



# Seattle Voter

JANUARY 2008

VOL. 49, No.6

## The Roundtable Lives On

By Nan Moore, V.P. Program

No, this isn't Camelot—would that it were. (Or maybe not!) But it is time for local and national program planning and guess who does the planning: You! We'll all gather round the tables in January to begin 2008 and to shape the 2008-2009 League year.

Program planning is at the heart of our strength as a League. From the ideas that bubble up from individual units—individual members, even—come the beginnings of eventual positions that provide the authority for any action that any League member takes at any level of the League. Since program planning includes a careful review of current positions, it is also our guarantee that those positions continue to speak for all of us.

In the back of this *Voter* you will find the current public policy statements of the League of Women Voters of the United States. These amount to our marching orders for action. Interspersed with these, and printed in bold face, you will find the actual LWVUS positions. Some of the positions are very lengthy but they are carefully worded and represent hard work on the part of many people. You may not wish to read all of them. But please choose two or three positions to review carefully. Ask yourself: Is this current enough, and complete enough, to continue to serve the League as it should? If you believe the position is in serious need of review by the national League, come to the forum prepared to share your thinking on the matter with your tablemates.

Similarly, refresh your memory for our local positions by consulting this summer's issue of the *Voter*. We will provide a few copies of positions at the forum, but you might want to bring your own annotated version.

There oughta be a law! Ever found yourself saying that? Well, before Leaguers lobby for a law, we need positions. If you believe LWVS or LWVUS

*Keep the "roots" in grassroots.*

should have a new position on a topic dear to your heart, come prepared to lobby for it at the Roundtable. But FIRST—review the current positions to be sure of what to propose. A full-scale study for a brand new position? A review so that we can tweak and update a current position? Maybe just an informational forum or *Voter* article so that we can make better use of positions already on the books. Share your ideas.

We'll ask the action and study committee members to report to us about their observations and discussions. They'll start us off. But then the rest is up to you.

Remember, this is a working session; it won't be televised. While League has many devoted leaders, the real source of our strength is that our positions are not just validated by members, they are **generated** by members. Be at the Planning Forum on January 3rd to keep the "roots" in grassroots.

### INSIDE

The National Beat: Financing Politics .....	10
Action/Advocacy	
Time to Pay Attention to Education	
at the State Level .....	12
State Action Workshop .....	13
Protecting Our Children by Monitoring and	
Preventing Lead Exposure .....	14
League History	
PART III – the League in the 1950s and 60s.....	18
Book Review: The Road.....	19
Program	
December Forum .....	20
National Positions and Principles .....	21

# Contents

President's Message.....	3
Calendar.....	4
December Board Briefs .....	5
League News	
Committee Meetings.....	6
Announcements.....	7
Non-Proliferation Program for Community Leaders .....	8
National Beat	
Financing Politics .....	10
Action/Advocacy	
Time to Pay Attention to Education at the State Level .....	12
State Action Workshop .....	13
Protecting Our Children by Monitoring and Preventing Lead Exposure.....	14
Membership	
Membership Report.....	17
In Memory.....	17
League History	
PART III – the League in the 1950s and 60s .....	18
Book Review	
The Road.....	19
Program	
December Forum.....	20
National Positions and Principles.....	21
Unit Meetings.....	42
Board and Committee Contacts .....	43

# Contact Information

President: Denise Smith  
*Voter* Editor: Beatrice Crane

## **The League of Women Voters of Seattle**

1620 18th Avenue, Suite 101  
Seattle, WA 98122

Phone: (206) 329-4848  
Fax: (206) 329-1273  
info@seattlelwv.org  
[www.seattlelwv.org](http://www.seattlelwv.org)

Office Hours:  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## **The League of Women Voters of Washington**

4710 University Way NE #214

Seattle, WA 98105

(206) 622-8961

lwvwa@lwvwa.org

[www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)

Member section

User name: lwvwa

Password: voter

## **League of Women Voters of the United States**

(202) 429-1965

lwv@lwv.org

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

Postal Regulations

The *Seattle Voter* is published monthly except  
June and August.

Published periodicals postage paid at  
Seattle, WA.

Postmaster:

Send address changes to *Seattle Voter*:

1620 18th Ave, Suite 101

Seattle, WA 98122

Seattle Voter (USPS 052210)

## President's Message

December has always been a very busy time for me, as I pack the dark winter days with work, holiday preparations, and holiday celebrations at a frenzied pace. Fortunately, in the League year it is a time to slow down, to tie up loose ends, and to reflect. We have had a successful



*Denise D. Smith*

2007 and I am grateful to the dedicated League volunteers and friends who have worked on our issues, supported our mission with their talent and funds and offered moral support and council.

I am also grateful to our office administrator Rose for her dedication to the League organization and its principles and her skill with the technical aspects of our office. Rose has left the League to pursue career opportunities in writing, but her positive impact on the operations of our office will continue. We will miss her.

As you prepare for your own seasonal celebrations I hope you, too, will reflect on the League and what it has done to improve your life experience. We are a small community with shared principles and hopes for the larger communities of our local jurisdictions, county, state, and country. We are only as good as our members and only as involved as our member volunteers are willing to be.

I hope you will take this time to think about what the League means to you and what you imagine those august women who started our organization almost 88 years ago would have identified as the important issues of 2008. In January we will be doing program planning and we are interested in your thoughts and hopes for the new year. If you cannot attend the forum January 3rd or a January unit meeting please mail, call, or email your thoughts to me at: [president@seattlelwv.org](mailto:president@seattlelwv.org) or to Nan Moore, our program chair, at: [nannm@comcast.net](mailto:nannm@comcast.net).

The year 2008 will be a busy one for our chapter. We begin compiling and formatting the 2008 *They Represent You* ("the TRY") for publishing and

distribution in February. The contact information in the *TRY* will come in very handy during our State legislative session, which will be short but very active. I hope you will take this opportunity to contact the State League office to arrange to receive the Legislative newsletter so that you can follow the session and make use of the new *TRY*.

On the National level this year will be monumental. It will begin in earnest for Washington State with the political caucuses on Saturday, February 9. I encourage you to check your local paper or call your political party of choice to locate your caucus. However cynical the public has become about the process for determining the national agenda, it does begin at this caucus level. We Leaguers know the issues and understand the process. We *belong* at these grassroots meetings. Please consider attending and adding your informed perspective to the greater discussion.

I wish you all a pleasant holiday season. Enjoy your celebrations with families and friends. Rest and revitalize yourselves; we have important work ahead **doing the hands - on work to safeguard democracy.**

### **Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters of Seattle, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Forum: Program Planning**  
 Thursday, January 3  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Seattle First Baptist Church

**Board Meeting/retreat**  
 Saturday, January 5

**Seattle Voter deadline**  
 Monday, January 7

**International Relations Committee**  
 Monday, January 7  
 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
 League Office

**Social Justice Committee**  
 Monday, January 7  
 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
 League Office

**Civics Education Committee**  
 Tuesday, January 8  
 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
 League Office

**Membership Strategic Planning Committee**  
 Tuesday, January 15  
 6:00 pm  
 League office

**Immigration Committee**  
 Wednesday, January 16  
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
 League Office

**International Relations Committee**  
 Tuesday, January 22  
 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
 League Office

**Observer Corps Training**  
 Tuesday, January 22  
 6:00 p.m.  
 League Office

**Land Use Committee**  
 Thursday, January 24  
 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
 Park Shore Building

**Voter Registration Planning Meetings**  
 Thursday, January 24  
 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
 League office

**Observer Corps Training**  
 Saturday, January 26  
 9:30 a.m.  
 League office

**Economics and Taxation Committee**  
 Saturday, January 26  
 9:00 a.m.  
 909 E. Newton #D9

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office closed →	2	3 Forum: Program Planning 7:30 p.m	4	5 Board Meeting/ retreat
6	7 Seattle Voter deadline IR Committee 12:45 pm SJ Committee 5:30 pm	8 Civics Education Committee 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Membership Strategic Planning Committee 6:00 pm	16 Immigration Committee 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	17	18	19
20	21	22 IR Committee 6:00 pm Observer Corps Training	23	24 Land Use Committee Voter Registration Planning Meetings.	25	26 Observer Corps Training Economics and Taxation Committee
27	28	29	30	31		

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Board meeting 9:00 a.m.
3	4 Seattle Voter deadline	5	6	7 Forum: Regional Water Issues	8	9 Party caucuses
10	11	12	13	14 League's Birthday	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

# December Board Briefs

By Karen Adair, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

We are fiscally sound. The consolidation of all bookkeeping files is complete. The treasurer is able to give committee chairs current information on their portfolio expenses and balances.

## Membership Report:

We have a total of 875 members (767 of them in good standing).

## Winter Retreat

The annual Board winter retreat will be held on January 4. The Board will set priorities for partnerships and projects.

## Program

After analyzing the unit responses to the study questions in the state ferry study, the board concluded that "LWVS recommends no change in the current state positions. Our recordings affirm, but do not expand, current positions." That conclusion will be forwarded to the League of Women Voters of Washington. Our findings from the national immigration study will be sent to LWVUS by February 1 after the appointed Board committee has finished compiling the results of the unit responses and reported back to the Board.

## Voter Service

Victoria Bennett thanked everyone who worked on Voter Service during the busy fall election season.

## Action Report

The state league urges local action in every unit to help pass HB1551 (permitting but not requiring public financing of local elections). Information will be given to unit leaders so that contacts can be made to legislators. An education bill, which includes a component for civics education, is a second priority of the state league for this upcoming session. No plan for action on this bill was passed on to the local leagues, however.

## Give a League Membership!

The gift of membership to the League of Women Voters is an excellent way to introduce friends and family to issues that matter to everyone living in the Puget Sound area. Since the beginning, the League of Women Voters has believed that active and informed citizens are vital to the health of democracy. Help support the League's mission by giving an annual membership to someone you care about.

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to the League office with dues payment of \$50. We will send a welcome letter and certificate to the new member(s).

Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Committee Meetings

### International Relations Committee

Date: Monday, January 7

Time: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Place: League Office

We will continue to discuss our research on the UN's Millennium Development Goals to cut poverty, better maternal health, and increase literacy, among other things, around the world. Our research will culminate in April 2008 in a report and forum. New members are welcome. Email Ellen Berg ([ellenzberg@msn.com](mailto:ellenzberg@msn.com)) to find out more.

### Social Justice Committee

Date: Monday, January 7

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Place: League Office

At the January meeting, members will discuss social justice issues that may be before the state legislature, this year or next. Members will review the advocacy positions of the League and other organizations and coalitions on such issues as housing for people leaving homelessness, housing for people with prior felony records, voting rights, marriage equality, drug policy, green jobs and livable wages.

Bill Block, Project Director, The Committee to End Homelessness, spoke to the committee in December on the 10-year plan to end homelessness in King County. He reviewed the annual update on the plan, which is available at [www.cehkc.org/Reports/2006AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.cehkc.org/Reports/2006AnnualReport.pdf). Block stated that approximately 1,100 units of housing have been created in King County for people leaving homelessness, which is more than the original plan goal for the second year. However, the plan has been revised to spread out the goal of 9,500 housing units evenly over the ten years — that is, 950 per year — so we are not yet there. This lack of housing for people leaving homelessness will need to

be addressed in order to achieve the goal of ending homelessness. Other issues discussed included the disproportionate number of people of color who are homeless, the difficulty people experience in obtaining housing after incarceration, the Eastside Plan to end homelessness and plans for increasing housing that have been proposed for this legislative session.

Leave a message for Pat Cleary, Social Justice chair at 206-329-4848 or by email [patiquah@msn.com](mailto:patiquah@msn.com).

### Civics Education Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 8

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Place: League Office

The Civics Education Committee is planning to implement a number of projects to reinforce civics education, including support for increased funding from the State government. Join us to help make decisions on actions to take to educate youth on civics issues. For information contact Jaclyn Wall at [speakingstrategies@hotmail.com](mailto:speakingstrategies@hotmail.com)

### Membership Strategic Planning Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 15

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: League office

Help us to broaden the appeal of the League! Join us to strategize about membership development options. For information, email Kitty at [membership@seattlelvv.org](mailto:membership@seattlelvv.org) or leave a message for her at (206) 329-4848.

### Immigration Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 16

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Place: League Office

At 10:30 we will have a guest speaker, Pramila Jayapal, Executive Director and founder of Hate Free Zone. Guests are welcome.

### International Relations Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 22

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Place: League Office

Book Discussion! All are welcome to join a discussion of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder. This is a biography of Paul Farmer, an American physician who divides his time between the elite medical world of Boston and the impoverished nation of Haiti. Email Ellen Berg ([ellenzberg@msn.com](mailto:ellenzberg@msn.com)) to find out more.

### Land Use Committee

Date: Thursday, January 24

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Park Shore Building at 1630 43rd Ave. East (in Madison Park)

Although it is extremely limited, free parking is available on site and along adjacent streets, plus the #11 bus provides service to Madison Park. Bus stops to enter and depart the neighborhood are located within a half-block to one block of Park Shore.

This month the Land Use Committee is meeting with Leaguer Christal Wood and other volunteers who are working on a new Port of Seattle study. Discussion will focus on this study's relationship to past League Port studies, its proposed scope and other issues. Leave a message for Karen Kane, Land Use Chair chair at 206-329-4848.

### Economics and Taxation Committee

Date: Saturday, January 26

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: 909 E. Newton #D9

## Announcements

### CIS Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have a New Year's resolution to get involved in your community? Want to be on the front lines in getting to know how the League works, who comes in the door, how to answer questions from the public? We have just the place for you! Come learn how to answer phones on either a regular, three-hour shift during the week, or on an as-needed basis. It's fun! You will make friends and fulfill your New Years resolution! Leave a message for Cynthia Howe at 206-329-4848.

### Observer Corps Training Sessions

Seattle LWV members have been working for the past few months on the creation of a new Observer Corps. The project will get underway in January '08 with the training of volunteers to be observers at meetings of government policy-making bodies. The purposes of the Observer Corps will be to ensure that League members are informed about important policy issues, to observe whether the processes of these government bodies meet statutory requirements of transparency and accountability, and to make apparent through our visible presence the League's concern with these matters.

Training sessions will be held on Tuesday, Jan.22 at 6 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan.26 at 9:30 a.m. Training will also be available to members who are already engaged in this activity, whether as part of committee work or out of personal interest.

To sign-up for training or for further information contact Anita Warmflash at [ansky@qwest.net](mailto:ansky@qwest.net).

### Volunteers Needed For Exciting Opportunity To Promote Democracy And International Understanding

The League of Women Voters of Seattle has an exciting opportunity to promote democracy and international understanding by hosting an eight-day visit by a group of female Russian or Ukrainian civic leaders between May and November 2008. The visit will take place under the auspices of the Open World Leadership Program, which was established to give emerging leaders from former Soviet republics exposure to the American system of democracy.

Volunteers are needed to serve on a organizing committee, which will arrange housing and set up a program for the visit. Leave a message for Shoshana Billik at 206-329-4848 or email [shoshana@billik.com](mailto:shoshana@billik.com).

### Voter Registration Planning Meetings

**Date:** Thursday, January 24

**Time:** 1:30 pm or 6:00 pm (attend one session)

**Place:** League office

What will our voter registration effort look like in 2008? Will a Vote Mobile go to the corners of the county? Who should the League target the most with voter registration? Your help is needed to put together a plan for the year. Email Victoria at [voterservice@seattlelwv.org](mailto:voterservice@seattlelwv.org) or leave a message at (206) 329-4848 to say which session you will attend.

### Boots Winterstein Honored

Congratulations to Boots Winterstein, who was honored with the Ruben Spannaus Award at the October 2007 banquet of Lutheran Community Services Northwest. The award, named for the agency's late founder and first executive, recognized Boots for her years of service to the organization as volunteer, board chair, program manager, and Puget Sound Area Director. Retired in the spring of 2006, Boots continues as a volunteer, in addition to her League work, service to the church, and part-time teaching at Trinity College in the Children, Youth and Family Studies Community Outreach program.

## Great Decisions 2008 — How to Make Sense of It All

Global challenges have increasingly become domestic challenges as national destinies become more and more intertwined. With the help of the Foreign Policy Association's current briefing book and thoughtful League members and friends you can explore eight of the most compelling issues facing the world.

The Seattle League is sponsoring two evening discussion groups beginning on February 5th and continuing on alternate Tuesday evenings through May 13th. A group on Mercer Island will be hosted by Susie Anschell. A group in Seattle's Capitol Hill area will be hosted by Ray and Vicky Downs. Another group can be formed if enough interest is generated. Please leave a message at the League office 206-329-4848 if you would like to attend a group.

The 2008 briefing book for Great Decisions will be available for \$18.00 in January. If you would like to pick your book up in Seattle, call Carol Goldenberg to reserve a copy. Books can also be ordered directly from the Foreign Policy Association at (800) 477-5836 or [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org).

Participants may volunteer to lead the discussion on the topic of their choice. Topics for 2008 include:

**IRAQ: ENDGAME** A recurring question found in most public opinion polls and on the 2008 presidential campaign trail: what will be the endgame for the U.S. in Iraq? How will U.S. decisions about continued engagement affect Iraq and the Middle East?

**THE EUROPEAN UNION AT 50** Having reached the 50th anniversary of the great experiment in European integration, it is time to take stock of the united Europe. Has the integration of new members been successful? What does the debate on Turkey's membership say about the future of EU integration and its changing demographics?

**TALKING TO OUR ENEMIES** How the U.S. deals with international challenges often depends on how it engages with both its allies and its enemies. How should the U.S. deal with countries like Cuba, North Korea and Iran? What approach should the U.S. take with groups like Hamas and Hezbollah?

**RUSSIA** During his two terms as president,

Vladimir Putin has attempted to remake Russia into a major, independent world power. Some of his recent policies have provoked concern in the U.S. and Europe. With a 2008 presidential election expected, what course will Russia take?

### U.S. DEFENSE AND SECURITY POLICY

The U.S. military is adopting new policies and methods for defending the U.S. and its interests abroad. What should U.S. priorities be? How should its forces be structured and deployed to meet new security challenges?

### LATIN AMERICA: SHIFT TO THE LEFT?

What factors have prevented the U.S. and Latin American countries from forging a strong relationship? What challenges confront U.S. policy in Latin America? Can the U.S. offer an alternative to the influence of left-leaning leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez?

**U.S.-CHINA TRADE POLICY** Recent product safety scares have thrown a spotlight on the enormous role China plays in supplying products to the U.S. Could the large and growing trade imbalance with China have an adverse effect on the U.S. economy? What role does the undervalued Chinese currency play?

**PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY** Billionaire Warren Buffett's June 2007 pledge to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation prompted headlines about the size of the gift and the impact it could have on global education and health initiatives. Can private donors be more effective than governments in tackling world problems?

For over 50 years the Foreign Policy Association, an independent non-profit organization based in New York City, has published the Great Decisions annual briefing book and other educational materials aimed at increasing public awareness of international issues.



# Non-proliferation Program for Community Leaders

Ellen Z. Berg, Co-chair, International Relations Committee

On November 8, 2007, the Seattle League of Women Voters (LWVS) and the Jackson School for International Studies of the University of Washington co-sponsored a program on nuclear non-proliferation for a group of community leaders – people who influence people. The centerpiece of the event was a lecture by Ambassador Thomas Graham, who is the most experienced arms control negotiator the U.S. or our Soviet (and other) counterparts have ever had. **He has made the text of his lecture available to us** – email [ellenzberg@msn.com](mailto:ellenzberg@msn.com) and it will be forwarded to you.

Ambassador Graham offered a recap of the successful non-proliferation regime under which we have lived, and an analysis of the fissures in the central bargain which has made it work. This bargain was that most of the world's nations would agree to forgo nuclear weapons and to submit to inspections, while the nuclear weapons states would share peaceful nuclear technologies *and* would work towards the elimination of their own weapons. The fissures in this bargain are that the nuclear weapons states have never delivered on, and now seem to have given up on, the disarmament side of the bargain – with the result that lately weapons proliferation by the non-nuclear states has been accelerating.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is an idea, Graham noted, with a long pedigree in U.S. policy circles. Now, in the current situation, a group of distinguished policy figures from the Reagan, first Bush, and Clinton administrations has spoken out for a renewed disarmament policy and program. Endorsing this view, Ambassador Graham presented a step-by-step agenda for achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Such a program requires that the world community believe and trust the U.S., which, Graham opined, is not now the case. To “regain the trust of the world community,” he concluded, the U.S. must resolve the intervention in Iraq, work with others towards the successful development of failed states, and bolster the international rule of law by participating in its institutions and its treaties.

Since producing a report and forum on nuclear terrorism in 2005, the International Relations (I-R) Committee has turned its attention to the threat of nuclear proliferation. We stayed in touch with one of the speakers from our forum: Professor Christopher Jones, co-director of the Institute for Global and Regional Security Studies (IGRSS), which is part of the Jackson School and one of a few academic programs focusing on producing arms control specialists. Last spring Dr. Jones suggested an educational outreach collaboration between the Seattle League and IGRSS.

---

*We hoped to produce an educational effect which would ripple out from the event itself, and are pleased that that has been happening.*

---

The idea was simple: they would produce a speaker, and we would produce an audience. They proposed inviting Ambassador Graham, and we decided this was the ideal opportunity for us to reach beyond our organization to a target audience of people who influence others through the work they do: in peace or foreign affairs groups; in education, media, government, or business; or as LWV

and IGRSS leaders. The invitations to participate helped bring the League's interest in international relations generally, and in non-proliferation specifically, to a wide Seattle-Eastside audience.

We hoped to produce an educational effect which would ripple out from the event itself, and are pleased that that has been happening. (An immediate ‘pay-off’ was a Veterans Day column focusing on Graham, his career, and his perspective (with a mention of the League), written by James Vesely for the Seattle Times.)

Thanks to financial support from LWVS, the Jackson School, and generous anonymous donors, we were successful in co-sponsoring a stimulating dinner meeting. This kind of outreach effort was new for the I-R Committee, and the planning team I chaired worked very hard: many thanks to Vicky Downs, Carol Goldenberg, and Anita Warmflash. We were fortunate to have responsive partners in Professor Jones and Dr. Anand Yang, Director of the Jackson School, and to have had the moral support of Denise Smith and the LWV Board.

# Financing Politics – Will 2008 Be a Make-or-Break Year for Reform?

By Patti Catalano

According to LWVUS President Mary Wilson, “Big money’s corrupting our political process.” President Wilson goes on to comment on how few of our current presidential candidates pledge to use the public financing system during their campaigns, although every U.S. President since Carter has participated in this system and used it to win the presidency. Congress needs to update the presidential public financing system to reflect changes brought about by inflation and the long campaign season. But the fact that the system has not been updated is no excuse for candidates not to use it. The system can only work if all candidates agree to participate.

How important is it for candidates to participate in this system? The work that the League has been doing recently on the national level demonstrates that participation from all candidates is vital in order to support a system that addresses the wants of the voters rather than the influence of special interests. Campaign financing, and its various sources, can tell us much about our candidates. Money and financing can affect the ethics of our elected officials, influence the lobbying process, and finally determine whether our individual vote has much meaning in the overall political process.

Financing can influence politics on all levels from local to national, legislative to judicial. Washington State has been highlighted as one of five states to watch in 2008’s Judicial Elections. Justice at Stake ([justiceatstake.org](http://justiceatstake.org)) monitors judicial elections and ballot measures, especially those measures that try to legislate efforts to put politics into what should be nonpartisan judicial selection systems. In our state, “...2006 was a watershed year for the Evergreen State’s high court races. A trio of special interest groups combined to spend over \$2.7 million on top court campaigns, and every TV ad in those races was paid for by third-party groups.” This next year three of nine members of our highest court will be on the ballot. Although our state debated campaign reforms, we did not enact them. We can expect 2008 to be similar to, if not worse than, 2006. The LWV Judicial Independence Project is a partner with Justice at Stake.

---

*Financing can influence politics on all levels from local to national, legislative to judicial.*

---

Financing is a major issue in lobbying reform. LWV submitted comments jointly with Democracy 21, the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, and U.S. PIRG to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on “Reporting Contributions Bundled by Lobbyists, Registrants and the PACS of Lobbyists

and Registrants.” Bundling is a process by which “lobbyists organize and provide large sums of money to federal candidates in an effort to gain access and influence over decisions made by federal officeholders.”

This allows individuals to exceed campaign contribution amounts that are limited by existing campaign finance laws. Contributions of third parties can be pulled together to create a larger campaign donation than any one individual can donate. Although not inherently wrong, bundling done by a lobbyist will be made public knowledge for the first time. Contributions and transparency become joined at the hip as we, the public, have the opportunity to see where political money comes from and what special interests a candidate might be responsive to once elected. In their letter the LWV and others, referring to section 204 of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, encouraged the FEC to follow the law to its full mandate by providing “for the broadest possible disclosure” of bundling.

The Jack Abramoff lobbying scandals highlighted the importance of two other actions by the national League office, focusing on ethics and corruption. On 11/26/07, League President Mary G. Wilson sent a letter to the editor of the newspaper *Roll Call* calling for ethics reform now, urging Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to step forward and follow through on giving the new Office of Congressional Ethics, outlined in the proposal put forward by the House Ethics Enforcement Task Force, the power to assist the House Ethics Committee to enforce House ethics rules. Currently, the proposal does not give the Office subpoena power or access to subpoena power through the House Ethics Committee. Without this, it has no tools to do its work. In the area of corruption, in October the League supported S. 1946, the Public

Prosecution Improvements Act of 2007, then being considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This act is designed to give the Justice Department the resources and authority to hold public officials accountable for public corruption crimes and to help prevent other such crimes from.

So much attention has been focused on voter fraud and its impact on the political scene. Yet, as noted in the December *Voter*, voter fraud is rare but has been kept in the public eye by organizations which have been lobbying for restrictive voter ID laws. Thus financing has also had an effect on enfranchisement. The League, in conjunction with LWV-Indiana, has filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court case looking at the constitutionality of Indiana's photo ID requirement for voters. The brief cites many individual cases of voters affected by the photo ID requirement as well as whole groups of people such as the Amish and Mennonites whose religions object to photographs as "graven images." The Amish and Mennonites already have Indiana issued identification cards and driver's licenses without photos, but in order to vote they must cast provisional ballots and then appear before the county election board to file an affidavit stating they object to photographs because of religious reasons **each time they vote**. As a result, voter disenfranchisement may be a larger problem than voter fraud.

Big money, it appears, is corrupting the political process. We see the necessity of limiting big money and keeping contributions transparent as we encourage ethics reform with real power behind it, as we encourage public financing to be used by our presidential candidates to make candidates responsible to us the voters and not special interests, as we encourage the FEC to follow the letter and intent of the law regarding lobbying, as we encourage our legislators to support the Justice Department in its effort to fight corruption, as we watch the amount of money thrown at our judicial races, and as we follow photo identification requirements and their effect on enfranchisement. As our own 2008 legislative session opens in January, we are asking our local legislators to support removing restrictions on public financing for candidates. Initiative 134 took public financing away from campaigns but HB 1551 would restore the ability of local governments to decide for themselves if

they wish to offer public financing of elections. Once again, what we experience here is closely tied with what we see nationally in the bigger picture of the political process. We are not alone.

#### Sources:

**Crawford v. Marion County Election Board / Indiana Democratic Party v. Rokita; Brief for Amici Curiae Supporting Petitioners;** Amicus Brief filed by the League of Women Voters of Indiana, Inc., The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis, Inc. and the League of Women Voters of the United States, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

**Justice at Stake: Five States to Watch in Judicial Elections 2008;** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) Press Release, October 11, 2007.

**Landmark Lobby Reform Bill Becomes Law;** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), September 14, 2007.

**League President: Ethics Reform Now!** Letter to the Editor, *Roll Call*, 11/26/2007, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

**League Urges Senators to Support Public Prosecution Act;** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), October 24, 2007.

**League Urges Leadership to Strengthen Ethics Enforcement;** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) Press Release, November 16, 2007.

**League Urges FEC to Reform Campaign Contribution Requirements,** Comments on Notice 2007-23: Lobbyist Bundling, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), November 30, 2007.

**Wilson, Mary G. Presidential Public Financing 2008: Make-or-Break Year;** *The National Voter*, October 2007, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).



## Office Closed

Monday, December 24, 2007  
through

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

The League of Voters of Seattle wishes you  
all the best this season!

We look forward to diving into  
the legislative session after the break.

# Time To Pay Attention To Education At The State Level

Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Chair; Education Committee

There is much current activity at the state level with respect to education. Three major projects that should interest League members who are concerned about education are described below.

## State Board of Education Review of Graduation Requirements

The State Board of Education is holding meetings around the state to seek public input into graduation requirements and the type(s) of diplomas offered. The State has basic requirements, and individual school districts can add to the basics. For example, the Seattle School District requires three credits of English in high school where other districts require four. Some of the questions to be asked at the meetings are "What essential skills should students learn in high school? Should all students meet the same requirements to earn a diploma or should there be more than one type of diploma?" The Board expects to have recommendations by July 2008 in order to be ready to seek legislation and money in the 2009 legislative session. Further information can be found at the website [www.sbe.wa.gov](http://www.sbe.wa.gov).

## Study of Basic Education Finance

*Washington Learns* was originally supposed to study how to finance education at the state level. However, it put off a financing study while it came up with recommendations and goals for public education from prekindergarten through higher learning. In spring 2007, the State Legislature passed E2SSB 5627, which calls for a Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance. The main responsibility for this task force is to develop options for a new funding structure for basic education (K-12) and to propose a new definition of basic education. The definition of basic education determines what the state will pay for. The first task is to come up with options for teacher compensation, with a report due December 1, 2007. The final report is due September 15, 2008; it will include the options for funding and a timeline for implementation of any new funding structure. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy has been hired to carry out the work. More information can be found at their website [www.wsipp.wa.gov](http://www.wsipp.wa.gov).

## State League of Women Voters Study of Early Learning

At its convention last June, the State League authorized a study of early learning. The study committee, of which I am a member, has decided to use the Seattle League's 2005 study as a starting point. We will update the information in that report and add the many activities that have since been introduced at the state level, including the creation of the Department of Early Learning, the *Washington Learns* report, and statewide pilot projects. The study will go to local leagues in the fall of 2008, with the goal of reaching consensus on a new state position on early care and education.

Much of the work described here is just beginning. I plan to have meetings in the spring to update members on these activities. If you have ideas for education committee meetings, please let me know. My email is [lucygg@seattlelwv.org](mailto:lucygg@seattlelwv.org).

## Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS), in both its values and practices, affirms its beliefs and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVS recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVS affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.

# STATE ACTION WORKSHOP

Harriett Morton, Jaclyn Wall

The LWVWA Action Workshop took place November 10 in Bellevue, capably hosted by the Eastside Leagues. The agenda included speakers on four legislative priorities: Public Campaign Financing, Civic Education Funding, Health Care and Global Warming. LWVWA Lobbyist Lonnie Johns-Brown reviewed the prospects for this upcoming short legislative session.

## Public Campaign Financing

A clear plan of action for public campaign financing was announced, including involvement of all our Seattle units. All members are urged to contact their legislators, asking them to support public campaign financing for Washington and specifically the local option bills during this session. Our lobbyist suggests thanking them for some positive action to begin the conversation. If one of them sponsored HB 1551 or SB5278 (local option bills), you can start by thanking them for this sponsorship! These bills would restore the option of local public campaign financing, reversing the 1992 law, I-134, that prohibited using public funds for state or local campaigns. The bills would allow local voters and councils to establish local programs such as the one successfully introduced in 1978 by the City of Seattle (first in the nation!) to provide public matching funds for candidates. Making these candidate contacts is a first priority for all WA Leagues this session.

## Civics Education Funding

The Washington State LWV adopted a Civics Education Resolution at the State Convention in June 2007. One of the key parts of this resolution was to "give priority to supporting appropriations requests for the development and implementation of the 2006 legislative mandate to teach and assess civics at elementary, middle, and high school levels". The learning will be assessed through Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) rather than a standardized test. This legislation was never adequately funded.

At the Action Workshop we were informed of the progress on funding by Caleb Perkins from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Representative Pat Lantz (D-26th). Funding for social studies/civics education, the arts and health education are included in an OSPI request for \$1.4 million. Last year OPSI received half that amount and there is a strong need to finance civics education, especially for training teachers to use the classroom assessments. The speakers encouraged LWV members to contact their representatives and indicate our support for the funding.

## FOLLOW THE LEAGUE'S PROGRESS IN OLYMPIA SUBSCRIBE TO THE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

You'll receive information about pertinent committee hearings, status of bills and Action Alerts. **If you are willing to receive the newsletter via email it's free!** If you prefer to have it mailed to you there is a \$15 charge. Please specify which version you wish to receive - mail or email - and send your check in today.  \$15 Mail  Free via Email

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print your email address clearly!!)*

Make your check payable to and return to: LWVWA, 4710 University Way NE, #214, Seattle, WA 98105

PH: 206-622-8961, outside toll area, 1-800-419-2596, email: [lwwa@lwwa.org](mailto:lwwa@lwwa.org), [www.lwwa.org](http://www.lwwa.org)

# Protecting Our Children by Monitoring and Preventing Lead Exposure

By Steven G. Gilbert, John Roberts, Charles Bagley, Noemie Maxwell, and Robins Evans-Agnew

**K**ids run better unleaded. Unfortunately even small amounts of lead rob children of their intellectual potential by decreasing their IQ and reading ability, and permanently damaging their nervous systems. There is wide agreement that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children<sup>1</sup>. Medicare requires that high risk infants be monitored for exposure, but currently this law is being ignored. Finally, policies should aim to prevent lead exposure of all children.

Children are not just little adults (*see box on right*). They are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of lead because their bodies are small and still developing. This means that even a small exposure to hazardous compounds such as lead results in a large dose to a child. Children between the ages of one and three are at particularly high risk. During these years they are more likely to explore their environment by putting things in their mouth, which increases exposure to lead in house dust. Hand-to-mouth exposure is important because children can absorb as much as 50% of the lead they ingest. Adults, on the other hand, absorb only about 10%.

Lead substitutes for calcium in children's growing bones because it reacts physiologically like calcium. The bones store lead long term so that lead absorbed in childhood can be released back into the blood when bones lose calcium. This can happen, for example, during pregnancy, exposing the fetus to lead in utero. Lead also affects the still developing cells of the nervous system where it can impair intelligence as measured by IQ, learning, and memory, and trigger Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (for a review of these studies and related evidence see Gilbert and Weiss<sup>1</sup>). The costs in Washington of widespread impaired intellectual development in children caused by elevated blood lead levels can be measured in lost productivity and the increased need for remedial education and is estimated to be in the billions of dollars per year.<sup>2</sup>

## Sources of Lead

Lead exposure comes from a wide variety of sources. Historically the two major sources of childhood lead exposure were leaded gasoline and lead based-paint. Lead in gasoline was greatly reduced in the 1980s,

resulting in a dramatic drop in national average blood lead levels. Lead-based paint has been widely used both inside and outside homes and in industrial applications; it was not banned for residential use until 1978. Older homes and apartments that have not been updated are likely to contain lead-based paint and to pose a risk to children, particularly those in lower socio-economic groups. Lead exposure discriminates against those who live in poorer and substandard housing. Young children can be exposed to dust contaminated with lead from home remodeling activities, and tracked in from outdoors as well as by chewing old and flaking paint, which is attractive to children because it is slightly sweet. Lead in the form of lead arsenate was once used as a pesticide, which is very persistent and may linger in the dirt for long time. In the Seattle/Tacoma area the Asarco smelter in Ruston contaminated the soil of large areas of the south Sound with lead and arsenic fallout. Additional sources of lead exposure include some imported painted toys, inexpensive jewelry, vinyl lunch boxes, vinyl baby bibs, and even candy. Lead is used as automobile wheel weights, fishing sinkers, and shotgun shot, all of which can contribute to environmental

contamination and individual exposure. Lead can be found in drinking water contaminated by old piping or fixtures, and from soil outside the home. See the recent Consumer Reports article on lead contamination.<sup>3</sup>



### Children are not little adults

- Lead exposures can start early: pre-conception, during gestation (*in utero* exposure), via breast milk, and then through contact with the environment.
- For their body weight, children eat and breathe more than adults, thus a small exposure translates into a big dose.
- Their organ systems, particularly the nervous system, are rapidly forming and are thus more susceptible to the effects of lead.
- Young children are prone to hand-to-mouth behaviors that expose them to higher levels of lead.
- Children rely on adults to ensure that they develop in an environment in which they can reach and maintain their full potential.

## Federal Government Response to Effects of Lead

The US government has acknowledged the adverse health effects of lead exposure and has worked to reduce lead exposures through regulating lead in paint and gasoline and by setting blood lead action levels. In 1990, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended action only when a child's blood lead level exceeds 10 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) (*see figure below*). Since then evidence has accumulated on the harmful effects below this level, but there has been no change in the recommended action level.

Other government agencies have refused to recommend a minimum acceptable blood level. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated "health effects associated with exposure to lead occur at blood levels as low as to be essentially without a threshold". The CDC itself has been ambivalent about setting any new "minimum" standards despite acknowledging, "... no threshold for adverse health effects in young children has been demonstrated, public health interventions should focus on eliminating all lead exposures in children. Lead concentrations in drinking water should be below the EPA action level of 15 ppb."

The figure to the right documents the gradual recognition of the harmful effects of lead exposure at ever lower levels. Unfortunately the CDC has not adjusted acceptable blood-lead levels since 1990, despite new scientific evidence of learning and developmental effects well below 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . An "acceptable" blood lead level is not lead-free, or safe, but a threshold above which action is advised to reduce lead exposure. In practice the blood lead action level became an acceptable public health standard which does not protect children. The average blood lead level in children in the US is now less than 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , but 1.5% or 310,000 are above 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . This committee recommends that the CDC acknowledge the new science and reduce the blood-lead level to 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ <sup>1</sup>.

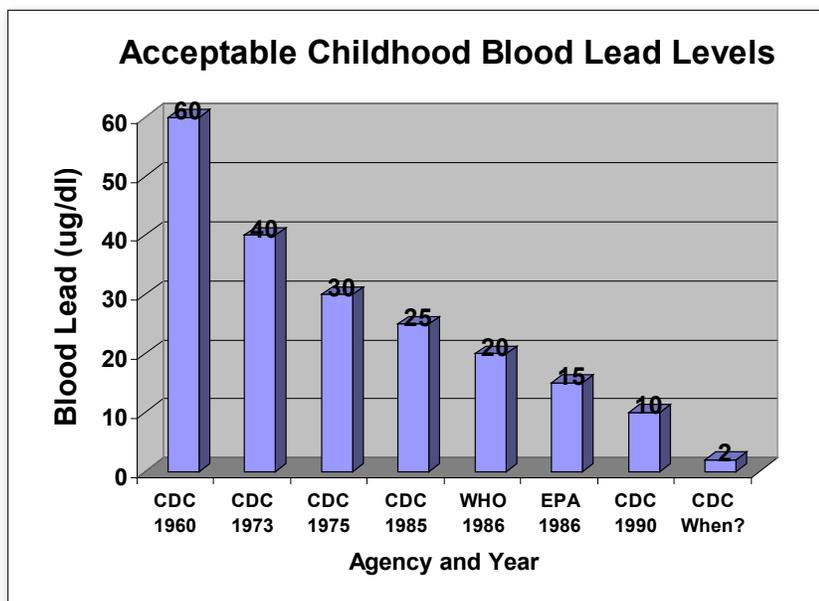
## Washington State policy response

In Washington there are approximately 522,000 children under six years of age. Department of Health estimates that 1.1%, or 5,742 children, have blood lead levels greater than 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  and that 7.7%, or 40,194 children, have blood lead levels greater than 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ <sup>4</sup>.

Federal law requires that low income children on Medicaid be tested for lead in their blood at one and two years of age. Monitoring helps to identify children where action is needed to prevent irreversible loss of intelligence. Despite the law, this testing is rarely recommended or performed by pediatricians in Washington. Medicaid children in Oregon and California receive more protection from lead poisoning because a higher percentage of their children get the blood test. According to CDC data 16.6, 4.6, and 1.1 % of the children under six are being tested for lead in California, Oregon, and Washington respectively.

The popular finger stick machine for screening children for high blood leads costs around \$1000 and the cost of an individual test is \$7, which is covered for children on Medicaid. Children for whom the finger stick test reveals high levels of lead can be referred for a venous test. The results of these tests can be used by local health departments and social agencies to plan interventions to help families reduce exposures to lead. The failure to test Medicaid-eligible children discriminates against those with a greater likelihood of having elevated blood leads. Failure to test also prevents data collection that would otherwise spur policies to protect children.

The good news is that Washington State is moving to respond to the new science and is working to reduce lead exposure as part of the Persistent Bioaccumulative



Toxics (PBT) program<sup>5</sup>. As part of this program, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) was required to develop a list of priority PBTs and develop a chemical action plan to reduce, eliminate, or prevent exposure to protect human health and the environment<sup>6</sup>. DOE and Department of Health (DOH) have completed chemical action plans (CAP) for mercury and PBDEs (brominated flame retardants) and are currently working on one for lead<sup>7</sup>. The lead-CAP is being developed through a series of public meetings designed to document the sources of lead exposure and develop a plan to reduce or eliminate lead exposure in Washington.

One of the challenges for the Washington Lead-CAP committee is to determine if blood lead levels greater than 2 µg/dL should be considered to be above the “acceptable” level requiring action to reduce exposures of children.

---

### Relevant Positions of the League of Women Voters of Seattle

#### HUMAN RESOURCES/SOCIAL POLICY

Health and Safety—Support measures to reduce the exposure of the population to toxics in the home such as: educating the public and public officials, informing the media, developing advocacy groups, improving building standards. 1990, 2001 (reaffirmed 2007).

#### What can you do?

You can take action now. First, it is important to learn and teach others about the health effects of lead and the many sources of lead exposure. Visit the WA State Lead Chemical Action Plan web site, send a letter of comment, and try to attend one of their upcoming meetings.<sup>7</sup>

You can work to eliminate any sources of lead around your home. Wash your hands before eating, particularly after being around any potential source of lead. If you have carpet, and especially if you have young children, vacuum the carpet frequently. In older homes, keep window sills free of dust. Avoid tracking lead indoors by always removing your

shoes at the door. Wash work clothes, particularly clothes of construction workers or other workers in heavy industry, separately from the family laundry. Consider asking your doctor to check the blood lead level in your small children if you live in an old house or have any concerns.

Finally, you can communicate with your government representatives and urge them to participate in efforts to reduce the harmful human effects of lead exposure. Tell them you want our children to live, learn, and play in an environment that is free of lead and one in which they have the best chance of reaching and maintaining their full potential.

1. Gilbert SG, Weiss B. “A rationale for lowering the blood lead action level from 10 to 2 microg/dL.” *Neurotoxicology* 2006;27(5):693-701.
2. Davies K. *Economic Costs of Diseases and Disabilities Attributable to Environmental Contaminants in Washington State*. Seattle: Antioch University. 2005.
3. Consumer Reports. “New worries over lead - Our latest tests find the toxic metal in more products.” Dec. 2007.
4. Presented at WA State Lead CAP meeting, November 15, 2007. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/leadcap/>
5. Department of Ecology’s Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBT) Strategy website: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/pbt/pbtfaq.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/pbt/pbtfaq.html)
6. The Department of Ecology completed the final Multiyear PBT chemical Action Plan Schedule, which was prepared in accordance with the Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins Regulation (WAC 173-333-410). This document is Ecology Publication # 07-07-016. Multiyear PBT Chemical Action Plan Schedule – Final - [www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707016.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707016.html)
7. Department of Ecology’s Lead Chemical Action Plan (Lead CAP) website: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/leadcap/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/leadcap/)

# Membership Report

By Kitty Mahon, Chair

**2008** – a New Year. With the holidays winding down (it's too bad our waistlines don't comply!) many of us list resolutions for the New Year. If your list isn't already full, or even if it is, think about asking a friend, relative or colleague to join you as a member of the League, or consider an active role for yourself in the League. We are heading into several months of intense political discussions, debates and decision-making. Because the League is non-partisan, we can make it possible to hold civil discourse. We can insist that the candidates stick to the issues and make their positions clear. Together, we can make a difference. We may "speak with one voice" as members of the League, but with strength in numbers, we can make that a very strong voice.

If there is a young adult in your life with whom you would like to share the experiences and benefits of the League, now is a good time to think about a gift membership. A student membership is only \$25.00. This is a wonderful way to introduce young people to the benefits of League membership and involve them in the political process in a non-partisan way. Many of us have had conversations with people who say that they don't believe that they can make a difference by voting or becoming involved in the political process. We know that this is not true, and the League is a terrific way to demonstrate that. A gift of membership is a gift of experience, providing an opportunity to learn about topics of local and national interest and to interact with others who know that it is possible to make a difference.

## **\$2.50 Club**

Thank you to the many members who contribute an extra \$2.50 beyond their dues to support the increase in National dues to cover the cost of the immigration study. Included in this list are: Ann Bowden, Anna Haman, Lois Laughlin, Alice Siegal, Kathie Moritis, Kate Hemer, Cris Kantor, Pamela Bond, Sharon Doman, Virginia Nielsen, Gloria Epstein, Sandra Canepa Swan, Trudy Brown, Jewell Woodward, Judith Yarrow, Lucy Steers, Patty Berg, Gloria Butts, Gunbjorg Ladstein, Valerie Lynch, Peggy Williams and Elana Dix.

## **League Members are Generous**

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from donors to the League in support of its work. Many thanks to: Pam Hamlin, Marilee Eaves, Adele Reynolds, John Roberts, A. Nony Mous, Donna Lipsky, Toni Potter, Ann Ormsby, Robin Pierce, Elizabeth Waddell, Joan Thomas, Kris Bushley, Jeannine Anderson, Lucy Copass, Eleanor Laxdall, Mary Coltrane, Frances Scheidel and Barbara VandeFen.

## In Memory

By Heidi Carpine

### **Benella Caminiti (1922-2007)**

Benella was a dedicated League member and heartily supported environmental causes. She was also a longtime friend. I worked with her on shoreline protection. She was the founder of Seattle Shoreline Coalition. She was also chairwoman of the Washington Environmental Council's Coast and Shoreline Committee and a board member for the Center for Environmental Law and Policy. She won many awards for her activism, including a special honor in 1991 from the state Ecology Department for her work protecting shoreline resources.

I remember Benella best for her dedicated work on shoreline legislation. She testified on shoreline protection for Smith Cove Park, West Point Sewer Plant, Lake Union, Four Mile Rock and the Seattle Waterfront. She was also interested in Woodland Park development and Padilla Bay.

The last project I worked on for Benella was a bench at Discovery Park. She asked me if I would ask the Discovery Park Advisory Council for a bench on the south slope near the Chapel. She could no longer take long walks at the park, but could make it up the path to the Chapel. We put a bench near the South gate on the Chapel slope so that people could rest there and view the south meadow, Puget Sound and the Olympics.

Everyone listened to Benella, as she was a great researcher and speaker. We owe her a debt of thanks for saving our Seattle shorelines.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THROUGH THE DECADES!

**PART III – the League in the 1950s and 60s**

We continue with the history of the League, as written by Kay J. Maxwell, former LWVUS president

**The 1950s****ORGANIZATION**

Delegates to the 1954 convention voted to group League program into Current Agenda (“CAs”) government issues chosen for sustained attention and concerted action, and Continuing Responsibilities (“CRs”) positions on governmental issues to which the League had given sustained attention and on which it could continue to act. In 1951, “The National Voter” magazine was first published and in 1957 the League of Women Voters Education Fund was established. (For more detail, see the section titled League of Women Voters Education Fund and Overseas Education Fund.)

**ISSUES**

The witch hunt period of the early fifties inspired the League to undertake a two-year community education program focusing on the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Next came an evaluation of the federal loyalty/security programs and ultimately a League position that strongly emphasized the protection of individual rights. In 1955 League President Percy Maxim Lee testified before Congress against Senator Joseph McCarthy’s abuse of congressional investigative powers. *“I believe tolerance and respect for the opinions of others is being jeopardized by men and women whose instincts are worthily patriotic, but whose minds are apparently unwilling to accept the necessity for dissent within a democracy.”*

Dating back to a 1920s study of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the League’s concern about the depletion and conservation of natural resources was rekindled in the mid-1950s with a study of water resources.

**The 1960s:****ORGANIZATION**

The 1966 convention redefined program as “those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.” This change made it possible to have program without the “CA” and “CR” categories, and at the convention in 1968 the program was adopted without categorizing issues. Membership reached a high point in 1969, with almost 157,000 members.

**ISSUES**

In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s the League directed its energies to equality of opportunity and built a solid foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing. The League also added apportionment to its national program and supported presidential suffrage for the residents of Washington, DC. In 1969, the League was one of the first organizations calling for the United States to normalize relations with China. The League also hosted an exchange with women from the USSR and the OEF Institutes for Latin American women were inaugurated.

**Dependent Care and Child Care**

Reminder: The League reimburses members for dependent care and child care. We want everybody who is the primary giver for their loved ones to be able to join us. Call Denise at (206) 329-4848 to find out how we can make it easier for you to attend a meeting.

## ***The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy**

Review by Vicky Downs

For the past month, I have not been able to stop thinking of *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy. Like a wet leaf on pavement, the images in my head are impossible to sweep away.

The book describes a bleak world that is “always gray” with deep cloud cover every day and ashes everywhere. It is a post-apocalypse world in which gangs have “mostly killed each other” and very little life exists. Only a few people appear, and they live in fear: hiding from others or roaming as small bands of thugs and cannibals.

The focus of the book is on “the man” and his “boy” who are never named. They need each other for survival, and the dialog deals mostly with their reaching some sort of accord. “I’m going to look for wood. We have to have a fire.” “I’m scared.” (from the boy). The man points out their need for warmth so they can be safe and together. Finally they reach an accord with the words “Okay?” “Okay.” Only then does the man look for firewood. Returning, he opens his coat and wraps the shivering boy close against himself until the fire provides enough heat for them both.

Since it is too dangerous to stay in any one place for long, the two walk East toward the ocean before turning South where they hope to find more warmth. Mostly they avoid big roads and search abandoned homes and stores in hopes of finding cans of food and other supplies to keep them from starvation and the cold.

Huge issues are raised in the simple dialog and ruminations in the man’s head. The man realizes he can not tell the boy about the world he himself has known, for that gift of knowledge of sunnier times

filled with friends would also bring a cruel loss: picturing a world the boy would never enjoy. The boy learns that they are “good guys” but the father is unable to show him any others. They are “each the other’s world entire.”

What develops is a life-giving love between the two. This comes to a head when the man’s cough turns bloody. He understands he cannot continue looking for food and shelter much longer, but must give the boy a sense of hope so that he can survive after his father is no longer alive.

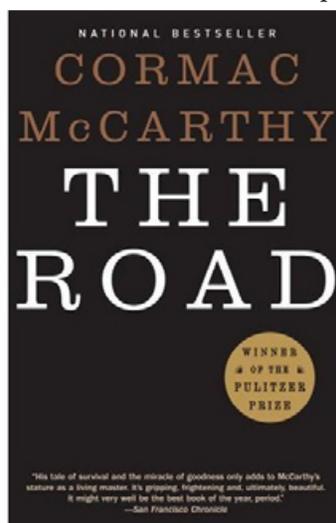
The end brings the only description of color I remember in the novel, and I feel intensely grateful for it. After waiting three days next to his father’s cold body, the boy is hungry and goes out to the road and waits. A man strides into view dressed in gray with a yellow ski parka.

“Are you one of the good guys?” the boy asks.

“Yeah,” he says. The man has a wife and two children, and later when the woman sees the boy she puts her arms around him and holds him.

The story provides a sense of uplift and a determination in this reader’s heart to be another “good guy” and to do much more to make our world a sustainable and generally positive place to live. I recommend this relatively quick read (lots of short dialog), especially at the beginning of a New Year filled with possibilities!

*The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.*



## Fostering Open Government – An Informative League Forum

By Beatrice Crane

The December 6 Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS), on the subject of open government, offered much more than an overview of the freedom of information laws and open meeting laws which have come into being in the past forty years. Harriett Morton, the LWVS Action Chair, assembled a group of speakers who have had practical experience with these laws on the national, state, and local levels, and who therefore could offer various perspectives on the effects, both positive and negative, of these well-intentioned laws.

Peter Crane, a retired attorney who worked on Sunshine Act issues at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, represented the national point of view. He lauded the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), but characterized the Sunshine Act as “fluff”, which had the unfortunate effect of reducing meetings and concentrating more power in the chairman of his agency.

Michele Earl-Hubbard is a founding member of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. She talked about how the state sunshine laws differ from the federal ones. The definition of meeting, for example, depends on action taken rather than on the number of people attending; even a discussion conducted by email could constitute a meeting. She is a strong proponent of openness laws, and feels that policy makers should not be having conversations in private which they would not be willing to have in public.

Seattle City Attorney Thomas Carr chairs the State of Washington Sunshine Committee, appointed by the governor. While he feels that openness in government is a good thing, he is also aware of costs. On the city council, committees consist of three people, so any two members constitute a majority and cannot talk business unless they give notice of a meeting. There are also costs to taxpayers. The Public Records Act requires documents to be supplied free of charge, even to requestors who do not live in the city. There are also personnel costs, as every agency must have a public records officer. And for many requests, there are exemptions to be reviewed.

Ken Bunting, Associate Publisher of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, is also a member of the State Sunshine Committee, as well as the Washington Coalition for Open Government. He spoke in favor of the citizen’s right to access to public records, a right which he thinks is essential to protect other rights.

William Crittenden is a lawyer who serves as the *Amicus Curiae* Counsel for the League of Women Voters. He spoke on the relatively new problem of applying the Public Records Act to electronic records. One question, not yet resolved, is whether such records must be supplied in electronic form. Crittenden also noted that privacy concerns can often conflict with freedom of information.

The audience responded enthusiastically, coming up with more questions than the time allowed. Moderator Harriett Morton took the opportunity to encourage League Members to participate in the League’s Observer Corps, and to shine some light of our own by attending policy-making bodies as official LWVS observers.

### Upcoming Forums

January 3  
Program Planning  
(national/local)

February 7  
Water, Part II  
(State/Consensus)

March 6  
Women’s Issues

April 3  
International Relations

May 1  
Local Immigration

# Public Policy Positions

League of Women Voters of the United States

The following material is taken from *IMPACT ON ISSUES 2006-2008: A Guide to Public Policy Positions*, published by the League of Women Voters of the United States. You may view *IMPACT ON ISSUES* in its entirety on the LWVUS website, [lww.org](http://lww.org).

## 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.

*Statement of Position, March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

#### 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.

*Statement of Position, rev. March 1982 and June 2000:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that citizens of the District of Columbia should be afforded the same rights of self-government and full voting representation in Congress as are all other citizens of the United States. The LWVUS supports restoration of an annual, predictable federal payment to the District to compensate for revenues denied and expenses incurred because of the federal presence.

#### ELECTION PROCESS APPORTIONMENT

Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

*Statement of Position, March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained and that the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment.

#### 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.

*Statement of Position, March 1982:*

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 and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office – presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

#### 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.

*Statement of Position, June 2004:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

### Citizen Rights

#### CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO KNOW/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

*Statement of Position, June 1984:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect

the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

#### INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

*Statement of Position, March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.

#### PUBLIC POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

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

*Statement of Position, January 1983:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm 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.

*Statement of Position, March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that structures and practices of the U.S. Congress must be characterized by openness, accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance. Responsive legislative processes must meet these criteria:

**ACCOUNTABILITY.** A Congress responsive to citizens and able to hold its own leaders, committees and members responsible for their actions and decisions.

**REPRESENTATIVENESS.** A Congress whose leaders, committees and members represent the nation as a whole, as well as their own districts and states.

**DECISION-MAKING CAPABILITY.** A Congress with the knowledge, resources and power to make decisions that meet national needs and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities.

**EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE.** A Congress able to function in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT.** A Congress whose proceedings in committee as well as on the floor are open to the fullest extent possible.

#### The Presidency

Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

*Statement of Position, March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that presidential power should be exercised within the constitutional frame work of a dynamic balance between the executive and legislative branches. Accountability and responsibility to the people require that unnecessary secrecy between the President and Congress be eliminated. Therefore, the League supports the following measures:

**EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS.** Presidential authority to negotiate international executive agreements should be preserved. Accountability to the public requires that the President report to Congress the text of all such agreements and that Congress review them periodically.

**WAR POWERS.** The President should be required to seek the advice of the Congress before introducing U.S. armed forces into situations where hostilities are imminent, to report promptly to Congress any action taken, and to obtain within a specified time congressional approval for continued military activity.

**EMERGENCY POWERS.** Presidential authority to declare a state of national emergency should be subject to periodic congressional review. The President should transmit to Congress yearly notice of all existing national emergencies and significant orders issued under each. Congress should review the emergencies and significant orders issued under each. Congress should review the emergencies every six months and should have the power to terminate them at any time by concurrent resolution. (All states of emergency now in existence should be terminated after a grace period for adjustment.)

**FISCAL POWERS.** The President should exercise executive responsibility for sound management of public funds in a manner consistent with the programs and priorities established by Congress. This requires procedures for congressional consideration of the budget as a whole and measures for congressional disapproval of presidential impoundment of funds.

**SUCCESSION AND TENURE.** The League of Women Voters of the United States supports the succession procedures spelled out in the 25th Amendment. However, the League favors a limit on the amount of time Congress may take to confirm the Vice President. The League also favors retention of a two-term limitation on presidential terms of office.

#### 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.

*Statement of Position, June 2002:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports a strong, effective United Nations and endorses the full and active participation of the United States in the UN system. The League supports UN efforts to:

- promote international peace and security;
- advance the social and economic well-being of the world's people;
- ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- foster trust and cooperation among nations by encouraging adherence to conventions, treaties, and other international agreements;
- protect the integrity of the world environment;
- achieve the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of civil and political life.

The United Nations should be an important component of U.S. foreign policy. The League supports U.S. policies that strengthen the UN's capacity to solve global problems and promote prosperity throughout the world. The United States should work actively and constructively within the UN system, exercising diplomatic leadership in advance of decision-making. The United States should not place conditions on its participation in the United Nations, except in the most extreme cases, such as flagrant violations of the Charter.

The League supports UN leadership in a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to promoting world peace and security that includes ongoing efforts to eliminate the underlying causes of conflict. UN peace operations should include such strategies as

- an increased emphasis on preventive diplomacy and the use of such techniques as an early warning system to identify possible threats to peace and mediation to help resolve disputes;
- preventive deployment of UN peace-keepers to forestall the outbreak of hostilities;
- enhanced capacity to respond rapidly and effectively to contain conflict and establish a just and stable peace;
- UN peacekeeping operations that have strong political and financial support from the world community and the consent of the local parties;
- military intervention, as a last resort, to halt genocide and other crimes against humanity and to prevent the spread of conflict;
- protection of civilian populations, including protection of displaced persons;

- long-term commitment, both pre- and post-conflict, to establishing the institutions and conditions needed for real economic and social development;
- enhanced capacity at UN headquarters to plan, manage and support UN peace operations.

The United States should support all aspects of UN peace operations. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have an important role to play in peace operations, including participating in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts and providing humanitarian aid.

The League strongly supports the central role of the United Nations in addressing the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people. The advancement and empowerment of women is fundamental to achieving peace and prosperity and should be a high priority for UN programs. Other areas for emphasis include

- eradicating poverty and hunger;
- improving basic living standards worldwide;
- promoting the well-being and potential of children, with special attention to the girl child;
- promoting human and political rights;
- ensuring access to a basic education for all;
- ensuring a basic level of health care for all;
- protecting the environment and the world's natural resources.

The League supports efforts to strengthen the development and humanitarian work of the United Nations through greater coordination among agencies, more efficient use of resources, additional funding as required, and more partnerships with NGOs and other non-state actors. UN-sponsored world conferences are valuable forums for building international consensus and developing practical plans of action to solve global problems.

The United States should provide strong leadership and financial support to the UN specialized agencies, participate constructively in international conferences, and fulfill all agreed-upon commitments.

The League believes that world peace and progress rest in part on a body of international law developed through conventions, covenants, and treaties and on the judgments of international courts. Disputes between nations should be considered and settled in the International Court of Justice, and its judicial decisions should be honored.

The League supports the creation of a permanent international tribunal, such as the International Criminal Court, to try individuals charged with crimes of genocide, war crimes, and other systematic crimes against humanity.

All court procedures must meet the highest judicial standards, including guarantees of due process protections and the integrity and impartiality of

the courts' officials. The League supports full U.S. participation in the international judicial system and U.S. ratification and observance of international treaties and conventions consistent with LWVUS principles and positions.

The League supports the basic principles of the UN Charter. The League supports one-nation, one-vote in the General Assembly, the veto power in the Security Council, and a strong, effective office of the Secretary-General. The League supports measures to make the Security Council a more representative body that better reflects the diverse interests of UN member nations and the world's people. The United States should work to encourage member nations to consider the needs of the world as a whole and avoid divisive politicization of issues.

Member nations have the collective responsibility to provide the resources necessary for the UN to carry out its mandates, with each providing financial contributions commensurate with its ability to pay. The United States should meet its financial obligations to the UN on time, in full, and without conditions.

### **Trade**

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

*Statement of Position, updated April 2002:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports a liberal U.S. trade policy aimed at reducing trade barriers and expanding international trade. Such a policy helps foster international cooperation, democratic values, and economic prosperity at home and abroad as well as benefiting consumers through lowered prices, expanded choice and improved products and services. The League believes that U.S. trade policy should be based on the long-term public interest, not on special interests, and should advance the achievement of other important policy goals, including:

- improvement of basic living standards worldwide;
- reduction of inequalities within and among nations;
- protection of the environment and global natural resources;
- respect for human, labor, religious and political rights;
- improvement of labor conditions around the world.

The League endorses the worldwide systematic reduction of tariffs, subsidies and quotas. The League also supports the reduction of non-tariff barriers to trade consistent with the goals and strategies set forth in this position statement. Administrative and customs procedures should be efficient and flexible. The League supports U.S. participation in an international trade organization aimed at promoting

worldwide economic growth via an open trading system. This organization should have the power to hold nations accountable for commitments made in multilateral trade treaties and should recognize the legitimacy of international agreements in the areas of the environment, labor, and human rights. Its proceedings should be open to scrutiny by the public, the press, and non-governmental organizations. The public should have timely access to a wide range of its documents, and its dispute settlement process should allow friend-of-the-court briefs.

The organization should recognize the legitimacy of a country's measures in the areas of the environment, health, labor and human rights that are more stringent than international standards or than those of its trading partners. These measures should not discriminate between domestic products and imports and should not be used as a pretext for restricting the flow of trade. The League believes that trade agreements should be negotiated multilaterally in the broadest possible international forum. Regional and bilateral trade agreements can be useful steppingstones to broader trade liberalization but should not be allowed to block progress in multilateral negotiations nor to marginalize poor countries.

The League believes that the U.S. trade policy-making process should be open, transparent, and efficient and should advance League trade policy goals. The President should be given the authority to negotiate trade agreements within prior guidelines and conditions set by Congress. Congress should have an adequate but limited time period to debate and accept or reject the resulting proposed agreements, without amendment. Congress should take an active part in the policy-making process, establishing trade priorities and negotiating objectives and observing and monitoring trade negotiations. Congress should have the resources and staff expertise necessary to fulfill its trade responsibilities. The trade policy-making processes of both Congress and the executive branch should include meaningful opportunities for input from a broad range of public interest perspectives, as well as from business interests, and should include timely assessment of the impact of proposed trade agreements.

The League supports a variety of trade-related strategies to protect the environment and promote labor, political, religious and human rights, including

- trade negotiations and trade agreements that lead to progress on environmental and social objectives;
- monitoring and reporting of countries' practices and performance in these areas;
- recognition of the legitimacy of multi-lateral environmental agreements;
- strengthening the International Labor Organization and promoting ratification of ILO core labor rights;

- promoting ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and similar international agreements;
- international sanctions aimed at ending egregious violations of human rights;
- legitimate labeling and certification programs (e.g., eco-labeling);
- protection of endangered species;
- elimination of environmentally and economically harmful subsidies and incentives (e.g., for fishing, timber, agriculture);
- codes of conduct to encourage responsible business practices in these areas (e.g., guarding against abusive child labor);
- domestic regulations and practices that advance environmental and social goals and that are not a pretext for restricting trade; and
- aid to developing countries to improve their ability to create and enforce national laws protecting the environment and human and labor rights.

The League supports trade and related policies that address the special needs of developing countries, with emphasis on economic growth and improving income distribution. The League supports such measures as:

- priority elimination of tariffs and quotas on exports of developing countries;
- longer adjustment periods and financial and technical assistance for implementation of trade commitments;
- special measures to ensure access to essential medicines;
- financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to participate effectively in the world trading system;
- financial aid for infrastructure improvements; and
- policies that recognize the special circumstances of developing countries in the areas of food security and transition to the world trading system.

The League supports strong U.S. leadership in, and financial support of, international institutions and programs that reduce poverty and address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of the environment and human and labor rights.

The League supports measures to address the adverse impact of international trade on domestic workers, firms and industries. Training, education and safety net programs, such as cash assistance, relocation assistance, and health care, should be enhanced and made easily available to dislocated workers, whether or not a trade connection can be made. Portability of health care coverage, pension rights and other fringe benefits should also be assured. The League supports temporary trade barriers consistent with international trade rules

to permit firms seriously injured by surging import competition to adjust to changed conditions.

### **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

*Statement of Position, April 1986:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that U.S. interests in developing countries should reflect the reality of global interdependence. Paramount among these interests are reducing the risk of military conflict, promoting the sound management of global resources, protecting human rights, stimulating economic growth and improving the quality of life in developing countries. U.S. policies toward developing countries should not be based on maintaining U.S. preeminence.

The LWVUS strongly believes that development assistance, which is designed to meet the long-term social and economic needs of developing countries, is the most effective means of promoting legitimate U.S. interests. Military assistance and the direct military involvement of U.S. forces are not appropriate means to further the League's stated paramount interests in developing countries.

Developing countries should not be the pawns or the playing fields for geopolitical competition. The relationship between the superpowers should not be an important factor in determining U.S. policies toward developing countries. The LWVUS supports efforts to reduce international competition in developing countries, including:

- enhancing the role of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations;
- supporting regional approaches to conflict resolution;
- encouraging cooperative efforts to promote the sound management of global resources and improve the quality of life;
- promoting measures to reduce tensions and increase communication, including scientific and cultural exchanges and other cooperative programs.

### **International Development Assistance**

*Statement of Position, April 1986:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that long-term requirements for world peace, humanitarian obligations and long-range national interests demand U.S. policies that help developing countries reach self-sustaining economic growth.

League members understand that the development process encompasses more than economic growth and urge that the focus be on the human concerns of

development and on an improved quality of life for the people of developing countries. U.S. development assistance policies should enhance human dignity and fulfill basic human needs. The policies should be coordinated with other development efforts, and they should respect cultural differences. The League favors greater participation by the recipient nations in the planning and execution of development programs. The development effort should be one of a partnership between developed and developing countries. Development programs should be long-range, adequately financed, effectively coordinated and administered.

League members recognize that population pressures affect all other aspects of the development process. The League supports U.S. efforts to assist other nations in their population planning programs, in accordance with the culture and mores of each country. The League also emphasizes strongly the importance of programs for nutrition, health, employment and education.

The League advocates that the proportion of U.S. assistance given through multilateral channels should be substantially increased, with concurrent efforts being made to strengthen the multilateral agencies where necessary.

The League deems it essential that the trend of reduced aid be reversed and that U.S. contributions for development assistance be increased.

League members believe that aid alone is not enough to meet the needs of developing countries. Measures other than direct grants and loans must be utilized. The League advocates such measures as reduced tied aid, prevention and relief of debt burdens, and changed patterns of trade. The U.S. government must ensure that its trade, monetary, political and military policies do not subvert the goals of its development policies. The League also urges active participation in the development process by the private sector.

The League recognizes the gross disparity in trading positions between developed and developing countries. The exports of developing countries must be expanded if they are to broaden their economic base and improve their people's standard of living. Because of their need for greater access to U.S. and other industrialized countries' markets, the League favors generalized, temporary preferential tariff treatment and certain commodity arrangements for developing countries. The principle of reciprocity in trade agreements, which the League supports, should be waived in order to make special trade concessions to developing countries.

### **Private Investment and Commodity Arrangements**

*Statement of Position, April 1970:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that private investment of U.S. capital in developing countries can be an important supplemental means of helping these countries reach self-sustaining economic growth. In order to facilitate the flow of private capital to those developing countries that most need it and that can use it most advantageously, appropriate safeguards are necessary against risks for both the investor and the developing countries. In order to protect outside investors against risks, the League favors continuation of governmental assistance, such as preinvestment surveys, investment guarantees and investment loans.

The League believes that tax credits on funds invested in developing countries could provide additional encouragement. In order to guard against risks for the developing country, the League believes that investors should be encouraged to engage in joint-venture type investments with local businesses, to seek matching investment funds within the country, to employ and train as high a proportion of local personnel as possible for responsible positions, and to send to these countries carefully chosen and well-briefed U.S. representatives. The League welcomes continued efforts by developing countries to encourage their citizens to invest more in their own countries' development efforts and to create a more favorable climate for public and private investment through appropriate internal reforms. International commodity arrangements serve as a short-term supplement to long-run efforts to promote self-sustaining growth in developing countries.

Insofar as commodity arrangements can help moderate sharp fluctuations in the price of primary products and help stabilize the export income of developing countries, they can serve a useful, though necessarily short-term, purpose.

Each commodity arrangement should be evaluated on its own merit. Such arrangements should be flexible and open to renegotiation within a reasonable period of time. Each arrangement needs careful supervision and regular review in order not to inhibit diversification within these countries of land, labor and capital or to distort international patterns of trade. These arrangements might include such compensatory financing efforts as those initiated under the International Monetary Fund.

If any commodity arrangement is to bear fruit, primary-product countries should be encouraged through technical and financial assistance to diversify both their primary-product and industrial position. If diversification efforts are not to be frustrated, the developed countries, including the United States, need to open their export doors wider to a broader range of imports, whether raw materials, semiprocessed or finished goods. In order to help the United States meet new competition, greater

use might be made of trade adjustment assistance to affected U.S. industries and workers.

The League recognizes that continuation of freer trade policies and reduction of various trade barriers are essential to improve the terms of trade of developing countries.

### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

*Statement of Position, December 1983:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that arms control measures are essential to reduce the risk of war and increase global stability. Toward that end, the U.S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that:

- limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;
- limit proliferation and prohibit first use of nuclear weapons;
- prohibit first use and possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons;
- reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

While these objectives should receive the highest level of attention, the U.S. government also should negotiate measures that inhibit the development and improvement of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons that increase incentives to attack first in a period of crisis. As a long-term goal, the League supports the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. The League of Women Voters recognizes that peace in an interdependent world is a product of cooperation among nations and therefore strongly favors multilateral negotiations. Given the potential for worldwide proliferation of nuclear technology, efforts involving all countries are essential to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to protect commonly held nuclear weapons-free regions such as the seabed and outer space. Multilateral efforts are appropriate as well to achieve bans on the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons.

The League of Women Voters believes, however, that for arms control to be effective, bilateral efforts also are necessary. Bilateral efforts may be especially appropriate in negotiations to limit and reduce quantities of weapons. The League believes that unilateral initiatives are not the most appropriate means to achieve arms control.

The League does not support tying progress in arms control to other issues. The League believes that arms control is too important in and of itself and too crucial to all nations to be linked to other foreign and military policy goals.

The League of Women Voters believes that arms control measures should be evaluated in terms of the following factors:

**EQUITY.** The terms should be mutually beneficial, and each nation's security and interests should be adequately protected. Equity does not necessarily require equality in numbers of weapons but may be achieved through a relative balance in total capabilities.

**VERIFIABILITY.** Each party should be able to ensure that other parties comply with the terms of the agreement, whether using national technical means (satellites, seismic sensors and electronic monitors) or on-site inspection. The League believes it is extremely important to ensure compliance, recognizing that absolute certainty is unattainable. Equity and verifiability are critical in efforts to limit and reduce quantities of weapons and to prohibit the possession and spread of nuclear weapons.

**CONFIDENCE-BUILDING.** Each party should be assured of the political or military intentions of other parties. Fostering confidence is vital in efforts to prohibit the first use of weapons and to reduce tensions.

**WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT.** All appropriate parties should participate in and approve the results of the negotiating process. However, the League recognizes that, in specific cases, progress can be achieved even though some key parties do not participate.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.** The quality of the earth's environment should be protected from the effects of weapons testing or use. Environmental protection has special significance in negotiations to prohibit the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons and to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

**CONTINUITY.** Negotiations should build on past agreements and should be directed toward future negotiations whenever feasible. Innovative thinking and new approaches should, however, be encouraged when appropriate.

Further Guidelines League support of arms-control measures includes action on proposals, negotiations and agreements.

The League supports efforts to achieve quantitative limits or reductions that focus on nuclear warheads, missiles and other delivery systems, antiballistic missiles, conventional weapons or troop levels.

The League advocates limits on the spread or proliferation of weapons to inhibit transfers of nuclear technology or weapons from one nation to another or to a geographic region such as the seabed or outer space.

The League's pursuit of bans on the possession or use of weapons may apply to existing weapons or to

those not yet developed. The League seeks to reduce tensions through better means of communication, exchange of information or prior notification of military tests and maneuvers in order to avoid the risks of miscalculation or accident. Other League-supported measures to reduce tensions and create a climate of trust among nations include scientific and cultural exchanges, conflict resolution training and strengthening the United Nations.

The League supports efforts to inhibit the development and improvement of weapons through qualitative limits, including limits on testing of weapons. These constraints may be selective or comprehensive in their application.

### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force.

Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

*Statement of Position, April 1986:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the U.S. government should seek to protect its interests at home and abroad through the use of nonmilitary measures, including diplomacy, mediation and multilateral cooperation. These measures reflect the importance that the League attaches to U.S. efforts to strengthen international organizations, reduce tensions among nations and minimize the risk of conflict worldwide.

The League believes that military force should be viewed as a tool of last resort. Unquestionably, defense of the homeland is an appropriate military objective. In this context, conventional weapons are clearly preferable to nuclear weapons. Any decision to defend another nation militarily should be in support of clear foreign policy goals and tailored to specific circumstances. Military assistance and the direct military involvement of U.S. forces are not appropriate means to further the League's stated paramount interests in developing countries.

The League believes that nuclear weapons should serve only a limited and specific function—that of deterring nuclear attack on the United States—until such time as these weapons are eliminated through arms-control and disarmament agreements. The goal of U.S. military policy, however, should be to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used.

### **NUCLEAR DETERRENCE**

The League believes that the United States should vigorously pursue arms-control negotiations in order to ensure that all nations reduce and eventually eliminate their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons. The League does not support unilateral elimination of any leg of the strategic nuclear triad of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic

missiles (SLBMs) and long-range bombers. However, the League does not support any modernization of the land leg that would result in weapons systems that are vulnerable or increase incentives to attack first.

### **NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

The League believes that the defense of NATO allies should continue to be a shared responsibility. The League supports the United States' commitment to defend NATO allies with conventional forces. The League urges continued efforts to negotiate mutual and balanced reductions in conventional forces in Europe.

The League believes there is no appropriate role for U.S. nuclear weapons in the defense of NATO allies. The League strongly opposes the policy of threatening to introduce nuclear weapons into a conventional conflict in Europe, a policy commonly referred to as "first use." Consistent with these views, the League opposes the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons on European soil.

### **OTHER COMMITMENTS**

The League supports the U.S. commitment to defend Japan with conventional forces. Conventional forces also are appropriate for defending other allies. The League rejects any nuclear role in defending Japan and other allies, in protecting access to vital resources or in responding to military conflicts around the world.

### **DEFENSE SPENDING**

The League believes that defense spending should be examined in the same way as spending for other national needs. Within any given level of defense funding, the United States should move toward emphasizing readiness over investment. Preference should be given to operations and maintenance expenditures and military pay as opposed to research and development, procurement of new weapons and construction of military facilities. The League believes that savings in the defense budget can be achieved through increased efficiency and improved accountability.

In summary, the League believes that national security has many dimensions and cannot be limited to military policy alone. It can be defined as ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense and promoting the general welfare. Key elements include the country's ability to implement social and environmental programs and to maintain cooperative relationships with other nations. Other important components are effective political leadership and a strong economy. Therefore, in decisions about the federal budget, political leaders should assess the impact of U.S. military spending on the nation's economy and on the government's ability to meet social and environmental 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.

*Statement of Position, 1986:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health.

### **Resource Management**

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

*The League's Position*

Resource management decisions must be based on a thorough assessment of population growth and of current and future needs. The inherent characteristics and carrying capacities of each area's natural resources must be considered in the planning process. Policy makers must take into account the ramifications of their decisions on the nation as a whole as well as on other nations.

To assure the future availability of essential resources, government policies must promote stewardship of natural resources. Policies that promote resource conservation are a fundamental part of such stewardship. Resources such as water and soil should be protected. Consumption of nonrenewable resources should be minimized. Beneficiaries should pay the costs for water, land and energy development projects. Reclamation and reuse of natural resources should be encouraged. The League believes that protection and management of natural resources are responsibilities shared by all levels of government. The federal government should provide leadership, guidance and financial assistance to encourage regional planning and decision making to enhance local and state capabilities for resource management.

The League supports comprehensive long-range planning and believes that wise decision making requires:

- adequate data and a framework within which alternatives may be weighed and intelligent decisions made;

- consideration of environmental, public-health, social and economic impacts of proposed plans and actions;
- protection of private property rights commensurate with overall consideration of public health and environmental protection;
- coordination of the federal government's responsibilities and activities;
- resolution of inconsistencies and conflicts in basic policy among governmental agencies at all levels;
- regional, interregional and/or international cooperation when appropriate;
- mechanisms appropriate to each region that will provide coordinated planning and administration among units of government, governmental agencies and the private sector;
- procedures for resolving disputes;
- procedures for mitigation of adverse impacts;
- special responsibility by each level of government for those lands and resources entrusted to them;
- special consideration for the protection of areas of critical environmental concern, natural hazards, historical importance and aesthetic value;
- special attention to maintaining and improving the environmental quality of urban communities.

## **Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

*The League's Position*

The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The League's approach to environmental protection and pollution control is one of problem solving. The interrelationships of air, water and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental safeguards. The League's environmental protection and antipollution goals aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney or into the landfill.

The League believes that although environmental protection and pollution control are responsibilities shared by all levels of government, it is essential that the federal government provide leadership and technical and financial assistance.

The federal government should have the major role in setting standards for environmental protection and pollution control. Other levels of government should have the right to set more stringent standards. Enforcement should be carried out at the lower levels of government, but the federal government should

enforce standards if other levels of government do not meet this responsibility. Standards must be enforced in a timely, consistent and equitable manner for all violators in all parts of society, including governmental units, industry, business and individuals.

Environmental protection and pollution control, including waste management, should be considered a cost of providing a product or service. Consumers, taxpayers and ratepayers must expect to pay some of the costs. The League supports policies that accelerate pollution control, including federal financial assistance for state and local programs.

*The League supports:*

- regulation of pollution sources by control and penalties;
- inspection and monitoring;
- full disclosure of pollution data;
- incentives to accelerate pollution control;
- vigorous enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for states and localities that do not comply with federal standards and substantial fines for noncompliance.

### **Air Quality**

Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

*The League supports:*

- measures to reduce vehicular pollution, including inspection and maintenance of emission controls, changes in engine design and fuel types and development of more energy-efficient transportation systems;
- regulation and reduction of pollution from stationary sources;
- regulation and reduction of ambient toxic-air pollutants;
- measures to reduce transboundary air pollutants, such as ozone and those that cause acid deposition.

### **Energy**

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

*The League supports:*

- energy goals and policies that acknowledge the United States as a responsible member of the world community;
- reduction of energy growth rates;
- use of a variety of energy sources, with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies;
- the environmentally sound use of energy resources, with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production;

- predominant reliance on renewable resources;
- policies that limit reliance on nuclear fission;
- action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development, financial incentives, rate-setting policies and mandatory standards;
- mandatory energy-conservation measures, including thermal standards for building efficiency, new appliance standards and standards for new automobiles with no relaxation of auto-emission control requirements;
- policies to reduce energy demand and minimize the need for new generating capacity through techniques such as marginal cost or peak-load pricing or demand-management programs;
- maintaining deregulation of oil and natural gas prices;
- assistance for low-income individuals when energy policies bear unduly on the poor.

### **Land Use**

Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

*The League supports:*

- management of land as a finite resource not as a commodity, since land ownership, whether public or private, carries responsibility for stewardship;
- land-use planning that reflects conservation and wise management of resources;
- identification and regulation of areas of critical concern: fragile or historical lands, where development could result in irreversible damage (such as shorelands of rivers, lakes and streams, estuaries and bays; rare or valuable ecosystems and geological formations; significant wildlife habitats; unique scenic or historic areas; wetlands; deserts); renewable resource lands, where development could result in the loss of productivity (such as watersheds, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas, significant agricultural and grazing lands, forest lands); natural hazard lands, where development could endanger life and property (such as floodplains, areas with high seismic or volcanic activity, areas of unstable geologic, ice or snow formations);
- reclamation of lands damaged by surface mining, waste disposal, overgrazing, timber harvesting, farming and other activities;
- acquisition of land for public use;
- identification and regulation of areas impacted by public or private investment where siting results in secondary environmental and socioeconomic impacts;
- review of environmental, social and economic impacts of major public and private developments;

- review of federally funded projects by all government levels;
- conformance of federal land resource activities with approved state programs, particularly where state standards are more stringent than federal standards.

### **Water Resources**

Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

*The League supports:*

- water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, groundwater and surface water and that address the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies;
- measures to reduce water pollution from direct point-source discharges and from indirect nonpoint sources;
- policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity, including measures to protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flows;
- stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies, including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and of recharge areas for groundwater.

### **PROPOSED INTERBASIN WATER TRANSFERS**

Interstate and interbasin transfers are not new or unusual. Water transfers have served municipal supplies, industry, energy development and agriculture.

Construction costs of large-scale water transfers are high, and economic losses in the basin of origin also may be high. Environmental costs of water transfers may include quantitative and qualitative changes in wetlands and related fisheries and wildlife, diminished aquifer recharge and reduced stream flows. Lowered water tables also may affect groundwater quality and cause land subsidence.

As we look to the future, water transfer decisions will need to incorporate the high costs of moving water, the limited availability of unallocated water and our still limited knowledge of impacts on the affected ecosystems. In order to develop member understanding and agreement on proposals for large-scale water transfer projects, state and local Leagues need to work together. The following guidelines are designed to help Leagues jointly evaluate new proposals for large-scale water transfers.

The process for evaluating the suitability of new proposed interbasin water transfers should include:

- ample and effective opportunities for informed public participation in the formulation and analysis of proposed projects;

- evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts in the basin of origin, the receiving area and any area through which the diversion must pass, so that decision makers and the public have adequate information on which to base a decision;
- examination of all short and long term economic costs including, but not limited to, construction, delivery, operation, maintenance and market interest rate;
- examination of alternative supply options, such as water conservation, water pricing and reclamation;
- participation and review by all affected governments;
- procedures for resolution of inter-governmental conflicts;
- accord with international treaties;
- provisions to ensure that responsibility for funding is borne primarily by the user with no federal subsidy, loan guarantees or use of the borrowing authority of the federal government, unless the proposal is determined by all affected levels of the League to be in the national interest.

### **Waste Management**

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

*The League supports*

- policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes;
- policies to ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health and air, water and land resources;
- planning and decision making processes that recognize suitable solid and hazardous wastes as potential resources;
- policies for the management of civilian and military high and low-level radioactive wastes to protect public health, and air, water and land resources;
- the establishment of processes for effective involvement of state and local governments and citizens in siting proposals for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation of radioactive wastes;
- full environmental review of treatment, storage and disposal facilities for radioactive wastes;
- safe transport, storage and disposal of radioactive wastes.

### **CRITERIA FOR SITING WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES**

The following criteria are derived from the League's Natural Resources positions. They were developed to assist state and local Leagues in reviewing specific waste disposal sites and to help state and local Leagues evaluate both the process employed in site selection and the suitability of a proposed site or

hazardous and radioactive waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. This decision making process should provide for:

- ample and effective opportunities for public participation, including funding to conduct such participation;
- evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts so that decision makers and the public have adequate information on which to base a decision. In addition to the actual site, secondary land use impacts—such as buffer areas, adequacy of roads, sewers, water, etc.—should be considered;
- an examination of alternative sites and methods of treatment and disposal. Comparison of costs must include short and long-term costs, such as liability insurance, postclosure maintenance, monitoring of ground and surface waters and air before and after closure, and potential loss of land or water resources due to contamination;
- participation and review by all government levels to assure conformance with all adopted comprehensive plans at each level of government;
- procedures for resolution of inter-governmental conflicts.

Hazardous and radioactive waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities should be sited in areas that pose the least amount of risk to the public and to sensitive environmental areas. They should be located away from areas of critical concern such as:

- natural hazard areas subject to flooding, earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes or subsidence;
- drinking water supply sources, such as reservoirs, lakes and rivers and their watersheds, and aquifers and their recharge areas;
- fragile land areas, such as shorelines of rivers, lakes, streams, oceans and estuaries, bays or wetlands;
- rare or valuable ecosystems or geologic formations, significant wildlife habitat or unique scenic or historic areas;
- areas with significant renewable resource value, such as prime agricultural lands or grazing and forest lands that would be destroyed as a result of the siting of hazardous waste facilities;
- residential areas, parks and schools.

### **Nuclear Issues**

Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

The League's approach to nuclear issues is one of problem solving. The League's aim is to work constructively for the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment and for citizen participation in the decision making process at all levels of government.

The League opposes "increased reliance on nuclear fission" but recognizes its place in the nation's energy mix. To achieve this objective:

- State and local Leagues may oppose licensing for construction of nuclear power plants on the basis of the national position.
- State and local Leagues may oppose licensing for operation of these plants now under construction on a case-by-case basis, after careful consideration of the need for power and of available alternatives and after notifying the national Board.
- State and local Leagues may support licensing for construction and operation of nuclear power plants only in special cases and only with prior permission from the national Board.
- State and local Leagues may call for the closing of operating nuclear power plants because of specific nongeneric health and safety problems, but only with prior permission from the LWVUS.

### **SITING/STORAGE OF HIGH-LEVEL WASTES (HLWS)**

The disposal of HLWs is a national concern, and national policy should govern selection of any facilities constructed, whether an Away-From-Reactor (AFR) interim storage facility, a Monitored Retrievable System (MRS) facility or a permanent geological repository. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 sets forth a program for selection, authorization and licensing of permanent repository sites and outlines programs for possible MRS and AFR facilities. In taking any action on this issue, the LWVUS will work to ensure that HLWs are disposed of in a manner that protects public health and safety and the environment. During the 1981-82 congressional debate over disposal of nuclear wastes, the LWVUS made several statements regarding storage and disposal. The League testified that the storage of HLWs from commercial reactors should be maximized at reactor sites; the League would support a utility-financed AFR facility if one were needed to prevent nuclear power plants from being forced to cease operations because of spent-fuel buildup. In addition, the League supports an active state role in the HLWs decision making process. These concerns, in addition to LWVUS positions on the process and criteria for siting and storage of HLWs, provide the foundation for LWVUS action. While only a limited number of facilities will probably be built, the LWVUS recognizes that Leagues located in states or communities under consideration as potential sites for such facilities may wish to take action based on national positions. In that event, the state League, or a local League working in concert with the state League, must consult with the LWVUS before taking any action. In making any action determinations on HLWs, the LWVUS will consider three questions:

1. Is the proposed facility needed at this time?
2. Is the site suitable? and
3. Did the selection process provide ample and effective opportunities for public participation?

Leagues requesting LWWUS clearance for action should address these questions, particularly the assessment of the suitability of a specific site. State Leagues also should be alert to action opportunities relating to the process of state consultation and concurrence in the proposed sites.

#### SITING/STORAGE OF LOW-LEVEL WASTES (LLWS)

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980 makes states responsible for the disposal of LLWs generated at commercial facilities within their borders. The act authorizes states to form regional compacts to establish disposal sites, and it allows states to refuse wastes from other states outside their compact region after January 1, 1986. State legislatures must approve a state's membership in a regional compact, but a compact does not become operational and legally binding until Congress consents to the agreement.

#### APPROPRIATE STATE LEAGUE ACTION

Some state Leagues are participating in state-level or regional-level discussions/negotiations over regional compacts and are seeking agreement on the compacts. The LWWUS believes it is important for all state Leagues within a proposed compact region to work together to resolve any differences and establish agreement. Clearly, that agreement must be in accord with national positions. Because this is a national concern, the LWWUS must review and approve any agreement reached among state Leagues in a compact region before state Leagues can take any action. A state League in the proposed compact region that does not support the League agreement cannot act in opposition to that agreement. For example, if a state League disagrees with the approved League agreement, that state League can only lobby its state legislature either to withdraw from the proposed regional compact, i.e., "go it alone," or to join another compact region. A state League also may request LWWUS permission to contact its U.S. senators and representatives at the time Congress considers ratification of the regional compact to lobby them to withdraw the state from the proposed compact. Some individual state Leagues have undertaken studies of proposed compacts for their regions and have reached consensus on a proposed regional compact. Again, that consensus must be in accord with national positions. In addition, before taking any action, the state League must obtain clearance from other state League Boards in the proposed compact region because any action would involve government jurisdictions beyond that League. The state League also should consult the LWWUS before taking action.

A state League or a local League working with the state League can take action on a proposed LLW disposal site based on the public participation process if it concludes the process was inadequate or based on a study of the environmental safety/suitability of the proposed disposal site (see siting criteria). If potential environmental impacts of a proposed site affect more than one League, clearance must be obtained from the relevant League Boards before any action can be taken. If any unresolved differences develop among Leagues, the LWWUS will decide the appropriate course of action.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR WASTES

The League recognizes that transporting nuclear wastes increases the likelihood of accidents that could endanger public health. The League also recognizes that transportation is less risky than allowing these wastes to accumulate at an environmentally unsafe facility. State and local Leagues can work to improve the regulation of transportation of nuclear wastes, but they cannot support "blanket bans" on transporting nuclear wastes through a region or city. There may be instances, however, in which a carefully thought-out ban, based on extensive League study, would be appropriate for a specific area. Such a study should include the overall subject of transporting and managing nuclear wastes, including regulation of types of wastes, packaging, escort, notification of routes to local and state authorities, effective emergency response, and the designating of routes that minimize health, safety and environmental risks. The study should not be confined to one aspect of the transportation issue, such as routes. If after a study of the wide-ranging issues involved, a League concludes that wastes should not be transported through an area, that League must discuss the results of the study and obtain clearance for any contemplated action from all appropriate levels of the League.

#### DEFENSE WASTES

In managing high-level nuclear wastes, the League supports equivalent treatment of civilian and military wastes. The League supports the state consultation and concurrence process, consideration of environmental impacts of proposed sites and NRC licensing for defense waste facilities, as well as for civilian waste facilities. The League's position on equivalent treatment of all wastes includes transportation of defense wastes. Low-level defense wastes include wastes from military medical programs, naval shipyards that maintain nuclear-powered naval vessels and research facilities. The treatment of low-level defense wastes, however, is not spelled out in the Low-level Waste Policy Act of 1980. Most low-level defense wastes are disposed of in special federal facilities; however, some are disposed of in existing commercial sites. Leagues may take the same action on transporting, siting and

storing defense wastes as on civilian wastes. Action on defense wastes should be in accordance with any relevant future National Security position(s) developed by the League.

### INTER-LEAGUE COOPERATION

Leagues contemplating action on nuclear waste issues should keep in mind that any action almost invariably will affect areas beyond their jurisdiction. Thus, in all cases, local Leagues should clear action with the state League and the League Boards at the appropriate jurisdictional levels.

One example of necessary inter-League action on a regional level is the low-level radioactive waste compacting process. The League believes this is an important national, state and local concern aimed at responsible management and disposal of low-level wastes. Many state Leagues are actively participating in their regional processes, and some are taking consensus on the issue.

### Public Participation

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

*The League's Position:*

The League believes that public understanding and cooperation are essential to the responsible and responsive management of our nation's natural resources. The public has a right to know about pollution levels, dangers to health and the environment, and proposed resource management policies and options. The public has a right to participate in decision making at each phase in the process and at each level of government involvement. Officials should make a special effort to develop readily understandable procedures for public involvement and to ensure that the public has adequate information to participate effectively. Public records should be readily accessible at all governmental levels. Adequate funding is needed to ensure opportunities for public education and effective public participation in all aspects of the decision making process.

The appropriate level of government should publicize, in an extensive and timely manner and in readily available sources, information about pollution levels, pollution-abatement programs, and resource management policies and options. Hearings should be held in easily accessible locations, at convenient times and, when possible, in the area concerned.

The hearing procedures and other opportunities for public comment should actively encourage citizen participation in decision making. The League supports public education that provides a basic understanding of the environment and the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of environmental protection, pollution control and conservation.

Mechanisms for citizen appeal must be guaranteed, including access to the courts. Due process rights for the affected public and private parties must be assured.

### 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.

*Statement of Position, October 1988:*

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.** Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES.** The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

**AGRICULTURE AND TRADE.** U.S. efforts should be directed toward expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

**FARM CREDIT.** Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.

## **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.

*Statement of Position, January 1989:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all regardless of sex. The League supports action to bring laws into compliance with the ERA: a) to eliminate or amend those laws that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex; b) to promote laws that support the goals of the ERA; c) to strengthen the enforcement of such existing laws.

### **FURTHER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA**

In more specific terms, the kinds of programs the League supports include:

- Programs in basic education, occupational education and retraining when needed at any point of an individual's working career.
- Expanded opportunities in apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs.
- Child-care centers for preschool children to give parents the opportunity for employment.
- Greatly increased educational opportunity through compensatory programs for disadvantaged groups beginning at the preschool level and extending through secondary education.
- Federal financial aid to help needy students remain in high school and to take advantage of post-high school training and education.
- A regional approach to problems of economically depressed areas that cuts across state lines. This approach can be handled administratively by such means as interstate cooperation or more formal interstate compacts or commissions made up of representatives of state and federal governments.

Development programs should reflect the needs of the particular area and can include such measures as provision of education and training for available jobs, encouragement of new industry in the area, development and conservation of natural resources and the building of public facilities.

- Programs that would inform individuals of their civil rights in education, employment and housing, and of the opportunities open to them.
- Full use of mediation and conciliation in efforts to bring about integration of minority groups into full participation in community life.
- A federal clearinghouse for the exchange of information on solutions communities have found to problems of integration in employment, education and housing.
- Programs to bring about effective integration of schools through federal technical assistance such as training programs and institutes for teachers and school administrators.
- Withholding federal funds from school districts that fail to meet realistic and effective guidelines and standards for school integration.
- Withholding government contracts from businesses and industries that discriminate in employment.
- An effective federal fair employment practices agency.

### **Education, Employment and Housing.**

Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

*League position:*

In evaluating federal programs that have been, or will be, established to provide equality of opportunity for education and employment, the League will support those programs that largely fulfill the following criteria:

- The nationwide effort to achieve equality of opportunity in education and employment should include participation of government at all levels and encourage the participation of private institutions.
- Programs should be carefully tailored to the educational or employment needs of the people they are intended to reach.
- People for whom community action programs are designed should be involved in the planning and implementation of those programs.
- The programs should be carried out by personnel competent to meet the specific requirements of their jobs.
- Programs should assist people to become self-supporting, contributing members of society.
- The programs should be nondiscriminatory with provisions for enforcement.
- Research, pilot projects and continuing evaluation

should be encouraged and, where feasible, built into programs.

- Programs may be closely related but should avoid unnecessary duplication.
- State and local governments should contribute to the extent their resources permit; at the same time, adequate federal funds for the establishment and continuation of programs should be available if necessary.

#### FAIR HOUSING CRITERIA

The following criteria should be applied to programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination:

- Opportunities for purchase or renting of homes and for borrowing money for housing should not be restricted because of discriminatory reasons such as race, color, sex, religion or national origin.
- Responsibility in the nationwide effort to achieve equality of opportunity for access to housing resides with government at all levels and with the private sector—builders, lending institutions, realtors, labor unions, business and industry, news media, civic organizations, educational institutions, churches and private citizens.
- The continued existence of patterns of discrimination depends on the covert support of community leaders, institutions and residents. Award or withdrawal of federal contracts and placement of federal installations should be used as levers to change this covert support.
- After positive steps such as mediation and conciliation have been exhausted, the federal government should have the option for selective withholding of federal funds where patterns of discrimination in access to housing occur. In applying the option to withhold funds, the federal government should weigh the effects of its actions on the welfare of lower-income and minority groups.
- Federal programs should include provisions to guarantee equal opportunity for access to housing. Federal funds should not be used to perpetuate discrimination.
- In the enforcement of fair-housing laws, speedy resolution should be ensured. Administrative procedures and responsibilities should be clearly defined and widely publicized.
- Mediation and legal redress should be readily available. The process should ensure every possible protection for both complainant and persons or institutions against whom complaints are lodged. Avenues for mediation and legal redress should be widely publicized and should be easily accessible.
- Funding should be adequate to provide trained and competent staff for public education to inform citizens of the provisions of fair-housing legislation, of their fairhousing rights and of procedures to be

followed in securing them. Adequate funding should also be available for mediation and for all aspects of speedy enforcement.

- There should be continued evaluation to provide a basis for revision and strengthening of all procedures so that equality of opportunity for access to housing can be accomplished.

#### 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.

*Statement of Position, June 1986:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that federal fiscal policy should provide for: adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broadbased income tax; responsible deficit policies; and a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

#### TAX POLICY

The LWVUS believes that the federal tax system should: be fair and equitable; provide adequate resources for government programs while allowing flexibility for financing future program changes; be understandable to the taxpayer and encourage compliance; accomplish its objectives without creating undue administrative problems.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal tax system, taken as a whole, should be progressive, not proportional.

The League: supports income as the major tax base for federal revenues; believes that the federal income tax should be broad-based with minimal tax preferences and a progressive rate structure; opposes a value-added tax or a national sales tax in the federal revenue system.

#### FURTHER GUIDELINES

Under this position, the League of Women Voters would support tax measures that broaden the base and improve the equity of the income tax while working to incorporate progressivity into the tax system, taken as a whole. In evaluating specific tax preferences, the League will use the following criteria: whether the tax preference promotes equity and progressivity; whether the tax preference effectively furthers League of Women Voters program goals; whether the tax preference is the most efficient means of achieving its purpose; whether the revenue loss from the tax preference is justifiable.

## Federal Deficit

Promote responsible deficit policies.

*The League's position:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the current federal deficit should be reduced. In order to reduce the deficit, the government should rely primarily on reductions in defense spending through selective cuts and on increased revenue through a tax system that is broad-based with progressive rates. The government also should achieve whatever savings possible through improved efficiency and management. The League opposes across-the-board federal spending cuts.

The League recognizes that deficit spending is sometimes appropriate and therefore opposes a constitutionally mandated balanced budget for the federal government. The League could support deficit spending, if necessary, for stimulating the economy during recession and depression, meeting social needs in times of high unemployment and meeting defense needs in times of national security crises. The League opposes a federal budget line-item veto.

## Funding of Entitlements

Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

*The League's position:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government has a role in funding and providing for old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance. For such insurance programs, participation should be mandatory and coverage should be universal. Federal deficit reduction should not be achieved by reducing Social Security benefits.

## 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.

*Statement of Position, April 1993:*

**GOALS:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

**BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE:** Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and

hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

**FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION:** The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

**TAXES:** The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

**COST CONTROL:** The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- the reduction of administrative costs,
- regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- malpractice reform,
- the use of managed care,
- utilization review of treatment,
- mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

**EQUITY ISSUES:** The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by:

- allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

**ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS:** The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the

allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

*Statement of Position, January 1989:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.

Persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care.

The federal government should set minimum, uniform standards and guidelines for social welfare programs and should bear primary responsibility for financing programs designed to help meet the basic needs of individuals and families. State and local governments, as well as the private sector, should have a secondary role in financing food, housing and health care programs. Income assistance programs should be financed primarily by the federal government with state governments assuming secondary responsibility.

### **PREVENTING AND REDUCING POVERTY**

In order to prevent or reduce poverty, the LWVUS supports policies and programs designed to: increase job opportunities; increase access to health insurance; provide support services such as child care and transportation; provide opportunities and/or incentives for basic or remedial education and job training; decrease teen pregnancy; ensure that noncustodial parents contribute to the support of their children.

### **ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

The LWVUS believes that access to health care includes the following: preventive care, primary care, maternal and child health care, emergency care, catastrophic care, nursing home care and mental health care as well as access to substance abuse programs, health and sex education programs, and nutrition programs.

### **ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION**

The LWVUS believes that energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems should

afford better access to housing and jobs and will continue to examine transportation policies in light of these goals.

### **Income Assistance.**

Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

*The League's position:*

### **CRITERIA FOR INCOME ASSISTANCE**

- Eligibility of all low-income individuals for assistance should be based on need. Eligibility should be established through simplified procedures such as a declaration of need, spot-checked in a manner similar to that used in checking the validity of income tax returns.
- Benefit levels should be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. Minimum income standards should be adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living and should be revised periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar. Until a federal welfare program achieves an adequate level of benefits, some states will need to supplement federal payments.
- There should be increasing emphasis on cash assistance, but in-kind assistance (e.g., food stamps, housing subsidies, medical aid) should be continued to help assure that these needs are met.
- Under a revised program participants should not have their benefits reduced.
- Privacy of participants should be protected. All administrative procedures should be conducted with respect for the rights and dignity of the individuals.
- Work should be encouraged: participants' total income should increase as earnings increase. Counseling, realistic training for actual jobs and financial incentives should be the links between job programs and income assistance.

### **Support Services**

Provide for essential support services.

*The League's position:*

### **CRITERIA FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

- Supportive services should be available—but not compulsory—for participants in income assistance programs. Most important among these are child care, counseling, transportation, and family planning, health care and legal services.
- Fees for supportive services should be based on ability to pay and be free where necessary.
- Facilities and services for participants should be the same as for the general public.
- The federal government should exert leadership in setting standards for eligibility, for the quality of services and for adequate funding.

- Participants in the programs should be included in program development and implementation, and the administration of social services programs should be responsive to the needs of the people being served.
- Wherever possible, these services should be conveniently located in the neighborhood.
- Transportation systems should afford better access to housing and jobs and should also provide energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation.
- Government programs that require recipients of assistance to engage in work-related programs would be acceptable only if the following protections are guaranteed to the participants:
  - a. job training;
  - b. basic education;
  - c. exemptions for primary care givers;
  - d. supplemental support services such as child care and transportation;
  - e. equitable compensation to ensure that program participants earn the same wages and benefits as other employees performing similar work;
  - f. a disregard of some earned income for purposes of calculating benefit levels.
- When families or individuals cannot afford decent housing, government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.
- Government programs providing subsidies to the building, financing and insuring industries for housing for lower-income families should be evaluated in terms of units produced rather than in terms of benefits accruing to these industries.
- Government at all levels should develop policies that will assure sufficient land at reasonable cost on which to develop housing and that will assure fulfillment of other goals such as access to employment, preservation of open space, environmental cleanliness and beauty, and other aspects of a suitable living environment.
- Regional and metropolitan planning should be promoted to prevent haphazard urban growth, and housing for low and moderate income families should be provided as a part of all planned neighborhoods or communities.
- Lower-income families should not be segregated in large developments or neighborhoods. As their economic status improves, lower-income families should be enabled to continue to live in the same units as private tenants or as homeowners, if they are so inclined.

### **Housing Supply**

Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

*The League's position:*

#### **CRITERIA FOR HOUSING SUPPLY**

The following considerations can be applied to programs and policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family:

- The responsibility for achieving national housing goals rests primarily with the federal government, which should:
  - a. assure that our economic system is functioning to produce and maintain sufficient decent housing for citizens at all income levels;
  - b. compensate for any failure or inadequacy of the system by building, financing, renting and selling homes to those citizens whose housing needs are not being met;
  - c. give a variety of incentives to local jurisdictions to encourage them to provide within their boundaries an adequate supply of decent housing for low and moderate-income groups;
  - d. withhold federal funds from communities that fail to encourage such housing.
- State and local governments should assist by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate and supplement the housing programs of the federal government and the private sector.
- Government at all levels must make available sufficient funds for housing assistance programs.
- Housing should be designed to meet human needs and should be built with amenities that will encourage economic integration within apartment buildings as well as within neighborhoods.
- Publicly assisted housing should be included in viable, balanced communities, with provision for quality public services and facilities, including schools, transportation, recreation, etc., that will encourage integration and stability.
- Zoning practices and procedures that will counteract racial and economic isolation should be promoted.
- State and local governments should adopt and enforce:
  - a. uniform building codes with standards based on performance;
  - b. housing codes to protect the health and safety of all citizens.
- State and local tax structures should be examined and revised to:
  - a. benefit communities that build housing for lower-income families;
  - b. encourage private owners to improve their homes;
  - c. reduce speculative land costs.
- Government, industry and labor should encourage innovative building techniques to reduce the cost of housing production.
- Rights of tenants to negotiate for proper maintenance, management of facilities and services should be protected.

- Housing programs should be administered by individuals trained for the jobs and sympathetic with the needs of their clientele.
- Citizen groups should participate in the development of publicly assisted housing programs by:
  - a. evaluating performance;
  - b. activating nonprofit sponsorships;
  - c. supporting legislation;
  - d. developing public awareness of housing discrimination and need.

### **Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

*Statement of Position, 1988:*

Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the wellbeing, development and safety of all children.

*Statement of Position, 1994:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well being, encourage the full development and ensure the safety of all children. These include:

- child abuse/neglect prevention;
- teen pregnancy prevention;
- quality health care, including nutrition and prenatal care;
- early childhood education;
- developmental services, emphasizing children ages 0-3;
- family support services;
- violence prevention.

### **Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

*Statement of Position, 1994:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports violence prevention programs in all communities and action to support:

- public and private development and coordination of programs that emphasize the primary prevention of violence.

- the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior.
- the allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.

### **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.

*Statement of Position, 1998:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background check, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers. The League acknowledges that the U.S. Supreme Court and the lower federal courts have ruled consistently that the Second Amendment confers a right to keep and bear arms only in connection with service in a well regulated militia—known today as the National Guard.

### **Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

*Statement of Position, 1989:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that it is in the national interest to promote the well being of America's cities. Sharply targeted federal assistance to distressed cities should be central to this policy. The federal government should give highest priority in urban policy to measures that enhance the economic base of cities. The League also favors supplementary federal aid for cities in distressed fiscal condition and grants for particular program areas as strategies to counter the problems of hardship cities.

The fiscal health of cities depends on the active cooperation of all levels of government. The federal government should provide incentives to encourage

states to take an active role in promoting the fiscal viability of their cities.

The League is committed to an urban environment beneficial to life and to resource management in the public interest.

#### FURTHER GUIDELINES

##### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The cornerstone of a national urban policy is a commitment to helping cities achieve economic strength. Federal programs to encourage private reinvestment in central cities should counter an eroding tax base and provide jobs for the inner-city unemployed. Therefore, the League supports the following federal strategies:

- Target community development programs to cities most in need.
- Encourage businesses to locate or expand in distressed cities through such financial incentives as investment tax credits, loan guarantees, subsidies for hiring the long-term unemployed and interest subsidies.
- Expand middle-income housing while not diminishing attention to low-income housing needs.
- Target federal purchasing and location of federal facilities in distressed cities.

##### GENERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The League supports a variety of federal strategies, including direct general assistance, targeted to distressed cities. Such a program should include aid to counter recession. In providing federal aid for particular program areas, grants offer city governments the best opportunities to meet local needs.

- In order to increase the availability of funds to city governments for capital expenditures, the federal government should use mechanisms to lower the cost of borrowing.
- Aid to cities should include technical assistance to improve management capacity.

#### **Death Penalty**

*Statement of position, 2006:*

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

---

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.



## 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 upon informed and active participation in government 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 the 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 that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that 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 development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

# Unit Meetings

**Call the League office at 206-329-4848 to leave a message.**

<b>Unit leader</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Host address</b>
<b>Monday, January 7, 2008</b>				
<b>Southend</b>				
Sam Scharff	webcats@speakeasy.net	7:30 p.m.	Lila Bulen	3716 Cascade Ave S
<b>Tuesday, January 8, 2008</b>				
<b>Bellevue</b>				
Bonnie Rimawi	BNRimawi@aol.com	10:00 a.m.		Bellevue Library
JoAnne Way	waytandj@comcast.net			Room 6
<b>North End Aft.</b>				
CoraLea Doty	clnjdoty@earthlink.net	12:30 p.m.	Anne Conkle	(206) 363-3882 12526 39th Ave NE
<b>West Seattle Day</b>				
Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis	terrylucy2u@comcast.net	12:30 p.m.	Anne Bowden	The Kenney 7125 Fautleroy SW
<b>West Seattle Eve</b>				
JoAnne McGaw	N/A	7:00 p.m.	Boots Winterstein	8108 11th Ave SW
<b>Wednesday, January 9, 2008</b>				
<b>View Ridge</b>				
Marcia Brown	marciajobebrown@hotmail.com	12:45 p.m.	Gail Winberg	6004 NE 60th
Elaine Birn	mbirn@verizon.net			
<b>Magnolia/Queen Anne/Ballard Eve</b>				
Elsie Simon	elsiesimon@comcast.net	7:30 p.m.	Bettina Hosler	9516 2nd Ave NW
<b>Thursday, January 10, 2008</b>				
<b>Mercer Island</b>				
Martha Jordan	marty4lwv@yahoo.com	9:15 a.m.	Harriett Morton	5263 Forest Drive SE
<b>Shoreline</b>				
Juliet Beard	juliet@windermere.com	4:30 p.m.		Richmond Beach Congregational Church NW 195th St and 15th Ave NW
<b>North Central</b>				
Jan Orlando	orlanre@aol.com	7:30 p.m.	Alice Rasp	4523 5th Ave NE
<b>Monday, January 14, 2008</b>				
<b>First Hill</b>				
Janet Perry	jhperry@foxinternet.com	10:00 a.m.	Mary Margaret Pruitt	Horizon House, 900 University St Sky Lounge
<b>Issaquah Evening</b>				
Denise Smith	president@seattlelwv.org	6:30 p.m.		Starbuck's at Meadow Center 1460 Gilman Blvd #K
<b>Kirkland/Redmond</b>				
Patti Catalano	pattimusic@comcast.net	7:00 p.m.	Liv Grohn	338 10th Avenue, Kirkland
<b>Capitol Hill/Montlake</b>				
Jan O'Connor	oconnor.js@gmail.com	7:15 p.m.	Alison Feher	
Vicky Downs	DownsVdowns@aol.com			1933 Broadway E, Apt 1B
<b>Tuesday, January 15, 2008</b>				
<b>Pioneer Square</b>				
Pat Cleary	patiquah@msn.com	5:30 p.m.		Zeitgeist Coffee 174 So. Jackson St
<b>Thursday, January 17, 2008</b>				
<b>Issaquah</b>				
Margaret Austin	Margaret.Austin@comcast.net	10:00 a.m.		Issaquah City Hall & Police
Connie Reed	reedhtop@earthlink.net			130 E. Sunset Way, Coho Room (upstairs)
<b>Saturday, January 19, 2007</b>				
<b>Ballard/Queen Anne/Magnolia Day</b>				
Judy Ostrow	2jostrow@comcast.net	9:15 a.m.	Lisa Peterson	3932 Midvale Ave N (Wallingford)
Alice Peterson	peterson-alice-jack@msn.com			

# Board & Committee Contacts

<b>Term</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>		
2007–2009	* President	Denise D. Smith	president@seattlelwv.org
2007–2009	1st V.P. Program Chair	Nan Moore	nannm@comcast.net
2007–2009	2nd V.P. Program	Harriett Morton	action@seattlelwv.org
2006–2008	3rd V.P. Tech Liaison	Stephanie Lin	stephanie.lin@gmail.com
2007–2009	4th V.P. Membership	Kitty Mahon	membership@seattlelwv.org
2007–2009	Secretary	Karen Adair	adairk@seanet.com
2007–2008	Treasurer	Laraine Volkman	treasurer@seattlelwv.org

<b>Term</b>	<b>Directors</b>		
2007–2008	Voter Service	Victoria Bennett	voterservice@seattlelwv.org
2007–2009	Director	Patti Catalano	pattimusic@comcast.net
2007–2009	Voter Editor	Beatrice Crane	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2007–2008	Social Justice	Pat Cleary	patiquah@msn.com
2007–2009	Eastside Liaison	Doreen Cato	dcato@firstplaceschool.org
2006–2008	Unit Coordinator	Mickey Horwitz	stellarinteriors@hotmail.com
2006–2008	Political Party Chair	Paula Polet	paula98103@hotmail.com
2007–2009	Civics Education	Jaclyn Wall	speakingstrategies@hotmail.com
2007–2009	Seattle Liaison	Anita Warmflash	ansky@qwest.net

<b>Term</b>	<b>Education Fund Board</b>		
2007–2009	President	Nancy Eitrem	nancye@speakeasy.net
2007–2008	Vice President	Myra Lupton	mlupton@mailstation.com
2007–2009	Treasurer	Lisa Peterson	
2007–2008	Secretary	Boots Winterstein	paulandbootswinterstein@juno.com
2007–2008	Board member	Juliet Beard	juliet@windermere.com
2007–2008	Board member	Dorothy Y. Sale	saledy@comcast.net

## **Voter Service**

CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	howe.john@comcast.net
-----------------	--------------	-----------------------

## **Study & Action Committees**

Civics Education	Jaclyn Wall	speakingstrategies@hotmail.com
Economics & Taxation	Nora Leech	nleech2002@yahoo.com
Education	Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis	lucygg@seattlelwv.org
Homelessness Study	Pat Cleary	patiquah@msn.com
Immigration Study Co-chair	Annette Holcomb	anholc@earthlink.net
Immigration Study Co-chair	Barbara Reid	barbereid@yahoo.com
International Relations	Ellen Berg	ellenzberg@aol.com
Land Use	Karen Kane	kanek@iopener.net
Natural Resources	John Roberts	jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org
Transportation	Linnea Hirst	LWVquilter@comcast.net

\* Indicates LWVS Board Representative on the Education Fund Board

The League of Women Voters of Seattle  
1620 18th Ave, Suite 101  
Seattle WA 98122

**Moving?** Let us know!  
Call league office (206) 329-4848 or  
email [info@seattlelwv.org](mailto:info@seattlelwv.org)

## January Forum: Local and National League Program Planning for 2008-2009

Thursday, January 3, 2008

7:30 p.m.

**Location**

Seattle First Baptist Church  
1111 Harvard Ave  
Seattle WA 98122  
(corner of Harvard & Seneca on First Hill)

**Program**

Roundtable discussion of issues at the national level or from the Greater Seattle area

**Speakers**

Representatives of LWVS study and action committees

All forums are free and open to the public. Join us!