

League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area

2017-2018 Adopted Local Program

I. Recommended Local Program

1. Action in support of an open government that is responsive to the people of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.
2. Educate the community about the U.S. political process, changes in election law related to voter access, and the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission.
3. Educate the community about the Equal Rights Amendment/Intersectionality: Reproductive Rights, Pay and Promotion Equity, Paid Family Leave and Violence Against Women.
4. Action to Reduce Single-Use Plastic Bags.
5. Action in Support of Judicial Review instead of Direct File in Juvenile Offender cases.
6. Action in support of school based discipline and civil citations instead of out of school suspension and arrest.

Note: Intersectionality is the intersection of Race & Gender.

II. Adoption of Local Program

Child Abuse and Neglect

How can we better prevent child abuse and neglect through the use of existing agencies (school, church, government and mental health)? By:

1. Initiation of a family lifestyle curriculum in our middle schools involving all aspects of family living including sex education.
2. Improve current programs in our schools and community by encouraging volunteers to serve as advisors and presenters.
3. Use more social workers and their in-service programs on child abuse and neglect.
4. Support and promote an awareness of child abuse and neglect programs in our community offered by all agencies. Use programs of these agencies as an educational tool rather than a critical one.

Library

1. Recommend that efforts be continued to bring annual revenues up to average per capita expenditure rate for Florida. The Library should receive a percentage of county and city revenues as a permanent guarantee of adequate income.
2. Support a line-item budget and a detailed annual report, to be approved by the Library Advisory Board.
3. Recommend that Library Advisory Board members should be qualified, interested citizens, fully aware of their responsibilities and willing to serve as advocates. The responsibilities of the Advisory Board should be defined and they should report annually to the appointing elected boards.
4. Financing provided by the City and County should be adequate to recruit necessary professional and clerical staff, to meet standards, to keep physical facilities comfortable and

attractive and to keep the collection in acceptable quantity and condition with a complete inventory when feasible. The elected boards should consult with the Advisory Board on library services and funding.

5. Recommend increased public awareness and participation in better library service through improved publicity about services available and additional services possible with adequate support and funds.
6. Long-range plans for library services should be prepared and updated periodically. Encourage the establishment of branch libraries throughout the library system service area.

Education

1. Support free and fully effective public school systems for Escambia County and Santa Rosa County.
2. Support adequate financing of our schools.
3. Favor a school board with a minimum of seven members.
4. Support expansion of the school board membership to include at-large in addition to single member districts.
5. Favor the appointment of the County School Superintendent.
6. Support of a uniformity of AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). (2006)
7. Support uniformity in teacher credentials. (2006)
8. Support adequate funding of Title 1. (2006)
Note: 2006 consensus in President's File
9. Support tracking of individual students over the long-term, including through the 12th grade, when possible, to determine whether, and to what degree, retention correlates with subsequent student academic success. (2009)

Community Education

The LWVPBA has developed a yardstick in keeping with the philosophy of community education, which stresses developing and strengthening the vital relationship, mutual dependence and fundamental linkage between the home, school and community in all phases of human growth and community improvement. By utilizing the total community environment, the community becomes a living, learning laboratory for students and adults.

YARDSTICK FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1. Encourages lifelong learning
2. Encourages community involvement
3. Allows for maximum use of existing facilities
4. Permits participant organizations to maintain individual identity
5. Encourages combined efforts of public and private funding
6. Makes full use of an advisory council
7. Encourages community cooperation
8. Avoids becoming an unwieldy cooperative effort
9. Encourages excellent childcare facilities

Local Law Enforcement

1. Recommend that the Escambia County Sheriff and Pensacola Police Department combine some functional operations such as record-keeping, identification, communications and training in order to reduce duplication of services.

2. Recommend additional staffing and more funding for both the Sheriff and Police Departments.
3. Consistent with State League consensus, new jails should be discouraged in favor of alternatives to incarceration. Existing jails should conform to national and state standards. Jails should provide room for classrooms, rehabilitation programs and other educational support services.

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue effective training programs.
2. Continue flexibility in work schedules to promote greater participation in law enforcement courses offered at PSC and UWF.
3. Conduct psychological evaluations of applicants for law enforcement positions to help determine if they possess desirable attitudes for law enforcement work.
4. Continue periodic re-certification in the use of firearms.
5. Review personnel decisions for law enforcement personnel to eliminate potentially discriminatory practices based on race or sex. A diligent effort should be made to meet the Equal Opportunity guidelines for employment of minorities and women.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Solid Waste

1. Continue to update our knowledge of the processing methods for sewage sludge.
2. Support monitored transfer station/collection sites in appropriate areas of the counties.
3. Support recycling of all appropriate materials.
4. Support legislation against non-returnable bottles.

Garbage Collection

1. The county governments or a public utility should own and/or control the garbage collection and disposal systems.
2. Support a mandatory/equitable garbage collection policy for the developed areas of the counties.

Growth Management

1. Take action as appropriate on growth management issues in Escambia County in conformance with LWVF and LWVUS Natural Resources positions.
2. Review and participate in educating the public on storm water related issues.

Land Use-Port of Pensacola

Support the operation of the Port of Pensacola and its property as a significant public resource, an important part of the transportation system of the region and State which should be managed to maximize public benefit.

1. Support the operation of the Port as both an economic asset and a service to the region.
2. Support continued efforts to diversify sources of funding for the Port, consistent with local history and culture and concerns for the environment.

3. Support a governance structure which recognizes the Port's regional impact and enhances effective professional and fiscal management. (2013)

LOCAL MASS TRANSPORTATION

The public should be educated about the use and benefits of mass transit because of future energy and economic necessity.

1. Efforts should be made to serve all segments of the community through additional use of cost-effective vehicles of various sizes, i.e., automobiles, vans and minibuses, for those needing convenient access to mass transit at a reasonable cost.
2. Exploration of new ideas for mass transportation through coordination of existing organizations and equipment from the private sector and/or tax supported sectors with provision for adequate liability coverage/protections with input from an advisory committee.
3. Public funding for mass transportation through a mass transportation taxing authority if approved by local referendum or by other sources of alternate funding.

CHARTER GOVERNMENT

Support the concept of charter government for Escambia County.

<p><i>Yardstick for Good Local Government</i></p> <p>(Position originally established in 1969; and re-adopted at the 2017 Annual Meeting.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. representative policy-making body of widely proportions elected by voters with home rule powers; 2. single administrative head or manager chosen by commission (council) and accountable to it to effectively administer county services and implement policy; 3. choice of professional department heads by the administrator; 4. flexibility in administrative structure to allow adjustment to changing local needs and conditions; 5. modern procedures for fiscal and personnel management and for planning; 6. public services of acceptable quality at reasonable cost, and without overlapping or duplication of services; 7. adequate and equitable revenue sources with service taxes in proportion to services required; 8. authority to cooperate with other governments and non-governmental agencies; 9. unified system of courts; 10. merit system for civil service.

[Not-Recommended Items are those suggested by a member but not included by the board in the proposed local program. No such items were submitted this year.]