

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA
POSITIONS IN BRIEF, 2008-10

GOVERNMENT

Campaign Financing: Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions which will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office. 1973, updated in 1976

Constitution: Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified State Constitution: provisions which enable the Legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state. 1957, updated in 1965-67

Election Systems: Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election. 2001, amended by concurrence in 2003

Initiative and Referendum Process: Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process. 1984, updated in 1999

Intergovernmental Relationships: Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public. 1981

Public Libraries: Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society. 1998

Redistricting: Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. Support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. 1988, 2007

State and Local Finances: Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures, that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to

ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and which encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly. 1969, updated 1975, new positions in 1976, 1977, 1981, & 1995

Voting Rights: Support measures which will protect every citizen's right to vote and which will ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate. 1972, reviewed in 1986

NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture: Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource which must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs which include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy which affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance. 1983

Air Quality: Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards. 1971, updated in 1973

Energy: The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures. 1978, updated in 1980, 2006, & 2007.

Hazardous Materials: Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bio-accumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures. 1986, 1987

Land Use: Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of

government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation. 1975

Solid Waste: Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials. 1973

Transportation: Support a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost-effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education. 1981, revised in 1985, new position in 1991

Water: Support measures which promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use. 1959, updated in 1959, updated in 1961, 1967, 1971, & 1979

SOCIAL POLICY

Child Care: Support state and local policies, legislation and programs which meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality child care. 1989

Community College System

Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs. 2003

Education, Pre-K through 12: Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program. 1973, updated in 1985 and 2005

Housing: Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all

Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians. 1970, updated in 1973 & 1993

Juvenile Justice/Dependency: Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, which serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and which rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services that work with children, youth, families and schools. Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual. 1997, 1999

Legal Aid: Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services. 1971, revised in 1983

Mental Health Care: Support for an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management. 1998