

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

POSITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (1967, affirmed 2018)

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County supports a local governmental structure which encourages informed citizen participation at the various levels of the political process. We believe local government should be comprehensible to the voters, with clearly delineated lines of authority so that responsibility can be easily pinpointed. Further, we believe local government should encourage use of best management techniques to ensure efficiency and economy of operation, including the employment of competent personnel in elected, appointed or civil service positions.

LAND USE (1987, affirmed 2018)

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County urges the development of plans, procedures and policies that will achieve the goals of the community and ensure orderly growth. To this end, the LWV supports:

- A Local Planning Department which is performing advanced planning and which is adequately financed and staffed.
- An ongoing and adequate interpretation to the public of the Master Plan and local land use policies.
- Careful consideration of new industrial and commercial development as well as close attention to amenities such as adequate parking, service drives, pedestrian walkways, landscaping, traffic control and overpasses. The Leagues opposes the concept of strip zoning on major arteries.
- An effort through imaginative and create land use policies to improve the quality of life:
- Strict enforcement of existing ordinances
- Site plan approval by the local authority.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM (1984, affirmed 2018)

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County supports:

- A library system which is adequately financed,
- A library system which serves the needs of the community,
- A library which provides free access to ideas and
- A library system headed by a professional librarian.

SENIOR SERVICES (1973, affirmed 2018)

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County supports the expansion of transportation services for the senior citizens, encourages the building of housing for the retired, and believes that there is a need for senior citizen outreach programs to inform the retired person of the help and programs available.

COUNTY HOME RULE (1966, affirmed, 2018)

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County supports county home rule, which provides flexible, adequate and efficient government in Wayne County, according to the positions taken in 1966, and including support of a county executive.

***EDUCATION** (2007, affirmed 2018)

The League supports an adequately and fairly financed public education system that provides each child equal access and equal opportunity, and a safe environment to develop his/her potential as a contributing member of society.

We support:

- Educational opportunities for all children, including special needs children,
- Adequate classroom facilities, special services (art, music, etc),
- Adequate salaries for personnel,
- Advisory involvement of administration, teachers, and citizens,
- Alternative education programs,
- Cooperation between school districts and other units of government,
- Before and after school programs,
- Community education.

TRANSPORTATION

(As amended at the LWV Detroit Metropolitan Area 2001, affirmed 2018)

- A. 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.
 3. Primary attention should be given to:
 - a. Increasing mobility throughout the area.
 - b. Helping the general population to get jobs.
 - c. Reducing the use of the private automobile.

B. Supports a Transportation Agency governed by an appointed board of 8 to 13 members.

1. Term of office should be 3-4 years, overlapping, part-time and with minimal salaries.
2. Board members should represent both population and governmental units.
3. Appointments should be by a combination of agencies to include SEMCOG and the Governor.
4. The Mayor of Detroit and the County Board of Commissioners could be included in the appointing combination of agencies.
5. 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.
6. Board members whether elected or appointed, should not be for an indefinite number of years.

C. Supports a minimum level of service provided to all.

1. This should include:
 - a. Urban and outlying areas.
 - b. The elderly.
 - c. The handicapped.
2. The greatest level of service should go to heavily populated areas. Job locations should be considered in establishing transportation routes.
3. 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.
 - a. Curb-to-curb and door-to-door should be available such as paratransit** types of services.
 - b. Park-and-ride type services should be available to avoid single occupancy vehicles.
4. There should be selected fare reductions for the handicapped, elderly the young and students.

D. Supports funding for public transportation from a combination of federal, state and local taxes that supports modes of public transportation.

1. Vehicle-related taxes and taxes from other sources, such as general revenue and sales taxes should be included.
2. 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.

3. There should be coordination among various types of special and linehaul* transportation services.

E. Supports statewide general purpose transportation fund.

1. Allocation from the fund should be determined by need.
2. State Department of Transportation should give equal attention to all modes of transportation.
3. 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'

HOUSING

(LWV Detroit Metropolitan Area 2001, affirmed 2018)

Support of equal rights for all regardless of race or sex. Action to provide equal access to housing. 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.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT/RIVER BASINS

(LWV Detroit Metropolitan Area 2001, affirmed 2018)

LWV 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.

Recognizing that watershed boundaries rarely coincide with governmental boundaries, the LWV believes that wastewater management, whether undertaken by one government or a combination of governments, should be planned, coordinated, and reviewed on a regional basis.

1. WASTEWATER TREATMENT

A. GOALS OF A WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE:

1. Consideration of long range social, environmental and economic costs and benefits as well as immediate effects.
2. Improve water quality.
3. Concern for Lake Erie.
4. Preservation of natural drainage systems including lakes, rivers, floodplains and wetlands.

5. Health protection and resources recovery.

B. TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS and recognizing that local conditions vary, methods of wastewater management will vary, but could include:

1. Pollution control as close to source as possible.
2. Retention/detention, screening and/or filtering of storm water runoff.
3. Separation of storm and sanitary sewers.
4. Industrial pollution control.
5. Preventive measures such as street sweeping, catch-basin cleaning.
6. Limiting the use of deicing materials, fertilizers, etc.

C. LWVDMAS SUPPORTS MEASURES THAT:

1. Encourage saving and planting of vegetation.
2. Protect wetlands and flood plains.
3. Require on-site detention in areas of new development.
4. Encourages open space preservation.

D. THESE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY:

1. Enactment and enforcement of local ordinances and resolutions.
2. Requiring local governments to prepare an EIS when projects significantly affect water quality.
3. Participation of local governments in watershed councils.
4. Discouraging the establishment of mosquito abatement districts because of adverse effects on water quality.
5. Encouraging tax policies as an incentive to preserve drainage systems.
6. 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.
7. 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.

E. WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

1. The degree of water treatment should depend on local conditions, most importantly on the condition of receiving waters.
2. Secondary treatment is a minimum goal and advanced treatment should be sought.
3. Should be built with the potential for advanced treatment.
4. When determining treatment plants, the following should be considered:
 - a. The water quantity and quality of the natural river system.
 - b. The efficiency of operation.
 - c. Surface water flow in natural areas.
 - d. Cost effectiveness including transportation of sewage, ability to handle emergencies, social concerns and vulnerability to disaster.
5. Should be required to use methods to detect and treat severe types of polluted influents.

6. 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.

11. 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 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:

1. Causes soil erosion as a result of cutting back of river banks and accompanying removal of plant growth.
2. Destroys plant and animal water life from sedimentation from soil erosion.
3. Causes more flooding in adjacent river and floodplain areas due to quicker runoff.
4. Induces pollution because the natural pollutant removal through plant root systems has been eliminated.
5. Destroys nesting and spawning areas of aquatic and small animal life.
6. Depletes ground water due to quick runoff.
7. Does not in any way upgrade the water quality of the river.
8. Is a very expensive process for the dubious benefits derived.