

Positions Held by LWV Dearborn-Dearborn Heights

Local Positions

2020-2022

LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A. ORGANIZATION

1. Salaries for the members of local boards of education
2. Middle school and four-year high school (grades 9-12)
3. Increased community use of school facilities

B. EQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The following criteria should be used to ensure equality of educational opportunity to all students:

1. Educational input
2. Needs of individual students
3. Educational outcome and dollars spent

C. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. Improve program and services through study and continuing evaluation
2. Seek measures to improve educational outcome
 - a. Adequate budget allocations for program development, materials and in-service training of staff
 - b. Competency evaluation in academic subjects, to address individual strengths and weaknesses and increase competency, leading to a diploma that guarantees proficiency
 - a. Expand vocational education
3. Expand the study and practice of government at all school levels, to instill the value of participation in the political process.

D. FINANCE

Separate local control and fiscal responsibility for the local school system and HFCC

1. Prefer operating millage proposals for a 2- or 3- year period
2. Separate voted capital improvement millage
 - a. Separate adequate voted millage allotments, financial accounting and reporting procedures for HFCC
 - b. Fiscal management by an expert fiscal agent
 - c. Opposition to piecemeal operating millage.

E. PERSONNEL

1. Support annual performance review of all employees.
 - a. Portfolio of teachers to include input from principal, peers, parents and students when feasible.
 - b. Portfolio of administrators should include input from superiors, faculty, parents and students
 - c. Evaluation of non-instructional staff by appropriate superior.
2. Support incentives for early retirement if it results in financial savings to the district.

DEARBORN CITY PLANNING

A. PLANNING PROCESS

1. Citizens should participate in the planning process.

Citizens should be independent and strong members of the City Planning Commission involved in determining goals for the Master Plan and plans for local neighborhoods.
2. Education of the public toward an understanding of city planning and the Dearborn Master Plan is important. The Zoning Board of Appeals and the City Plan Commission should work together, perhaps as part of the same department.

B. MASTER PLAN

1. There should be a Master Plan that is a meaningful, vital part of the total community planning process.
2. A Master Plan should be developed that has goals in all major areas, including:
 - a. Transportation, both public and private
 - b. Commercial development
 - c. Natural environment
 - d. Cultural recreation for all ages
 - e. Public facilities of all types
 - f. Historic preservation
 - g. Multi-unit housing

- h. Convalescent and retirement facilities
- i. Neighborhood community concepts reflecting current situations
- j. These goals cannot be static but should change and should be adopted by the City Council.
- 3. The Master Plan should be developed from input secured from persons in many areas.
- 4. Zoning should be coordinated closely with the goals of the Master Plan. A public official should have the responsibility for seeing that this is done.

C. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- 1. Support of measures to increase the amount of diversified park land within Dearborn city limits to meet the National Recreation Association standards.
- 2. Park land should be increased in proportion to population growth and be located throughout the city according to population density. Some parks should act as buffer zones and population control.
- 3. Park land should serve diverse needs:
 - a. Facilities for both active and passive recreation
 - b. Park lands adjacent to senior citizens housing
 - c. Public gardens and natural areas
- 4. Unique and natural areas should be preserved with priority given to the Rouge River flood plains through:
 - a. Open space zoning of the flood plains
 - b. Stringent enforcement of such zoning regulations
- 5. Publicly owned land suitable for parks should not be sold. We specifically encourage cooperation between the Dearborn Board of Education and the City of Dearborn to preserve land for parks.
- 6. Publicly owned land natural areas should receive consideration for parks before privately owned natural areas.
- 7. We oppose the extension of the Edward Hines Drive south of Ford Road.
- 8. We oppose channelization or any other alteration of the Rouge River north of Michigan Avenue.

D. ZONING CHANGES

- 1. There should be a buffer zone between areas of differing uses.
- 2. Street and traffic patterns should be such that homes, business and industry will have adequate access and reasonable protection from each other.
- 3. We oppose encroachment into residential areas of parking in connection with business or industrial uses.
- 4. In areas of widespread changes due to City actions:
 - a. Residents losing their homes, owned or rented, should receive help in resettlement and moving costs, but not subsidized rents.
 - b. Residents remaining in an area should have adequate public facilities.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS CITY PLANNING (Amended 1998)

- A. Support a balanced budget for Dearborn Heights by:
 - 1. Encouraging the state and federal funded mandated programs.
 - 2. Expanding the City's tax base.
 - 3. Encouraging economy in government.
 - 4. Bonding as an alternative for funding capital improvements.
- B. Support recreation in Dearborn Heights through:
 - 1. Increased acreage for parks, particularly small neighborhood parks.
 - 2. Improved facilities, including swimming pools.
 - 3. Encouraging cooperation between school boards, city parks and the recreational department to provide year-round community facilities and programs.
- C. Support careful planning and zoning for land use in Dearborn Heights by:
 - 1. Encouraging industrial and commercial development
 - 2. Encouraging senior citizen housing
 - 3. Encouraging neighborhood renewal
 - 4. Encouraging a beautification plan for Dearborn Heights.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- A. Maintain adequate staffing
- B. Continuation of auxiliary police force.
- C. Continuous training for all personnel including diversity training
- D. Development of good public relations:
 - 1. By considering every public contact an opportunity for promoting profitable communications
 - 2. By recognition for off-duty service to the community

The following positions were originally held by the former Detroit Metropolitan Area LWV and were adopted by the local league when the DMA LWV was disbanded.

A. TRANSPORTATION

(As amended at the League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area 28th Annual Convention, June 23, 2001)

Supports a Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Transit System.

1. Includes all governmental units under a single transportation agency. Governmental units should not be able to opt out of this system.
2. Goals should be to:
 - a. Provide transportation services.
 - b. Revitalize the urban area.
 - c. Reduce air pollution.
 - d. Primary attention should be given to:
 - i. Increasing mobility throughout the area.
 - ii. Helping the general population to get jobs.
 - iii. Reducing the use of the private automobile.
3. Supports a Transportation Agency governed by an appointed board of 8 to 13 members.
 - a. Term of office should be 3-4 years, overlapping, part-time and with minimal salaries.
 - b. Board members should represent both population and governmental units.
 - c. Appointments should be by a combination of agencies to include SEMCOG and the Governor.
 - d. The Mayor of Detroit and the County Board of Commissioners could be included in the appointing combination of agencies.
4. If there is an elected board:
 - a. The election should be nonpartisan.
 - b. Public officials or employees should not be restricted from holding office, but each potential appointee should be carefully evaluated for possible conflict of interest.
5. Board members whether elected or appointed, should not be for an indefinite number of years.
6. Supports a minimum level of service provided to all. This should include:
 - a. Urban and outlying areas.
 - b. The elderly.
 - c. The handicapped.
 - d. The greatest level of service should go to heavily populated areas. Job locations should be considered in establishing transportation routes.
 - e. There should be a mix of linehaul* and specialized bus service to outlying areas for those individuals who are dependent on public transportation for mobility.
 - f. Curb-to-curb and door-to-door should be available such as paratransit** types of services.
 - g. Park-and-ride type services should be available to avoid single occupancy vehicles.
 - h. There should be selected fare reductions for the handicapped, elderly the young and
 - i. students.
7. Supports funding for public transportation from a combination of federal, state and local taxes that supports modes of public transportation.
 - a. Vehicle-related taxes and taxes from other sources, such as general revenue and sales taxes should be included.
 - b. Extra local demand-responsible transportation should be funded mainly by the community served. A mix of other funding sources may be more appropriate for most types of special service or to meet the needs of certain populations.
 - c. There should be coordination among various types of special and linehaul* transportation services.
8. Supports statewide general purpose transportation fund.
 - a. Allocation from the fund should be determined by need.
 - b. State Department of Transportation should give equal attention to all modes of transportation.
 - c. The director of the Department should have experience in all modes of transportation.

* linehaul = bus lines of straight routes ** paratransit = new terminology defining other than 'linehaul'

B. HOUSING

1. Support of equal rights for all regardless of race or sex. Action to provide equal access to housing.
2. Promotion of equal housing opportunity and encouragement of stability of integrated neighborhoods in the Detroit metropolitan area through implementation of open occupancy laws and promotion of an adequate supply of housing for lower income families.

C. WASTEWATER TREATMENT/RIVER BASINS

1. LWVDMA supports treatment of a river basin in its entirety. Work for adequate studies, consideration of all the needs of the river basins, coordination of actions of governmental agencies, protection of the flood plains from misuse and filling, evaluation of the need for improvements, and elimination of water pollution.
2. Recognizing that watershed boundaries rarely coincide with governmental boundaries, the LWVDMA believes that wastewater management, whether undertaken by one government or a combination of governments, should be planned, coordinated, and reviewed on a regional basis.

D. WASTEWATER TREATMENT

1. GOALS OF A WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE:
 - a. Consideration of long range social, environmental and economic costs and benefits as well as immediate effects.
 - b. Improve water quality.
 - c. Concern for Lake Erie.
 - d. Preservation of natural drainage systems including lakes, rivers, floodplains and wetlands.
 - e. Health protection and resources recovery.
2. TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS and recognizing that local conditions vary, methods of wastewater management will vary, but could include:
 - a. Pollution control as close to source as possible.
 - b. Retention/detention, screening and/or filtering of storm water runoff.
 - c. Separation of storm and sanitary sewers.
 - d. Industrial pollution control.
 - e. Preventive measures such as street sweeping, catch-basin cleaning.
 - f. Limiting the use of deicing materials, fertilizers, etc.
3. LWVDMA SUPPORTS MEASURES THAT:
 - a. Encourage saving and planting of vegetation.
 - b. Protect wetlands and flood plains.
 - c. Require on-site detention in areas of new development.
 - d. Encourages open space preservation.
4. THESE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY:
 - a. Enactment and enforcement of local ordinances and resolutions.
 - b. Requiring local governments to prepare an EIS when projects significantly affect water quality.
 - c. Participation of local governments in watershed councils.
 - d. Discouraging the establishment of mosquito abatement districts because of adverse effects on water quality.
 - e. Encouraging tax policies as an incentive to preserve drainage systems.
 - f. Having factual information provided to citizens so that there is an opportunity for a meaningful public input at all stages of the decision-making process.
5. Local officials should:
 - a. Take water quality into consideration when making land use decisions.
 - b. Consider the secondary consequences- economic, social and environmental when planning sewer development.
6. WATER TREATMENT PLANTS
 - a. The degree of water treatment should depend on local conditions, most importantly on the condition of receiving waters.
 - b. Secondary treatment is a minimum goal and advanced treatment should be sought.
 - c. Should be built with the potential for advanced treatment.
 - d. When siting treatment plants, the following should be considered:
 - i. The water quantity and quality of the natural river system.
 - ii. The efficiency of operation.
 - iii. Surface water flow in natural areas.
 - iv. Cost effectiveness including transportation of sewage, ability to handle emergencies, social concerns and vulnerability to disaster.
 - v. Should be required to use methods to detect and treat severe types of polluted influents.
 - e. We favor modular construction and monitoring to prevent breakdowns of the systems and to protect receiving waters.
 - f. Recognizing that the treatment of water is costly, both financially and in terms of energy consumption, we favor a public education program in water conservation.

E. MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE LEAGUE GOALS IN THE ROUGE RIVER BASIN

- a. Coordinated long range planning by state, county and local authorities for the entire River Rouge Basin in both flood control and pollution abatement, with special attention to environmental factors.
- b. Establishment of a basin policy for river basin management at the state level.

- c. Legislation that will protect and encourage proper treatment of the River Rouge and its flood plain and sufficient funds and machinery to enforce such legislation.
- d. Management and development according to a basic policy and appropriate to the particular environmental needs of the River Rouge area.
- e. Machinery that provides for research of alternative flood control and pollution abatement measures and an adequate framework to analyze framework to analyze alternative measures and make intelligent decisions.
- f. Procedures to provide ample information and opportunity for citizen participation in planning and policy decisions which will affect the future of the River Rouge Basin area.
- g. Termination of future plans for channelization of any portion of the River Rouge Basin area because of channelization:
 - i. Causes soil erosion as a result of cutting back of river banks and accompanying removal of plant growth.
 - ii. Destroys plant and animal water life from sedimentation from soil erosion.
 - iii. Causes more flooding in adjacent river and floodplain areas due to quicker runoff.
 - iv. Induces pollution because the natural pollutant removal through plant root systems has been eliminated.
 - v. Destroys nesting and spawning areas of aquatic and small animal life.
 - vi. Depletes ground water due to quick runoff.
 - vii. Does not in any way upgrade the water quality of the river.
 - viii. Is a very expensive process for the dubious benefits derived.