



The League of
Women Voters
of
Clackamas County

**Positions
Local and Regional**

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LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of CLACKAMAS COUNTY

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LOCAL POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT

County

Governmental Structure

Support a Clackamas County governmental structure that provides:

- ample opportunity for citizen involvement;
- flexibility, efficiency, and accountability to the citizens of the county;
- a general grant of powers form of government;
- commissioners having equal power and holding all legislative and administrative power;
- full-time commissioners who are salaried and elected-at-large;
- election of a minimum number of other officials as allowed by law;
- an administrative officer appointed by the commissioners with defined powers to execute administrative and budgetary policies;
- an adequate tax base.

Library Facilities and Services

Supports quality library facilities and services with maximum public involvement in decision- making in the areas of maintaining and expanding library services and facilities, including the allocation of funds. Supports adequate funding from the library services district for maintaining at least a threshold (basic) level of library service as defined by the current version of the Oregon Library Standards. Encourages additional support by cities in order to achieve a higher level of library services. Supports bond issues for needed capital improvement. Encourages the maintenance and development of other supplemental revenue sources. Supports new avenues of funding sources such as a library Capital Improvement District.

The purpose of libraries is to provide opportunity for information, education, culture and recreation through books, computers, other materials, and library services to the people of the County. Services include: book borrowing and lending, computer and internet use, classes and interest groups, classrooms and meeting space, research assistance, and reference collections.

Criteria for siting a new facility or expanding an existing library should include: location; size; accessibility; visibility; parking; current and potential uses; educational and technology trends; and space for people, programs, study, classrooms, and technology areas. Involvement of the public in decision making and the willingness of the community to support a new or expanded facility are essential.

Emergency / Disaster Planning and Preparedness

- The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County believes that emergency/disaster planning and preparedness are necessary to save lives and minimize the effects of an emergency or disaster.
- Everyone shares responsibility for planning and preparedness: individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, businesses, and all levels of government.
- Adequate and stable funding for planning and preparedness are essential.

- Planning and preparedness should protect life, protect property, and provide for the return to normalcy. Some areas that should be addressed include: public health, public safety, infrastructure, and the environment.
- A reliable and compatible communication system, as well as local and regional coordination, is crucial.
- Planning and preparedness should be a continuous process of education, practice, and evaluation.

Cities

Lake Oswego City Charter

Support of the Council/Manager form of government for Lake Oswego because it best meets the following criteria of good local government:

1. responsive to the needs and wants of the people;
2. capable of long-range planning to anticipate future needs;
3. effective and economical; and
4. organized with clear assignment of responsibilities for legislative and administrative functions.

Support of the following positions in the Lake Oswego City Charter (LOCC):

1. *Chapter III. Section 8. Councilors.* Support electing councilors at large.
2. *Chapter III. Section 9. Qualifications of Council.* No one who is a qualified elector and has resided in the City for twelve months should be denied the right to run for office.
3. *Chapter III. Section 10. Councilor Resignation Required to Run for Mayor.* Support a provision which requires resignation of a Councilor who is filing for the office of mayor.
4. *Chapter III. Section 11. Mayor.* Support electing mayor by popular vote.
5. *Chapter III. Section 13. Salaries.* No change should be made in the Charter. Expenses of council members should continue to be met by the City and handled in such a way as the Charter is not violated; the word "compensation" should be defined to reflect the actual practice and could be documented by ordinance. (The word "compensation" has been defined in ordinance #OR2107-LOC 12.02.060)
6. *Chapter V. Section 21A[4]. City Attorney.* The phrase "shall engage in no incompatible businesses or occupation" should apply to the City Attorney as well as the City Manager (*see Chapter V. Section 20B[10]*, that the attorney, have no other clients besides the City).
7. *Chapter VI. Section 29. Nomination for Elective Office.* This section should remain in the Charter.
8. *Chapter VII. Section 31A. Filling Vacancies.* Support current LOCC provision that includes filling of vacancies by appointment. Support expanding *Section 31A* to establish a public process of appointment that includes application and screening.
9. *Chapter IX. Section 40. Major Road Expenditures.* This amendment should be retained. The League is not opposed to making it more workable as long as citizens know what the changes mean and approve of these changes.
10. *Chapter XI. Section 48A. Previously Enacted Provisions Retained, Modified.* 2 (two)-mill park levy – no Charter change should be made in view of legal opinion that amendment of the provision may result in invalidating the park levy.
11. *Chapter XI. Section 48B. Previously Enacted Provisions Retained, Modified.* (Charter Amendment.) This section is a permanent record of the bonds voted in by the City and, as such, should remain recorded in the Charter.

Recommendations regarding additions to LOCC

1. Support amending charter to contain a section requiring a vote of the people to annex Metro-designated urban reserve lands (outside the Urban Growth Boundary) that are contiguous to Lake Oswego's Urban Service Boundary
 - a. *Note 1: A majority of units support League action to initiate an amendment regarding this issue.*
 - b. *Note 2: An annexation amendment was passed in November 1998, placed partially on the ballot due to League action.*
2. Support adding a preamble to the LOCC.

Funding Processes for City Services

To increase the ability of citizens to participate in a knowledgeable discussion of budget issues, and to promote financial oversight of city government, LWVCC supports:

- Effective and timely communication to citizens through multiple media
- Availability of budget documents to attendees at the first public hearing, copies for inspection at the public library, and access through the city website
- Transparency of budget items, including details of inter-fund transfers
- Establishment and updating of policies that properly manage city finances
- Ongoing reporting based on full disclosure of the city's financial status to the public through city council
- Compliance with state law, city codes, and best professional practices for finance departments

LAND USE PLANNING – NATURAL RESOURCES

County

Long Range Comprehensive Planning

Support long-range planning as essential for orderly growth.

Long-range comprehensive planning:

- Defines, with citizen participation, goals and objectives. Identifies desired community characteristics such as: plan area, population density, open space, appearance, accessibility to outside, circulation within, commercial and industrial facilities, conservation, employment, public services, and facilities. Establishes goals for representative citizen participation, public awareness of planning decisions, and amendment procedure.
- Is based on thorough research, including studies of present and projected factors, such as: natural environment and geological characteristics and conservation needs, environmental impact of alternatives, economic realities, cost-benefit studies of alternative land uses, land use and zoning, population trends, community characteristics, methods of citizen involvement, and plans of other governmental jurisdictions.
- Includes specific plans to carry out the goals and objectives, such as: land use map (mapping use and density), and plans for circulation (streets, bikeways, greenbelts, walkways, mass transit), water, storm drains, sanitary sewers, parks and open spaces, public buildings, utilities, libraries, fire and police, health, schools, solid waste disposal, environmental protection, conservation (agricultural, historic, unique, etc.), and citizen involvement.
- Includes means for implementation, such as: zoning ordinances and map (regulating density and impact), subdivision controls, building and housing codes, pollution control program, capital improvement program, close cooperation and coordination among various levels of government, special ordinances (PUD, tree, sign, design review, etc.), and citizen committees, town meetings, neighborhood associations, etc.
- Includes schedule for periodic review: on-going re-evaluation with citizen participation.

Land Use

We endorse a series of well-publicized hearings through the county before adoption of the Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan. We endorse citizen participation both in the development of land use goals and in communication and evaluation. Citizen participation, education, communication and on-going re-evaluation are essential elements in the comprehensive planning process.

We support strict enforcement of Department of Environmental Quality regulations regarding subsurface sewage disposal, such regulations being necessary to insure no pollution of ground waters, or natural or man-made water courses, will occur as a result of the development of any area of the county. We strongly support providing for orderly development by limiting development to areas that can provide adequate sewer treatment facilities. We favor preservation of prime agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Parks and Open Space

Support provisions for Parks and Open Space as contained in the Goals and Guidelines of the Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan.

1. High priority should be given provisions to broaden representation and responsibilities of the Park Advisory Board. The Park Advisory Board should be broadened to include the proposed Open Space Committee.
2. High priority should be given to site acquisition.
3. Support of provisions to retain greenways, utilities easements and rights-of-way along rivers, streams, and lakes.
4. Support of increased use of school facilities and other public land, buildings, and public works.
5. Support preservation of open space through tax incentives and encouraging gifts of open space.
6. Support of citizen involvement at all stages of planning for parks and open space.

Economic Impact of Growth

In order to provide the capital facilities needed to accommodate the expected growth in Clackamas County, local governments require adequate financing.

Support a system of financing that:

- utilizes a variety of revenue sources;
- is dependable so that local governments can provide facilities in a planned manner and avoid critical deficiencies; and
- shares costs as fairly as possible between new and existing residents.

Developers should provide improvements (such as streets, lighting, sidewalks, signalization, etc.) serving the immediate neighborhood of the development. In addition, we support the use of systems development fees on new development to help finance facilities serving a wider area. Use of these charges will insure that:

- those who create the need for new or expanded facilities will pay a reasonable share of the costs; and
- local governments will have adequate predictable revenue to provide facilities when needed.

These charges should be large enough to reflect costs of serving new development but should take into account contributions made by new residents through property taxes and user fees and benefits of new or expanded facilities to existing development. Legislation should be considered to extend the power to levy systems development fees to school districts.

Water

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County (LWVCC) believes that the availability of high quality drinking water is essential for the health and safety of consumers. It further believes that water policy decisions should be based on the principle that water belongs to the public and should be managed for its benefit. In keeping with this philosophy, the LWVCC supports the following statements:

1. The LWVCC feels that Clackamas County municipal drinking water providers should acknowledge that drinking water standards evolve over time and that it is necessary to exceed standards wherever possible in an effort to eliminate undesirable elements from water supplies. The process used by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Oregon Health Division of the Department of Human Resources and by the Oregon Water Resources Department provides a sound approach towards ensuring sufficient water and high standards for drinking water systems. Processes should be monitored vigorously to guarantee compliance with laws.

2. Municipal water providers should maintain possession of sufficient water rights to adequately serve maximum estimated future needs. They should support state efforts to review and improve existing methods of allocating water including unperfected (unused) municipal water rights, now that water is viewed as a limited resource and the public interest is viewed as an interested party in the allocation process.

3. Regional water providers should continue to plan for regional municipal water needs, but the development and operation of water systems should remain under local jurisdiction. Cooperative long-term planning by the metropolitan region's water providers should be encouraged to help assure a continuous, sufficient supply of highest available quality drinking water.

4. Clackamas County water providers should actively promote reduction of in-system water wastage, including leaks and unmetered use. They should actively promote conservation by a mix of education, conservation credits, pricing, dual metering systems and other applicable methods.

5. Clackamas County water providers should continue to participate in groups like the Clackamas River Basin Council that are trying to maintain and improve the Clackamas watershed and to maintain the high water quality of the Clackamas River. Similarly, where appropriate, water providers should participate in bodies trying to maintain and improve Willamette River water quality and the quality of groundwater. These concerns should include controls to protect watersheds from man-made and natural features that could adversely affect water quality and quantity such as excessive timber harvest, agricultural chemical pollution, over-development, polluted urban and industrial run-off, and contamination of underground aquifers.

6. Expenditures for short-term capital improvements are necessary to a well-prepared master plan for municipal water.

7. Municipal water providers' master plans should be updated on a timely basis. Providers should be encouraged to provide ample, well publicized time for public input.

8. The governing bodies of municipal water providers should recognize that treatment and delivery of drinking water involves considerable operating and capital expense. Water rates and Systems Development Charges (SDCs) should reflect costs and should be updated frequently. A sizeable reserve fund is very desirable.

9. The LWVCC supports Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) as a cost-effective, low-visibility environmentally safe means of storing treated water where it is technically feasible. Before increasing the capability to store surface water by creating reservoirs or increasing dam heights, the LWVCC supports careful examination of regional needs, relative costs, environmental impact and the concerns of surrounding property owners, with attention paid to maintaining due process and to obtaining maximum public input.

10. The LWVCC supports the provision for a minimum one-day back-up water supply, or more if so recommended by the state. It supports the development of substantial emergency water supply sources from outside the normal intake area, particularly for those with intakes on the Clackamas River.

11. The LWVCC does not support increasing sales of water outside of the Clackamas Basin other than the historic sales to west Clackamas County rights holders.

West County

Growth and Infill

In order to insure a balance between growth and existing neighborhood character, the League of Women Voters supports development standards that increase present setback requirements, reduce present building heights, set limits on floor area in relation to lot size, and limit amount of impervious surfaces. In addition, the city should establish standards for neighborhood compatibility to balance what is allowed by code and what exists in the area.

Background: Consensus on Growth and Infill in Lake Oswego and West Linn – The 1990-91 local study focused on growth issues that are within cities' control. Members identified major concerns as visual impacts, traffic, noise, provision of services (roads, sewers, etc), and focused on infill (flag lots, minor partitions) on land zoned for and developed as single family in Lake Oswego's and West Linn's established neighborhoods. Development requirements for Planned Unit Developments were not studied.

The consensus on "Neighborhood Compatibility" applies to small areas in established neighborhoods where existing development is less intense than codes allow. Approval of new homes should require balance between development allowed by codes (maximum heights and lot coverage, minimum setbacks) and the existing heights, lot cover, and setbacks of adjacent or nearby development.

Stafford Area

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County supports the Stafford Area remaining outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Because of the costs of providing services to the area and the topography, the area should remain rural in nature with growth to occur as currently planned by the County. Restrictions should be placed on conditional uses to guard against their negative impacts.

The following factors should be considered when development is allowed: water availability, waste disposal, surface water management, transportation, air quality, geological hazards and soil stability, the preservation of open spaces and natural areas, schools, costs and who pays, and the interest of current residents in the area.

Planning should be done for the area as a whole, and it should be coordinated among the jurisdictions involved.

Tree Ordinance

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County supports tree ordinances and/or tree preservation for West Clackamas County and municipalities to protect trees on all public land, rights-of-way, and undeveloped and developed property. The League supports a definition of a tree as it is defined by either the West Linn or Lake Oswego tree ordinance.

To cut a tree, a permit should be required. Specific criteria should be applied to grant a permit. These criteria include, but are not limited to:

- disease or significant structural damage;
- demonstrable danger or damage to structures, people, or vehicles;
- building requirements or clear design reasons where there is no viable alternative;
- environmental impact;
- aesthetic and property value impact on neighborhood;
- mitigation, and
- solar access.

The League of Women Voters supports community forestry programs that include an appeals process with professional arborists. An appeals board should evaluate contested permits. The appeals board should receive a regular report of tree cutting permits.

Persons cutting trees without a permit should be subject to fines and required to replant.

The League of Women Voters supports methods of tree preservation including but not limited to:

- re-evaluating and updating identified tree inventories at regular intervals through citizen and staff participation;
- giving protection to identified groves of trees;
- educating the public about the tree ordinance through multifaceted education programs;
- protecting trees during construction;
- developing street tree plans; and
- maintaining a heritage tree program.

The local government should exercise control over utility line rights-of-way in determining removal and trimming of trees.

Note: This position excludes any treed land that is managed for commercial harvest.

Cities

Parks and Recreation – Lake Oswego

Support of a City parks and recreation program which includes:

- Continuous long-range planning and cooperation with other governmental units, preferably through an appointed Parks and Recreation Board.

- Acquisition and development of parklands in anticipation of future population growth and including community parks and neighborhood parks adjacent to schools.
- A swimming pool on a site that will provide adequate parking and maximum school use. It need not be Olympic-size but should provide facilities for racing, diving, wading, etc.

Planned Unit Development – Lake Oswego

A planned unit development usually involves a large area that could not otherwise be efficiently developed as an integrated whole. It provides flexibility necessary to conserve natural land features, provides aesthetic public and private open spaces, and encourages creative development otherwise not allowed by standard zoning requirements.

Support of the planned unit development concept in general since it can preserve open spaces and can also provide aesthetically pleasing architectural variety.

- A PUD ordinance should place a specific limit on density.
- A projection of school population should be included in the final plan.
- Accommodation of additional school population in the community without undue burden on the taxpayers is a vital consideration.
- Homeowner's Association should be required upon acceptance of final development plan.
- Streets and off-street parking should be considered carefully in the planning stage. Parking should not be considered "open space."
- Descriptions of all structure types should be included in the PUD ordinance and the building code.
- Open space in the PUD should be adequate not only to serve needs of residents but should fit into the overall plan which relates to the open space of the entire community. Existing property deserves compatible surroundings.

The Lake Oswego PUD Ordinance, because it is an important concept in city planning, should be subject to frequent review and amendment by both the governing officials and the citizenry.

Implementation and enforcement of this PUD Ordinance needs improvement both in the letter and spirit of the ordinance at both preliminary and construction stages.

Comprehensive Plan – West Linn

Support of the West Linn Comprehensive Plan because it meets the League's criteria for effective planning. Active citizen participation at public meetings is needed to insure and further its implementation, with particular concern for traffic patterns.

Local Improvement Districts

FORMATION – The formation process of a Local Improvement District (LID) must include all individuals and groups who will be involved: established residents, developers, schools, City Council, and the broader community affected.

An attitude of working together constructively should permeate relationships of City Council, City staff, and citizens from the inception of the process.

Early notification and participation are essential:

- Communication between City staff and property owners should be promoted through informal meetings.
- Legal notices in the newspaper should indicate the area not only by legal description but also by streets involved so that everyone in the City will recognize the area.
- Public notice of the proposed project should be given prior to the Resolution of Intent.
- The first mailed notification to the property owners should include the proposed method of assessment and the estimated amount of the owner's assessment.

Before the construction begins, citizens must be informed of the exact engineering specifications and final cost estimate. Opportunity for continued citizen participation should be ensured through a second notification, informal meetings, and public hearings at this time.

The impact statement as proposed by the City LID Committee should demonstrate the need for the LID and its effect on the community and the environment. It must assure that the LID is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Staff and affected property owners – inside and outside the district – should prepare the statement jointly.

Remonstrance by the owners of 51% of the property should be sufficient to defeat an LID.

BENEFIT – Valid factors to be weighed in determining benefit are usage, livability and aesthetics, change in property value, health and safety. Following careful consideration, true benefit to the property owners within the districts and to the community at large must be determined for each LID.

COST ALLOCATION – The method of assessment should be determined jointly by those involved in the formation process. Each LID must be assessed on an individual basis rather than on the basis of a routine formula.

Land use should be considered in determining the allocation of costs. Multi-family, industrial and commercial property should be assessed according to greater benefit received. For example, in sewer LIDs, multi-family dwellings should be assessed on the basis of two apartments to one single-family residence.

Developers should pay a larger share of the cost in situations where a new subdivision forces established residents into an LID. One method of accomplishing this is a Systems Development Fee. Deferred assessments should be possible for large parcels of land, which the owner chooses not to develop. In such situations, the community benefits from the preservation of open space.

Where there is citywide benefit derived, there should be citywide financing according to benefits received. Urban services should be financed by tax funds where justified, because such payments are deductible for income tax purposes, whereas LID payments are not tax deductible to the property owner.

(Note: This study did not include LIDs in new subdivisions.)

East End Redevelopment – Lake Oswego

Support the revitalization of Lake Oswego's east end business district. Strongly support city action to acquire the lakefront promenade property as soon as possible. The League also favors the prospect of street beautification with innovative methods to finance and implement the project. Support and encourage other projects in the redevelopment plan that do not involve public financing and that will increase tax revenue to the City.

Comprehensive Plan – Lake Oswego

Support of the Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan because it meets the League's criteria for effective long-range comprehensive planning as listed in the 1973 county position on Long Range Comprehensive Planning.

Lake Oswego Water System

The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County believes that the availability of high-quality drinking water is essential for the health and safety of Lake Oswego citizens. It further believes that water-policy decisions should be based on the principle that water belongs to the public and should be managed for its benefit. In keeping with this philosophy, the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County supports the following statements:

1. The process used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and by the Oregon Health Division of the Department of Human Resources provides a sound approach toward ensuring high standards for drinking water systems. This process should be monitored vigorously to guarantee compliance with the law. In addition, the Lake Oswego Water System should continue to go beyond the law in its efforts to eliminate undesirable elements from the city's water supply.

2. The policy of selling surplus water generates income and should be continued; however, regular reviews of rate structures should be conducted to assure fair pricing.
3. The Lake Oswego Water System should maintain sole possession of its water rights and continue to provide water to other water districts in a customer relationship.
4. The Metropolitan Service District (METRO) has legislative authority over water. As yet, this authority has not been assumed. METRO should be responsible for regional water planning in cooperation with the region's purveyors but the development and operation of water systems should remain under the control of local jurisdictions.
5. Cooperative long-term planning by the region's water purveyors is necessary to assure continued high quality and a sufficient quantity of drinking water in the future. The Lake Oswego Water System should participate in the development of a regional plan for the delivery of drinking water.
6. The Lake Oswego Water System should actively participate in conservation programs that include incentives to reduce water consumption and waste.
7. The Lake Oswego Water System should participate in the coordination of management plans of groups striving to maintain and improve the Clackamas Watershed. These plans should include controls to protect the watershed from man-made and natural features that could adversely affect water quality and quantity, such as excessive timber harvest, over development and pollution.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation and Traffic

Transportation and traffic plans should be developed through broad participation of interests, including citizen task forces and/or neighborhood associations.

HUMAN RESOURCES

County

Health

There is a need for cooperation, coordination, and positive planning in health care services at all levels. Improvement in community health services should come from physicians, hospitals, public funding agencies, volunteer groups, the media, schools, and all levels of government.

Child Care

Support quality child care, which is available to everyone, regardless of financial need.

Training and technical assistance for child care should be available through a community-based agency. Child care workers should be certified and should receive reasonable pay.

Funding for child care should be broadly based and include support from users; federal, state, regional, and county governmental agencies; and private sources. State and federal subsidies should be based solely on financial need. There should be tax incentives to businesses and other groups to encourage further funding of child care.

Support the formation of cooperative associations for child care and the involvement of business and industry in assisting their employees in obtaining adequate child care.

Public Health Facilities in Clackamas County with Special Emphasis on Care for the Indigent

The League of Women Voters believes that all people should have access to health care, with those able to pay assuming responsibility for their own health care and those unable to pay covered by a mix of private and government funding. There should be some fee for each service provided by the county, but no one should be turned away because of inability to pay.

Basic health care should include preventative care and should target the young first, including immunizations, dental care and nutritional education for mothers of young children, prenatal care and delivery assistance where necessary, family planning, communicable diseases control, nursing homes and home health care, and mental health programs, including drug and alcohol abuse.

All levels of government and the private sector should share in bearing the cost of medical care. Cost containment, preventative care and services for the medically indigent should be the top priorities in Clackamas County health care.

All people have a responsibility to educate themselves and their families on basic health practices. Basic health practices should be addressed by schools at all levels, newspapers, magazines, radio and TV media, and county health departments. Healthful nutrition should be stressed.

Cities

Youth Activities and Facilities for Lake Oswego and West Linn

Support for the following:

- Unstructured social activities, especially on weekend evenings, among secondary school-age students. This would supplement the wide variety of organized cultural and sports activities provided by schools, communities, churches, and private organizations.
- The entire community should share the responsibility for youth activities. This includes schools, youth, parents, local government, churches, businesses, and other community organizations.
- Additional and/or improved facilities, such as playing fields, multi-purpose gym facilities, and a youth activities center in both communities. Also, there is need for a new library and a public pool in West Linn. In order to finance the above, possible public and private funding sources could include taxes, system development fees, a user fee, or a combination of fees.
- The concept of a multi-purpose facility to fulfill the needs of the youth of the area. To maintain interest of our youth in our community, there is a need for interesting and attractive activities and facilities. Furthermore, to insure a successful facility, responsible supervision, social and dance areas, games and a sports area are needed. The facility could be managed financially and staffed by a city recreation department using community resources and volunteers.

EDUCATION

County

Clackamas Community College

We continue a supportive position on the need for a tax base for Clackamas Community College.

Communication and Citizen Involvement in Clackamas County School Districts

Good communication between schools and the community is essential. Avenues of communication need to be well known, understood, and convenient.

- Written communication should be sent regularly to all members of the school district. This communication should present trends and issues for discussion prior to the decisions and should provide channels for citizen input. Notification and agenda of all meetings should be published in local newspapers. A publication should be available which explains the organization of the school district, how it relates to the community, and a defined process for citizen input.
- The decision-making process should include all citizens who are interested. A citizen involvement process should be developed that is open, well publicized, and clearly defined. This process must enable citizens to have impact in decision-making at all levels.
- To seek citizen involvement, well-publicized application procedures should be used and advisory committees that are broad-based with geographical representation should be chosen. These committees should include teachers, students, parents, and non-parents. Two-way communication between the committees and the school representatives should involve a recommendation and response procedure.
- Building level communities, comprised of a broad representation of an attendance area, need to be organized to involve citizens in basic decisions.
- Communication between schools and local government units is essential in decision-making regarding areas of mutual concern, such as land use decisions affecting school population and shared use of facilities. Both elected representatives and staff members of the school district and local government units should be involved in this process.

Cities

Elementary School Utilization – Lake Oswego

Subscribe to the continued level of high quality education in the Lake Oswego School District. Recognize need of Lake Oswego School District to reduce expenditures due to economic climate and enrollment trends. Support careful scrutiny of all factors relating to elementary school utilization. A number of options must be considered jointly – rental of available space is most desirable as it has least impact on school and its functions. Implementation of user fees for selected programs, elementary school closure, staff cuts, and program cuts all deserve close attention when determining budget reductions. Student-teacher ratio should be considered last, if at all, as a cost cutting measure.

The School Board needs to formulate a policy addressing enrollment trends. The policy should include an annual assessment and analysis of enrollment and facilities (past, present, and projected), effective public involvement in school planning, and ongoing interaction between the schools and city government.

If a decision to close an elementary school is made, then specific criteria should be applied in determining which one. These criteria should include closure impact on the students, parents, and neighborhood; financial considerations; and adequacy of building and grounds.

Secondary School Utilization – Lake Oswego

Support the following:

1. Changing the current configuration (K-6, 7-8, 9-12) to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 in order to provide a more appropriate and effective education for those students in grades 6 through 8. The purpose of the reorganization should be to provide the students with a better transition between elementary and high school.

To help these students cope with the many changes characteristic of this age, schools should allow for a closer relationship with one teacher or a small group of teachers. This could be achieved through a variety of methods – a strong advisor-advisee program, block scheduling, and inter-disciplinary team teaching, for example.

Due to a high level of intellectual curiosity, a varied and wide-ranging program best serves the 6-8th grade student. A program that addresses this need should include continued skill development, which allows for remedial attention and greater depth of exploration when necessary, and a broad range of short-term electives.

To ensure a successful transition to high school, a strongly defined study skills unit is necessary in the curriculum with reinforcement throughout the three years.

2. Continuing the current district policies to maintain equality of education opportunity at both district high schools. To this end, encourage open enrollment in the direction of the school with the lower enrollment. Subsidization of staffing when necessary should be considered. The possibility of extra financial aid for the smaller school should also be considered when equality of program is threatened. The present pooling of students and resources, when a program is threatened by low enrollment or high costs, should be continued and expanded as appropriate.

Due to the disruptive nature of boundary changes, they must be given careful consideration. When such changes are made, they must create an effect, which would not necessitate frequent revision.

Closure of a high school is not considered a viable solution unless enrollments were declining drastically below current projections. Restructuring of the current high school configuration, creating a Freshman/Sophomore facility and a Junior/Senior facility is not seen as an applicable solution. Both of these solutions would disrupt the strong sentiment, which exists in the community for the two area high schools.

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REGIONAL POSITIONS

*Positions developed by the League of Women Voters of Columbia River Region
of which LWVCC was a member*

Promotion of Orderly Metropolitan Government The League believes a sense of regional community is vital in dealing with regional issues and supports a regional government with power to enforce its decisions and with adequate and equitable financing. It supports coordination, cooperation and the delivery of services at a broader level (including bi-state) when needs justify it.

Solid Waste The League supports an environmentally sound solid waste management plan that provides maximum re-use and recycling. It encourages governments to recycle and industry to use biodegradable containers. Education about solid waste problems is a primary need. Financing solid waste programs should be adequate, economical, efficient, manageable and flexible and be provided by commercial interests, government and user fees. The State should have authority over planning, regulation, enforcement and siting of landfills. Collection should be done by private industry.

Port of Portland When port expansion is proposed, the League supports citizen input and a balance of economic needs and environmental concerns. Any movement towards consolidation of lower Columbia ports should be initiated by the smaller ports. Port commissioners should be appointed by the governor.

Metropolitan Transportation The League supports a metropolitan mass transportation system which is regional, integrated into the community and helps to preserve the city core. It should offer access to all and be designed for economy of land use. It should be competitive with private cars to reduce traffic congestion. The financing should be from a combination of national, state and regional sources, including using diverted gasoline tax funds and use of motor vehicle license fees. The fares should be differential for different levels and types of services. The League supports a no-fare system within the city core; peripheral parking instead of additional core parking; smaller buses where feasible; continual public education; and using a variety of modes and the most economic and energy-efficient mode where possible. Planning for routes is part of land use planning. Social and environmental costs such as economy of land use, fuel shortages and sight, sound and air pollution issues must be considered. Citizen participation includes information and insured input. Tri-Met directors should be appointed by the governor with consideration of regional recommendations and broad district representation. League supports a payroll tax within the district that is broadly based and shared between employer and employee. Tri-Met should continue to be a separate entity and should work with regional government for planning and resource utilization.

Metropolitan Government The League supports a regional government with a council elected from defined districts and an executive director. Its services and functions should include the zoo, solid waste management, convention center, the ER facilities, transportation planning, planning and development and information to local governments. It should be financed by fees, an excise tax on users, county dues, the Port and Tri-Met, federal and state funds and bonds. Metro should develop visibility and foster communication with the public and local governments.

Urban Growth Management The League supports the concept of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), including designation of urban reserves lands for future needs. The UGB should be difficult to amend. Metro should work with local governments to ensure funding for planning urban reserves. Requests to amend the UGB should be allowed from Metro, counties, cities and landowners. Notice of proposed amendments is important. Public hearings should be held at all stages of the amendment process, with 30 days' notice sent. The League supports the concept of Regional Urban Growth Goals and Objectives (RUGGOs) and supports the development and maintenance of functional wildlife and recreation corridors to create metropolitan greenspace. It supports development of well-planned economic communities which can include a mix of housing, employment, social services, industry and amenities. Existing urban land should undergo continuous redevelopment and infill where appropriate.

Regional Planning and Government The League believes the following issues are of regional concern: growth management, natural systems management, regional infrastructure, human services and amenities, and public safety. It believes that efficiency, political feasibility and economy should be determining factors in cooperative efforts among local governments and that Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) are one method of resolving issues. It supports user fees and hotel-motel taxes as sources of funding regional attractors for arts, sports and recreation.