



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF DENVER

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DENVER

LOCAL PROGRAM

2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

League Mission and Principles	3
Program Overview	4
Local Program History	4
LWV Denver Local Program Positions and Standards	10
Government	10
City Government.....	10
Planning & Zoning, Community & Urban Renewal, Citizen Participation.....	11
Justice.....	13
Juvenile Justice.....	15
Social Policy	17
• Housing.....	17
• Education.....	18
• Human Resources Program Funding.....	19
• Health.....	20
Program Categories	21
Summary of LWVUS Program	22
Summary of LWVCO Program	24

Additional references available in the LWV/Denver Library:

- LWVCO Advocacy Agenda*
- Impact on Issues (LWVUS Program)*

These references and much additional material on program items can be checked out of the LWV/Denver Library.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LEAGUE PRINCIPLES

- The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in his right to vote; that 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 believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation; promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest; share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare; promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.
- The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program is the heart of the League of Women Voters. It is the basis for both education and action. League program consists of governmental issues chosen by the members for study, consensus, and ultimate action. LWV principles provide the authorization for adoption of national, state, and local program. Action can be taken only after study, which must include factual research, member discussion, and member agreement (consensus). Action is a broad term; it can mean testifying before a local governing body, expressing League opinions in the media or in letters to officials, holding town meetings, or simply talking to a friend about LWV positions.

League takes positions on the national, state and local level. Local Leagues can take action based on any of the levels. Occasionally, the Denver League has voted to include a state or national position in our local program book, but the positions are ours to use without that step.

The League of Women Voters of Denver was organized in 1932. Since then, our views have undergone a continuous process of reflection, research, and rethinking. This all underlines the importance of program planning – biennial meetings on all levels of League where new items are added for study, out-of-date items are deleted, and positions can be revised. In addition to studies, program committees often do updates on issues in which no consensus would be needed because positions remain the same, but in which new information is presented.

The League believes that government policy, programs, and performance should incorporate these criteria:

- competent personnel with clear responsibilities
- coordination among agencies and levels of government
- adequate financing
- effective enforcement
- well-defined channels for citizen input and review

Fresh input is invaluable in the program area. Members are encouraged to check the calendar in the *VOTER* and attend any study committee meetings of personal interest. Program chairs are willing to answer any question or clarify an issue pertinent to their area. Consult the membership roster for a list of current committee chairs.

LOCAL PROGRAM HISTORY

In the earliest days of the League in Denver, methods of reaching decisions were different from those currently used. Committees were formed to study and recommend action, and a vote was usually taken at a luncheon or other membership gathering. Since the mid 40s, the present method of having members meet in small groups to study, discuss and reach consensus has been in effect.

This change is reflected in the kind of program that has been selected. During the early years, the emphasis was placed primarily on specific issues in the area of social welfare. The first local study examined city recreation facilities, followed by slum clearance and government housing. During the Depression years, the League looked at relief, public health and civil service. One study of broader scope took place in 1934 when the League concerned itself with city government as a whole and circulated a petition to establish a city planning commission.

The increased participation of members through small group discussion coincided with a broadened scope of interest in the selection of the program. Starting in 1944 and continuing into the 1950s, the League worked on various aspects of city government and the city charter. Members worked with other groups in the community for charter reform.

By 1953 the scope had widened to reflect the League's increasing concerns with problems of the expanding metropolitan area. For the first time, emphasis was placed on annexation. Zoning, planning, taxation and services were scrutinized in the light of metropolitan expansion.

Over the past decades, many studies have been completed by the various committees in the League. Consensus has been reached at times and action taken. A complete list of these program studies follows.

In the past few years because of the changing dynamics of the organization, all-member meetings have been held to reach out to the public and members not associated with individual units. Speakers and presentations have addressed various subjects under League's positions.

DENVER LEAGUE STUDIES AND UPDATES SINCE 1932:

The Thirties

- 1932-33 Survey of city recreation facilities
- 1933-34 Slum clearance and government housing
- 1934-35 City government: civil service, city planning commission
- 1935-36 Impact of direct relief, sewage disposal plan, chain store tax
- 1937-38 Minimum wages for Denver laundry workers, recreation facilities
- 1938-39 Public housing, reorganization of the public welfare program

The Forties

- 1939-40 Separation of Department of Health and Charities, Public Health in Denver
- 1940-41 Bureau of Public Welfare, Denver Housing Authority
- 1941-42 Local LWV study turned to problems related to war
- 1944-45 Public health and recreation problems, evaluation of charter amendments
- 1945-46 Public health and housing, recreation, Civil Service, minority group problems
- 1946-48 City government, housing, Civil Service, proposed postwar improvements
- 1948-49 Improved city government

The Fifties

- 1949-50 A comprehensive study of city government: new departments, salaries
- 1950-51 Study leading to action and proposed changes in city government
- 1951-52 Further study and action related to city charter and government, zoning laws
- 1952-53 Urban redevelopment: housing, Courthouse Square, Valley Highway
- 1953-54 Problems of expanding Denver metropolitan area: annexation, zoning, taxes
- 1954-55 City planning: zoning, annexation, water and redevelopment, welfare
- 1955-56 Know Your Town and County
- 1956-58 Measures to ensure adequate and equitable financing of municipal government functions and services and of School District No. 1
- 1958-59 Survey of Denver's municipal services with special consideration of Denver's relationship to the metropolitan area, using "Know Your Town" as a basic tool

The Sixties

- 1959-61 Metropolitan area cooperation in relation to needed services and their equitable financing
- 1961-62 Needed services and capital improvements in a growing Denver and how to finance them, practices of hiring, promoting, paying and retaining city employees
- 1962-63 A review of LWVD studies, a compilation of a program history, the establishment of current positions, directions for future studies, and guidelines for effective action in the community
- 1964-65 The future development of Denver in such areas as planning, public housing, urban renewal, health and parks and recreation
- 1965-66 Community redevelopment in Denver, air pollution, and its control
- 1966-67 Transportation needs in a growing Denver, problems facing School District No. 1 as it moves toward equality of educational opportunity
- 1967-68 Directions for Denver as it moved toward equality of educational opportunity
- 1968-69 *City Charter*: A study of Denver's city charter with particular emphasis on the city council and on municipal elections
Education: evaluation of personnel practices and vocational education

Separate action items called "Continuing Responsibilities" which were part of LWVD program for some years prior to 1969 are not listed here. Since 1969, we have had a single list of program subjects at all levels of LWV, including both study and action items.

The Seventies

- 1969-70 *City Charter*: Continued Study Of Denver's City Charter
Education: Evaluation of Decentralization Plans, Special Education and Personnel Practices and Training
- 1970-71 *City Charter*: Action only
Education: Study of Denver Public Schools' Budget and Finance in conjunction with State Finance Studies; Evaluation of the Use of Federal Funds (Title I ESEA) and State Compensatory Education
Renewal of the City: Public Housing, Urban Renewal and Community Renewal Finance and Annexation
- 1971-73 *City Charter*: Structure and Functions of City Council

- Education:* Personnel Practices in the Denver Public Schools; the Organization of the DPS Board of Education; alternatives - elementary schools
- Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention:* organization and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in the City and County of Denver
- Renewal of the City:* planning and zoning procedures with examination of the role of the city council, the administration and the public (includes public housing, urban renewal, community renewal and Auraria).
- 1973-75 *Cable TV:* Potential for Public Access to Cable TV in the Denver area
- City Government:* Functions of the Departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions of the Denver City Government and of Their Structural Interrelationships
- Criminal Justice:* Corrections, Rehabilitation; Denver County Court System
- Education:* Studies of Alternative Secondary Programs; Bilingual/Bicultural Education
- Human Resources:* Evaluation of the Effect on New Methods of Federal Funding on Human Resources Programs and Programs to Revitalize the City, with Support for the Continuation of Programs of Value to Denver's People
- Renewal of the City:* Study of Methods to Achieve More Flexibility in Zoning Techniques for Fuller Citizen Involvement in Planning and the Effect of the Present Tax System on Land Use in Denver (Includes: public housing, urban renewal, community renewal and Auraria).
- 1975-77 *Theme: Measures to Ensure the Continuing Vitality of Denver*
- City Government:* Includes Cable TV and Campaign Spending. Study of Power Relationships between Mayor and Council
- Metropolitan Governance:* Consensus
- Criminal Justice:* Study of Correctional Reform with Specific Focus on the Woman Offender. Study of Proposals for a Citizens' Advisory Board
- Education:* Action only
- Health:* Study of Denver's Mental and Physical Health Care Delivery System, including Health Policies and Programs and the Delivery of Services to All Citizens, including the Poor and Aged
- Housing:* Action only
- Human Resources Programs Funding:* Action only
- Renewal of the City:* Study of the Concept of Neighborhood and the Possible Decentralization of Denver's City Services (includes Auraria, community renewal and urban renewal).
- 1977-79 *Theme: Measures to ensure the continuing vitality of Denver*
- City Government:* Study and Consensus on the City and County of Denver Budget Process.
- Cable TV and Campaign Financing:* Retained for action only
- Education:* Study School Programs as Related to Cities in Urban Crisis, particularly Declining Enrollment. Follow up on bilingual and bicultural education.
- Health:* Study of Laws and Regulatory Bodies Governing Health Care
- Justice:* Study State Correctional Institutions
- Renewal of the City:* Review, Update, Consensus on Planning, Zoning Standards

The Eighties

- 1979-81 *Health:* Study of Alternatives to Hospital Care, Study of Nursing Homes
Justice: Study of Community Corrections
Renewal of the City: Study of Economic Vitality, Planning and Zoning Procedures in Denver, Impact of Urban Growth. Study of Financing as it Relates to All Aspects of Housing (rental, ownership and investment). First half of affordable housing study and consensus
- 1981-83 *Education:* An Overview of the Denver Public Schools and Ways in which DPS Responds to the Diversity of an Urban Population
Education and Housing: How Where You Live Affects What You Learn
Housing: Second Half of Affordable Housing Briefing and Consensus
Immigration: Overview of National Laws and How the Issue Affects Denver
Multicultural Outreach: Organized as committee
- 1983-85 *City Government:* Reorganization of Planning Office and Study of Cherry Creek Neighborhoods
Education: Briefing on the Teaching Profession: A Report Card
Women's Issues: Feminization of Poverty
Denver League Examines Itself: Demographics, Long-Range Plan
Health: Hospices in Denver
- 1985-87 *City Issues:* Local Government Update; Denver City Government, Spending Your Money: General Fund, Sales Tax and Capital Improvements
Children's Laws: Children's Issues Panel
Women's Issues: Women Alone in Denver
Education: What's happening in Denver Public Schools? Does DPS Take Up Where Sesame Street Leaves Off?
Health: Denver's Department of Health and Hospitals: Can Denver Guarantee the Availability of Health Care for All of Its Citizens?
- 1987-89 *Multicultural Outreach:* Faces of a City, Multicultural Synopsis
Women's Issues: Meeting Basic Human Needs; Welfare Reform
Criminal Justice: Our Criminal Justice Dollars
Education: Update on Education; School Board Review Consensus
Cable TV: Briefing at Mile Hi Cablevision Facility
Health: Health Care Delivery and Financing; Health Care in Denver
City Issues: Comprehensive Plan
Natural Resources: Waste to Energy

The Nineties

- 1989-91 *Children's Laws:* Child Care and Family Issues, Child Abuse
Criminal Justice: Correcting Corrections
Natural Resources: Environmental Impact of the New Airport
Housing: Low Income Housing
Multicultural Outreach: Update on Equality in Housing and Education
Education: Denver Public Schools' Teachers' Contracts
City Issues: Tour of Homeless Shelter; Updates City Projects; Tour of Stapleton Airport

- Health:* Mental Health
- 1991-93 *Education:* Cole Middle School of the Arts; Beyond School Desegregation
City Issues: Progress on City Projects; Opportunities and Challenges in Denver's Future; The Gang Issue; Never a Dull Moment; New Proposals for Denver's Future
Criminal Justice: Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center
- 1993-95 *Women's Issues:* Runaway Parent, Decatur Place
City Issues: Redevelopment of Lowry Air Force Base, Platte Valley Development, Community Development in Denver
Education: Published *Court-Ordered Desegregation of the DPS*; Present Status of Denver Public Schools Briefing
Children's Laws: Early Intervention for Children at Risk

DENVER LEAGUE STUDIES AND UPDATES SINCE 1999

- 1999-2000 *City Issues:* Transportation Needs in Denver: Comprehensive Plan Update
City Issues: Ethics Code: A Basic Foundation for Good Government
International Relations: World Bank and IMF
Juvenile Justice: Municipal Juvenile Justice System
Health Care: Exploring the Structures in Other Countries
Women's Issues: Welfare Reform: Evaluation of Welfare Programs
Natural Resources: Alternative Fuel Vehicles
- 2001-03 *Child Care and Children's Issues:* Early Childhood Issues
United Nations: U.N. and Trade Relations Consensus
City Issues: Denver's Transportation and Land Use Plan
City Issues: Hazardous Waste Sites in Denver
Education: School Reform: Is It Fair To All?
Health: Equality of Health Care Delivery
Health: Healthcare for the Elderly
Housing: Denver's Current Housing Situation
National Resources: Are We Next in Line for Blackouts?
National Resources: Genetically-Modified Ingredients in our Food Supply
- 2003-05 *Housing: Tour:* Five Points/Curtis Park: Housing, History, Social Services
Housing: Tour: Northwest Denver – Housing, History, Social Services
Education: DPS-DCTA Teacher Compensation
Education: Revisiting Charter Schools
Children's Issues: Child Care: Mental and Behavior Health Needs
Women's Issues: Women in Prison
City Issues: Development Plans for Union Station
City Issues: What Zoning Means to You and Your Neighborhood
Health: Universal Health Care: Comparison of Colorado Health Care
Natural Resources: Waste Water as a Resource
Natural Resources: Solid Waste
Justice: Proposed Justice Center Pros and Cons

(More detailed information about former studies is available for use in the League office.)

LWV DENVER LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS & PROGRAMS

GOVERNMENT

POSITION ON GOVERNMENT

Support for a governmental system that is open, representative, responsive, accountable, efficient, fair in its treatment of all citizens, and in which responsibilities are clearly defined and assigned (1972)

Support for a metro-wide governmental approach to the solution of metropolitan problems (1974)

City government has been a study item many times in our history. Charter reform changes in the provision for mayoral succession, selection and powers of council, budget questions, and bond proposals have been addressed. Positions on metropolitan governance developed by the Metro League returned to local program in 1975 as a basis of evaluating cross-boundary cooperative programs.

STANDARDS ON THE CITY CHARTER

1. The charter should continue to be reviewed and updated regularly.
2. We support a change in the current method of raising salaries by charter amendment. (achieved)
3. We support a change in charter restrictions on bonded indebtedness. (achieved)

STANDARDS ON CITY COUNCIL

1. City Council should have better office facilities and a research staff available to it. (achieved)
2. City Council should approve at least some mayoral appointees, including those who serve in positions which are responsible to both Mayor and Council. This should include the City Attorney.
3. City Council should have the right to subpoena employees and records of the city with the right to penalize for non-compliance.

STANDARDS ON THE CITY BUDGET

Support for measures on the city budget to increase citizen understanding of budget process, particularly through the vehicle of neighborhood or district meetings.

STANDARDS ON DENVER'S PARTICIPATION IN METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

These are historical positions taken when we had a Metropolitan League of Women Voters. Some of these positions are being fulfilled by the Denver Council of Regional Governments

(DRCOG). Some are being addressed by metropolitan service districts and some are still to be fulfilled.

A metropolitan governmental organization and administration should:

1. Contribute to efficiency and economy and should provide an adequate level of service.
2. Be truly representative and democratic; it should provide for reasonable citizen control and participation and be responsive to public opinion.
3. Have adequate and equitable financing that distributes tax burdens evenly.
4. Be flexible in scope and have authority to adjust to future growth and development problems and should be capable of making long-range plans for the area and implementing area-wide policy.
5. Provide for an orderly means of attaining commonly agreed upon objectives and for reconciling or adjudicating conflicts of interest.
6. Give recognition to existing units of local government; efforts toward intergovernmental cooperation should be pursued whenever possible.
7. Include the following services: solid waste, storm sewers, transportation, land use, sewer, water pollution, air pollution, libraries, welfare, parks and recreation, water, cultural facilities, weed and pest control, health and hospitals. However, plans for regional governance should ensure that Denver receives help with its problems (such as housing) while also sharing its assets (such as water, cultural and recreational facilities). It is appropriate to use Denver's strengths (particularly water, cultural and recreational facilities) as a bargaining tool.
8. Include consideration for the following in its planning:
 - a. Minority representation
 - b. Compensation to Denver for use, maintenance and equity in capital improvements
 - c. Personnel rights and benefits
 - d. The special needs of the core city
 - e. Size as related to the efficiency of the service to be provided
 - f. Size as related to the ability of the governing unit to be responsive to citizens

POSITION ON PLANNING & ZONING, COMMUNITY & URBAN RENEWAL, & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Support of measures which ensure sound planning for Denver and for plans which meet the physical, social, economic, educational, recreational, cultural, governmental and aesthetic needs of Denver's people, with increased citizen participation in the decision-making process (April 1973)

The League of Women Voters of Denver has studied and acted on many issues relating to renewal of the city since the 1930's. The study has included planning, zoning, ordinances and annexation procedures; the interrelationships of the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment Zoning and the Zoning Administration; zoning problems and methods by which zoning can be changed; financing of capital improvements, including metropolitan cooperation in financing; urban and community renewal; South Platte River Valley redevelopment; sign control; Auraria educational complex and the comprehensive plan.

STANDARDS ON PLANNING & ZONING

1. Sound planning should include:
 - a. Plans for Denver to be designed to ensure a high quality of life for Denver's people, with attention to provisions for clean air, a healthy economy, adequate and affordable housing for residents of all incomes, easy access to employment opportunities, adequate mass transportation, open space, green areas, and noise control. The comprehensive plan and zoning laws should be altered to place high emphasis on planning for mass transportation and other alternatives to the automobile, to meet the need for dispersed housing for low income residents and to allow varied land uses within designated planned areas. (now in progress)
 - b. The use of professional planners, a comprehensive plan which is periodically updated with City Council as a participant in the process, and incorporating methods of control (zoning laws, sign code, view ordinances etc.)
 - c. Some flexibility within a zoning classification with review to reside in the planning office
 - d. A Planning Board which reflects various occupations, ethnic groups and geographic areas of the city
 - e. Consideration of the relationship of size to the efficiency of services provided
 - f. The amount of tax return to the city be weighed with other factors, human and economic, in all land use decisions, including urban renewal plans
 - g. The use of tax incentives and trade-offs to encourage developers where economic return is marginal. Negotiations for these benefits must be open and publicized.
 - h. Involvement and cooperation of citizens, elected officials and involved agencies and units of government on the metropolitan, regional and state level
 - i. Concern with conserving the historic and symbolic ties of the city, as well as its capital investment and individuality
 - j. Provision for residential areas to include housing for people of all incomes and to be protected from air, soil and water pollution, traffic congestion, excessive noises and encroachment by inappropriate commercial enterprises. These efforts should be applied to both new and existing areas.
 - k. Conserving the vitality of the downtown area as a business, governmental, residential and cultural center, while also dispersing some business and industrial activity into other areas
 - l. Continuing renewal of aging or deteriorating business, industrial, and residential sections of the city
 - m. Planning for capital improvement needs of the city and for the Civic Center area complex
 - n. Consideration of aesthetic values as well as economics in the development of Denver's waterways
2. Variations and zoning changes specifics:
 - a. A stricter, more definite variance code with tighter policy and posting requirements is needed.
 - b. Membership on the Board of Adjustment Zoning should be reflective of various professions, and no special interest should be allowed to dominate.

- c. Any request for a zone change affecting land use or density should consider social, economic and environmental impact. These requests should be publicized early enough for community discussion and evaluation.
 - d. Termination of non-conforming uses is necessary, with safeguards to prevent hardships.
 - e. More stringent time-limit restrictions should be applied on the number of zone applications.
3. Sign control specifics; civic appearance and public safety should be recognized in the planning, development, and maintenance of signs on freeways, parkways and streets
 4. Provide adequate funding to ensure adequate supervision and rigorous enforcement of existing laws

STANDARDS ON COMMUNITY & URBAN RENEWAL

1. Community renewal should:
 - a. Include a clearly defined, long range plan which will coordinate the activities of the public and private agencies
 - b. Be financed through all available resources: local, where possible, including both public and private, state and federal
 - c. Utilize existing inspection agencies and personnel so as to ensure the most effective enforcement of housing and building codes
 - d. Recognize the importance of public information
 - e. Encourage the fullest citizen participation in both planning and implementation
2. Urban renewal plans should:
 - a. Be comprehensive and long range, with continued attention to historic preservation
 - b. Be properly planned and executed, with attention being given to the total needs of individuals involved

STANDARDS ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Increase extensive opportunities for citizen input into governmental process
2. Citizen input should be channeled through the existing council structure by creating citizen advisory boards and by formatting the relationship between neighborhood groups and their elected representatives

POSITION ON JUSTICE

Support for measures which will improve the selection and preparation of law enforcement officers and which will improve police-community relations; more efficient methods for handling caseload in the Denver county court system; programs which lead to better rehabilitation of offenders; ways which ameliorate the drug problems in Denver (1971)

The Denver justice system was adopted for local study in 1971, and subsequently for state study. Denver has looked at arrest and trial process, detention, and alternative prevention and rehabilitation. More recent study has been in conjunction with LWVCO.

STANDARDS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. There should be dialogue between police and communities served.
2. A valid psychological testing device should be used to identify officers who will serve all the citizens of Denver equally.
3. Adequate training and education includes job definitions, quality human relations training, and ongoing in-service training. We support the enlargement of Metro State College to serve all who want to take the law enforcement courses of study.
4. The Internal Affairs Bureau of the Denver Police Department should provide for citizens' input and be made more accountable to the public.

STANDARDS ON THE COURTS

1. To reduce the volume in the Denver County Court system, we support:
 - a. Small claims court
 - b. Decriminalization of some charges
 - c. Pretrial conferences
 - d. Increased facilities and personnel
2. As a less-time-consuming, more-efficient, less-costly method of handling traffic cases, we support satellite courts.
3. To promote defendants' welfare, we support
 - a. Increased use of personal recognizance bonds for the first offender
 - b. Speedy trial
 - c. Sentencing to fit the offender – not the offense
 - d. Concerted effort to apply effective rehabilitation methods

STANDARDS ON CORRECTIONS

1. We support dealing with Denver's drug and alcohol problem by:
 - a. Continued funding for existing programs that are proving effective.
 - b. Working for basic changes in society to discourage the indiscriminate use of drugs to alleviate everyday problems.
 - c. Encouraging drug and alcohol education for our entire society.
 - d. Emphasizing treatment of alcoholism and drug use as medical problems.
 - e. Encouraging increased use of public tax dollars and increased private volunteer programs in Denver
2. We support selective use of community-based correctional facilities, located in residential neighborhoods with access to recreation and transportation, as an alternative to imprisonment.
 - a. Age of offender, type of crime and number of offenses should be considered in placement.
 - b. Small-sized facilities are recommended.
 - c. There must be adequate training and supervision by competent people.
 - d. Education of the community is necessary.

STANDARDS ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC AGENCIES

1. Action on recommendations of completed studies should have higher priority than further studies.

2. When studies are necessary, results should be disclosed publicly with the reasons for acceptance or rejection of the results of the study.

POSITION ON MUNICIPAL JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Support for a municipal juvenile justice system which emphasizes meeting the needs of juveniles, while recognizing the community's need for protection; includes a separate municipal court; is fair and impartial; is staffed by personnel trained to deal with juveniles; is adequately funded; is accountable and efficient; and provides programs appropriate to the offense, which stress counseling, restitution, and diversion over detention (2000)

STANDARDS ON MUNICIPAL JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

1. Meeting the needs of juveniles – juvenile need:
 - a. Assessment as soon as possible
 - b. Prompt scheduling for their court appearance and follow-up
 - c. A variety of appropriate services and programs
 - d. The involvement of parents, schools, neighborhood organizations and businesses
 - e. Prompt consequences that hold juveniles accountable for their actions, including failure to comply
2. Meeting the needs of the community – the community needs:
 - a. Protection for persons and property
 - b. Restitution as appropriate
 - c. Reassurance that youthful offenders will be held accountable for their unlawful behavior
3. A municipal juvenile court should:
 - a. Be separate to deal with municipal offenses and to allow for early intervention with juvenile offenders
 - b. Have a presiding judge who is familiar with multitude of programs and facilities that serve youthful offenders
 - c. Have on-going communications with service providers
 - d. Have an on-going liaison with Denver Public School
4. A system that is fair and impartial
 - a. Does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual preference
 - b. Does not exclude poor people from services and programs because of cost
 - c. Provides access to competent counsel
5. Training of staff – everyone in the juvenile justice system (including police officers, judges, counselors, and others having professional contact with juvenile offenders) should:
 - a. Be adequately trained, including some formal knowledge of child and adolescent development
 - b. Be trained in communication skills

- c. Have sufficient familiarity with the symptoms of juvenile problems to recognize when evaluation by a medical or mental health professional is needed
 - d. Update these skills on a regular basis
- 6. A system that is adequately funded, accountable and efficient should:
 - a. Receive sufficient funding to ensure high quality of programs, services, staffing and administration.
 - b. Receive sufficient funding to ensure that needed services and programs are available to all juvenile offenders.
 - c. Provide for an on-going record-keeping that will allow for tracking of all juveniles going through the system and ensure that statistics are accurate and available for assessment of programs.
 - d. Evaluate all its programs and services on a regular basis.
- 7. Programs and services should be:
 - a. Appropriate to the specific offense and the individual needs of the offender
 - b. Sufficiently varied so that all offenders can receive what they need while they are in the system

SOCIAL POLICY

POSITION ON HOUSING

Support of measures to ensure adequate and affordable housing for residents of all incomes (April 1965)

Support for the concept of public housing, including dispersed housing (April 1965, amended 1991)

Housing has concerned LWVD members since the 1930s. A review of the topic in 1964-65 led to our developing positions and standards. Studies have included the availability of affordable housing, public housing, and support for open housing. Housing became an item on the LWVUS Human Resources program in 1968 with emphasis on elimination of discriminatory practices.

STANDARDS ON HOUSING

1. Nonprofit corporations should be encouraged to produce affordable rental and owner-occupied buildings
2. Co-operative housing should be supported. This support could include use of public funds for seed money, technical assistance, loans and tax incentives.
3. A reasonable portion of low to moderate income housing units should be required when any form of government participation is involved
4. Resale profits should be limited where government money or action has lowered the original price. Efforts should be made to recapture government interest subsidies in order to keep housing affordable.
5. The use of incentives rather than controls should be supported to keep housing affordable
6. The following measure should be used to stimulate investment to create additional affordable housing units:
 - a. Development of additional city funds.
 - b. Use of tax exempt bonds
 - c. Careful use of tax increment financing to minimize the financial burden on the rest of the city.
 - d. Directing the use of federal housing subsidies primarily toward increasing supply.
 - e. Development of techniques to create more investment money.
 - f. Effective use of housing funds to maximize development of additional units, including leverage, lending and rolling funds over.
 - g. Allocating some priority to housing needs in the utilization of city funds.
 - h. Use of zoning incentives
7. The following methods should be used to reduce the cost of producing additional affordable units:
 - a. Zoning and land use changes including more intensive utilization of existing housing such as sharing and creating additional units with controls or permits and the encouragement of multiple housing
 - b. Encouraging the use of manufactured housing

- c. Encouraging rehabilitation and conversion of existing structures for housing
- d. Development of a more efficient permit process
- 8. The leasing of suitable government land for housing is supported. (Park land is not considered suitable.)
- 9. In the event of condominium conversion consideration should be given to the needs of the displaced elderly and low incomes (LWVD neither encourages nor discourages condominium conversions.)

STANDARDS ON PUBLIC HOUSING

- 1. Public housing should recognize the social as well as the physical needs of the tenants.
- 2. Recognition should be given to keeping pace with the needs for public housing.
- 3. Consideration should be given to the use of dispersed housing in planning future public-housing projects.

POSITION ON EDUCATION

Support for quality education for all Denver children, long-range planning of school facilities, programs more responsive to individual needs, and increasing communications between schools and community (1966)

School funding was first studied as part of Denver finance in 1956. Following adoption of Human Resources by LWVUS in 1964, Denver began a local study of education in 1966. That study and the resultant action continue to the present. Initially it was a comprehensive look at organization, financing, relationships with the State Board of Education, and desegregation. Subsequently among the topics addressed were staffing, organization of the Denver School Board, special education, vocational education, bilingual education, and early childhood education. Strong support for desegregation and programs for equality of opportunity have been a constant theme. Throughout, LWVD has supported responsible budgeting, adequate funding, and mil levy increases for capital improvements. League has worked for effective means for parent and citizen input in school management. Action has involved testimony to the Board of Education, forums co-sponsored with a variety of community organizations, publication of informational pamphlets, and sponsorship of candidates' meetings for School Board elections. Since 2000, the committee has revisited Charter schools and studied whether new school reforms have improved education. Support and action was taken on the "ProComp" professional compensation plan for DPS teachers.

STANDARDS ON SITES AND FACILITIES

Overall Planning

- 1. Planning of sites and facilities should be closely coordinated with other Denver, metropolitan, state planning agencies. Better communications should be sought at all levels.
- 2. Long-range planning of sites and facilities should take into consideration changes in population densities.
- 3. Outside consultants should be employed when their special skills could enhance planning.
- 4. School Board should establish a timetable for renovation or replacement of older buildings and adhere to it as closely as possible

Individual School Planning

1. Those particularly concerned with the use of a building should be involved early in planning of that building and site.
2. Building and specifications should be reviewed and revised continually. More emphasis should be given to flexibility and aesthetics in planning new schools.

STANDARDS ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Support for the Denver School District to consider and encourage alternative education opportunities using the following criteria
 - a. Governance of these alternatives should include parents, teachers, principals, Denver Public Schools administration, community persons, students and the Board of Education.
 - b. Accountability should include student performance and budgetary responsibility.
 - c. It is important that stated goals, objectives, and standards be evaluated yearly.
 - d. Equitable funding should be based on need.
 - e. Admission should be open and resources made available to all who qualify.
2. We support the concept of special centers which offer opportunity for educational enrichment.
3. High priority should be given to the development of programs to better serve the needs of those students whose final schooling will be 12th grade or less.
4. We support compensation of teachers that recognizes student growth.

STANDARDS ON COMMUNICATION

1. Dialogue should be increased within the school system and with the public at all levels and in a variety of ways. This could stimulate an ever-widening understanding of the strengths and weaknesses that affect the quality of education of all children.
2. We support the concept of site-based management committees.
3. We support citizen advisory committees to identify community needs.

POSITION ON HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM FUNDING

Support for adequate funding of human resources programs which are of value to Denver's people (1975)
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Human Resources has been a national League study since 1964. Denver League adopted Human Resources in 1973 as part of "Renewal of the City" to evaluate effects of the new methods of federal funding for human resources and urban renewal. Studies in the late 1970s and the 1980s looked at employment, welfare, and the feminization of poverty. Interviews with clients and service providers yielded information for briefings and community information meetings. In 1990 the Women's Issues Committee initiated a series of "Women to Watch" programs, recognizing women who have attained economic independence against great odds. In coalition with community groups and with Denver Department of Human Services, this committee interviewed former welfare recipients to evaluate the effects of welfare reform. Other issues studied and presented to the League were women in prison and human trafficking.

STANDARDS ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAMS

1. Citizen input representing all areas of the city is needed and desired.
2. We support reimbursing those in need for expenses they incur in community involvement.

STANDARDS ON GUIDELINES, FUNDING, AND ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAMS

1. Federal guidelines for human resources programs should be broad, rather than narrow.
Minimal amounts (10-30%) of local matching funds for federal programs are desirable in encouraging local commitment to and responsibility for human resources programs.
2. Where possible, federal programs should be administered locally through existing agencies.

POSITION ON HEALTH

Support for health care being available to all Denver residents and for consumers assuming more responsibility for becoming aware of costs of health care for themselves and their families (1977)

Health studies have focused on the facilities and availability of health care in Denver, cost containment, and provision of services for low income persons.

In 1994, as a result of a two year study, positions on health care were adopted at the LWVUS level. All of these positions can be used at the local level.

PROGRAM CATEGORIES

LEVEL OF LEAGUE	REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT	SOCIAL POLICY	INT'L RELATIONS	NATURAL RESOURCES
LWVUS (National)	Citizens Rights - includes Reproductive Rights Congress & the Presidency Election Process - includes Campaign Finance *Voting Rights	Child Care Early Intervention for Children at Risk Equality of Opportunity Fiscal Policy Gun Control Health Care Meeting Basic Human Needs Urban Policy Violence Prevention	Arms Control Military Policy & Defense Spending Trade United Nations U.S. Relationships with Developing Countries	Agricultural Policy Environmental Protection & Pollution Control Nuclear Issues Public Participation in Decision Making Resource Management
LWVCO (State)	Apportionment *Campaign Finance Colorado Constitution Fiscal Policy General Assembly Initiative Process Justice System Juvenile Justice Local Government Precinct Caucus/Assembly System *Reproductive Choice School Finance Transportation *Voting Rights	Child Care Children's Support Systems Education Equality of Opportunity *Gun Control Health Care Higher Education Housing Income Assistance		*Air Quality *Energy Environmental Planning Management Hazardous Materials Land Use *Solid Waste Management & Disposal Water
LWV/ Denver (Local)	City Government Planning & Zoning & Community & Urban Renewal Justice Juvenile Justice	Education Health Care Housing Human Resources Program Funding		

*Action on the State and Local levels on National position

PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters of the United States

2004-2006

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's 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

Citizen's 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.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

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.

2005-2007 STATE PROGRAM

League of Women Voters of Colorado

GOVERNMENT

APPORTIONMENT

Support of an independent commission to reapportion the Colorado state legislature. Support of apportionment of both houses of State legislature and Colorado U.S. Congressional districts based on specific criteria.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, allow maximum citizen participation in the political process, and close the "soft money" loophole that allows large, unregulated contributions to circumvent existing laws.

COLORADO CONSTITUTION

Support for clarity of language and suitability of topic and detail in proposed constitutional amendments.

FISCAL POLICY

Support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive and which incorporates social, environmental and economic goals. Oppose earmarking of funds and sales tax on food.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, and effective performance. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within a constitutional framework.

GUN CONTROL

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting accessibility and regulating ownership of hand guns and semi-automatic guns.

INITIATIVE PROCESS

Support for more stringent requirements for passage of constitutional amendments than for initiated statutes and protection from legislative change for initiated statutes for a minimum of two years.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Support of non-partisan selection of judges on an appointive-retentive basis. Support of sentencing measures which facilitate efficient administration of justice rather than incarceration for non-violent offenders. Support of sentencing measures that protect the community, compensate victims and the community for the crimes of adult offenders, rehabilitate offenders and emphasize the use of community-based sanctions.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support of a juvenile justice system that has as its primary purpose the rehabilitation, safety and well being of the offender. Support of a system that promotes the juvenile's understanding of the harm done and his/her responsibility to make amends to the victim and the community, emphasizes alternatives to detention or commitment, and promotes the protection of the community and the juvenile's successful reentry into community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government should be accountable, responsive, flexible, efficient, effective, able to raise sufficient revenues to perform their duties and have adequate constitutional and statutory powers to cope effectively.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

SCHOOL FINANCE (K-12)

Support for a state finance system that would equalize opportunity and relieve the property tax.

TRANSPORTATION

Support for a state Department of Transportation to plan and coordinate all transportation modes in order to provide a balanced transportation system in Colorado which gives consideration to the needs of regional, county and local governments. Funding for transportation should come from federal, state and local sources.

VOTING RIGHTS

Protect the right of every citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Action at the state level on national position.

ENERGY

Action at the state level on national position.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Support measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of governmental units within the state of Colorado and measures which promote integrated planning for environmental management, wise use of Colorado's water resources and other natural resources, comprehensive state-wide planning for land use and a balanced transportation system.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Support for adequate safeguards in the production, transportation, use, treatment, disposal, and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials. (Regarding disposal and storage: the intent is to locate and/or maintain a suitable site or sites for the disposal and storage of hazardous and radioactive materials, not to totally prohibit the location of sites in Colorado.)

LAND USE

Support responsible land use planning by all levels of government. While recognizing that most authority for planning is vested in local governments, LWVCO supports the creation of regional boards and commissions to address regional concerns.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL

Action at the state level on national position.

WATER

Support of measures that promote the wise and balanced use of water in Colorado

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILD CARE

Support state licensing and continued oversight by an adequate number of trained staff, and ensure availability of affordable quality child care to all children who need it.

CHILDREN'S SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Support measures to encourage public responsibilities for the protection, care, and training of children, while recognizing the primary importance of parental responsibility. Support measures to insure public responsibility for encouraging the implementation of preventive programs in the interest of optimal child development.

EDUCATION

Support pre-K through 12 public education system in which a balanced curriculum of humanities, arts and sciences leads to life-long learning for all students. Support a stronger leadership role for the Colorado Department of Education to promote educational improvements and standards for early childhood education.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

LWVCO believes in our nation's commitment to civil rights laws that ensure equality of opportunity and protection from discrimination. We support the inclusion of an array of American families as "family units" in order to provide equal application of the laws of our state. We call for an environment that is free from violence, harassment, and intimidation for all people.

HEALTH CARE

Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies when necessary.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Support of a stronger Colorado Commission on Higher Education to effect improvement in the state higher education system, with input from all concerned parties, including the general public.

HOUSING

Action taken at state level on national position.

INCOME ASSISTANCE (WELFARE)

Action taken at state level on LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs position. Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.