

League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland
Approved 2019-2020 Local Program

GOVERNMENT

Regionalism: Intergovernmental cooperation and regional tax-base revenue sharing (2009)

LWVGC supports:

Voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies, and maintain service standards;

Regional tax-base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of participating communities.

County government (1979)

LWVGC supports a structure of county government that would include:

A single county executive and a responsible representative legislative body;

Adequate financing for county services and capital improvement;

Provision of urban services by that level of government that can be most effective.

Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Special Districts (2007)

LWVGC supports measures to promote the accountability, accessibility, visibility, citizen participation in, and coordination of all boards (i.e., authorities, boards, commissions, and special districts) connected to Cuyahoga County governance.

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (CCCPA)(2007)

LWVGC believes that:

CCCPA should be required by its local Rules and Regulations to prepare plans for future developments and conduct public hearings to gather comments on these plans;

CCCPA should be required to present a budget that clearly demonstrates how tax levy funds are being spent;

CCCPA proposed capital projects funded by tax revenues should include: purpose, needs, and plans; demonstration of market demand and public consensus; cost effectiveness, including a projected Return on Investment (ROI); and overall community impact, including economic and environmental factors;

CCCPA capital projects should have a separate section in the operating budget.

The Northeast Ohio Development Fund LLC (NEODF), created by the CCCPA under the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program of the federal government, should:

Have a board appointed by elected officials, such as mayors and the county executive

Publicly disclose criteria used to select projects

Give public notice of chosen projects before final acceptance

Invite public comment on proposed projects

Address possible conflict of interest issues of NEODF staff and board.

(CCCPA positions continued)

LWVGC believes that:

In order to address the disparity of representation on the CCCPA Board, equal numbers of board members should be appointed by the Mayor of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Executive, with a final member named by joint agreement.

Public officials who appoint board members should:

Require a disclosure statement of each CCCPA Board candidate and member
Conduct periodic reviews of board members' compliance with legal requirements

Any CCCPA levies should be limited to a duration of not more than five years.

Ethics in government (2012)

LWVGC supports a government ethics policy that:

Applies broadly to elected and appointed officials, employees, members and employees of boards and commissions, contractors, vendors, and lobbyists;

Prohibits conflicts of interest, use of position for personal gain, corruption in the awarding of contracts, nepotism, and favoritism;

Fosters transparency through financial disclosure by key elected and appointed officials, contractor and lobbyist registries, and online public posting of disclosures and registries;

Disciplines those who falsely file or fail to file required disclosures or who fail to report wrongdoing;

Instills individual commitment through ongoing training and education, signed compliance statements, and "plain speak" publication of the ethics policy;

Encourages ethical conduct among covered persons through obligatory reporting of possible violations and protections against retaliation;

Contains a complaint process, which honors privacy and anonymity and which protects from retaliation and unfounded charges;

LWVGC supports an ethics policy that has an effective enforcement mechanism that is:

Independent of political pressure;

Both reactive and investigatory;

Authorized by the strongest process permissible by law: charter, ordinance, resolution, or administrative rules;

Protective of due process rights for the accused;

Explicit in its range of penalties.

LWVGC supports ethics enforcement by a single entity, preferably an independent ethics board, with guaranteed funding and qualified professional legal staff.

Administration of Justice in Cuyahoga County (1971, 1973, 2003)

LWVGC supports comprehensive planning, improved bail system, rehabilitation of offenders, alternative handling of some “no-victim” crimes, improved police-community relations, uniform code of training and conduct, and adequate financing.

Charter Review*

LWVGC supports:

Periodic review of city charter or other governing documents
Citizen participation in the charter review process

Taxation*

LWVGC supports:

Taxes that are fair and equitable

Taxes that provide adequate resources for government programs

Taxes that are understandable to the taxpayer and encourage compliance
Taxes that are easy to administer

Continual evaluation of governmental tax resources and allocation

Planning & Transportation (1972, 1999)* revised 2017

LWVGC supports:

Collaborative planning by local, county, regional, state, and federal governments and agencies in order to achieve policies on transportation, tax structures, and allocations that promote the common good and will encourage a sustainable balance among urban areas, farmland and open spaces

Community planning programs for municipalities, *that specifically emphasize* land use, development and revitalization of aging areas, and mass transit as a public service

Comprehensive long-range planning programs with periodic updates
Citizen participation in the planning process

Acquisition, development, and maintenance of green space and park-like areas within municipalities

Publicly controlled transit facilities with operating costs subsidized, to meet the transit needs of all residents of Cuyahoga County, including the special transit needs of senior citizens and handicapped persons

SOCIAL POLICY

Primary and Secondary Education*

LWVGC supports:

Quality, integrated public education

Sufficient funding for quality public education

Continued monitoring of educational facilities, allocation of resources, programs, and educational methods

Citizen input in long-range planning of finances, facilities, staffing, and educational methods

Cuyahoga Community College (1962, 1964, 1979, 1999)

LWVGC supports Cuyahoga Community College as the two-year higher education institution in the county that provides accessible and affordable educational programs and services that meet the needs of the county's population.

Public Libraries*

LWVGC supports:

The best possible public library services that reflect the needs of the community Continuing evaluation of financing and future development

Cooperation between public libraries and school libraries

Health services (1973, 1983, 1984, 1997)

LWVGC supports:

A health care delivery system that provides adequate health care to all residents of Cuyahoga County, and effective comprehensive health planning by bodies representative of consumer interests as well as health professionals;

Continued evaluation of health care services for all in Cuyahoga County, with particular attention to financing, delivery distribution, and availability;

Continuation of health services to the medically indigent.

Housing*

LWVGC supports:

Enforcement of local housing codes to protect the health and safety of citizens

Mandatory inspections including but not limited to: routine inspection of every dwelling, inspection of all rental buildings, re-inspection at specific intervals, point-of-sale inspection, and adequate staffing and training of impartial housing/building inspectors

Access for limited-income owners to information about assistance in the correction of code violations

Housing that meets the varying needs of residents, including assistance programs for those of limited income

An adequately funded and efficient housing court

Diversity*

LWVGC supports measures that engage diverse communities and promote understanding and civic responsibility.

Public Recreation and Land Use (1979)* revised 2017

LWVGC supports:

Coordinated public recreation programs involving federal, state, county, municipalities and school districts that will:

Provide recreation to all ages and abilities

Focus on needs of the community served

Maintain a balance of recreational facilities and publicly-owned open spaces

Involve citizens in the planning process

Develop and preserve the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

Show evidence of transparency and continual evaluation of programming, facilities and financing

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources / Environment – Lake Erie (1966, 1999) Revised 2017

LWVGC supports the restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its tributaries as presented in the positions of the LWV Lake Erie Basin Committee (a multi-state collaboration) regarding:

Water resources and water quality (1967)

Phosphate detergent ban (1969)

Drilling for gas and/or oil in Lake Erie (1969)

Interbasin transfer of water (1985, 1986)

Power plants and radioactive waste (1990)

Concentrated animal feeding operations (2007, 2011)

**These positions were originally adopted by one or more chapters prior to the merger of the LWVGC. The LWVGC voted on May 30, 2015 to approve these as positions of the LWVGC as a whole. The histories of these positions are currently unavailable.*

Several chapters have positions not held by all chapters or the LWVGC as a whole.