

League of Women Voters of Evanston Local Positions 2012-2013

The LWVE takes action at the local level based on LWVUS, LWVIL and LWVCC positions, as well as its own local positions, in the following public policy areas: Representative Government, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Representative Government

A. City of Evanston

1. Government

- Support for the Council-Manager form
- Support for the election of aldermen from wards
- Support for the election of aldermen to allow for the diversity of the community to be represented
- Support for effective use of committees, boards and commissions
- Support for the development and implementation of a long range plan
- Support for the involvement of citizens
- Support for increased cooperation and communication between the City and institutions of higher learning
- Support for recreation programs that are diversified, well-publicized and responsive to community needs
- Support for a strong, well-funded library system

2. Budget

- Support for sound fiscal policy, including long range planning for capital improvements and effective budget controls
- Support for the City's efforts to broaden its tax base

B. Schools (District 65 and District 202)

1. Citizen participation and communication

- Support for effective citizen participation in all planning and policy development
- Support for effective communication by District 65 and District 202 with all Evanston residents and effective means for residents to communicate with the Districts.

2. Policies, plans and goals

- Support for a district-wide plan for the use of community resources, including a well-organized, comprehensive volunteer program

- Support for racially integrated schools as a necessary condition for equal access to education
- Support for services for children with disabilities
- Support for efforts to reduce the achievement gap among children of different races

Natural Resources

A. Environmental Quality

1. Resource protection

- Support for natural resources being conserved and protected to assure their future availability
- Support for controlling pollution of these resources in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health
- Support for natural resources being managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems, including reclamation and reuse of natural resources
- Support for minimizing the consumption of nonrenewable resources
- Support for government policies which promote stewardship of natural resources, such as water and soil

2. Recycling and elimination of harmful chemicals

- Support for reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous waste
- Support for reduced exposure to pesticides and toxic chemicals
- Support for encouraging use of non-toxic alternatives
- Support for informing the public about the use of pesticides

3. Local Initiatives

- Support for the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through its Climate Action Plan
- Support for the continued prioritization of sewer maintenance
- Support for exploring alternative solutions to flooding and pollution

B. Land Use

1. Downtown development

- Support for a mixed-use approach to downtown development which promotes a balance between retail, cultural, recreational, residential and office facilities
- Support for a coordinated, comprehensive planning for downtown development
- Support for balanced development of public transportation and parking in the downtown

2. Neighborhood business areas

- Support for the formation, strengthening and coordination of area merchants' associations and neighborhood groups
- Support for greater concern for pedestrians in neighborhood business areas and a greater emphasis on the use of public transportation

3. Zoning

- Support for a fair and efficient zoning process
- Support for a zoning ordinance which protects and enhances our community, while providing reasonable standards and adequate flexibility for the continued vitality of the City
- Support for timely and effective notifications as to all zoning-related meetings

4. Preservation

- Support for effective implementation of Evanston's preservation goals
- Support for improvement and revitalization of neighborhood business areas with an emphasis on preservation

Social Policy

A. Housing

- Support for strong and effective implementation of the City's Fair Housing Ordinance, the Tenant/Landlord Ordinance and the Condominium Ordinance
- Support for policies and programs which increase affordable housing opportunities for persons with moderate or low income
- Support for the development and rehabilitation of Evanston's housing stock for both purchase and rental

B. Human Resources

1. Human Relations

- Support for an effective, independent, adequately-funded and well-staffed Human Relations Commission
- Support for comprehensive human relations policies

2. Police

- Support for measures which foster cooperation and communication between police and all segments of the community

C. Community Health and Wellness

1. Mentally challenged

- Support for comprehensive and coordinated services for mentally ill adults and children in both state facilities and community-based programs
- Support for the mentally ill, including high quality community-integrated housing
- Support for coordination of services for formerly hospitalized persons

2. Services for the elderly

- Support for small group housing for the elderly in Evanston
- Support for effective enforcement of Evanston's long term care ordinance
- Support for the establishment of adult day care facilities, as needed, in Evanston
- Support for community involvement with Evanston's nursing homes and for residential councils within such homes
- Support for nursing home alternatives

D. Supportive Services

1. Support for income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families
2. Support for an effective, adequately funded emergency assistance services program
3. Support for sound welfare practices
4. Support for coordination of the human services network in Evanston