

## Appendix A: Current Positions

### LWV WILMETTE POSITIONS

#### CHILD CARE

- 1984-(formerly under "Planning and Zoning") - SUPPORT for the availability of before school child-care in school buildings. After-school care should be available at suitable sites, and the existing Park District program should be extended if need is determined. Both before- and after-school child-care programs should be financed on a fee basis.

#### GUN CONTROL

- 1988-SUPPORT of further restrictions to existing handgun control laws in Wilmette.
- SUPPORT the ordinance prohibiting the possession and sale of handguns in Wilmette, based on the Morton Grove Handgun Control Ordinance, passed in 1981, and including all the exemptions specified in that ordinance.
- SUPPORT of a local licensing procedure and police background check for those exempt from the ordinance.
- Recognition of the special needs of the business community and RECOMMENDATION that the Wilmette Police Department work with businesses to provide adequate security.

#### HOME RULE

- 1976-continued MONITORING of the budget of Wilmette and the legal implementation of home rule by Wilmette.

#### HOUSING FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- 1987-SUPPORT for a wide range of housing options to be available to the developmentally disabled and the mentally ill in Wilmette and New Trier Township. The League recognizes there is a strong need for this housing in both Wilmette and New Trier Township. The need for housing for these two special populations exists today and will continue to exist in the future. The League urges Wilmette and New Trier Township to respond to this need. Housing options should include group homes and clustered and scattered-site apartments. As building uses change in Wilmette, consideration should be given to adapting these buildings to house these two special populations. In some parts of the township, where there is more undeveloped land, other creative housing solutions might be sought.

- SUPPORT of a zoning designation in Wilmette for all residential areas that will allow four or more unrelated individuals (defined as mentally ill or developmentally disabled) to live together in a group home setting. (Group homes are often divided into two size categories: six to eight persons, and nine to fifteen persons.) To promote normalized family living, group homes should be scattered throughout the community. The zoning designation should facilitate the establishment of housing for these two special populations.
- SUPPORT of a continued role for New Trier Township in educating and developing an awareness of the need for housing for special populations throughout the township. The township could serve as a coordinator for local communities as they address the need for housing for special populations. The township should provide funding for agencies that want to develop group homes. In addition, current funding to existing agencies should be directed to housing needs of the group these agencies now serve.

#### HUMAN RELATIONS

- 1975-SUPPORT and/or INITIATE efforts within the community to reduce tensions in the human relations area.

#### LIBRARY

- 1978-Continued SUPPORT of adequate library services in order to meet the needs of the community.
- RECOMMENDATION that the Library Board provide publicity programs to encourage qualified and interested candidates for interim and regular board vacancies.
- RECOMMENDATION that the Library Board assess periodically the needs of library users and non-users.
- 1985-SUPPORT of the property tax as the main source of revenue for the library.
- SUPPORT of use of fees, donations, and fundraising activities as appropriate sources of funding.
- SUPPORT of use of private funds, and state and federal grants, with early public input when acceptance of such funds would entail substantial expenditures.
- SUPPORT of either higher taxes or curtailed services in the event of reduced funding through loss of the multiplier. Either alternative, or a combination of both, might be acceptable if the

public is involved in any decision to cut services or raise taxes.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

- **Support of...**
  - a. Diverse programming available for all ages, with greater flexibility of time and location.
  - b. Evaluation of time allocation between adult and youth users of the special facilities.
  - c. Equal availability of programs for boys and girls.
  - d. Continued cooperation of the Park District with other agencies for after-school child care.
  - e. Encouragement of and response to public input by the Park Board regarding selection of offerings, program availability, and long-term planning.
  - f. Consideration by the Park Board of recommendations of their Community Relations Committee.
  - g. Investigation of the availability of federal and state grants.
  - h. Submission to the voter for approval of major expenditures requiring long-term financing.
  - i. A balance between service to citizens and good business operation.
  - j. Evaluation of possible increases in non-resident fees in relation to:
    1. *Residents' demand for programs.*
    2. *Competitive program fees.*
    3. *Fair share of program overhead.*
    4. *Level of non-resident participation.*

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

- 1979-(formerly under "Wilmette Population Patterns") SUPPORT of measures to achieve the following:
  - a. Increased transportation opportunities.
  - b. Continued monitoring of population changes, including voluntary surveys.
  - c. More interaction among governmental bodies in their planning processes.
- SUPPORT for consideration of the following criteria for reuse of public buildings: specific need, benefit to whole community, compatibility with neighborhood, appropriateness of site for proposed use, legal restrictions, return to tax

rolls, and service-oriented purpose.

- 1980-SUPPORT for periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan to insure the incorporation of census data and demographic trends.
- SUPPORT for increased opportunities for housing for senior citizens and low- and moderate-income families.
- SUPPORT for enforcement of the Village Zoning Ordinance on all property in Wilmette, regardless of ownership by another governing entity. The League urges intergovernmental cooperation in zoning matters.
- SUPPORT for a new provision in the Zoning Ordinance dealing with the reuse of schools and other public buildings.
- SUPPORT for a review of commercial parking space provisions in the Zoning Ordinance.
- SUPPORT of measures to improve the business districts in order to increase sales tax revenues.
- 1984-SUPPORT of a Comprehensive Plan that encompasses all governmental districts. Information concerning the plans and goals of each district should be available in a central place, such as the Wilmette Public Library.
- SUPPORT for alternative uses of larger, older homes, including, but not necessarily restricted to, group homes for the elderly and the physically disabled. The size and location of such homes should depend on the specific proposal rather than arbitrary criteria. Proposals should be subject to special use hearings before the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- SUPPORT for a planned unit development section the Wilmette zoning code.  
SUPPORT for expansion of the Plan Commission to include voting members from all local taxing districts. This recommendation applies only to the Plan Commission, and not to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The standing committee structures of each elected board should include an intergovernmental committee. The village-wide Intergovernmental Committee, composed of these representatives, should meet as a whole at least twice a year.
- SUPPORT for the addition of a new classification for public lands in the Zoning Ordinance. Within the zone, consideration of the general public good should be central, but each governmental district should have flexibility concerning the use of its property. Through the public lands zone, the procedure by which public lands are sold should be clarified.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT #39 BOARD SELECTION PROCESS**

- 1992-SUPPORT of independent candidacy for all individuals who seek election to the District #39 School Board.
  - a. Information about candidates should be made available to the entire voting public.
  - b. There should be a vehicle to provide in-depth interviewing of candidates regarding the major issues.
  - c. This process must be open to the public.
  - d. The District #39 School Board Caucus is no longer a viable means of selecting school board candidates.

## **SCHOOLS**

- 1974-SUPPORT of measures by District 39 board and administration to achieve the following:
  - a. Continued communication between school and community.
  - b. Strengthening of the curriculum development and evaluation process.
  - c. Expansion of articulation with the high school district.
- Continued SUPPORT of a highly qualified superintendent who is responsive and visible to citizens and staff.

## **SELECTION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS**

- 1972-CANDIDATES for the Village Board of Trustees should not run under national party labels.
- 1974-SUPPORT of a nonpartisan campaign organization for Wilmette.
- SUPPORT for a nonpartisan method for nominating candidates for local office that would include a choice at the polls.
- SUPPORT of the establishment of mandatory provisions for the filling of vacancies on elected boards where such provisions do not now exist.
- SUPPORT of present mandatory provisions for filling vacancies on appointed boards and commissions.
- SUPPORT of the adoption of measures to insure wider publicity and citizen input, stated maximum time limitation, and establishment of an ad hoc board committee to aid in the process of filling vacancies.

## **WILMETTE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

- 1977-SUPPORT of a Board of Health which assumes leadership in coordinating and publicizing all health services to Wilmette residents through public and private agencies.

## **WILMETTE YOUTH COMMISSION**

- 1976-SUPPORT of the Wilmette Youth Commission with special emphasis on youth advocacy and provision of a forum for all youth-serving agencies, both public and private.

**Website: [www.lwvwilmette.org](http://www.lwvwilmette.org)**

## JOINT NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP POSITIONS

### Selection of Officials

Support of the non-partisan process of the election of township officials and advisory boards with emphasis on adequate publicity and increased citizen participation at all levels, particularly in the New Trier Citizens' League (Winnetka, Kenilworth, and those portions of Northfield and Glenview in New Trier Township).

### New Trier Township Government

1985: Concurrence Position. The township is the proper level of government to fund both general assistance and the health and human services because it is more sensitive to the needs of the constituency than the county. Agencies which receive money from the township should be encouraged to seek funding from other sources.

### New Trier High School Caucus

Support of the caucus system as a satisfactory means of nominating candidates for the New Trier School Board with action to achieve: more uniform delegate selection, representation based on total population of elementary school districts, staggered two-year terms for all delegates, more publicity in recruitment of school board candidates, (Wilmette dropped this position in 1989).

### Questions for Evaluating School Funding

#### Referenda

Criteria for evaluating bond issues or tax rate increases to finance school costs have been developed by a committee of representatives from the New Trier Township League of Women Voters. These criteria can be used as a base to prepare local Leagues in evaluating local referenda in order to take positions on specific local school finance. A list of these criteria may be obtained from officers of local Leagues.

## LAKE MICHIGAN INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION 2008 POSITIONS

Members from sixty local and state League of Women Voters in the Lake Michigan Water Basin adopted October 7, 2007:

The program of LMILO shall be based on the Natural Resources positions of the League of Women Voters of the US as they relate to environmental issues affecting the Lake Michigan basin and surrounding states, including:

- Education of the Public and the Lake Michigan Leagues on the Problems of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes
- Encourage Public Participation in Planning for the Protection and Restoration of the Great Lakes
- Support Scientific Research for the Great Lakes
- Encourage Shoreline Management Planning and Implementation

**Website: [www.lmilo.org](http://www.lmilo.org)**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
COOK COUNTY  
SUMMARY OF POSITIONS 2008**

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT:** Support measures that improve the structure and function of Cook County Government.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** Support improvements in the criminal court system and improvements in correctional procedures in Cook County.

**HEALTH CARE:** Support measures to achieve uniform quality health care in Cook County, recognizing the need for accessible high quality public health facilities.

**HOUSING:** Support low and moderate income housing and fair housing in Cook County and support equal access to education.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION:** Support intergovernmental cooperation and coordination of planning.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:** Support improvements in Juvenile Court, shelter care, and detention for young people in Cook County.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Coordinate Cook County's role in national and state items that relate to environmental quality.

**TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM:** Support measures to abolish the township school treasurers and trustees system in Cook County.

**Website:** [www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
ILLINOIS  
2007-2009 POSITIONS IN BRIEF**

The following are the *Positions in Brief* for the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Prior to application of the state positions at the local and/or regional level, Leagues should refer to the complete position, including background and previous action.

**GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**

The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: citizen rights, including citizen's right to know/citizen participation, individual liberties and public policy on reproductive choices; Congress and the Presidency; election process, including apportionment, campaign finance, and selection of the President; and voting rights.

**CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND**

**AMENDMENTS:** The League supports implementation of provisions for governmental change in the Local Government Article, and amendments to achieve merit selection of judges, a progressive, graduated income tax, the indirect statutory initiative and the recall of elected judges. The League maintains its support for positions already achieved in the Constitution but which may require effort to preserve.

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE:** The League supports expanded citizen initiative powers to change the structure of county government. Petition requirements for citizen-initiated change should be a percentage of actual voters in a recent jurisdiction-wide election. The League supports changes in the Illinois County Executive Act to provide a clear separation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches and easily understood referendum language.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** The League supports the increased use of intermediate sanctions in the community. Judges should retain discretion to choose between imprisonment and probation for most offenses. The League supports a sufficient number of trained probation officers and other court personnel, prompt trials, enforcement of jail standards and a system of bail that does not rely

on financial ability as a criterion for pretrial release. Correctional services should conform to national professional standards, with programs and services that offer the opportunity for self-improvement. The League believes that the justice system must be adequately funded to carry out its goals. State funds should emphasize community sanctions over the construction of prisons. The League supports the expansion of prevention and treatment programs in order to ease the burden on the criminal justice system.

**DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION:** The League supports abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:** The League supports legislative controls to stop the proliferation of private ownership of handguns and their irresponsible use. The League advocates restricting access to semi-automatic assault type weapons.

**SCHOOLS:** The League supports a system of high quality elementary and secondary schools for all children in Illinois, which provides for local control of school program and budget within minimum program requirements set by the State. The State should provide leadership to local communities for program development and should set standards for recognition and accreditation of schools. The effectiveness of educational programs should be evaluated regularly. The League favors minimum standards for graduation and promotion of students. The League supports increased professionalism for teachers including stringent teacher preparation standards, comprehensive teacher and principal evaluations, changes in tenure and increased teacher compensation. The State should assume the major responsibility for funding public schools and guarantee an adequate level of financial support. League believes that charters should be established by local school boards and that the Illinois State Board of Education should continue to monitor the progress of existing charter schools before supporting further expansion.

**STATE ELECTION LAWS:** The League supports uniform election laws and procedures throughout the state to ensure the integrity of the election system and opposes term limits for members of the General Assembly. The League believes that a good election system should provide stability and continuity of governance and should produce a legislature that addresses the problems of society

effectively. It should be resistant to both outright fraud and other forms of political manipulation. The League supports election reforms that increase voter participation and protect the votes of eligible citizens. The League opposes measures that undermine or raise barriers to participation by eligible voters.

**STATE FISCAL POLICIES:** The League supports a diversified revenue system, which principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

**STATE REDISTRICTING:** The League supports a redistricting process, which is timely, orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

#### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POSITIONS:**

The Illinois League takes action on international relations issues only at the request of the LWVUS. These positions include: arms control; military policy and defense spending; trade; United Nations; and U.S. relations with developing countries.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS:**

The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: agriculture policy; environmental protection and pollution control; natural resources; public participation; and resource management.

**LAND USE:** The League supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources and providing needed open space. The State should identify, plan for and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the State with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The State should plan for adequate supplies of low and moderate income housing with every community providing a percentage under some kind of fair share plan. The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional and state

sources. The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees.

**LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES:** The League supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels to include statewide environmental controls, public hearings prior to siting and regional and/or county control of siting.

**PESTICIDES:** The League supports reduction of exposure to all pesticides. The use of non-toxic alternatives should be encouraged.

### **SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS:**

The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: child care; early intervention for children at risk; equality of opportunity, including opposition to school vouchers and tuition tax credits, employment issues, affirmative action, fair housing, and equal rights; fiscal policy (see Government); gun control (see Government); health care; meeting basic human needs; urban policy; and violence prevention.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES:** The League believes that the State should play the leading role in meeting the needs of children and their families and have the primary role in funding to ensure that quality services are equitably available throughout the state. The League supports a continuum of community-based services that strengthens and preserves families and fosters healthy growth and development of children. Prevention and early intervention should have high priority. The League supports a juvenile court system that provides opportunities for effective protection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Detention should be reserved for delinquent children who meet professional screening criteria and provided separately from adult programs. The League opposes the automatic transfer of children to the criminal court and the death penalty for children.

**INCOME ASSISTANCE:** The League supports income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families.

**IMMIGRATION:** The League supports State and local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for all immigrants. The League supports provisions for educational programs and materials on rights in the workplace for all worker, driving certificates for undocumented workers and

the availability of auto insurance for holders of certificates. The League opposes deputizing state and local police to enforce immigrations laws, and ordinances that penalize landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants. The League opposes extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The League supports a comprehensive and coordinated system of treatment and rehabilitation services for mentally ill adults and children. There should be adequate funding, planning, program standards, and personnel training requirements for both state facilities and community programs. The League supports a broad array of adequate and accessible community services. Although primary responsibility should rest with the state, funding from local, federal, and non-governmental sources should be encouraged. A system of local boards to levy taxes, administer all funds, and to plan and coordinate services should be required throughout the state. The State should require local governments to provide in their zoning ordinances for residential programs for mentally ill persons.

**LWV Illinois Website: [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org)**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS**

**REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT:** Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

**Voting Rights:**

- **Citizens' Right to Vote:** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation:** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

**Election Process:**

- **Apportionment:** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
- **Campaign Finance:** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.
- **Selection of the President:** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

**Citizen Rights:**

- **Citizens' Right to Know/Citizen Participation:** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.
- **Individual Liberties:** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices:** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

**Congress and the Presidency:**

- **Congress:** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability,

representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

- **The Presidency:** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:** Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

**United Nations:** Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

**Trade:** Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

**U.S. Relations with Developing Countries:** Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

**Arms Control:** Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

**Military Policy and Defense Spending:** Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

**Natural Resources:** Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

**Resource Management:** Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

**Environmental Protection and Pollution Control:** Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality:** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy:** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use:** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources:** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

**Waste Management:** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues:** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

**Public Participation:** Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

**Agriculture Policy:** Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

**SOCIAL POLICY: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**

**Equality of Opportunity:**

- **Equal Rights:** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.
- **Education, Employment and Housing:** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

**Fiscal Policy:**

- **Tax Policy:** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.
- **Funding of Entitlements:** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

**Health Care:** Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

**Meeting Basic Human Needs:** Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

- **Income Assistance:** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.
- **Support Services:** Provide for essential support services.
- **Housing Supply:** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.
- **Child Care:** Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.
- **Early Intervention for Children at Risk:** Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.
- **Violence Prevention:** Support violence prevention programs in communities.
- **Gun Control:** Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

**Urban Policy:** Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

**[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)**