Area - Downey Area
East San Gabriel Valley - Glendale/Burbank - Long Beach Area
Los Angeles - Palos Verdes Peninsula - Pasadena Area
Santa Monica - Torrance - Whittier**



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County Adopted Program 2006-2008

The League of Women Voters, a nation-wide grassroots organization founded in 1920 encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County is an Inter-League Organization representing 13 Leagues within the County. Its function is to focus on county issues and represent the League to the County Board of Supervisors and other County agencies.

The League of Women Voters is non-partisan; it neither supports nor opposes any candidate or political party. However, it is political in that it advocates for positions reached after study and consensus of all local Leagues. The adopted LWV/LAC positions in this booklet resulted from study and consensus by the county Leagues, adopted and periodically reaffirmed by local representatives at County League Conventions.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ADOPTED PROGRAM
Positions in brief 2006-2008

GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Adopted 1976; amended 1978; studied and amended 2004)

Support for a more efficient, responsible, representative, economical, visible and accountable county government; support for an appointed chief executive with charter status. The League does not support an elected CEO. The League neither supports nor opposes enlargement of the Board of Supervisors, but, if expansion is proposed, there should be careful consideration of the costs involved. Support for a separate audit department. Support for certain changes in the present procedures for establishing boards, commissions and committees. Any division of Los Angeles County should be based on rational boundaries and provide social and economic equity. However, the League does not favor division of or secession from the County. The League favors mandatory membership in Southern California Association of Governments, but opposes direct election of SCAG officials. The League supports developed unincorporated areas either incorporating or annexing to adjacent incorporated areas.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUDGET (Adopted 1993)

Support for policies and processes that encourage meaningful public involvement before and during the budget preparation and adoption process. Support for a strong leadership role by the board of supervisors in setting budget priorities based upon serving the public good, and including assessment of needs, consideration of cost and program effectiveness and accurate, open and timely accounting and auditing reports. Support for maximum and effective use of existing revenue sources; active pursuit of potential sources of revenue; strong local control of under-funded, mandated programs and services; and guidelines to follow when insufficient revenue forces cutbacks in the county budget.

ELECTION PROCEDURES (Adopted 1964; amended 1983; revised 1994; amended 2002)

Support of ease of registration including postcard registration with simplified forms and greater availability, with safeguards against fraud. Support of County Registrar of Voters providing continued and increased voter education to encourage maximum informed voter participation. Support of easily understood analyses of all ballot measures with printed summaries of the texts and information about how copies of the full texts may be obtained. Support of a voting system which meets the criteria of accuracy, efficiency, economy, and voter encouragement. Support of an effective election commission charged with evaluating the operation, recommending improvements and assessing the feasibility of new voting methods.

GRAND JURY (Adopted 1981)

Support of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury function as mandated by law in 1980 with the exception of the function of the witness' counsel. Witness' counsel should be permitted to be present in the hearing room. Support for adequate funding. Grand jury members should represent a wide spectrum of the community. Members should be well-trained and qualified for jury duty. Information about the functions and recommendations of the Grand Jury should be given broad dissemination for greater public awareness.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY (Adopted 1971; amended 1989)

Support of the governmental efforts to attain established ambient air quality standards in the Los Angeles region, with emphasis on cooperation and co-ordination among all units of government; and measures to encourage research and control of air pollution.

LAND USE (Adopted 1974; revised and amended 2002; revised and amended 2006)

Support for comprehensive regional planning consistent with LWVC Sustainable Communities Action Policy including strong, enforceable, environmental protections; for planning which is responsive to the public; for acquisition of additional open space; and for study and reform of tax policies to improve land use.

TRANSPORTATION (Adopted 1967; restudied and revised 2002)

Support of the concept of public transportation as a public service with equity and political accountability in its provision; locally administered circulation areas responsible for adequate community and feeder systems; a multi-county transit authority having appropriate links among transit, land use and economic, social and environmental concerns which is responsible for planning, operation and construction of an integrated rapid transit system; ongoing coordination of transportation systems to achieve effective and efficient public service and continuing public education to promote awareness and use of those systems. Support adequate transit financing, including highway user taxes, flexibility in the use of funds and public subsidy for operating expenses.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Adopted 1984, 1985)

Support for actions by local government to promote solid and hazardous waste reduction. Support for the transfer of authority for siting solid waste management facilities from the local governmental level to a county or regional level, and for incentives to communities for accepting a solid waste facility. Support for the participation of the County in a regional agency with authority to site hazardous waste facilities. Support for actions and programs to protect public health and the environment from the effects of hazardous waste. Support for adequate funding of solid and hazardous waste management programs by a combination of sources. Support for the participation of local government as needed in the provision of waste management services; such participation could range from providing information and encouragement to private industry and/or acting as the provider of last resort.

POPULATION IMPACTS ON A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (Adopted 1996)

Support for education of League members and the public about the rate of population growth and the social, environmental, and governmental impacts associated with a large and rapidly expanding population. Support for population stabilization or reduction, moving as quickly as possible to a population size sustainable indefinitely without significant damage to quality of life for present and future generations. Support for the promotion and achievement of lifestyles and communities that can be sustained over the long term without damage to the environment, including but not limited to conservation and recycling efforts to minimize the costs of rising populations in terms of resource consumption, waste production, air and water quality, open space, wetlands and other natural resources. Support for governmental and individual policy planning and decision making that consider the carrying capacity of our region and the earth.

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILD CARE (Adopted 1987)

Support for adoption of a comprehensive child care policy which recognizes the importance of accessible, affordable quality care for all children who need it; effectively administered with full and efficient use of all available funds and incentives to encourage private sector participation and coordination. Support for development of a model child care program for the children of Los Angeles County employees. Support of County assistance in the expansion of Resource and Referral Agency services.

FOSTER CARE - CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Adopted 1988)

Support for a foster care system which considers the needs and feelings of the child to be primary; offers supportive and preventive services to keep the natural family together when feasible; and provides a nurturing home-like environment to enhance the growth and development of children in foster care. Support for services to encourage reunification of the family or permanent placement as quickly as possible. Support for assessment, placement, support services, counseling, education and training which enhance the child's self-esteem and encourage rehabilitation and self-sufficiency in older dependent and delinquent youth. Support for effective training of all personnel and care givers; enhanced recruitment of foster parents; adequate and promptly paid stipends reflective of costs of care; reasonable case loads; encouragement of and cooperation with the private sector. Support for a Dependency Court which encourages long-term assignments of judicial personnel who are qualified and sensitive to the needs and feelings of abused, neglected and "at risk" children.

INCOME ASSISTANCE (Adopted 1972; amended 1980)

State government should bear full or most of the responsibility for funding General Relief and for matching funds for income assistance programs. Eligibility requirements and regulations accorded families headed by a single parent should be extended to two-parent families with a working or unemployed parent and to General Relief applicants and recipients. The present program should be simplified into two systems: a job and training program for those who are employable and a simple assistance program for the non-employable.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (Adopted 1986)

Support for a system that places emphasis on early identification and prevention, adequate funding and efficient use of resources for services to troubled children. Support for a system that emphasizes effective rehabilitation of the offender, recognizes the importance of accountability of the offender and the family, provides for punishment that is not only appropriate for the offense and the offender, but which also serves the goals of rehabilitation and protection of the community. Support of a county-wide system of services to status offenders, including limited secure detention for runaways, strengthening efforts to decrease truancy, voluntary probation and out-of-home placement, joint planning and coordination among public agencies and the private sector for these services. Support of contracting for limited services, but not for sovereign functions. Support for Dependency Court as a court of jurisdiction for status offenders requiring court intervention. Support of in-depth training for all personnel within the system, manageable case loads, availability of community placements in adequate numbers and adequate funding, and efficient use and coordination of resources throughout the system.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE (Adopted 1989)

Support for an adequately funded mental health care system which 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.

SOCIAL SERVICES (Adopted 1972; amended 1980)

Support for continued and improved supportive services for all who need them, with fees charged according to ability to pay when this is appropriate and cost effective for the service. Support for a system of social services which prevents and remedies problems; which keeps families together, unless the interests of the child would be better served in another way; which meets the needs of children and adults for protection; which has adequate and accessible information and referral services; which has sufficient personnel to deliver quality service; and which makes an effort to achieve good community relations.



See the following Expanded
ADOPTED POSITIONS
2006-2008



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ADOPTED POSITIONS REVIEWED AND READOPTED JULY 29, 2006**

(Note that In Brief precedes each Expanded Section)

The Los Angeles County League is empowered to act under the following positions:

GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Adopted 1976; amended 1978; restudied and revised 2003)

Support for a more efficient, responsible, representative, economical, visible and accountable county government; support for an appointed chief executive with charter status. The League does not support an elected CEO. The League neither supports nor opposes enlargement of the Board of Supervisors, but, if expansion is proposed, there should be careful consideration of the costs involved. Support for a separate audit department. Support for certain changes in the present procedures for establishing boards, commissions and committees. Any division of Los Angeles County should be based on rational boundaries and provide social and economic equity. However, the League does not favor division of or secession from the County. The League favors mandatory membership in Southern California Association of Governments, but opposes direct election of SCAG officials. The League supports developed unincorporated areas either incorporating or annexing to adjacent incorporated areas.

Support for the following:

1. A more efficient, economical, representative, responsive, accountable and visible county government.
2. Incorporation of the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO, a.k.a. CEO, County Manager) in the County Charter, with appointment by the Board of Supervisors, and with powers and duties stipulated in the charter. The League does not support the election of a chief executive nor linking the CEO position with expansion of the Board of Supervisors.
3. Careful consideration of increased costs should an enlarged Board of Supervisors be proposed.
4. An independent and separate audit department that would report directly to the Board of Supervisors acting in its legislative capacity. This department would provide an independent review of the executive functions of the county government.
5. Certain changes in the present procedures for establishing boards, commissions and committees:
 - a. Periodic review and reappraisal of each commission to assure its continued relevance.
 - b. A limit on the number of terms a person may serve on any one commission.
 - c. The widest possible notice of vacancies on commissions to assure the broadest participation of citizens in county government.
 - d. Strict conflict of interest provisions, especially when the commission has regulatory powers.
6. Basing any division of Los Angeles County on rational boundaries and social and economic equity; however, the League does not favor division of or secession from the County.
7. Mandatory membership in SCAG; however, the League opposes direct election of SCAG officials.

8. Developed unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County either incorporating or annexing to adjacent incorporated areas.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUDGET (Adopted 1993)

Support for policies and processes that encourage meaningful public involvement before and during the budget preparation and adoption process. Support for a strong leadership role by the board of supervisors in setting budget priorities based upon serving the public good, and including assessment of needs, consideration of cost and program effectiveness and accurate, open and timely accounting and auditing reports. Support for maximum and effective use of existing revenue sources; active pursuit of potential sources of revenue; strong local control of under-funded, mandated programs and services; and guidelines to follow when insufficient revenue forces cutbacks in the county budget.

Support for the following:

I. Meaningful public involvement in the budget process, which includes:

a. Well publicized, year-round, open forums in the districts with the Supervisors present to hear public comments on county services, needs, priorities, etc.

b. Early publication of a "user friendly" proposed budget with copies available at public libraries and from supervisorial district offices, as well as at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

c. Increased public awareness of services performed by the county and understanding of the budget process that allocates their funding, the scheduling of preliminary budget hearings in each supervisorial district as well as final public hearings downtown, and the use of all appropriate media and other forms of communication to promote informed and active public participation before the budget is adopted.

d. Encouragement of public involvement within the departments by using citizen boards, commissions, support groups, etc., with advisory roles in the development of departmental budgets, identification of waste, meeting needs and setting priorities.

2. Yearly adoption of budget policies by the Board of Supervisors to guide the county administrator and department heads in the preparation of the county budget which include:

a. A priority agenda citing important issues and functions to be addressed.

b. Emphasis on program assessment and effectiveness.

c. Cost-assessment and program-effectiveness audits of designated programs and services.

Where feasible, use of 0-base or 90%-base budgeting approach within departments.

d. Avoidance of conflicting budget messages to department administrators, such as bonuses, performance-based pay, merit raises, profit-sharing, etc., that may result in cutbacks of essential services and programs.

e. Greater independence for the auditor-controller, who should report directly to the Board of Supervisors rather than to the Chief Administrative Officer.

f. Publication of a post-audit report at the earliest possible date to reveal variations from the adopted budget and actual expenditures and revenues for the same year.

g. Careful consideration of all direct and indirect costs of contracting out services and functions.

h. Funding and publicizing independent audit reports and recommendations for change in a timely manner; tightening loose accounting and reporting practices.

i. Publicizing top salaries, fringe benefits and expense accounts.

j. Requiring consideration of financial impact before adoption of costly changes which will affect the adopted budget and possible future budgets.

k. Basing allocation of funds on overall county needs rather than the "divide by five" practice.

- l. Assignment of department oversight to individual Supervisors.
- m. Maximum use of existing sources of revenue and pursuit of all potential revenue to fund programs and services within adopted policy.
- n. Seeking greater local control over mandated programs and services and new sources of funding, when federal and state mandates are not fully funded; if this cannot be achieved, attempt to return the responsibility to the mandating level of government.
- o. Use of the following considerations when inadequate funds necessitate cutbacks in programs and/or services:
 - (1) Is it essential in meeting basic human needs, including health and safety?
 - (2) Are existing services/programs efficient and cost effective? Are there "frills, waste, perks, and unnecessary bureaucracy" that can be eliminated?
 - (3) Can the need be met by individuals or organizations in the private sector or by other levels of government?
 - (4) Can sliding-scale fees, based upon the recipient's ability-to-pay, be assessed/increased and collected effectively?
 - (5) What will be the long-term impact on the county, its people, the infrastructure and the environment?
 - (6) Have the people been involved in setting priorities?

ELECTION PROCEDURES (Adopted 1964; amended 1983; revised 1994; amended 2002)
Support of ease of registration including postcard registration with simplified forms and greater availability, with safeguards against fraud. Support of County Registrar of Voters providing continued and increased voter education to encourage maximum informed voter participation. Support of easily understood analyses of all ballot measures with printed summaries of the texts and information about how copies of the full texts may be obtained. Support of a voting system which meets the criteria of accuracy, efficiency, economy, and voter encouragement. Support of an effective election commission charged with evaluating the operation, recommending improvements and assessing the feasibility of new voting methods.

Support for the following:

1. Use of postcard registration, including simplification of form and greater availability, with emphasis on the need to safeguard against fraud.
2. County Registrar of Voters providing continued and increased voter education and information to encourage maximum voter participation.
 - a. Sample ballots should contain easily understood analyses of all ballot measures with printed summaries of the texts and information about how copies of the full texts may be obtained.
 - b. Full information about absentee voting readily available to the public.
 - c. Widespread demonstration of the voting devices.
 - d. Precinct-by-precinct election results made readily available to the public.
3. A voting system for Los Angeles County which meets the criteria of accuracy, efficiency, economy, and voter encouragement.
 - a. Polling places permanently located in public facilities with handicapped access whenever possible.
 - b. Uniform training for all election board members.
 - c. Polling place atmosphere business-like and conducive to voting.
 - d. Improved methods of casting and tallying votes for write-in candidates.
 - e. No early pickup of ballots.
 - f. Disclosure of results to media or others should not interfere with the election not be at public expense.

4. A broadly based commission or task force, including computer experts, charged with evaluating the operation of the system, recommending improvements, and assessing the feasibility of adopting new voting methods.
5. Use of mail-in ballots for one-issue elections.

The County League also takes action under the National and State League Voting Rights positions.

GRAND JURY (Adopted 1981) reviewed in depth by committee, 2002)

Support of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury function as mandated by law in 1980 with the exception of the function of the witness' counsel. Witness' counsel should be permitted to be present in the hearing room. Support for adequate funding. Grand jury members should represent a wide spectrum of the community. Members should be well-trained and qualified for jury duty. Information about the functions and recommendations of the Grand Jury should be given broad dissemination for greater public awareness.

Support for the following:

1. Grand Jury selection by Superior Court judges as well as continued use of the volunteer program to ensure broader citizen representation.
2. A public information program to inform citizens of the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Jury.
3. Adequate compensation to encourage broader citizen participation.
4. Training that will allow Grand Jurors to function effectively.
5. A District Attorney-appointed deputy as primary counsel to the Grand Jury; the Grand Jury should have access to other counsel by request.
6. Selecting of auditing firms by the Grand Jury.
7. Giving greater weight and consideration by the County to recommendations of the Grand Jury.
8. Adequate funding for the Grand Jury.
9. Grand Jury secrecy provisions covering deliberations and voting.
10. A witness' right to have a legal counsel present in the hearing room. Counsel may advise the witness in the hearing room but may not participate in jury proceedings.
11. The criminal and civil functions of the Grand Jury with current provisions which allow a second criminal Grand Jury impaneled if necessary.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY (Adopted 1971; amended 1989)

Support of the governmental efforts to attain established ambient air quality standards in the Los Angeles region, with emphasis on cooperation and co-ordination among all units of government; and measures to encourage research and control of air pollution.

Support for the following:

1. Governmental efforts to attain Federal ambient air quality standards in the Los Angeles region, with emphasis on cooperation and coordination among all units of government and the private sector and measures to encourage research and control of air pollution.
2. Continuing development of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's rules and regulations with effective penalties.

3. Careful scrutiny by the hearing board of all requests for variances from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) rules and regulations and increased public knowledge of the Board's decisions.

The County League also takes action under the National and State League Air Quality positions.

LAND USE (Adopted 1974; revised and amended 2002; revised and amended 2006)

Support for comprehensive regional planning consistent with LWVC Sustainable Communities Action Policy including strong, enforceable, environmental protections; for planning which is responsive to the public; for acquisition of additional open space; and for study and reform of tax policies to improve land use.

Support for the following:

1. Comprehensive planning on a regional basis. A regional plan should follow national and state guidelines, if these have been adopted, and should include input from local governments. Fragmentation and duplication of planning and responsibility should be reduced. Local governments should be responsible for implementing land use policy under national, state and regional guidelines. Strong environmental protection guarantees must be written into all plans.
2. Actions which will make planning commissions responsive to the public. Limits should be set on the number of terms a commissioner may serve. Strong conflict of interest policies should be enacted for all commissioners. Regional Planning commissioners must reside in the district they represent.
3. Measures which encourage meaningful public participation in planning, strengthen the public hearing process, improve the public notification process, insure the public's right to be heard and informed, and make information on decisions readily available.
4. The acquisition of additional permanent open space in Los Angeles County. Provide open space in congested areas and insure an adequate distribution of park lands throughout the County. Natural open space must be protected. Park lands should be acquired prior to increases in density. Adequate funding should be provided for rehabilitation of degraded land in order to restore natural areas and to provide parks and open spaces in underserved areas.
5. Greater consideration of public values in land use planning. Zoning laws must be strengthened and enforced. Hazard zoning must be used to protect the public from potential dangers.
6. A multifaceted approach by County government to acquiring and controlling open space. The Quimby Act should be implemented to require dedication of park land by subdividers. Government should encourage the use of donations, leaseback agreements, federal and state grants, improved clustering laws and school-park cooperation as means of securing additional open space.
7. Study and reform of tax policy to improve land use.
8. Land Use review and decision-making that emphasizes the LWVC Sustainable Communities Action Policy.
9. Essential components of proposed Los Angeles County developments
 - Adequate water availability, water treatment/conservation
 - Emergency services
 - Energy generation/conservation
 - Preservation of the environment
 - Trash and sewage disposal facilities
 - Schools
 - Health care.

10. Desirable goals for planned community development
 - Convenient workforce housing
 - Open space including parks that utilize recycled water
 - Land use linked with public multi-modal transportation.

11. Evaluation of proposed developments in unincorporated areas
 - Public hearings
 - Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs)
 - Cost/benefit studies
 - Alternatives to development
 - Impact on the transportation system.

TRANSPORTATION (Adopted 1967; restudied and revised 2002)

Support of the concept of public transportation as a public service with equity and political accountability in its provision; locally administered circulation areas responsible for adequate community and feeder systems; a multi-county transit authority having appropriate links among transit, land use and economic, social and environmental concerns which is responsible for planning, operation and construction of an integrated rapid transit system; ongoing coordination of transportation systems to achieve effective and efficient public service and continuing public education to promote awareness and use of those systems. Support adequate transit financing, including highway user taxes, flexibility in the use of funds and public subsidy for operating expenses.

Support for the following:

1. The concept of public transportation as a public service with recognition of the need for an efficient mass transportation system for the movement of people.
2. A multi-modal, integrated public transportation system for the Los Angeles region designed to reduce use of autos for the purposes of improving air quality and saving energy, and to provide adequate mobility for non-drivers.
3. Adequate transit financing, including highway user funds, flexibility in the use of funds and public subsidy for operating expenses to maintain reasonable fares and adequate service in order to ensure good use of facilities.
4. Soliciting citizen participation in both the planning and operation of systems.
5. A multi-county authority to
 - a. assure proper coordination across political boundaries,
 - b. provide appropriate links with land use, social and environmental concerns, and
 - c. ensure the best use of available resources to avoid duplication of services.
6. Proactive education of the general public on the advantages and availability of public transportation, encouragement of cities to work more cooperatively and closely to coordinate public transportation systems to serve the public effectively and efficiently, cooperation among Boards of Supervisors in our region on education and coordination efforts, and active participation by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in improving transportation information and options available to county residents.

The County League also takes action under the National and State League Transportation positions.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Adopted 1984, 1985)

Support for actions by local government to promote solid and hazardous waste reduction. Support for the transfer of authority for siting solid waste management facilities from the local governmental level to a county or regional level, and for incentives to communities for accepting a solid waste facility. Support for the participation of the County in a regional agency with authority to site hazardous waste facilities. Support for actions and programs to protect public health and the environment from the effects of hazardous waste. Support for adequate funding of solid and hazardous waste management programs by a combination of sources. Support for the participation of local government as needed in the provision of waste management services; such participation could range from providing information and encouragement to private industry and/or acting as the provider of last resort.

Support for the following:

Reduction

1. Actions by local government to promote solid and hazardous waste reduction:
 - a. Education of generators of waste and the general public regarding the techniques and benefits of waste reduction;
 - b. Disincentives such as increased fees on producers of hazardous waste;
 - c. Regulations such as requiring curbside trash separation and recycling, facilitation or requiring industry to exchange reusable wastes.

Siting

1. Transfer of authority to site solid waste facilities from local governments to county or regional decision-making body.
2. Incentives to communities that will accept a solid waste facility.
3. Participation of the County in a regional agency with authority to site hazardous waste facilities.

Transportation

1. Regional or county plan for the routing of hazardous waste cargoes.

Enforcement/Services

1. Provision of collection/disposal services for generators of small quantities of hazardous waste.
2. Implementation of right-to-know ordinances for jurisdictions within Los Angeles County.
3. Regular monitoring of facilities that generate, store, treat or dispose of hazardous waste.
4. Increased penalties, including jail sentences, for violations of hazardous waste laws.
5. Increased emphasis on education of hazardous waste generators and the public.
6. Adequate funding for waste management programs by a combination of sources, including user fees, local industry taxes, penalties, federal and state superfunds, state or county general funds, as appropriate.
7. Participation of local government in the provision of waste management services which will include all classes of generators:
 - a. Information and encouragement to private industry;
 - b. Actions to provide needed hazardous waste facilities if a complete network of treatment/storage/ disposal facilities is not provided by the private sector. Such actions could include entering into joint ventures with private industry and/or acting as a provider of last resort;
 - c. Provision of tax-supported or subsidized collection services for household hazardous wastes if private facilities are not conveniently available or economically feasible.

WASTE TO ENERGY PLANTS (Adopted 1985) (Prepared by a committee utilizing air quality and waste management positions of LWVUS, LWVC, and LWV/LAC)

Support for the following:

1. The concept of waste-to-energy facilities both as an alternative to land disposal and as a form of resource recovery.
2. Increased efforts in waste reduction at the source and recycling after use, including mandatory curbside trash separation in order to minimize the need for waste-to-energy plants and other waste disposal facilities and their attendant environmental impacts.
3. Continuous or frequent monitoring, not only for criteria pollutants, but for other toxic contaminants listed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Air Resources Board with no relaxation of air quality standards, regulations or enforcement in order to accommodate waste-to-energy plants.
4. Continuing research on toxic air contaminants formed during the trash combustion process. As new information becomes available on toxicity and methods of pollution control, appropriate changes should be made in processes and equipment.
5. Assessment of the cumulative impacts of all the proposed waste-to-energy plants in Los Angeles County. Reduction of this cumulative impact should be an important factor in siting these facilities.
6. Fairness in the geographical distribution of waste-to-energy plants. No area of the County should be required to bear an excessive burden of trash disposal that is grossly disproportionate to the waste generated in that particular area.
7. Consideration of incentives for communities which accept solid waste facilities in cases when a significant impact is incurred as a result of siting such facilities.

POPULATION IMPACTS ON A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (Adopted 1996)

Support for education of League members and the public about the rate of population growth and the social, environmental, and governmental impacts associated with a large and rapidly expanding population. Support for population stabilization or reduction, moving as quickly as possible to a population size sustainable indefinitely without significant damage to quality of life for present and future generations. Support for the promotion and achievement of lifestyles and communities that can be sustained over the long term without damage to the environment, including but not limited to conservation and recycling efforts to minimize the costs of rising populations in terms of resource consumption, waste production, air and water quality, open space, wetlands and other natural resources. Support for governmental and individual policy planning and decision making that consider the carrying capacity of our region and the earth.

Support for the following:

1. Recognizing that population growth in Los Angeles County is threatening our present quality of life and our future.
2. Educating League members and the public about the rate of population growth and the impacts of a large and growing population on our natural resources, on our social infrastructure, and on policies and responsibilities of representative government.
3. Stabilizing or reducing population size, emphasizing education to make people more aware of the crisis being brought about by population growth and encouraging consumption reduction to minimize the destructiveness of the present population size.

4. Moving as quickly as possible to a population size sustainable at an acceptable standard of living, considering the carrying capacity of our region and the earth when making decisions about resources, projects, and lifestyles, and promoting and achieving lifestyles and communities that are sustainable over the long term without damage to the environment.
5. Considering the scale and characteristics of population growth as County budgets, plans, and policies are formulated and as forecasts about needs and demands for services, facilities, and other infrastructure elements are made.
6. Considering population impacts and community sustainability when updating land-use (open space, wetlands, etc.) policies and establishing or reviewing water-use policies, including but not limited to discouraging urban and suburban sprawl and reducing consumption in keeping with current positions on sustainability and natural resources (air, water, energy, transportation, solid waste.)
7. Encouraging the use of industrial practices and manufacturing technologies that minimize resource consumption and maximize recycling, and the use of technologies that take into account the well-being of the earth and its carrying capacity.
8. Helping to balance demands for services and available funding not by denying services but by reviewing and restructuring services, reducing redundancy, improving efficiency, closing loopholes, and reducing tax benefits for high-income individuals and business, if necessary, to protect essential services; increasing taxes in order to support social policy goals.
9. Assuring accessible, adequately funded family planning services and supplies for all County residents, and encouraging public-private partnerships where appropriate to provide these and other social services, emphasizing prevention services to reduce long-term health, welfare and justice costs.

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILD CARE (Studied and adopted 1987)

Support for adoption of a comprehensive child care policy which recognizes the importance of accessible, affordable quality care for all children who need it; effectively administered with full and efficient use of all available funds and incentives to encourage private sector participation and coordination. Support for development of a model child care program for the children of Los Angeles County employees. Support of County assistance in the expansion of Resource and Referral Agency services.

Support for the following:

1. Adoption by the Los Angeles County government of a comprehensive child care policy which
 - a. Recognizes the importance of adequate, accessible and affordable quality care for all children in the County who need it, regardless of the parents' ability to pay, with priority given to children-at-risk and low income families.
 - b. Encourages the full and efficient utilization of funds from all levels of government, business and industry, education, public and private agencies, gifts and donations and parent fees.
2. Implementation of the County child care policy to
 - a. Assure effective administration by clearly delegating responsibility and eliminating overlapping jurisdictions and duplication of effort.
 - b. Encourage cooperation and coordination of programs with the private sector.
 - c. Provide incentives for developers, employers, and providers to increase the supply of affordable, quality care (i.e., waiver of fees and charges for permits and licenses, appropriate tax credits and exemptions).
3. Centralization of authority accountable to the Board of Supervisors and responsible for

- a. Coordination of all child care services provided by the County and the utilization of all potential resources.
 - b. Heightened public awareness of the critical child care issues and unmet needs and leadership in the development of appropriate action.
 - c. Aggressive action to obtain additional funds from public and private sources and to encourage the development of consortia, joint powers agreements, and other public/private cooperative ventures in the provision of child care.
4. Development of a comprehensive child care program by the County for its employees which would
- a. Serve as a model for other public/private employers.
 - b. Encourage the provision of quality care and increase the supply.
 - c. Offer a variety of choices and resources under a "cafeteria" plan of benefits.
5. Encouragement for the expansion of Resource and Referral Agencies' services by
- a. Provision/solicitation of additional support for the R&Rs from the public and private sectors.
 - b. Coordination of efforts to fill unmet needs.
 - c. Utilization of R&R expertise in training providers, assisting in the licensing and monitoring process, maintaining referral services for licensed centers and home and other support services.
 - d. Publicizing the availability of R&R service for all parents, licensed and prospective providers, employers, and County child welfare personnel.

FOSTER CARE - CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Adopted 1988)

Support for a foster care system which considers the needs and feelings of the child to be primary; offers supportive and preventive services to keep the natural family together when feasible; and provides a nurturing home-like environment to enhance the growth and development of children in foster care. Support for services to encourage reunification of the family or permanent placement as quickly as possible. Support for assessment, placement, support services, counseling, education and training which enhance the child's self-esteem and encourage rehabilitation and self-sufficiency in older dependent and delinquent youth. Support for effective training of all personnel and care givers; enhanced recruitment of foster parents; adequate and promptly paid stipends reflective of costs of care; reasonable case loads; encouragement of and cooperation with the private sector. Support for a Dependency Court which encourages long-term assignments of judicial personnel who are qualified and sensitive to the needs and feelings of abused, neglected and "at risk" children.

Support for the following:

1. Children and family services which
 - a. Assist families to achieve and maintain safe, stable, and maturing home environments to enhance child growth and development.
 - b. Reduce need for separation of children from their families by providing services which will prevent or ameliorate conditions which overwhelm families.
 - c. Provide children with alternative nurturing arrangements in recognition of their right to freedom from sexual, emotional, and physical abuse and neglect.
 - d. Assist youth to achieve independent living arrangements when this is the best solution.
 - e. Rehabilitate and reunite families as soon as they are able to provide nurturing home environments.
 - f. Assist in providing permanent nurturing environments for children who cannot or should not return to their homes.

g. Provide counseling, education, and training for dependent and delinquent children to enhance their self-esteem and encourage rehabilitation and self-sufficiency for older youth in foster placement.

2. A public foster care system which

a. Considers the needs and feelings of the child to be primary.

b. Provides effective training for licensing personnel, evaluators, caseworkers, foster parents and others who have contact with abused, neglected and "at risk" children, their parents and foster parents.

c. Encourages recruitment and training of foster parents by

(1) increasing public awareness of the need;

(2) streamlining the application and licensing process;

(3) providing positive support services and incentives;

(4) giving constructive suggestions in a sensitive manner; and

(5) assuring that foster parent's stipend is at a level sufficient to cover all necessary costs, including foster parent training courses, transportation and child care and respite care when needed.

d. Establishes and maintains a reasonable caseload limit which allows personnel sufficient time to properly assess, place, visit, assist and encourage each of their assigned children, foster parents and natural parents, and to complete the essential records.

e. Provides adequate funds designated for support services and programs to prevent out-of-home placement whenever possible and to strengthen dysfunctional families when reunification is the objective.

f. Gives priority to the development of a fast, efficient method of payments to caregivers and service providers.

g. Seeks all possible funds from state and federal governments.

h. Works with the private sector to encourage and coordinate the provision of services in the community for "at risk" children and their families.

i. Develops and supports alternative programs and services, such as voluntary short-term placement, in-school counseling, day treatment centers for children and their parents, family life and parenting classes and early detection/intervention efforts.

3. A dependency Court which

a. Is separate from the Criminal Court environment.

b. Requires appropriate training of judges, commissioners, child advocates and other court personnel who work with children.

c. Enhances and encourages long-term judicial assignments for those who are qualified and sensitive to the needs and feelings of abused, neglected and "at risk" children.

d. Verifies that reasonable effort is made to maintain the child in his/her home or to reunite the child with the natural family when it is safe and in the child's best interests.

INCOME ASSISTANCE (Adopted 1972; amended 1980)

State government should bear full or most of the responsibility for funding General Relief and for matching funds for income assistance programs. Eligibility requirements and regulations accorded families headed by a single parent should be extended to two-parent families with a working or unemployed parent and to General Relief applicants and recipients. The present program should be simplified into two systems: a job and training program for those who are employable and a simple assistance program for the non-employable.

Support for the following:

1. The State, rather than the County, bearing all or most of the responsibility for supplementing Federal funds for welfare recipients.

2. The State, rather than the County, bearing all or most of the responsibility for General Relief.
3. Income assistance programs simplified into two systems, a job training program for those who are employable and a simple assistance program for those who are unemployable.
4. County government supplying continuous, accurate and understandable information to the community about welfare programs, problems, accomplishments and facts using all available means including the mass media. County government has a special responsibility to make known to those who may need income assistance what is available and how to apply for it.
5. Effective case management by well trained personnel in order to best serve the needs of applicants and beneficiaries.

The County League also takes action under the National position, "Meeting Basic Human Needs."

JUVENILE JUSTICE (Adopted 1986)

Support for a system that places emphasis on early identification and prevention, adequate funding and efficient use of resources for services to troubled children. Support for a system that emphasizes effective rehabilitation of the offender, recognizes the importance of accountability of the offender and the family, provides for punishment that is not only appropriate for the offense and the offender, but which also serves the goals of rehabilitation and protection of the community. Support of a county-wide system of services to status offenders, including limited secure detention for runaways, strengthening efforts to decrease truancy, voluntary probation and out-of-home placement, joint planning and coordination among public agencies and the private sector for these services. Support of contracting for limited services, but not for sovereign functions. Support for Dependency Court as a court of jurisdiction for status offenders requiring court intervention. Support of in-depth training for all personnel within the system, manageable case loads, availability of community placements in adequate numbers and adequate funding, and efficient use and coordination of resources throughout the system.

Support for the following:

1. Programs that place emphasis on adequate funding and efficient use of resources for early identification and prevention services to troubled children and youth to prevent them from entering the juvenile justice system. Such programs to include:
 - a. Parent education,
 - b. Tutoring and other individualized school services,
 - c. Health screening,
 - d. Family education.
2. A juvenile justice system which
 - a. Emphasizes effective rehabilitation of the offender both for the future welfare of the individual offender and for the protection of the community;
 - b. Recognizes the importance of accountability of the offender and the family for behavior and responsibility for its consequences;
 - c. Provides for punishment that is not only appropriate for the offense and the offender, but which also serves the goals of rehabilitation and protection of the community.
3. A county-wide system of services to status offenders, administered by the Department of Children and Family Services, funded by a combination of federal, state, county, local and private resources, with joint planning and cooperation with other public agencies and the private sector. Parental responsibility should be emphasized and fees charged where appropriate. Services to status offenders should include but not be limited to

- a. Temporary secure detention for runaways in suitable shelters for the express purpose of providing services to insure the safety of the child including a return home or counseling and referral to community resources;
 - b. Efforts to decrease truancy by support services for high risk children and families through increased prevention services in the schools, such as tutoring, counseling and referral to community agencies. Support for strengthening programs such as Student Attendance Review Board and Operation Stay in School.
 - c. Reinstitution of options such as voluntary out-of-home placement and voluntary probation.
4. Dependency Court as the court of jurisdiction for status offenders requiring court intervention.
 5. The County being responsible for oversight and coordination of all services, contracting with the private sector for certain limited services which can be effectively monitored for cost efficiency and quality of service (such as food services and housekeeping services.) The County should retain total responsibility for sovereign functions such as:
 - a. Monitoring offender compliance with court orders;
 - b. Operation of detention facilities;
 - c. Making recommendations to the court;
 - d. Arrest of probation violators.
 6. Improving the overall effectiveness of the County Juvenile Justice System by
 - a. In-depth training for all personnel within the system, including judges, district attorneys, public defenders and all court personnel;
 - b. Manageable caseloads throughout the system;
 - c. Availability of community placements in adequate numbers;
 - d. Adequate funding and efficient use and coordination of resources throughout the system.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE (Adopted 1989)

Support for an adequately funded mental health care system which 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.

Support for the following:

1. An adequately funded county mental health care system which:
 - a. Provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages.
 - b. Places emphasis on meeting the needs of children;
 - c. Seeks additional funds to provide preventive services;
 - d. Offers mental health services for the homeless;
 - e. Maintains optimal mental health services for all clients.
2. Implementation of a master plan which:
 - a. Ensures that there will be a network of integrated community based services, clearly defined and consistent;
 - b. Advocates an awareness of and concern about the critical unmet needs within the county;
 - c. Emphasizes case management which includes assistance with housing, financial, entitlements, rehabilitative and vocational programs.
3. Centers for the seriously and chronically mentally ill apart from the county system.
4. Regulations which provide an adequate length of time for evaluation and treatment of involuntary holds.

5. A model mandatory outpatient care program with adequate supervisory staff.

SOCIAL SERVICES (Adopted 1972; amended 1980)

Support for continued and improved supportive services for all who need them, with fees charged according to ability to pay when this is appropriate and cost effective for the service. Support for a system of social services which prevents and remedies problems; which keeps families together, unless the interests of the child would be better served in another way; which meets the needs of children and adults for protection; which has adequate and accessible information and referral services; which has sufficient personnel to deliver quality service; and which makes an effort to achieve good community relations.

Support for the following:

1. Provision of social services to anyone eligible for income assistance and for all children and members of families with children.
2. A sliding scale of fees for services based on a family's ability to pay, but only if collection of such fees results in significant offset to cost and the services would not be refused or curtailed because of fees.
3. Adequate funding and efficient use of money for services which tend to prevent crisis situations and long term dependency (for example, day care, health care, family life education, including family planning and homemaker service).
4. Services which provide employment training and rehabilitation; strengthen family and individual life; provide quality out-of-home care with special emphasis on foster care and day care programs.
5. Services which encourage transition from welfare to work and foster economic sufficiency for low income families.
6. Protective social services which:
 - a. Assist families to achieve and maintain safe, stable, nurturing home environments to enhance child growth and development;
 - b. Reduce need for separation of children from their families by providing services which will prevent or ameliorate conditions which overwhelm families;
 - c. Provide children with alternative nurturing arrangements in recognition of their right to freedom from sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and physical abuse and neglect;
 - d. Assist youth to achieve independent living arrangements when this is the best solution;
 - e. Rehabilitate and reunite families as soon as they are able to provide safe and nurturing home environments; and
 - f. Assist in providing permanent nurturing care environments for children who cannot or should not return to their homes.
7. Coordination and computerization of an information and referral system which can serve both the public and the private providers of services.
8. Efficient use of professional and clerical personnel in adequate numbers, relevant in-service training and manageable caseloads, contracting for appropriate services with adequate supervision, and use of a volunteer program which includes supervision and training.
9. Efforts to create a better understanding of the value of social services to the community and an awareness of what services are available, who is eligible for them and how to apply for them.



