

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM FOR THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAFAYETTE FOR 2008-2009

Adopted at Annual Meeting May 13, 2008

Re-adopt current positions on Solid Waste Management, Land Use, Juvenile Services in Tippecanoe County, Local Government Structure in Tippecanoe County, Problems of Women, and Women with Children, Who Are Victims of Domestic Violence.

Solid Waste Management:

- A. LWVGL supports solid waste management that emphasizes waste reduction, putting source reduction (or waste minimization) foremost, followed by yard-waste composting and recycling as a means of reducing reliance on disposal.
- B. League members support government-sponsored, economically feasible, enforceable recycling systems. "Economically feasible" does not necessarily mean self-supporting.
- C. League members support government-regulated means for collection and disposal of privately generated wastes.
- D. League members support public and private sectors working together to actively promote waste reduction in Tippecanoe County and in the solid waste district.
- E. League members support financial incentives for waste reduction for both public and private trash services.
- F. The LWVGL believes that effective solid waste decisions depend on public understanding and support. Solid waste decisions are not primarily engineering decisions but public policy decisions.
 - 1. The LWVGL supports responsive government decision-making on solid waste issues which develops procedures for active public involvement and which ensures the public has adequate information to participate effectively.
 - 2. The LWVGL supports the full accounting and public reporting of all costs of solid waste management by local government.
- G. The LWVGL believes that the selection of a future landfill site should be part of an overall land use plan. In order to achieve our goals:
 - 1. We will use all available educational opportunities.
 - 2. We will work for better enforcement of present laws.
 - 3. We are open to work at whatever level (low, regional) a problem can best be solved. We should work toward a regional approach if such an approach becomes feasible.

Juvenile Services in Tippecanoe County:

- A. The LWVGL supports the establishment of long-term treatment facilities for juveniles in need of such services, and supports all efforts of the county toward their provision. We urge government funding for all detention and treatment facilities to insure that these facilities are provided to the community on a continuing basis.

Local Government Structure in Tippecanoe County:

League members support increased cooperation among the various governmental bodies (Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County) and the consideration of merging departments within these units with similar functions, as the law permits.

Problems of Women, and Women with Children, Who Are Victims of Domestic Violence:

- A. The LWVGL encourages the implementation of programs to prevent family violence and supports measures which protect victims and survivors of domestic violence through uniform quality law enforcement, human services intervention, and safe housing. We support a holistic approach to the problems created by domestic violence. We advocate violence prevention education and conflict-management training as violence prevention measures.
- B. League members support uniform enforcement of laws that require law enforcement agencies to offer protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence. We support requests for funding for human services to meet the special needs of victims of domestic violence.
- C. Second-Phase Housing (a facility with on-site staff to provide housing immediately after emergency shelter).

1. We support the development in Tippecanoe County of second-phase housing for victims of domestic violence. This position is based on lack of shelter for low income victims of domestic violence for whom there is no room at appropriate emergency shelters or those who have exhausted the time limit at an emergency shelter. The facility should have security-protected living arrangements, semi-independent living, and include available emotional support, child-care and assistance in arranging personal affairs.
2. We advocate allocation of public revenues to local government to provide second-phase housing for victims of domestic violence.

D. League members support requests and proposals of agencies and organizations that seek federal, state, local, and private funds for housing for victims of domestic violence.

We recommend that a committee of league members review the Land Use position to update it to focus on current issues and shorten it to emphasize broader themes rather than itemized details.

Land Use:

A. Comprehensive Planning:

Support comprehensive planning and the implementation of a comprehensive Land Use Plan for Tippecanoe County.

1. League support of the Land Use Plan was based on the following criteria for its development: professional personnel adequate in number and qualification; citizen input; studies of population, economic base, and topography, best use of the land, soil conditions, drainage, and regional planning so that our plan is compatible with that of other counties.

Specific elements which should not be overlooked in a comprehensive plan are provisions for - parks and recreation facilities, green belts (including recreational and agricultural and buffer zones), aesthetics, transportation (including all types - auto, bike, pedestrian, public vehicles), orderly business and industrial growth, land use for waste processing and disposal, ecological concerns (including use of energy, the requirement of environmental impact statements from developers, extension of utilities, soil conditions - and drainage, preservation of wetlands). Finally, the common good of the overall community should have as much influence as the rights of the individual property owner.

2. The League supports the basic standards set forth in the current Unified Zoning Ordinance.

B. Parks and Recreation and Open Space:

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

1. League members believe that the planning goals of parks, recreation and open space in Tippecanoe County should include the following considerations:
 - a. Acquisition and creative development of open space in both city and country for present and future use;
 - b. Use of this land as a release from pressure of living in an urban area, a place to observe nature, and natural areas for family-oriented activities;
 - c. Improvement of water quality of the Wabash River and its environment;
 - d. Preservation of the natural and historical heritage of our country;
 - e. Promote the philosophy that parks, recreation, and open space are a valid expenditure of local tax monies;
 - f. Support the opportunity for public input and involvement in the initial stages of planning.
2. League members strongly support integrated development of recreational opportunities along the Wabash River Corridor. This should include facilities for improving the quality of life for citizens, such as hiking, camping, bicycling, picnicking, horseback riding, and cross- country skiing within a natural park environment.
3. League members support continued development of the Prophetstown State Park as an anchor for Wabash River Corridor development and to help address currently unmet recreational needs in Tippecanoe County. The best recreational use of the river itself would utilize the water as it is - naturally free flowing, preserving its banks and striving to maintain water quality. This would include access areas and facilities for canoeing, rowing, fishing, and shallow-draft powerboats.
4. League members support focal-point development consistent with the park concept, which could bring together the communities of Lafayette and West Lafayette. Possibilities could include a convention center, restaurants, museums, community gathering places, boardwalks, bridge overlooks, and so forth.

5. The League supports the efforts of the Wabash River Parkway Commission, the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission and the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation to encourage river parkway environmentally responsible development and to foster cooperation among concerned park boards and other governmental entities.
6. Where tax funding is concerned, League members favor the least regressive taxes. Some possible funding methods are: tax increment funding; county income tax; use fees for specific facilities (e.g., camping, etc.); private investment; food and beverage tax; inheritance tax; state and federal support.
7. The League also continues its long-standing support for recreational development in other areas of the county:
 - a. We advocate additional financial support for our historical parks;
 - b. Because of their unique characteristics, we also see the need for acquisition and preservation of Hadley Lake and other wetlands as important features of our natural heritage and environmental concerns;
 - c. Members agree that the Wildcat Creek area should be developed for recreational and conservation purposes in accordance with an overall orderly plan.
8. The League supports the following means of attaining these goals for general recreational development in Tippecanoe County:
 - a. Formation of citizen advisory groups for the park boards should be sustained and encouraged;
 - b. Utilization of a combination of federal, state, local and private funds.