

# County Government

The League studied County Government in 1985 and 1986. The position was updated in conjunction with the Salinas League in 1991 to refine its position on the roles of the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer and management of countywide water resources. The position on the Local Agency Formation Commission was updated in 1994. The League position follows:

Support for and continuing evaluation of measures to promote the efficiency and accountability of County Government through:

- Clear definition of policy making and administrative roles;
- Reduction in the number of elected officials;
- A rational financial management structure;
- A budget format highlighting county goals and priorities;
- Land use planning procedures and decisions that take full account of the county's diverse interests and needs;
- Elimination of overlapping jurisdictions or duplication functions among water supply and sewage treatment.

## Objectives

1. Delegation to the County Administrative Officer of direct administrative authority over appointed department heads, including hiring and firing authority; delegation of greater decision-making authority to key staff – thus freeing the Board of Supervisors for its primary function of policy-making and long range planning.
2. Enactment by the Board of Supervisors of an ordinance delegating to the County Administrative Officer the authority to hire, evaluate, and dismiss non- elective department heads with the exception of County Counsel.
3. Specific delegation to the County Administrative Officer, by ordinance, of clear supervisory authority over the performance of all county departments headed by a non-elective officer, with the exception of County Counsel, and direction to such department heads that they report to the County Administrative Officer.
4. Greater decision-- making authority to key staff, thus freeing the Board of Supervisors for its primary function of policy making and long range planning.
5. Action by the Board of Supervisors and voter referendum to separate the positions of Auditor- Controller, Clerk- Recorder, and Treasurer-Tax Collector from elective to appointive, as these positions become vacant.
6. Action by the Board of Supervisors and voter referendum to separate the position of Auditor and Controller and to consolidate the position of Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector in a finance office within the County Administrative Office.
7. Gradual change of the County budget format from line-item only to a

program format supported by a line-item budget.

8. Appointments to the Planning Commission that represent a balance of viewpoints and avoid conflict of interest; reasonably expeditious procedures for land use decisions; assurance of public access to information and participation in the planning process; action to insure that the County's growth management policy and General Plan goals and objectives are fully reflected in local area plans and land use decisions and that County land use ordinances and regulations are adequately monitored and enforced.

9. A study by LAFCO or AMBAG, at the request of the Board of Supervisors, of the relationships among the public agencies involved in water supply and sewage treatment with a view to coordinating the elimination of duplicating functions.

10. Action by the Board of Supervisors to appoint a Board of Directors to oversee water management for the Monterey county Resource Water Agency. This Board should be appointed from a combination of interest groups with strong public involvement and dedicated to the whole spectrum of water management. The Board of the Agency should be responsible for coordinating water management planning in all areas of the county, including the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the Pajaro Valley Water Management District, and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. Funding is to be provided through a benefit assessment district.

11. Action by the County Water Resource Agency Board to create a technical advisory committee which may include any or all of the following: health, fire, Army Corps of Engineers, water purveyors, Fish and Game, planning departments, Agricultural Commissioner, Office of Economic Development, and recreation.

12. Efforts of the Local Agency Formation Commission to re-- evaluate the possibilities of consolidation or dissolution of special districts or local agency.

13. Examination by the Local Agency Formation commission of the spheres of influence of cities and the County in reuse of Fort Ord.

## **Salinas City Government**

Salinas City Government position adopted 1992.

1. Charter: Support of the charter city status for Salinas and of a charter which is clear, concise, useful and flexible, containing basic guidelines, including:

- a. The council-city manager form of government, and the city manager to be hired or fired by a majority of the full council;
- b. Authority by the city manager over department heads, including hiring and firing authority;
- c. An independent external audit in addition to the accounting procedures and internal auditing;
- d. Omission of references to dollar amounts wherever possible.

2. Elections: Support of
  - a. Non-partisan local elections;
  - b. Council member election by districts;
  - c. Four year terms for council members;
  - d. Campaign spending and contribution limits and a local Fair Political Practices Code;
  - e. An appointed independent commission for redistricting.
3. Public Safety programs shall take into account population-based standards and shall cover the entire city and include prevention measures.
4. Public Access: Support of:
  - a. Use of audiovisuals materials, web sites, emails, and handouts to assist the public in understanding issues;
  - b. Publicizing agendas and decisions in local newspapers;
  - c. Making agendas, minutes and council packets available at the city libraries as well as at the city clerk's office;
  - d. Including in council packets correspondence related to items on the current or previous agendas;
  - e. The council seeking community input prior to city policy decisions, including use of:
    - i. Citizen advisory committees
    - ii. District or area-of-interest meetings which include department staff, council members, and other government agencies as appropriate.
  - f. Providing a clear, concise, and prompt response system to handle citizen inquiries.
5. Commissions: Support of
  - a. An application and appointment process for commissioners stated in the Municipal code that includes:
    - i. announcement of opening
    - ii. open application process at the end of each term
    - iii. notifying applicants of time requirements and attendance rules
    - iv. council screening committee
    - v. recommendation to an appointment by the full council
    - vi. a system for district representation.
  - b. Attendance requirements for all commissions, enforced by the chairperson and staff.
  - c. Criteria for selection of commissioners, such as community service history, background and expertise in the subject of commission, and ability to make the necessary time commitment;
  - d. In-depth and on-going training, to include both general and commission- specific information;
  - e. A periodic review by the council and commission members, to include:
    - i. the continuing need for the commission
    - ii. its performance

- iii. costs vs. benefits
- iv. the appointment process.

6. Finance: Support of

- a. Assessment districts to finance capital outlay and infrastructure maintenance;
- b. User fees to augment the operating budget;
- c. Public input and council priority setting before budget development by staff, including:
  - i. district or area meetings to discuss service priorities and budget,
  - ii. public input regarding particular service enhancements for which the public is willing to pay extra taxes or user fees;
- d. Working toward the goals of
  - i. increasing reserves to 5% of the operating budget,
  - ii. setting aside a percentage of the operating budget for future capital outlay and infrastructure maintenance.
- e. Fiscal policies covering accounting standards, reserves, administrative fees, revenues, operating budget, capital improvement programs, debt, and risk management: These policies to be reviewed annually; the city actively seeking to inform the public of the costs of services provided and of revenue sources, including a budget summary (Budget-in-Brief) and other finance facts.
- f. Restructuring of government finance to achieve adequate, reliable, efficient funding at the local level.

## **County Campaign Finance Reform**

At the annual meeting, May 1997, LWVMP adopted the following position (and adopted by LWV Monterey County in 2013) . A change to the model ordinance referred in 2. was approved at the May 2006 Annual Meeting. The League supports:

1. A Monterey County Campaign Reform Ordinance with the following emphasis:
  - a. Encourage voluntary expenditure limits in campaigns.
  - b. Require frequent and timely disclosure requirements in campaigns with penalties for failure to meet deadlines or incomplete disclosure statements.
  - c. Require campaigns to reject contributions several days before elections.
  - d. Require disclosure several days before elections.
2. An ordinance which would be similar to the this Model (files/model cfr ordinance.pdf) developed LWVMP in 2006.
3. A limit on out-of county contributions.
4. Adoption of Campaign Reform Ordinances similar to the Model Ordinance (Item

2, above) by local cities in Monterey County.

## **Grand Jury System**

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley and the Monterey Peninsula studied public agencies' responses and follow-up to the recommendations made in its final report by the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury in 1997-1998. The scope of the study was expanded in 1998-1999 to include structural and procedural issues. The following is a statement of the Leagues' position:

1. The League of Women Voters supports community involvement in the Civil Grand Jury process through:
  - a. Community educational activities regarding the Grand Jury system;
  - b. Increased public information about the process for submitting complaints and suggested areas of inquiry appropriate to the Grand Jury;
  - c. Wide distribution of Grand Jury reports and agency responses and good public access to agency responses;
  - d. Monitoring of Grand Jury reports and agency responses;
  - e. Media coverage of the entire Grand Jury process.
2. The League of Women Voters may comment on existing League program positions, on specific Grand Jury recommendations.
3. The League of Women Voters supports a Monterey Civil Grand Jury process that:
  - a. Recruits Grand Jury members using methods such as:
    - i. Wide distribution of recruitment information;
    - ii. Efforts to reflect diversity;
    - iii. Employer programs that allow employees to serve as grand jurors.
  - b. Provides a thorough orientation and on-going educational process for all new Grand Jury members;
  - c. Adheres to all state laws regarding the Grand Jury process;
  - d. Encourages the Grand Jury to review draft final reports for accuracy with the appropriate agencies;
  - e. Uses a format for the Grand Jury Final Report that would assure clarity and makes it easy for the general public to understand;
  - f. Supports Grand Jury Final Reports with focused recommendations and with a limited number of recommendations;
  - g. Limits findings to those directly tied to recommendations in the Final Reports;
  - h. Provides for follow-up by the Grand Jury on recommendations made by previous Grand Juries.

Notes:

1. This position was approved by the LWVMP Board of Directors April 10, 1999. Paragraph 1.c read "wide distribution of Grand Jury reports and good public access".
2. The position approved by the LWVSV Board of Directors on April 1, 1999, was identical to this except that paragraph 1.c. read "wide distribution of Grand Jury reports and agency responses and good public access".
3. An update to this position was approved at the May 2006 Annual Meeting to change paragraph 1.c. to read as above.

## **Libraries**

The League first studied libraries on the Monterey Peninsula in 1962. A more detailed study was made in 1971 and updated in 1981-1982. In 1993 the Leagues of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley conducted a two-year joint study of the public libraries. The Leagues' position follows:

Public libraries are a basic service of government. The League supports measures to maintain and/or improve library services, to provide effective funding, and to promote cooperation among public libraries of Monterey County.

### **Objectives**

1. Public library service is a basic service of government.
2. It is the responsibility of local governments (County and City) to be the primary source of funding for public libraries.
3. Support State funding to equalize services among local jurisdictions.
4. Support maintaining and/or improving library service.
5. Support measures which provide effective funding for public libraries.
6. Support exploration of additional funding from both public and private sources for public libraries in this county. Possible sources: grants, foundations, Friends Groups, volunteers, and collaborative efforts of libraries with schools and other public and private agencies.
7. Support cooperation among public libraries in Monterey County.
8. Support city and county libraries' exploration of effective cooperative approaches, whether they involve two jurisdictions, five jurisdictions, or any combination thereof.
9. Support cooperative systems and library networks such as Monterey Bay Area Cooperative (MOBAC) Library System when they are both service-- and cost-- effective.

10. Support free access for Monterey County residents to all public libraries in Monterey County.
11. Support free borrowing privileges for county residents in all public libraries in Monterey County.
12. Support exploration of funding for free borrowing, including user fees for special services, merging of jurisdictions, and increased public funds (taxes).
13. Support the establishment of a group representing the public libraries of Monterey County, or a wider area, to study cooperative efforts, equity of service, various methods of providing service, and funding options.
14. Support effective notification and public participation in the process of making policy decisions for public libraries.

## **Natural Resources**

### **LAND USE**

The LWVMP's interest in land use dates back to the 1960s when a position supporting Area Planning was adopted. The position was restudied in 1971, resulting in a broader position that enabled the League to act on city and county plans and specific projects. The position was updated in 1978 to include support for growth management programs, protection of natural resources, and criteria for assessing projects. In 1992, the position was updated to address the reuse of Fort Ord. The LWVSV adopted land use positions in 1979 and 1980. In taking action on land use, the League focuses on plans, ordinances, and projects that involve basic principles of good planning and environmental protection and have broad application. The League position follows:

#### **Support for, and continuing evaluation of:**

1. Area planning and growth management policies and programs for the Monterey Peninsula area.
2. Preservation of open space by public acquisition of land.
3. Short and long-term measures to control growth and provide for orderly development that is consistent with environmental protection.
4. A planning process which is well-coordinated, based on, adheres to, and implements the appropriate General Plan, and provides adequate information for timely, well-informed decisions.

#### **The League further supports:**

1. Development that is balanced to provide for an adequate supply of housing, employment, service and public facilities, and ~~should~~ takes into account transportation planning.
2. Planning decisions that provide for protection of the physical environment including water quality and supply, air quality and prime agricultural lands.
3. A planning process that provides opportunity for energy and housing considerations as part of routine planning practice.
4. Growth management techniques appropriate to the area that would control timing and placement of development and contain building within the limits of water supply, sewage facilities, pollution standards, and road capacity.
5. Limits on sewage disposal capacity which may determine the amount of growth allowable could be supported.
6. Federal, State and local air quality controls are supported, recognizing that they may place upper limits on the amount of growth allowable.
7. Demographic and land use studies to determine the best use of land and the capability of the Peninsula area to support increased population and economic studies on net community benefit from development.
8. Development based on the economic feasibility, availability, or assurance of urban services and infrastructure such as water and sewage disposal
9. Planning to perpetuate scenic assets and a beneficial environment and to protect natural resources.
10. Measures which provide for orderly planning for cities within Monterey County and Monterey County.
11. A strong rule for the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) in growth management
12. Efforts to educate members of city and county staffs, decision-making bodies, and the public about the total planning process and new technology and planning techniques as they are developed. Public access to the process must be maintained.

**Criteria for development:**

1. Public need for development should be demonstrated, and the services required by the existing population should be assured.
2. Development should not be growth inducing.



3. Development should meet environmental and socio-economic standards set forth in local and state regulations and building codes.
4. Roads should be clearly needed, minimize environmental damage, and preserve the integrity of existing communities.
5. Consultation with government agencies and dissemination of public information should precede and follow preparation of plans.
6. Development should be within well-defined and compact urban areas separated by open space and parks.
7. Development should be designed to support higher density that includes reasonable limitations on high rise structures, pedestrian oriented communities, mixed land uses and jobs/housing balance, and land uses that support public transit, air quality, and the availability of low and moderate income housing.
8. Housing, commercial development, and light, agriculture-related and service industries that provide for balanced development patterns could be supported, depending on their impact on the physical environment. Heavy industry is not supported for the area.
9. Growth patterns:
  - a. To accommodate future growth, first priority should be given to infilling, revitalization and rehabilitation.
  - b. High-rise with design controls could be supported for a combination of residential and commercial development.
  - c. Annexation for contiguous development is preferable to satellite communities or leapfrogging.
  - d. Satellite communities could only be supported if they include housing, opportunities for employment, services, and public facilities.
  - e. Leapfrogging is opposed.
10. Preservation of prime agricultural land should be encouraged. Appropriate developments on other than prime land could be considered, taking into account other planning and environmental objectives.
11. The planning process should be required to assess the cumulative impact of proposed developments on
12. Measures which would more adequately allow the determination of actual water supply for planning purposes are supported.

**On the reuse of Fort Ord, the League supports:**

1. Development that promotes replacement of jobs lost due to the downsizing of Fort Ord and new jobs which provide a diversity of job opportunities and address unemployment within infrastructure and resource constraints.
2. Development that accommodates a residential population similar to the population loss resulting from the downsizing of Fort Ord.
3. Development adjacent to existing urban areas.
4. Provisions for low-income housing, including housing for agricultural workers and the homeless.
5. The League supports the following land uses within infrastructure and resource constraints:
  - a. A university or consortium of universities.
  - b. Light industry that is marine oriented or related to the education facilities.
  - c. Agriculture and mariculture research and production facilities.
  - d. A full range of housing to support the employment base located adjacent to employment centers, with requisite support services.
  - e. Preservation of existing medical services and provision of medical facilities that meet future medical needs.
  - f. Maintenance of coastal areas west of Highway 1 in open space (including use for storm water storage) except for development of marine research facilities dependent on coastal access at the old main sewer plant site consistent with maximum protection for coastal dunes and visual resources.
  - g. Areas that include steep slopes, endangered species, unit habitat, wildlife, and wetlands preserved as open space and for recreation use consistent with resource preservation.
  - h. A performing arts center and recreation and sports facilities developed in cooperation with the university.
  - i. Maintenance of existing golf courses irrigated with reclaimed water.
6. The League does not support the following land uses:
  - a. New golf courses.
  - b. Tourist attraction recreational facilities such as a Disneyland or Marine World.

## **Planning Process**

1. Environmental Review Process:
  - a. Environmental review of projects should include assessments of cumulative impacts on air quality, water supply availability, water quality, drainage capacity, and sewage facilities, and assessment of impacts on public facilities such as public safety, parks, schools, roads, open space, transportation, and libraries.
  - b. A master database should be developed for Monterey County. Organization of such a database should be a high priority within the planning process. The

database should be computerized as information retrieval is extremely important.

c. Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) should be developed for areas of the county where major development is anticipated. Information from the EIRs can contribute to the formulation of the master database and EIRs for individual projects.

d. Ideally, EIRs should be done by planning staff ("in-house.") The alternative would be to have EIRs done by consultants chosen by the developer from a list provided by the city or county.

e. Planning departments should allocate a portion of their staff time to long-range planning.

#### **Coordination in the Process:**

1. Development proposals should receive a preliminary review by all appropriate departments. This review should determine if the proposal is complete and consistent in general with applicable planning policies.

2. Review should be accomplished at a committee meeting of appropriate department representatives. The developer should not be present at these meetings but should be available to answer questions at the request of the committee.

3. This preliminary review should be followed by concurrent department review. A second committee meeting should then be held for the purpose of forming a recommendation to the decision-making body.

4. In cases where an EIR is determined necessary, the above process would be repeated after the EIR is completed.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The League's position on transportation is the result of the LWVSV land use study.

#### **The League Supports:**

1. Transportation planning should be taken into account in all planning and land use decisions. Carpooling and vanpooling, bike lanes, bus systems and provisions for pedestrian access are the encouraged forms of transportation.

2. Fixed rail transit is not considered appropriate for Monterey County at this time. Future development of this type of transportation would be evaluated according to growth patterns and feasibility.

### **ENERGY**

The League's position on energy is the result of the LWVSV land use study.

### **The League Supports:**

1. Consideration of energy demands in the planning process.
2. The following requirements for new development :
  - a. Passive solar design
  - b. Active solar design where cost effective
  - c. Energy efficient subdivision design
  - d. Energy efficient transportation and transportation alternatives
3. Investigation of local building codes stricter than existing state standards and
4. Encouragement of the use of incentives when significant energy savings are determined feasible.

## **WATER**

The League studied water and updated the position in 1982, 1995, 2003 and 2007.

### **Position**

- Achieve measures to insure an adequate supply of water of high quality to the Monterey Peninsula that recognize water as a finite resource.
- Coordinate water resource planning with land use planning to provide for future needs without encouraging non-sustainable growth.
- Protect the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use.
- Reserve stream flows for protection of fish, wildlife habitat, and the riparian environment.

### **Objectives**

#### **Water Supply**

1. Encourage a variety of water supply sources such as conservation, including saving "lost water" and reclamation.
2. Support water supply alternatives that:
  - a. Secure a long-- term water supply;
  - b. Provide for drought protection;
  - c. Allow for the orderly accommodation of population growth included in general plans consistent with the evaluation and weighing of impacts described below (3.a-- f).
3. Support assessment of economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of proposed water projects. The following impacts shall be evaluated and weighed by the League when considering action on a water supply alternative:
  - a. Direct and indirect costs in comparison to other alternatives;

- b. Direct and indirect benefits in comparison to other alternatives;
  - c. Environmental costs and benefits (e.g., corrects existing environmental degradation of the Carmel River, allows for adequate flows year round, protects the fishery, vegetation, wildlife, and wetland resources, and allows for recreational uses.);
  - d. Impacts on community services (e.g., police, fire, schools, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal, streets, and highways;
  - e. Impacts on aesthetic values and cultural resources;
  - f. Impacts on public safety (e.g., dam inundation and flooding).
4. Establishment and periodic review of a priority system of customers' rights to water service that would protect current users during drought conditions.
  5. Support policies within the boundaries of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) that create a hierarchy of customers having a priority claim to water service in the following order:
    - a. Existing customers within the existing service area of a retail water purveyor;
    - b. Future, expected customers associated with approved new development within an existing service area of a retail water purveyor;
    - c. Future, expected customers associated with potential new development outside of, but contiguous to the existing service area of a retail water purveyor.
  6. Support policies to insure that findings of availability of water quantity and quality be required before an application for development is deemed complete and prior to further planning.
  7. Support policies at the city and County levels to require that the source, quantity, and quality of water be assured (i.e., existence of adequate water supplies or water supply capital improvement program is in progress) by the water supplier before adoption of or amendments to general plans that would result in future water demand.

### **Water Quality**

1. Support the continuation of the present monitoring system of the septic systems in the MPWMD.
2. Request an up-to-date estimate of the cost of sewerage the Carmel Valley, including the ratio of cost to benefit received per user.
3. Promote inclusion of the septic waste mitigation problems in any Master Plan of the Monterey Peninsula.
4. Maintain the present high quality standards of our drinking water, using 1981 analysis, as supplied by the Water Management District.

### **Reclamation and Reuse**

1. Encourage the MPWMD to budget adequate funds for continuing reclamation and reuse of wastewater on the Peninsula.

2. Continue to promote the increased use of wastewater on the Peninsula.

### **Water Management**

1. Continue to support the coordination of the MPWMD with water related agencies.
2. Continue to promote responsive representation through mandatory rotation of the MPWMD Board Chair and appointed representatives, and the use of citizen advisory committees.
3. Continue League Observers at the meetings of the Water and Sanitary Boards.
4. Support the MPWMD's adoption of a priority system for customers' rights to water service.
5. Support the MPWMD's authority to make findings regarding the availability, quantity, and quality of water for future development within its service area or sphere of influence.
6. Support of the existing County Health Department and Monterey County Water Resources Agency roles to determine the source, quantity, and quality of water available for development within the county area outside the MPWMD.

### **Governance**

The LWVMP believes that an agency responsible for planning and implementing a water supply project should be directly elected and that voting should be on an at-large basis. League members believe that the agency should be local and have boundaries that generally coincide with the service area boundaries of the water purveyor and water supply sources, i.e., Carmel River and Seaside Aquifer. The League believes that planning and implementation for "new water supplies" should be the primary responsibility of one agency. The League supports the requirements of voter approval for major water supply projects.

### **Carmel River**

Maintain a healthy riparian habitat along the Carmel River, including reasonable protection of the steelhead.

### **Ownership of Water Distribution Systems**

The League studied ownership of water systems in 2007.

1. Water is a necessary resource for human life. As such, any entity responsible for the management, safety, and distribution of water should fulfill these criteria.
  - a. Maintain the viability of the resource. This includes meeting or exceeding water quality and environmental standards mandated by regulatory agencies and maintaining a sustainable water supply.
  - b. Maintain the physical assets including the water distribution and storage

- systems. This includes having comprehensive and long-range plans for such maintenance and improvements.
- c. Set fair and responsible rates. This includes addressing low-income users, encouraging conservation, addressing only local and immediate needs. It should not include costs that address unapproved future projects. Rate setting should also be conducted in an open and transparent manner, with information to support the rate setting easily available to the public.
  - d. Maintain an efficient and well-run local office. This includes responding quickly to complaints, having a well trained staff and a responsive management team, having an open and transparent decision-making process.
2. Purchasing a privately owned water system with public funds could be considered if:
- a. A significant number of the criteria in 1) are not met
  - b. Sufficient funding is available.
3. The processes for purchasing a privately owned water system are in this preferred order:
- a. Willing buyer and seller
  - b. Eminent domain via a local public agency
  - c. Eminent domain via the PUC
4. Assets of a water provider that should not be purchased would be sewers internal or external to the local watershed and wells and separate water systems that are external to the Monterey Peninsula Water system.
5. Any public agency overseeing the Monterey Peninsula water system should have a publicly elected governing board and be as local as possible and co-located with the water source and service area.
6. Water is a resource and not a commodity. Ownership of a water system by an international corporation is not supported.

## **SOCIAL POLITY**

### **Education**

In 1993, following the defeat of a state wide initiative to establish a school voucher system, the League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula concluded that it did not have sufficient information on the state of education in the public schools of the Monterey Peninsula. An extensive three year study of the three local school districts, grades K-12, was concluded in March, 1996. The following position was adopted as a consequence of this study.

#### **Position**

Clear learning standards with tests to determine student achievement should be

established by local school districts, the state, and the nation. Student achievement should be a factor in the evaluation of district superintendents, principals, and teachers. Provision should be made for quality education for students with varying goals, i.e., higher education at college or university or vocational. A primary goal of school districts and the state should be the reduction in class size. It is appropriate for school districts to make provision for instilling values as well as developing academic skills and imparting knowledge to students.

The League supports:

1. Establishing clear learning standards by the state at each grade level and in all areas of the curriculum. These standards should define what students should know and be able to do.
2. Establishing any additional standards deemed necessary by school districts, above and beyond those established by the state. Until such time as state standards are established, local school districts should define and adopt their own.
3. Frequent testing of pupils at each grade level in all areas of the curriculum to determine the level of attainment of local school district standards (and state and national standards when these are established).
4. Using state and national tests based on a standardized norm to assess the achievement of pupils.
5. Offering courses for the college bound as well as vocational preparation.
6. Requiring students to pass established minimum standards in English and math as a part of high school graduation requirements.
7. Involving business persons and the community at large in evaluating student preparation for the job market.
8. Using district resources to make specific provision for instilling values such as cooperation, honesty, responsibility, and citizen participation in pupils. These should be incorporated into general class instruction as much as possible without affecting the teaching of subject matter.
9. Establishing a clearly defined evaluation and accountability system for the district superintendent, principals, and teachers that includes student achievement as a factor. The learner's progress should be measured in terms of growth from an established baseline for that learner.
10. Providing opportunities for parental involvement in the educational policies affecting their children's learning.



11. Reducing the number of pupils per teacher with a goal of 1-- 20 at K through three and 1-25 at four through twelve and working with the state League to support a state mandated maximum class size of 25 pupils per teacher.
12. Exploring additional means of making open enrollment and interdistrict transfers available to all peninsula students, contingent upon space available. Priority should be given to students wanting to attend their neighborhood schools.
13. Consistently enforcing district enumerated consequences for unacceptable behavior.
14. Providing computer education programs, including opportunities to apply learned computer skills to academic work.
15. Directing district funds towards reducing class size.
16. Recommending that Monterey County require school districts to use a standard program budget format.
17. Using general education funds for staff development programs. However, the school year should not be less than 180 days, and alternative times outside the school year should be encouraged for staff development. Eight days for staff development seems excessive.

### **Housing**

The League of Women Voters supports measures which would ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing. We recognize that the scarcity of affordable housing constitutes a crisis. We also realize that the need for increasing housing must be balanced with the need for open space. We give attention to the stresses involved the impact on transportation and services of all sorts and the fact that there is a limit to the supply of land, water, wastewater treatment, and parking. We also take into account that the County and city general plans limit the amount of development. While recognizing these constraints, we support the following objectives:

1. To stress that priority be given to development of housing for low and moderate income persons.
2. To support both public and private programs aimed at providing affordable housing.
3. To encourage governmental officials to keep abreast of the most recent and innovative ways to promote increased affordable housing, i.e., innovative financing, land availability, streamlining the permit process, and assignment of a staff person to housing.
4. To encourage private and public entities to make increased land available for affordable housing.

5. To press for the dispersal of affordable housing throughout the community. This includes support for on-site inclusionary housing policies.
6. To encourage the State to employ sanctions to enforce Housing Elements of General Plans.
7. All available means of providing low-moderate income housing should be pursued by the city and county.
8. A more aggressive effort to obtain funding for housing programs should be made. Efforts should also include strong lobbying for maintenance of existing federal and state programs and expansion of such programs.
9. Emphasis of housing programs should be in the low-income sector. Programs should include provision of rental units as well as home ownership.

We support reasonable flexibility in zoning laws and development standards to keep building costs down. This could include cluster development, decreased height restrictions, smaller units, decreased setbacks, second units on existing family property, manufactured homes, and well-designed mobile home parks.

The League supports educating and motivating the community about affordable housing issues. This includes writing and distributing factual pamphlets, meeting with neighborhood associations, and sponsoring housing forums.

### **Probation**

The following position was adopted after a study in 1974:

The League supports measures which will enable Probation Systems of Monterey County to protect society by means of adequate assistance to both the courts and probationers.

#### **Objectives**

1. Probation Department: The Department should define for itself written goals and objectives that are reasonable and measurable. Pertinent records should be kept current so that the effectiveness of probation can be measured and evaluated on a regular basis.
2. Courts: Courts should explore a broad scope of sentencing options appropriate to offender needs, other than probation and fines, to assure that those placed on probation receive assistance to develop a more normal life in the community.
3. Community Resources: Adequate community resources should be made available to meet the individual needs of both juvenile and adult probationers.
4. Client Involvement: The probationer should be involved in determining needs in planning his or her own probation program.

5. Juvenile Justice Commission: As a citizens' group, the Juvenile Justice Commission should take more initiative in fulfilling its functions.

6. Personnel: Personnel should reflect the client population and culture and include non-- professionals as aids, paraprofessionals, and volunteers. Hiring policies should be sufficiently flexible to include a balance of education, experience, and personal attitudes and qualities which are sympathetic to human needs. Staff orientation, in--service training, and on-- going evaluations should be developed and periodically updated.

7. Funding: Consideration should be given to any and all sources of funding available to provide adequate supportive services within the community.

### **Public Assistance**

The League position grew out of a study on Monterey County Government. The Study Committee produced a detailed report entitled "Welfare in Monterey County, Burden or Opportunity?" which contained recommendations on administration of public assistance, services for families and children, and need for public information. In April, 1968, the League adopted the following position:

1. Support of Public Assistance Programs that respond to changing economic and social needs of the poor in Monterey County, including elderly and working poor.
2. Support of measures that will promote greater public understanding of public assistance in Monterey County.

### **Jails**

The Jails position was adopted spring 1972.

Support of measures which will enable the jail system of Monterey County to provide for the adequate protection and welfare of all persons involved.

#### **Objectives:**

1. The goals of detention should be the protection of society, fair and humane treatment of inmates, and the use of programs to assist offenders toward a more positive role in the community life upon release.
2. Alternatives to arrest and detention should be made available and effectively used in order to limit custody to only those considered a serious threat to society or themselves.
3. Sentencing practices should be encouraged that offer alternatives to detention whenever possible, with emphasis on treatment suited to the needs of the offender.

4. Physical facilities should adhere to all standards established by the State Board of Corrections and provide for the personal dignity, personal safety, health and welfare of all persons involved.
5. Jail policies and procedures should, as a minimum, meet both Mandatory and Recommended Jail Standards as established by the State Board of corrections, and assure the personal dignity, personal safety, health and welfare of all persons involved.
6. All available services and resources should be coordinated to provide positive assistance for reintegration of inmates to their communities.
7. Incentives should be provided for the on-going training and education of peace officers and corrections personnel to assure attainment of the highest possible standards of professional conduct under all conditions
8. Consideration should be given to any and all sources of funding available to assist in needed construction of facilities, special programs for inmates for personal training and education.

### **Consumer**

Positions adopted in 1974 and 1975

Support of adequate measures to protect the consumers of Monterey County and to provide consumer education for all (1974).

Objectives of the position are:

1. All consumer/business services should provide competent, qualified help in the mediation of complaints.
2. Any consumer/business services should have adequate publicity so that the public may know how to make use of the service.
3. Complaints from a business or consumer should be diligently and aggressively pursued and referrals made to appropriate agencies when necessary.
4. Because of the nature of our community, local consumer/business service should have bilingual staff who are sensitive to the community's needs.

### **Health**

Positions adopted in 1976 and 1977.

The League of Women Voters of Salinas supports measures which would promote equal access to medical care for all persons, regardless of race, national origin, sex, or income level.

1. We recognize the responsibility of both the public and private segments of the health care community to provide quality medical care to the entire population. Therefore, we would support systematic planning and cooperation among the members of the entire health care delivery system.
2. We recognize that health care should be delivered in the most economic and efficient manner feasible; however, the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County should make health care a priority within budget considerations.
3. The Board of Supervisors of Monterey County should explore methods for recovering payment from a non-resident.
4. The Board of Supervisors of Monterey County should adopt a comprehensive definition of medical indigence.
5. We recognize that the Natividad Medical Center is a viable and vital part of the total healthcare delivery system in the Salinas area and should remain a public entity. (1976)
  - a. We also recognize that the Family Practice Residency Program is an integral part of Natividad Medical Center. We strongly support this program.
  - b. We support a strong County Hospital Board of Trustees, which has good representation of the county population. The League of Women Voters of Salinas supports measures to include a Comprehensive Health Education Program in schools, including consumer health, mental-emotional health, drug use and misuse, family health, oral health, vision and hearing, nutrition, exercise, rest and posture, disease and disorders, environmental health hazards, and community health resources.
6. Family health should include human sexuality, along with other aspects of family health, rather than just sex education.
  - a. Family health should be taught at different levels, beginning as early as kindergarten. Information should be taught at schools, not values.
  - b. Sufficient materials should be available, including take-home materials.
  - c. Qualifications to teach a comprehensive health education program should be met through in-service training, and/or the use of specialists when appropriate. Peer education should also be encouraged.
  - d. Parent involvement could include parents assisting in class, parent involvement in setting up a program, parent advisory committees.

## **Recreation**

Recreation: Positions adopted spring 1967

1. Support of the use of the neighborhood concept of recreational development (including the school) as the best means of serving the people.

2. Support of the acquisition of more park space by the City of Salinas and a program of park development pursued as financially expedient and at state and/or national standards.
3. Support of expanded recreational activities suitably located for Salinas residents, especially increased use of school facilities for recreational purposes, and cooperation between schools, the city and other agencies in the field of recreation.