

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PASADENA AREA

## LOCAL PROGRAM 2007 – 2008

### **Citizen Participation In Local Government:** adopted 1976, 1978

Support of government policies that (1) make the citizen part of the decision-making process; (2) allow timely access to information; (3) improve mechanisms for informing citizens, including those affected, about issues under discussion; (4) elicit and utilize citizen input before decisions are made.

Support of appointment procedures which include regular press releases; public availability of applications, including job descriptions; and interviews of applicants.

Support of a selection process with primary emphasis on background and knowledge, taking into consideration geographic and other factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, and economic level.

Appointees should be advised of the conflict of interest provision, trained, and reimbursed for committee-related expenses.

### **Education:** adopted 1968, 1986

Support of superior and integrated education with equality of educational opportunity at all levels in the school districts in the Pasadena Area League and Pasadena Community College District with continuing evaluation of long-range planning, and with emphasis on efficient administration, adequate financing, and open channels of communication. (Update adopted 4/86)

Support of maintenance of an excellent Community College, with strong and varied offerings in college transfer, terminal and vocational education, as well as community services to meet the varied needs of the people of the Pasadena Community College District.

### **Election Procedures:** adopted 1999, 2002

Advocacy of Instant Runoff Voting for single seat elections

Advocacy of Choice Voting as a priority for local elections for boards and councils

### **Growth and Development:** adopted 1987

Support population growth goals that include:

1. participation in the continuing review and revision of the General Plan, as mandated by state law
2. consideration of the total land area in the community
3. density that can be supported by the existing infrastructure
4. reflection of community traditions

Support criteria for residential, commercial, and industrial development that includes consideration of:

1. impact upon existing infrastructure, i. e., water, sewers, utilities, streets and parking, schools, fire and police protection, and all community services
2. environmental impact
3. compatibility of the development to the existing community
4. the demonstrated benefit to the community of an increased tax base, provision of commercial and retail services, or a need for increased housing

Support policies that guide standards for architectural design and construction so that environmental quality is retained.

Support assessment of the developers when land use is changed to a higher density, with assessment to be determined by the local community.

Oppose redevelopment projects that displace residents and businesses without the guaranteed and equitable relocation compensation which is mandated by law.

### **Pasadena City Government:** adopted 1973/revised 1985, 1999

Support of a representative, responsible and responsive city government in Pasadena with emphasis on leadership, communication, and efficient administration.

Support of districting by population.

Support of a council-manager form of government for the City of Pasadena.

Support of measures which will:

1. strengthen the policy making role of the Council, including requiring the city manager to serve at the pleasure of the majority of the Council, adequate compensation for the council members, and having the Council retain appointment power of volunteers to boards, committees, and commissions
2. strengthen the authority of the mayor by giving him/her oversight responsibility, including agenda and budget review before submission to the Council.

Support of measures to facilitate citizen input before policy decisions are made.

Support of a city charter which functions effectively as the basic governmental law, allows flexibility, and provides conformity between city practice and charter provisions.

Support of opportunity for evaluation by public of proposed charter changes before final content and language for the ballot is decided.

Support of requiring nominating petitions, but no filing fees, from school board candidates. Opposition to inclusion in the Pasadena City Charter of any material relating to the Pasadena Unified School District except procedures for Board of Education elections.

Support of Pasadena's adoption of a comprehensive fiscal plan, having approximately a five-year range, with primary responsibility for planning and priority-setting borne by the City Council. Support of annual public review for this plan.

Support of:

1. promoting public awareness of city's fiscal problems
2. timely solutions by City Council
3. revenue raising measures with new revenues directed to above needs
4. efficiency measures to cut city operating costs

Support of adoption of management plan for city assets, including a list of city-owned assets, periodic assessment for highest use market value, statement of current use, and revenue generated.

Support of increased use of assets for revenue.

**Housing/Economic Opportunities:** adopted 1979, 1980/revised 2000, 2001, 2007

Support the application for and use of, under the prescribed guidelines, all available programs and funds to meet the housing needs of, and to increase economic opportunities for, low and moderate income persons.

In expenditures of public funds for housing, priority should be given to rehabilitation of existing housing in transitional and low income neighborhoods, and to subsidized rentals for low income families, seniors and the handicapped. Subsidized loans should be available to assist rehabilitation and for home purchase or construction. If funds are spent for new construction, the needs of moderate as well as low income families should be considered.

In expenditures of public funds for increasing economic opportunities for low income persons, priorities should be given to job creation, job progression, job training, and child care services. Equal priorities should be given.

If funds are spent for neighborhood upgrading and housing related services, priorities should be given to crime reduction, capital improvements, and home improvement training. Equal priorities should be given.

Support a broad housing element in the city's general plan based on study of housing problems and including an action plan for solving them which will achieve a balanced socio-economic community.

Support the implementation by our area communities of the State law requiring every city to provide a fair share of low and moderate income housing.

Support a mortgage revenue bond referendum to provide funds for low and moderate income housing. Support the use of eminent domain powers to increase the supply of low and moderate income housing, but only when its use is necessary and appropriate.

Support inclusionary zoning which requires setting aside a certain percentage of housing units at below market rates for low and moderate income persons in new rental and owner developments and condominium conversions. Incentives for developers should be built into the program.

Support a Housing Mediation Board with mandatory decision making powers to deal with landlord/tenant problems.

Support legislation to restrict and regulate condominium conversion when justified by low vacancy rates.

**Public Library System:** adopted 1978/ revised 2000, 2001, 2007

Support a public library system that is professional, efficient, and accessible, with equal consideration to all segments of the population.

Support the maintenance of branch libraries where appropriate.

In Pasadena, support a City Charter provision requiring the existence of a library board/commission. Support a City Charter provision requiring the City Council members' approval of the appointment or dismissal of the Library Director.

**Public Transportation:** adopted 1984/ revised 2000

Support a transit system with consideration for the handicapped, seniors, low income and outlying neighborhood residents, downtown shoppers and businesses, and those who are without adequate transportation services.

Support a fare assistance for all pertinent transportation authorities.

Support a multi-mode transit system with coordination among political entities.

Support responsible planning, operation, and construction of an integrated rapid transit system which provides a variety of facilities to encourage public use.

Support of community involvement in all transit program decisions.

**Public Access Cable TV:** adopted 1991

Support public access cable television as promoting the democratic process.

Local governments should stipulate in their franchise agreements with cable TV companies that public access channels be provided and that adequate financial guarantees be made for their equipment and operation.

Support requirements that cable companies provide funds for maintaining production facilities and production skills training for users of public access television.

For residents of a franchise area: oppose fees for basic training and basic supplies; prefer no fees for advanced training; support charges for additional props and supplies.

For residents outside a franchise area: support fees that cover costs for basic and advanced training and supplies.

Support all possible means for reaching the public and publicizing the use of public access services:

1. advance program information on a regular basis
2. wide outreach by public access management with community organizations and individuals
3. creation of a Citizen Advisory Committee as called for in Article VI, of Pasadena Community Access Corporation bylaws to act as liaison between the public access television board and the community.
4. insertion of information about public access television in cable TV bills in city and community mailings to residents.

Local governments which grant franchises should monitor compliance with public access provisions of their contracts and should define and designate responsibility for such monitoring.

The members recommend that the League of Women Voters of the Pasadena Area take an active role in helping to make and keep public access cable television in all franchises in the Pasadena area a viable option. LWVPA support should be in evidence well in advance of contract negotiations.

**South Pasadena Land Use and Planning:** Revised 2001

Support of the revitalization of the central business district. Support of periodic review of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinances with emphasis on ordinances and measures to encourage open spaces, imaginative land use and building development, adequate parking and landscaping to enhance the visual aspect of development.

## **LOCAL ISSUES FOR EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY 2007 – 2008**

- 1. Affordable Housing/Homelessness**
- 2. Education Dropout Project**
- 3. Instant Runoff Voting**