

LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS

CITY GOVERNMENT: We support the City Charter. Support city planning and effective coordination with all agencies involved. Support the zoning ordinance (1970). Support continuing evaluation of the reorganization of the city government under the Charter, emphasizing efficiency and responsiveness to the electorate, including citizen access to and involvement in all facets of city government (1974). Support a system for open appointments to citizen boards, commissions and committees to include adequate public notice of vacancies, formal application forms, limited terms and broad representation (1980). To address citywide issues and maintain the effectiveness of district councils, the League of Women Voters St. Paul supports an at large/ward combination system of election with a majority of the city council members elected from wards. It supports a two-year term under a ward system. It also supports the concept of staggered terms (1987). We support a full time council under either a ward or combination system. We support increasing the size of the city council under a combination system (1989). Support an Advisory Board for the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division (1989).

CITY CHARTER: The League of Women Voters of St. Paul supports the current City Charter with two exceptions:

1. The Charter should be amended to provide for two at-large City Council members.
2. The Charter should be updated to eliminate obsolete provisions within the Charter that are not consistent with city ordinance or state law.

The League of Women Voters St. Paul also recommends that

1. the City Council exercise more oversight of the multiple development agencies to assure that projects, whether public or private, are consistent with adopted City policy.
2. the Charter Commission members receive orientation by the city attorney on an annual basis and training, including a handbook outlining Commission duties and expectations, be provided to all newly appointed members. Sufficient funds to accomplish this should be provided.
3. the City take steps to separate the planning function from the economic development function in the Planning and Economic Development Department.

Adopted July 10, 2000

CITY BUDGET CUTS: We support an effective blend of taxes and fees to enable the City to continue providing services in a fair and equitable manner to all citizens and businesses. Support considering innovative ways of providing for and financing city services. Support of certain "essential" services being financed and provided to all. Support possibility of "nonessential" services being financed and provided for by users. Support financial alternatives, which use existing resources. Support criteria for analyzing changes in services provided based upon practical considerations (1984,2006).

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CIVIL SERVICE: We support changing the system of granting merit pay increases to provide incentive to improve performance. Objective standards of performance should be developed for all positions. Support measures to encourage broader distribution of and minorities in all job classifications. Support the changing of testing and promotions procedures to insure that jobs are filled by most qualified persons. Oppose residency requirements for city employees (1979).

COMMUNICATIONS: We support guidelines for CATV, which would insure continuing community input and control of public access facilities (1974; reaffirmed 1982).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING: We support programs to provide public and public-assisted housing and to develop, rehabilitate and conserve urban areas (1950's, 1972, 1979). Support programs to ensure a supply of affordable housing, to provide public and public-assisted housing, and to develop, rehabilitate, and conserve urban areas (1992).

EDUCATION: We support adequate financing of the St. Paul public schools (1960's). Support the principle of citizen participation in all matters related to public education (1971). Support continued long-range planning for public schools (1972). Support measures to promote racial and socioeconomic desegregation and integration (1973). Support development of a comprehensive program of education choices (1975), in which all families have sufficient information to make reasonable choices (1993).

HUMAN SERVICES: We support program planning with effective citizen input. Support funding of Human Services programs which is balanced among prevention, maintenance, and crisis intervention programs with some payment by users except in survival situations. Support criteria for planning mergers and for choosing vendors (1981).

SOCIAL POLICY: The League of Women Voters St. Paul supports violence prevention programs in our community. We support efforts to encourage the media and pornography industries to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of violence. We support the use of public monies in a statewide public information campaign and in governmental programs to combat violence (1991).

SOLID WASTE: We support recommendations regarding the generation and disposal of Saint Paul's solid waste which includes resource recovery, recycling and mandatory trash collection (1981); update (1989). Reduction, recycling and reuse are preferred over mass burn, RDF, and private incineration. Improve monitoring and technology development to decrease pollution. Alleviate barriers to solid waste reduction, recycling and reuse through both business and government efforts. Support government efforts to encourage and initiate market development and business's responsibility for ongoing development and efficiencies. Education, though very important, should not be the primary solution or replace other efforts (1990).

PORT AUTHORITY: The League of Women Voters St. Paul believes the Saint Paul Port Authority should use the Early Notification System at the earliest possible time to include official community groups in the planning process. The current thirty-day notice system does not allow enough time for the meaningful involvement by District Councils in the decision-making process of the Saint Paul Port Authority. We further recommend that written notification of proposed actions of the Saint Paul Port Authority be given to local daily newspapers. For improved communications, it is suggested that the Port Authority: provide more detailed preliminary agendas for Board of Commissioners meetings; publish proposed Saint Paul Port Authority actions in a consistent section of the newspaper; notify resident property owners within 300 feet of any proposed project (1986).

DISTRICT COUNCILS: Position 1: The LWVSP supports city funding for District Councils, with adjustments for inflation. Position 2: The LWVSP supports a common election month for the District Councils. We recommend that each District Council report annually to its residents and businesses on its goals and activities. Position 3: The LWVSP supports Community Organizers/Executive Directors being District Council employees (1996).

SALES TAX REVITALIZATION PROGRAM: The LWVSP supports the St. Paul Sales Tax Revitalization Neighborhood Program (STAR) with emphasis on the following areas in order of priority (1998): Improving and/or stabilizing housing stock; Providing attractive and economically viable neighborhood commercial areas; Enhancing the commercial and industrial base; Creating

family supporting jobs; Improving public infrastructure and green space. Support allocation of grants and awards to qualified projects, without priority by location, following a formal review process. Support distributing a portion of STAR funds as grants and a portion as loans, though the loan portion should not exceed 60%. Support changing the program guidelines to allow use of STAR funds for administrative costs. Encourage changing the program to prohibit STAR Board members from voting on projects if there is a perceived conflict of interest. Encourage changing the program guidelines to allow a greater percentage of sweat equity to be counted toward matching funds.