

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

Approved Program 2017-18

Annual Meeting May 20, 2017

Local Government Structure in Tippecanoe County

Revised 2011

We believe governments should strive to increase transparency, accessibility, and accountability in all functions and in all actions. We urge township trustees to explore cooperation and consolidation of services to increase efficiency and improve service whenever possible. We support increased cooperation among all local governmental bodies (townships, towns, cities and county) and encourage consideration of merging departments with similar functions, as the law permits. We support streamlining local government.

Comprehensive Planning

Revised 2008, 2016

The League supports a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative planning process. We support the Area Plan Commission (APC), the agency established by the six governmental entities in Tippecanoe County (two cities, the county, three town boards), in carrying out this process. We emphasize the need for a qualified professional staff to serve the APC in advising local elected officials.

- Continuing - refers to the periodic need to re-evaluate and update a plan to reflect current best use practices, changing technology, and citizen input.

- Comprehensive - is defined as including, but not limited to, many basic elements, for example:

- Economic factors;

- Sustainable land use and energy practices;

- Population and demographics;

- Transportation facilities and patterns, including rail and mass transit;

- Financial resources;

- Social and community values such as parks and recreational facilities, preservation of open space, river corridor enhancement and sustainable development, preservation of historical sites and buildings, aesthetics, and especially protecting the environment (e.g. water and air quality, wetland preservation, farmland preservation, minimizing sprawl);

- Implementation measures such as zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and building codes.

- Cooperative - includes cooperation among all levels of government, agencies within governments, educational organizations, and citizens.

Many goals expressed in national, state, and local League positions are an essential part of the planning process and are intertwined with comprehensive planning and land use.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Revised 2008

Support planning for, development of, and funding for additional parks, recreation, and open space for Tippecanoe County.

A. Planning Goals: The League believes that the planning goals for parks, recreation and open space in Tippecanoe County should include the following considerations:

1. Acquisition and creative development of open space in the cities and the county for active recreational purposes as well as opportunities to observe and experience nature;
2. Preservation of the natural and historic heritage of our county, e.g. additional financial support for our historical parks, acquisition and preservation of Hadley Lake and other wetlands, and use of the Wildcat Creek area for recreational and conservation purposes in accordance with an overall orderly plan;
3. Support for public input and involvement in the initial stages of planning as well as formation of on-going citizen advisory groups;
4. Promotion of the philosophy that parks, recreation, and open space are a valid expenditure of local tax monies because of their contribution to sustainable economic development, a healthy community, and overall quality of life;
5. Utilization of a combination of funding sources including local, state, and federal governmental funds in combination with foundations and other private sources; Government funding should use the least regressive taxes. Possible tax sources could include tax increment financing, local income tax, user fees for specific facilities, food and beverage tax and innkeepers' tax.
6. Cooperation among concerned park boards and other governmental entities to make our community a place of choice.

B. Wabash River Corridor: The League recognizes that the Wabash River basin is a unique, predominant and treasured natural feature not only of our community but of our state, and the League strongly supports:

1. The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission in their efforts to promote environmentally responsible urban development and natural river corridor enhancement;
2. Improvement of water quality in the river itself and in the overall river environment;
3. Utilizing the water in its naturally free - flowing state and preserving and stabilizing its banks;
4. Integrated development of recreational opportunities along the Wabash River corridor including access areas and facilities for such things as canoeing, rowing, fishing, shallow - draft powerboats, as well as opportunities for hiking, camping, bicycling, and picnicking within a natural park environment;
5. Continued development of Prophetstown State Park as an anchor for Wabash River corridor development to address unmet recreational needs in Tippecanoe County and the contiguous region;
6. Sustainable focal point development to link the communities of Lafayette and West Lafayette. Possibilities could include restaurants, museums, community gathering places, boardwalks and overlooks.

Solid Waste Management
Adopted 1973, Dropped 2012

Juvenile Services in Tippecanoe County
Adopted 1987, Dropped 2015

Domestic and Relationship Violence
Adopted 1994, Revised 2007, Amended 2009, Revised 2011

LWVGL advocates the implementation of programs to prevent domestic and relationship violence and supports measures which protect victims and survivors of such violence through uniform quality law enforcement, human services intervention, and safe housing. Furthermore, healthy relationship education and conflict management training are necessary to prevent domestic and relationship violence.

To ensure the above, adequate funding for human services providers is necessary to meet the special needs of victims of domestic and relationship violence.

Transitional housing (a facility with on-site staff to provide housing immediately after emergency shelter) is needed for victims of domestic and relationship violence. A transitional housing facility could include security-protected living arrangements, semi-dependent living, as well as available emotional support, childcare, and assistance in arranging personal affairs. In addition, assistance is needed for those individuals seeking independent living.

LWVGL supports requests and proposals of agencies and organizations that seek federal, state, local and private funding to provide transitional housing and other needs for victims of domestic and relationship violence.

In addition, the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette supports the six positions, encompassing thirty sub-positions, of the Indiana League (http://lwvin.org/files/lwvin_positions.2015.pdf):

Election Process
Fiscal and Government Policy
Justice System
Juvenile Justice System
Social Policy
Natural Resources

As well as the four public policy positions of the League of Women Voters of the United States that embraces over fifty separate positions <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition>

Representative Government
International Relations
Natural Relations
Social Policy