



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO

POSITIONS

Recommended Program for
League of Women Voters North County San Diego

2021-2022

Recommended Program for League of Women Voters North County San Diego, 2020-2021

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Changes to LWVNCSD 20-21 Positions and Areas of Education and Advocacy Document

The LWVNCSD positions document has been reformatted by Connie Ulrich and Carol Parker. This document contains the Positions and the Areas of Emphasis, as of January 2020. Language of original positions has been preserved except where printed in red. Bullets and numbering were changed to make the formatting as consistent as possible.

At the program planning meeting in January, the members indicated that they wanted the Escondido and the North County positions to be identified solely as LWVNCSD positions. They also requested that County/ Regional positions and Local league positions which address similar issues be co-located by topic. This is the file with are the changes already made.

- The Escondido and North County positions under one title, LWVNCSD
- The LWVSD positions were reviewed to see how they combined the County positions with their own. The listing of the local positions and the County positions by topic under the standard headings of GOVERNMENT, LAND USE & PLANNING, and SOCIAL POLICY.
- Just prior to the merger of the Escondido and North County leagues, MTA reviewed the Escondido positions and determined that the Escondido positions on Education, Health, Housing, Regional Government and Water were covered in other vertical state and national positions and could be dropped.
- An Introduction and Principles sections were added.
- A table of contents was added
- Headings were alphabetized and formatted for consistency
- While “objectives” were not identified in all positions, numbering of content was added for consistency
- Content font was changed to Arial, 12 pt.
- All bullets were changed to numbers.
- The board approved a Gun Control Advocacy Issue which was added to the Areas of Education and Advocacy
- The final SD County position on the Role of SD Government on the Impact of the Seriously Mentally Ill was modified by LWVSD. LWVNCSD board suggests that we adopt the new language that is in red.

INTRODUCTION

League of Women Voters North County San Diego (LWVNCSD) presents Issues for Education and Advocacy and updated Positions to its members every year for consent. The Issues for Education and Advocacy are the goals driving the actions our Local League will take in the coming year. Additionally, units within LWVNCSD (Carlsbad, Oceanside, and San Dieguito), will also present their goals for Issues of Education and Advocacy. These goals are driven by members’ interests, as determined from

discussions, surveys and leader commitments. Issues for Advocacy and Education guide LWV members' action for the coming year within the parameters of the Positions.

A local League position is established after members have studied an issue and achieved consensus on policies and practices that would best serve the public interest. The League acts only within its local, state and national positions: If the members have not studied and come to consensus on an issue, the League has no position and therefore can have no course of action.

This document contains LWVNCSD Positions, and County Positions that were adopted by the former League of Women Voters of San Diego County. "SD County" Positions refer to Positions that were adopted jointly by both local leagues in SD County: LWVNCSD and the League of Women Voters of San Diego (LWVSD). For the purpose of these Positions on issues, San Diego County and San Diego "region" are considered the same. The LWVNCSD and LWVSD cooperatively share the County/Regional Positions and take responsibility for monitoring governmental issues of the County of San Diego and those regional issues that are addressed by governments and agencies within the San Diego region.

Additionally, LWV Escondido has been dissolved, and the LWVNCSD has taken on its league positions.

PRINCIPLES

League Principles underlie all Positions and League actions and apply to every level of the League of Women Voters. The Principles embrace concepts of government to which the League subscribes. The Principles are rather broadly constructed making it necessary to exercise caution when developing narrowly focused action items. The League's national board suggests that any action on the Principles be taken in conjunction with current League positions to which they apply, and on which member agreement and understanding are known to exist. (LWVUS, Impact on Issues, 2012-2014)

A fundamental principle of the League of Women Voters is a belief in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters' principles support a democratic government that succeeds with the informed and active participation of its citizens. Therefore, governmental bodies must protect citizens' right to know by: giving adequate notice of proposed actions; holding open meetings; and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters' principles support the protection of every citizen's right to vote; every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters' principles support efficient and economical government with competent personnel, with a clear assignment of responsibility, with adequate financing, and with coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters' principles require that government should be responsive to the will of the people. Government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, just as it should promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest of its citizens. Government and its citizenry should share in the solutions of economic and social challenges that affect the general welfare. Government and its citizenry should promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that contribute to the solution of international economic and social problems.

The League of Women Voters' principles support cooperation with other nations as essential in the search for solutions to world problems; development of international organizations and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

ISSUES FOR EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

LWVNCSD Issues for Education and Advocacy

Continue Voter Service as our main focus and expand Voter Service to include voter education and voter turnout.

- Advocate transparency and participatory government.
- Continue outreach to promote citizen participation and engagement, for example, board appointments public offices and judicial voting.
- Promote civic engagement within diverse communities.

Promote gun control and prevention of gun violence in order to protect public health and save lives.

Raise Awareness of Climate Change.

- Write Climate Solutions Corner for the Voter and website
- Hold at least one climate change-themed general meeting

Support programs and policies to assist the homeless or those about to be homeless in meeting their basic human needs.

LWVNCSD Unit Issues for Education and Advocacy

Carlsbad Unit

- Educate voters on the new process of voting by districts in Carlsbad.
- Encourage Carlsbad members to educate themselves to the issues before the city council by attending or viewing on-line city council meetings and by subscribing to city notifications.

Oceanside Unit

- Provide support for overnight parking options for people sleeping in their vehicles.
- Support improvements to the affordable housing program to increase in lieu fees and require more units to actually get built.
- Participate in Voter Service.

San Dieguito Unit

- Act to increase LWV visibility in our area by supporting Voter Service such as registering citizens to vote, presenting ballot measures to citizen groups, moderating local candidate forums, helping schools with their elections and use research on voter apathy to help voters become informed and want to vote.

LWVNCSD POSITIONS

Positions on Government

Budget Planning

Public hearings should be held early enough in the process to affect policy decisions and should be held at a time and place convenient to the public.

Objectives:

1. Support informed and active citizen participation in city budget making processes.
2. Support boards and commissions holding public hearings on the budget section dealing with their special interests.
3. Support widespread publicity prior to priority-setting hearings to ensure public participation

Citizen Participation

Support citizen participation in local government.

Objectives:

1. Improve the dissemination of understandable information on city government proceedings.
2. Increase and improve opportunities for citizen participation.
3. Schools should educate students in the value of public service in local governmental bodies.

Citizen Participation in County Government and San Diego Regional Areas (SD County LWV, 1978)

Support of informed and active participation of citizens in San Diego County government and regional agencies requiring:

1. adequate notice and information about proposed actions, using various venues of publicity;
2. provision for public access to meetings, agendas, reports, records and persons making decisions;
3. emphasis on citizen participation at early stages of the decision-making process;
4. well-defined channels for citizen input and review;
5. broad-based citizen participation that reflects all aspects of the community--- geographical, economic and social;
6. consideration of the effect of times and locations of meetings, agenda item placement, transportation and other costs on citizen participants;
7. adequate funding, staffing and training to achieve effective citizen participation.

Civil Engagement

Promote civil engagement in political speech with an underlying respect for different viewpoints, a willingness to listen to each other, and a joint commitment to act in the public good.

Objectives:

1. Raise public awareness of civil engagement basics of objectivity, respect, and avoidance of hostility
2. Support educational opportunities on civil engagement fundamentals.

Financing County Government (SD County, 1992)

The League supports County governmental services and programs designed to meet the unique needs of the San Diego region, organized for public accessibility. The financial adequacy, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of these services and programs should be closely monitored by elected officials and by the public. Competent staffs who are fairly compensated should carry out implementation.

Programs should be evaluated and prioritized for best use of available funds; long-term costs of short-term economies should be considered. Preventive measure should have high priority.

Funding for maintenance should be included in the planning of capital projects and in future annual budgets.

The League also supports substantial funding by the state and federal governments of the programs they mandate, with periodic review of state-mandated but locally administered programs to adjust funding formulas to reflect changed circumstances.

Proposals for reform of the state and local governmental financial structure should be developed by a statewide commission composed of members experienced in legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, as well as citizens knowledgeable about the electorate and the economy of California, and including a representative from the League of Women Voters.

Fire Protection (SD County, 2008-10)

The League supports: A county regional fire protection and emergency medical system; a sustainable source of funding for prevention and suppression of fires; increased cooperation among cities and unincorporated fire services as may apply; and expansion of mutual aid fire protection agreements.

The League supports the following actions:

1. Designate dedicated and stable revenue sources to fund necessary and efficient fire protection services.
2. Encourage the merger of fire departments where feasible and support contracting for fire services by smaller jurisdictions.
3. Maintain the present system of both paid and volunteer staffing.
4. Enforce codes and consolidate standards for fire-safe developments, general construction, and building material.
5. Promote citizen/homeowner fire-safe education programs and encourage understanding and protection of the county's unique ecosystem.
6. Support residents' cell phone registration on the Mass Notification System (Reverse 911).

Regional Planning (SD County, 1970)

1. Support for flexible countywide planning, with board outlines that provide guidelines and leave the details and implementation at the local support level.
2. Continuation and strengthening of the San Diego Association of Governments or other councils of government.
3. Support for an emphasis on conserving the physical resources of San Diego County, while providing people-oriented services.

Structure of Government in San Diego County and Region (SD County LWV, 1986, 2001, 2002)

- I. For the County of San Diego we support:
 1. a Board of Supervisors of more than five members;
 2. supervisor districts drawn to maintain the integrity of communities;
 3. the election of the District Attorney and the Sheriff;
 4. the appointment of all other department heads.
- II. In the Field of regional government we support:
 1. State action to expand the responsibilities and authority of existing, consolidated or future regional decision-making body/bodies to:
 - a. Prepare, implement and maintain a comprehensive regional plan and infrastructure capital improvement program.
 - b. Administer the plan, the project review, and enforcement process to ensure local compliance with the comprehensive regional plan, including
 - i. review of the components of local general plans that have regional implications
 - ii. review of major development projects having regional impact, including environmental analysis, for consistency with the comprehensive plan and regional infrastructure plan
 - iii. review of any plans for siting a new airport or expanding Lindberg Field by the Regional Airport Authority for consistency with the region's comprehensive plan; a public vote should occur if a new airport site is proposed
 - iv. review of local housing elements for compliance with state housing element law, which includes addressing regional share goals.
 - c. Allocate to or withhold federal and state funds from a local jurisdiction for infrastructure, affordable housing projects, and for protection of natural resources, open space and agricultural lands in accordance with compact growth principles. The use of eminent domain for regionally significant projects should only be utilized as a solution of last resort.
 2. Regional wide governmental bodies that reflect the population distribution and environmental, social and economic diversity of the county. We support a directly elected body from newly established districts (of no more than 350,000 population) with fixed, staggered terms. The Policy Advisory Committee should consist of elected office-holders appointed from the County's incorporated cities and the county.
 3. Regional over local jurisdiction when efficiency in the delivery of services can be clearly measured and could be improved by increasing the scale of operations;
 4. A regional governing agency as the coordinator of intergovernmental policies and selected services within the region (the services to be coordinated include those

administered by agencies established by the Legislature, such as transit, water supply, and port/tidelands activities);

5. A regional governing agency as the advocate and representative of the San Diego region's collective general purpose governments at the state and federal level; and proportional financial support of the local council of governments by its members.

III. For all governmental agencies we support:

1. measures which assure the accessibility, visibility, and accountability of public officials;
2. measures which recognize community character and values; and efforts to reduce and consolidate the number of special districts where feasible.

Positions on Land Use and Planning

Agriculture (County, 2016)

The League believes that the county agricultural industry is of historical, environmental and economic importance to our region. The county possesses unique and separate properties and challenges that differ from the rest of California and the United States. The arid nature of its climate, lack of water sources and high land costs present a special challenge to agriculture in our region.

Support the preservation and expansion of land used for agricultural purposes through adopted General and Specific Plans, zoning and permanent dedication programs in order to encourage the long-term presence and viability of the agricultural industry in an environmentally sound manner.

Challenges to Agriculture in San Diego County

1. Water - Encourage farmers to improve water conservation, selection of crops appropriate for our climate and end all runoff of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers from their fields and groves, as currently recommended by the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (UC ANR). In addition, local governments and water districts, as well as the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) should be encouraged to facilitate ever evolving best agricultural water practices recommended by UC ANR, or similar organizations, through incentives and innovative programs.
 - a. Support the availability and use of recycled water for a dependable, sustainable source of agricultural water.
 - b. Monitor the implementation of the 2013 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act goals because groundwater, which may represent 9% of our regional water source, needs to be preserved and protected from contaminants.
 - c. Continue support of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) programs and pricing that facilitate the provision of regional agricultural water, when appropriate.

2. Climate Change

Support efforts of the county agricultural industry to adapt to climate change through promotion of research, development of new resources and implementation of environmentally sensitive technologies and conservation strategies.
3. Pests and Diseases

Support government and privately funded efforts to protect the agricultural industry and the environment from pests and diseases. Such programs include the University of California Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program and the California Detector Dog Teams.
4. Pollinator Protection

Support efforts to protect, maintain and foster a sustainable, healthy population of bees and other pollinators to support county agriculture.
5. Labor

Support immigration policies at the local, state and federal levels which allow for a legal labor force to work in local agriculture.
6. Opportunities
 - a. Support new alternative water use farming practices and technologies which result in long term, sustainable, efficient water use.
 - b. Support research on, and implementation of, sustainable agricultural practices at all levels including production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management.
 - c. Support an understanding and awareness of the concept and value of sustainable agriculture both within the agricultural community and among the public.

Land Use

1. Support comprehensive general planning of land use that is realistic, forward-looking and flexible, and is concerned with water quality and air quality together with economic impact, changing conditions, and community resources.
2. Support Escondido's Growth Management & Neighborhood Protection Act (1998) regarding development proposals that are inconsistent with Escondido's General Plan.

Land Use (SD County, 1975)

Support of a regional growth policy for the county which:

1. recognizes the difference in community needs for life-support systems;
2. assures the provision of comprehensively planned and managed capital facilities and general services, including schools and transportation accessibility to jobs, and which minimizes urban sprawl and maintains established patterns of growth and community identity within an area;
3. implements community planning as defined by State law and allows maximum citizen participation and self-determination in community planning and decision making;
4. promotes conservation of critical natural resources, including valuable agricultural lands and open space, and protects or improves air and water quality;
5. reaffirms the provision of adequate parks and recreational needs, including land acquisition;
6. enforces the provision of fair, decent, balanced housing by choice, type and costs for all residents of San Diego County.

Parks

Parks and Recreation

Support measures to increase the quality and quantity of parks and recreation programs. Support park systems that are adequate in relation to population and usage. Support a budget that assures necessary acquisition and maintenance. Review additional areas; e.g. trails; possible study to determine which North County cities have adopted city-use plans for parks and recreation.

Objectives:

1. Encourage proper usage and creative care.
2. Preserve open space and acquire future park sites now.
3. Preserve the natural assets of the area, such as lagoons, watersheds, flood plains, beaches, and bluffs.
4. Provide for recreational facilities which appeal to all ages and interest groups.
5. Provide for more neighborhood parks and expand year-round recreation programs.
6. Investigate additional sources of income and ways of financing expanded local parks and recreation programs.

Parks (SD County, 1973)

1. Support of the provision of regional and local parks and recreation facilities for all the residents of San Diego County whether they live in an incorporated or unincorporated community.
2. Support of an equitable, broadly based method of financing for parks and recreation.
3. All methods of acquisition should be considered.
4. Support of the acquisition of park and recreation lands before or concurrent with development.
5. Facilities should be provided according to need, with reasonable accessibility.
6. Support of efficiency of administration.

Transportation

Public Transportation in North County San Diego

The League of Women Voters of North County San Diego supports the use of public transit to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled on our roads and highways. Public transit should be safe, efficient, convenient, and cost effective. It should serve all segments of the population as well as geographic needs. Such systems should be integrated with local land use decisions and supported by extensive public education.

Objectives:

The North County Transit District (NCTD) should:

1. Take a strong role in coordinating local and use patterns with the needs of public transport.
2. Take the lead in improving public education about public transportation issues.
3. Provide better service to low-density areas by coordinating and encouraging the use of existing services such as taxi vouchers, dial-a-ride van pools, and shuttles.
4. Make readily available to the public reports about NCTD's cost efficiency and productivity
5. Evaluate ways to increase income beyond current sources.

6. Analyze ways to increase ridership through service improvements and the regional goal for transportation.

Transportation (SD County, 1990)

Support of a transportation system that meets the following standards:

1. Safety
2. favorable environmental qualities
3. convenience
4. availability to all
5. adequate funding from fees, assessments and taxes at all levels of government.

Support of transportation plans as an integral part of land use plans.

Support of transportation planning and decision making as the responsibility of a regional planning organization, structured to be responsive and responsible to the public.

Objectives:

1. Public and private educational transit systems that meet safety standards with regular inspections.
2. Transportation plans that consider the environment including air quality and sensitive lands.
3. Convenient access to transportation systems.
4. Transportation systems supported largely from general funds, with consideration given to all appropriate funding alternatives.
5. Land use planning by all local governments that considers transportation and circulation with the goal of minimizing motor vehicle traffic.
6. Transportation standards that are set at the regional level and that consider all modes of transportation.
7. Local transportation planning that considers the larger region in which it is situated.

Positions on Social Policy

Child Advocacy (SD County, 1980)

I. Child Abuse and Neglect:

Children of San Diego County have the right to grow up free of abuse and neglect, and so the League supports:

1. emergency facilities including interim residences and a 24-hour hotline with information and referral capabilities;
2. systematic training of those professionals involved with children to identify, respond to and treat victims;
3. development of foster homes plus training and resources of providers of care;
4. increased availability of treatments, such as counseling, to families under stress as well as to victims of abuse and neglect;
5. coordination of all agency services dealing with abuse and neglect;
6. increased emphasis on prevention of abuse and neglect through awareness programs and parenting education.

II. Child Day Care

The League supports:

1. provisions of diverse, alternative forms of day care for children, responsive to the widely different social and economic needs of families;
2. creation of public, private and family day care programs that emphasize developmental rather than custodial activities, varying curricula to meet the needs of children of all ages, offering flexible hours on a sliding fee scale;
3. parent education and involvement as essential to quality day care;
4. government efforts to:
 - a. allocate funds to meet day care needs;
 - b. streamline zoning and licensing laws;
 - c. increase supervision and training for day care providers;
 - d. expand infant care services;
5. financial incentives to businesses to provide day care and tax exemptions to families for day care costs;
6. allotment of day care sites in housing and industrial developments; the use of school sites as one alternative for the placement of day care programs.

III. Juvenile Justice Prevention:

The League supports:

1. a juvenile delinquency prevention effort that gives priority to providing opportunities for all youth to participate constructively in society and that will reduce the predisposition toward delinquency;
2. educational programs which are relevant to child and youth needs and that prepare students for life experiences such as initial employment, family living and peer relationships;
3. collaboration among schools and community resources to provide after-school activities, utilizing cross-age and peer involvement and making use of the skills and knowledge of the behavioral and life sciences;
4. information sharing and joint efforts among public and private agencies to improve services to the youth at-risk, and to develop primary prevention programs;
5. cooperative community efforts to provide practical job and skills training leading to useful work experience;
6. coordination and improvement of delinquency prevention services through public policy decisions in planning, evaluation and funding;
7. adequate funding that assures continuity, and provides accountability for basic services, and encourages innovative programs that show promise of positive results.

The positions on Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Day Care are integral parts of a Juvenile Delinquency Prevention program. Together, these three parts constitute the Child Advocacy position.

Educational Facilities

Support measures to ensure availability of adequate school facilities and teachers. Provision for financing school site acquisition and building construction should be an integral part of any proposed residential development in the same manner as other services. Support the use of schools for community activities.

Objectives:

1. Delay the construction of large housing developments in those districts where sufficient funds are not available for schools.
2. Investigate alternatives to bonding as the source of school monies.
3. Encourage participation by school districts in community planning, especially as it affects schools.

Homelessness (SD County, 2018)

There are an increasing number of persons who are homeless in San Diego County. The problem must be humanely addressed for the benefit of these individuals and families, for our communities, and for our society.

The League of Women Voters of North San Diego County and the League of Women Voters San Diego support programs and policies to assist those who are homeless or about to become homeless in meeting their basic human needs.

Permanent supportive housing should be the goal of San Diego County and local jurisdictions within the County for those who are homeless.

Strategies that should be developed to achieve that goal include:

1. "Housing First" policy that provides, without prerequisites, temporary, transitional or other initial housing for persons who are homeless;
2. Provision of supportive services, including effective case management, advocacy, and treatment for mental health and substance abuse as needed to help those who are homeless succeed in obtaining and maintaining housing;
3. A region-wide system with clearly identified goals and measureable results to optimize cooperation, data sharing, and resource development among governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations with the overarching goal to end existing homelessness and prevent future homelessness;
4. Rescission by local jurisdictions and San Diego County of policies, practices, regulations and laws that criminalize, penalize, or permit the harassment of homeless persons for engaging in necessary life activities in public spaces (i.e., sleeping, standing, camping, etc.);
5. Provision of facilities to meet the needs of those who are homeless for personal hygiene, storage, and trash removal, as well as safe spaces for tents, cars or recreational vehicles used for sleeping.

Migrants/Immigrants/Working Homeless in North County San Diego

Support measures such as thorough media coverage and League-sponsored community meetings to promote public understanding of migrant/immigrant/at risk homeless issues.

Support a strong role for local governmental agencies and policy-making bodies in meeting the needs of the migrants/immigrants/working homeless.

These agencies and governing bodies should:

1. Conduct a needs survey leading to the formulation of policy and work plan, including goals and measurable objectives.

2. Create full-time city staff positions where feasible to deal with migrants/immigrants/working homeless concerns.
3. Provide guidance through the system for citizen organizations concerned with aiding these groups; for example, guidance from the bodies or agencies which have jurisdiction over land use, legal matters, and zoning.
4. Facilitate the provision of adequate and innovative housing.
5. Facilitate employment through the establishment of hiring halls.
6. Provide supplementary services such as phone banks, mailing addresses, showers, and language instruction in such locations as emergency shelters, hiring halls, and libraries.

Population Impacts/Sustainable Future

Support policy planning and decision making that consider the carrying capacity of our region and earth.

Support population limitations to protect a sustainable future. Support lifestyles and communities that are sustainable without further damage to the environment, including but not limited to air quality, open space, wetlands, and other natural resources.

Objectives:

1. Support education of League members and the public about the rate of population growth and the social, environmental, and governmental impacts associated with a large and expanding population.
2. Support public approval by majority vote before major changes are made to General Plan land use provisions in North County Communities.
3. Support giving voters a strong voice in planning growth.

Public Libraries (SD County, 1984)

Support of public libraries as a basic service of government with adequate funding by local governments. Support of free access by all persons to public library service as a means for lifelong education and learning and as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

Objectives:

1. Increased recognition of the essential service of free public libraries in a democratic society and government's basic obligation to provide the service with adequate funding.
2. Use of all available funding for public libraries
 - a. recognition by local governments that they have the prime responsibility to finance public libraries;
 - b. increased state and federal aid for public libraries, especially but not exclusively for capital improvements, special library projects, and inter-library cooperation;
 - c. legislation for special tax for public libraries, if and when deemed feasible;
 - d. continued and increased funding from private sources for special projects, with library control of policy retained;
 - e. opposition to charging fees for basic library services;
3. Measures designed to increase the efficiency and economy of public library operations;

- a. consolidation of library functions or systems when service would be improved at the same cost or maintained at a lower cost;
- b. use of volunteers to supplement paid staff only if a librarian is available for their training and supervision;
- c. increased automation in all aspects of library operations to release staff for direct service to the public;
4. Recognition of the need for branch libraries, with limited functions;
5. Improved level and quality of public library service achieved through consolidation of functions and/or systems when consolidation is politically feasible and when it achieves cost savings that will not adversely affect, and wherever possible will improve the quality of service.

Role of the San Diego Government in Responding to the Impact of the Seriously Mentally Ill (SD County, 1997)

Regarding this County behavioral system, the League supports the following objectives to benefit those affected by serious mental illness:

1. Provide treatment, crisis management, long-term services and support. Services should be reasonably accessible to residents in all regions of the County, and should be taken to individuals who are not candidates for clinic-run care. Integrated services and support should include timely and affordable access to all necessary health care providers and medications that fully address physical health, mental health, and substance use disorders.
2. Ensure that the integrated mental health and substance use disorder services are part of a behavioral health system throughout the County, with full services available regardless of point of entry into the system (no wrong door).
3. Ensure outreach services in all regions of the County for all residents who might need or benefit from the behavioral health system, using partnerships with the faith community, businesses, and other gateways into the community as well as traditional mental health community members.
4. Exercise careful management, and leverage when possible, funds received from all sources in order to maintain continuity of services and supports during all economic conditions. Provide information and accountability for County behavioral health programs and spending in ways that the public can easily access.
5. Provide an array of supports; a full range of housing that includes Housing first and other supported housing options, including shelter beds and permanent affordable housing; supported employment; supported education; opportunities for spiritual development; exercise and diet; training and support for family members; and inclusion of families in service and support development.
6. Provide specialized law enforcement/ clinical teams in all areas of the County, available when needed to respond to possible behavioral health crises on a 24/7 basis.
7. Collect and use meaningful input from a broad range of community stakeholders, including people affected by serious mental illness, via innovative outreach to target audiences, with participation with collaborative groups that support the system of care.