



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles
3303 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 310, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel: 213-368-1616; Fax: 213-368-1615

LOCAL POSITIONS 2011-2013

(Revised May 2012)

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles City has studied the following issues and has reached these positions through consensus.

CABLE TELEVISION (1984, 1997)

1. Support for public participation in City government activities that address cable television enforcement.
2. Support for city guarantees and enforcement of provisions for local and city-wide public, education and government access channels as required in the City franchise agreements with the cable television operators.
3. Support for city oversight and enforcement of cable television consumer protections as required in the City franchise agreements with the cable television operators.

CHILD CARE (1986)

The rearing of children is a social as well as a parental responsibility. Publicly subsidized child care programs are an essential support system for both parents and children.

1. Support for programs that provide a nurturing, caring environment that promote the emotional, social, physical and intellectual well-being of children that are available for children in all age groups and that are designed to meet their different needs.
2. Support for programs that are affordable, accessible, of high quality and available to parents at all income levels who choose to use them, with fees charged on a sliding scale.
3. Support of salaries that reflect the level of skill and training for teachers and those who participate in the care of children.
4. Support for efforts of the city government to increase the availability of child care and to enhance the quality of child care in the following ways:
 - Promoting the involvement of developers and corporations in expanding the supply of child care facilities;
 - Lobbying the State Legislature for increased funding for child care;
 - Supporting legislation and regulations that are in the best interests of children;

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Introducing the application of zoning ordinances when this is in the best interest of children, and
- Supplying child care for City employees.

CITY GOVERNMENT (1964, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1994)

Support of measures that would sustain a balance of power between the Mayor and the City Council. Support of measures to strengthen direct lines of authority and to fix responsibility in the administration of Los Angeles City Government.

1. Administration

- The mayor should be accountable to the residents for the management and coordination of City Departments.
- The Mayor should be able to hire and fire the General Managers of the Departments, and Council approval to hire managers should be required.
- The Mayor's present Charter-derived powers should be retained.
- The Charter should not be changed to allow the Mayor to put amendments on the ballot.
- General Managers should be removed from Civil Service protection; they should have control over their own budgets and personnel once their budgets have been approved by the council and should have the authority to hire and fire their opt deputies; and the City Council should not micro-manage the Departments. Proposition 5 approved by the voters (June 4, 1991 Municipal election) which provides City Council with the opportunity to review actions taken by Boards and Commissions, should be repealed.

2. City Council

- Legislative policy should be set by the Council. Administrative duties should be removed from the authority of the Council and given to appropriate departments.
- Council approval should be required for the appointment of Commissioners and the appointment and removal of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- There should be limitation on the number of terms an individual may serve as Council President.

3. Commissions

- Commissions, whether advisory or policy-making, promote citizen participation in city government and therefore the Commission system should be retained.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Commissions should hold meetings in varying locations throughout the city and should vary their meeting times to include evening meetings in order to increase their accessibility to the public.
- Commissions should be evaluated individually in determining whether functions should be policy-making or advisory.
- The Charter should not be changed to permit the Mayor to appoint all new Commissioners at the start of the Mayoral term.

4. Committees

- Support of measures that would lead to increased citizen participation in government through Citizens Advisory Committees.
- Committees should have clearly defined goals, preferably short term. Varying points of view should be represented on each Committee. Appointments to Committees should be for a specified term.
- Staff assistance should be provided. Committees should have access to all pertinent information.
- The Agency that initiates the Committee should be required to respond to the Committee's report. Committees' efforts should be evaluated periodically.
- Committees should have flexible meeting times in order to encourage broad citizen participation. A central directory of citizen participants should be maintained at City Hall.

5. City Charter

The Charter should

- Provide a clear statement of powers and responsibilities;
- Permit flexibility which will encourage efficiency and responsiveness, but with checks and balances to protect the public interest;
- Require conflict of interest legislation; and
- Protect the rights of citizens through suffrage and the power to direct legislation.

Administrative and procedural detail should be removed from the Charter and placed in ordinances.

The City Charter should be periodically reviewed every ten years with the review funded by the City. Participating in the review should be people experienced in government, scholars, community representatives of civic associations and should represent the ethnic make-up of the community. The League of Women Voters should take an active role in Charter Reform.

CIVIL SERVICE (1977)

1. Support of measures that will reduce all barriers to the employment or promotion of a person except those based on merit.
 - There should be a limit to years following discharge during which military credit would be granted.
 - The examination process should be open to all qualified candidates.
 - Seniority points should be related not only to the length but to the quality of service, as indicated in performance evaluation records.
 - Efforts to blanket into Civil Service any blocs of previously exempt municipal employees should be opposed.
2. Support of measures that will improve productivity of municipal employees.
 - Probation periods should be longer.
 - Appeals procedure should be streamlined.
 - Dismissal of non-productive employees should be made easier.
 - Effectiveness of performance evaluations should be improved.
 - In-service training programs should be conducted for personnel at all levels of government.
3. The Civil Service Commission should retain its appeals function.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (1997, 2007)

The League supports the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) role as an essential part of public education in meeting the needs of the Los Angeles community.

1. Finance
 - Support of adequate financing with student fees kept low. The District should seek creative ways to acquire additional revenues from the private sector, business and industry to meet both the needs of LACCD and those of needy students.
 - Bonds are acceptable to finance capital improvements. Support the 55% vote for approval of local school bonds.
 - More scholarships, internships and work-study opportunities should be sought within the private sector.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Non-credit classes should pay for themselves through fees or grants.

2. Governance

- Election-at-large of the Board of Trustees is preferable to regional or smaller District elections.
- Candidates for the Board of Trustees must meet the qualifications specified by the Education Code.

3. Academics, Counseling and Achievement

- Courses to meet the needs of the job market should be available and relevant.
- Support of the community college system mission to, “provide instruction in basic academic skills.”
- Increased availability of computers and all types of information technology throughout the campuses is desirable
- Counselors at the high schools need to be kept informed of career courses available. They should also be made aware of the advantages of community college education.
- Counselors at the community college should prepare students to take courses
- appropriate to their educational goals.
- There should be disincentives in LACCD policy for “dropping classes”.
- Additional classes and programs should be added when waiting lists of students needing those classes exist.

4. Community Involvement

- The public should be welcomed at open meetings; a community advisory council should be set up to work with the public.
- Alumni groups should be encouraged; they can publicize successes and raise funds.
- Cooperation with business and industry to develop relevant programs and course work is necessary; should constantly be sought and encouraged.
- Publication of human-interest stories and successes within the LACCD will project a positive image and should be encouraged.
- Senior citizens are a viable enrollment resource and should be made to feel welcome.
- Low-income groups should be taken into consideration when planning course work.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- The marketing and public relations of LACCD should be enhanced; this outreach can transform negative images and stress the positive. It can also better communicate to the public what LACCD does best.

EDUCATION (1966, 1971, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1994, 1995, 2010)

Support of a public school system that meets the needs of our community in the following ways:

1. Finance

Adequate financing; low pupil-teacher ratio; adequate guidance and counseling programs.

The school District should seek creative ways of increasing school revenues including parcel taxes, developers' fees, sale of surplus plants and land sites, parent and community involvement and grant funding.

The School District should accept funds/donations from business with no strings attached.

2. Governance and Accountability

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles believes that a primary goal of the LAUSD should be the improvement of student outcomes, including increasing the percentage of students who are proficient at each grade level and increasing the percentage of students who graduate from high school. The League believes that there are a number of crucial areas where attention needs to be focused to achieve these goals and therefore supports the following:

- The LAUSD School Board should be enlarged so that it contains both members who represent individual districts and members at large who represent the entire district.
- The School Board should focus on a long-range common vision. It should set policy and goals and assure that senior district management implements the vision, policies and goals of the board, Neither the board nor individual board members should become directly involved in managing the K-12 school system, but should leave that to district management. The School Board and individual members should be evaluated by the media and by the public on how well the board and each member performs.
- Because excellent teacher and school administration performance and accountability are important factors in improving student achievement, the LAUSD must establish and implement regular and meaningful evaluations of teachers, administrators, and senior management, including the superintendent. The Board must assure that management takes appropriate steps to address inadequate performance, or in the case of the superintendent's inadequate performance, the board must take action.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Because increased parental/guardian engagement in the educational process contributes to improved student outcomes, the district should foster appropriate outreach efforts to engage parents.
- Because adequate resources at the school level are important to student outcomes, the district should make appropriate efforts to provide every school in the district adequate resources for the classroom, the school plant and for staff development programs.
- It is important for students to feel safe and to be safe in and around each LAUSD school, and therefore the district should employ resources to insure safety in and around each campus. The LAUSD should, as appropriate, work with other governmental agencies to assure student safety.
- Because studies show that making students who are English language learners proficient in English within five years is closely linked to student performance and to high school graduation, the district should determine how to achieve this goal and undertake the necessary steps to achieve this goal.

3. Achievement

Support of a school district organization whose primary goal is the achievement of quality education and an openness to educational change.

Any restructuring plan for student achievement should include a common core of learning:

- Knowing – science and technology, mathematics, history and social science, literature, cultures and languages, the arts, physical development and health;
- Skills - reading writing, speaking, listening and viewing, English proficiency and proficiency in at least one additional language, quantitative skills, reasoning and problem solving, learning, team-work-group skills;
- Values – self concept, motivation, responsibility, interpersonal relations, U.S. and global interdependence, integrity and respect.
- Compensatory programs – for the disadvantaged child and measures that lead to equality of opportunity in education.

4. Assessment

When restructuring, students should be assessed in many ways including State tests, quiz classroom tests, journals, performance based tests, student self-assessment, teacher observation, portfolios.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

To determine whether a school plan is succeeding, the following criteria should be included:

- Are students attending?
- Are students learning?
- Are students graduating?
- Are graduating students prepared for success?
- Are objectives of the school plan being reached?

5. Social Services

Each school should deal with the need for social and family services by continuing with current programs which consist of referrals to outside agencies. Should 20% or more of the students fall below the federal poverty level, the State should be urged to call for family centers starting at the elementary schools.

When the local school determines that there is a need for on-site social services, the school should seek funding and services for many possible sources – Los Angeles Unified School District, social and family agencies, medical providers, businesses which are committed to satisfying children's needs.

Support of supplementary services, recreation, library, food, health, transportation and adult education for Los Angeles City School students.

6. Parent and Community Involvement

Clear lines of authority with responsibility readily available; decisions open to public scrutiny; two-way communication among all levels of administration, teaching staff, parents, pupils and community.

Each school plan should set forth, to the fullest extent possible, how parents can be effectively involved in the educational development of their children. Some of the choices for consideration included parenting skills, better communication among parents, teachers and students, parent councils, sharing resources with less affluent schools, regular meetings, matching parents' and teachers' abilities, use of PTA and grandparents' clubs.

Each school plant should detail ways to make parents and the community feel welcome, informed and essential participants in the school's governance, parent leadership, teacher assistance, facilities maintenance and funding. Suggestions include having more open house meetings for parents and communities, satisfying working parents' and single parents' needs, offering child care and busing or car pooling for parents to school meetings, reaching decisions and democratically, increasing participation and input and using bilingual meetings.

7. Reform Proposals

Agencies or individuals suggesting educational reform should submit a proposal showing the minimum staff development plan necessary to implement the proposal.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

The School Reform Plan should include sufficient time for planning, implementing and evaluating the results. There should be sufficient resource material and expertise to implement it, taking into consideration the teachers' other obligations. The plan should also include a statement of specific areas in which staff people will be needed for implementation.

When funds are provided for appropriate staff development activities, it is essential that the activity be an integral part of an ongoing curriculum activity in the school and that the sponsoring agent will employ consultants well versed in the activity.

ELECTION PROCEDURES (2008)

Advocacy of Instant Runoff Voting for single seat elections.

HOMELESSNESS (1986-1987)

1. Support for the City of Los Angeles' responsibility to provide shelter for homeless persons who cannot be accommodated by private shelters, especially in cold or wet weather.
2. Support efforts of the City Government to:
 - Insure that structures for homeless persons will not interfere with access to, or unduly impact, business enterprises, seek long-term solutions to the problems of homeless persons by taking a leadership role and cooperating with all levels of government and private agencies to reduce homelessness in Los Angeles;
 - Reach homeless women and children in all communities to advise them of available services for them; and
 - Place all available trailer units and pre-fab housing in every Council District

HOUSING (1967, 1980)

Support of measures which lead to equality of opportunity for adequate housing.

1. The following policies and actions should be promoted and encouraged:
 - affirmative actions by citizens and government which promote freedom from discrimination in housing;
 - programs and policies that extend the supply of adequate housing and the choice of community for lower income residents;
 - efforts to strengthen citizen understanding and support;
 - cooperation and coordination among agencies of local government that affect housing supply; and

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- alternatives to increase the housing supply in Los Angeles such as boarding houses, house-sharing, mobile homes and refurbishing industrial buildings.
2. Demolition of low income housing units should be curtailed unless comparable low income units replace those that are demolished.
 3. Subsidized housing programs should reflect the goal of adequate housing for low income residents in every community.
 4. Mortgage revenue bonds should be issued by the city, with priority given to low/moderate income family housing, owner occupied. Regulations preventing speculation should accompany any loans.
 5. The General Plan and land-use ordinances should reflect the goals of adequate housing for a range of income levels in all communities.

LIBRARY (1974, 1977, 1981)

1. Finance

Support of measures that will ensure adequate financing of the Los Angeles Public Library Department.

- Encourage increased support from the business community.
- Encourage increased use of volunteers in the Library.
- Secure Federal and State funds when available for library purposes.

2. Community Services

- Support of measures that will ensures the responsiveness of the Library Department to individual community needs.
- Circulation of books and library material should be the primary service of the Library Department.
- Community information centers should be established.
- The Library department should encourage input from the varied communities in branch decision-making.
- The Board of Library Commissioners should act as the head of the Library Department.

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BENEFITS (2009)

1. Support of continuation of a Defined Benefit Pension Plan for firefighters and police officers.
2. Support of consideration of the employees' total compensation. In granting salary increase and pension benefits for new civilian employees, the City of Los Angeles should include both salaries and benefits in comparing compensation to employees doing similar work in the private and public sector. Total compensation should be commensurate overall with that offered in the private sector, although not necessarily in every job category.
3. Support the following methods for reducing the cost of providing retirement benefits for new employees:
 - a. Support an increase in the age at which full pension benefits can be received while offering actuarially reduced benefits for those retiring earlier.
 - b. Support an increase in the age at which the post-retirement health care subsidy becomes available, provided retirees below that age are guaranteed the right to purchase health insurance at group rates.
 - c. Support a reduction in the rate of accumulation of pension benefits.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- d. Support a requirement that an employee purchasing service credit for the time not worked for the City pay the full actuarial cost of that benefit.
 - e. Support an increase in the cost of the benefits that is paid by the employees. For example, the LACERS or FPP employee contribution rate could be increased if the funded status of a retirement plan falls below a specified level and/or a retiree could be required to pay for a larger share of his/her health care premium.
 - f. Support steps to reduce the possibility of salary “spiking” immediately prior to retirement by, for example, basing pension benefits on the final three years’ salary rather than only the final year’s salary.
 - g. Support explore providing the COLA for less than the full pension benefit.
4. Support exploration by the City of the possibility of offering new civilian employees only a Defined Contribution Plan.

OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND PARKS (1971)

1. Support for the acquisition, preservation and maintenance of open space, with emphasis on adequate financing at all levels of government which will enable and encourage such a program.
 - Support taxes to acquire park land and open space.
 - Emphasize parks and playgrounds, including greenbelts, buffer zones and green spots.
 - Oppose sale or trade of parklands; if it occurs, support exchange for its equivalent in the same area; and oppose modification of existing parks unless such modification enhances recreation and park use.
 - Retain City-owned land for public purposes.
 - Promote the preservation and maintenance of out-of-city camps which provide an inexpensive camping experience for city dwellers.
 - Take action that will preserve the coastline for the enjoyment of the public; support measures to provide public access to all beaches; and support building restrictions which keep the waterfront view from being obstructed.
 - Encourage acquisition of new land for museum and library construction instead of using present park land.
2. Support for open lines of communication enabling further cooperation between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the citizens, leading to the following objectives:
 - Cooperation between Recreation and Parks Department and public school playgrounds;
 - Flexibility in regulations governing park usage;

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Cooperation of community groups in determining the recreational needs of a neighborhood;
 - Posting of official notification in a park when major changes for that park are to be placed on the Commission Agenda including use of all other forms of public notice; and
 - Basing the proposals of new facilities on these criteria relating to the neighborhood – age distribution, population density, median family income, and juvenile delinquency rates.
3. Support of efficient administration of the Department of Recreation and Parks.
 - The General Manager should administer the Department.
 - The Commission should control land use, acquisition and disposition.
 - The Commission should serve as an appeals board.

PLANNING (1961,1967, 1972, 1979, 1989)

1. Support of effective City planning.

A comprehensive General Plan should be developed and implemented to result in:

- Citizen participation in the development of the goals of planning;
 - Revision, updating and completion of the Plan;
 - Cooperation among the Planning Department, other City Departments and other governmental jurisdictions;
 - Stringent subdivision controls and strict zoning regulations;
 - Aesthetic controls which enhance the visual aspect of the City and strict zoning regulations.
2. Support of measures to encourage citizen participation in community planning.
 - Citizen Advisory Committees should be required by ordinance. CAC's should be appointed at the beginning of the planning process. The CAC should be broadly representative of the community at large and the names of those selected should be publicized.
 - Community plans and public meetings on community plans should be given wide publicity, using such possible avenues as radio, television, newspapers and neighborhood postings. At every stage of the planning process, ideas, information and concerns should be sought from the entire community.
 3. Support for conflict of interest legislation in planning and zoning, including disclosure of real estate holdings of those involved in planning and zoning decisions, and registration of paid lobbyists.
 4. Support of a land-use policy for the City of Los Angeles which protects the quality of life for everyone.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Low-density residential neighborhoods should be preserved. Selective zoning rollbacks should occur where necessary to protect such neighborhoods from undesirable growth. Rehabilitation of older neighborhoods should be encouraged through tax and other incentives.
 - Growth in all areas should be permitted only when adequate transportation, schools, sewers and other infrastructure are in place or provided simultaneously.
5. Support of strict controls on outdoor advertising. (BILLBOARDS, 1972)
- Billboard-free districts should be created.
 - Strict controls on height, size, location, landscaping, movement and lighting should be placed on any signs which are permitted.

POLICE (1978, 1992, 2007, 2010)

Short Summary

POLICE (1978, 1992, 2008, 2009) Support of the Police Commission in its Charter-given role as head of the police Department, and its ability to remove the Chief of Police with concurrence of the Mayor and City Council. Later update included support for the LAPD's primary role of law enforcement and crime prevention. We continue to support the role LAPD plays in enforcing immigration laws (Special Order 40), the continuation of the technical advance improvements made in response to the Consent Decree, and the continued outreach and communications with the public. through community policing and assisting community leaders with interventions, rehabilitation and reentry solutions.

Local Positions

POLICE (1978, 1992, 2008, 2009)

The administration portion of the position relates to the structure and operation of the Department subsequent to the Christopher Commission and to ballot measure changes. The subsequent changes to the position were agreed upon after the implementation of the Consent Decree issued by the federal government.

Administration

1. Support of the Police Commission in its Charter-given role as head of the Police Department.
2. The Police Commission should hire a full-time civilian Executive Director, exempt from Civil Service provisions.
3. The Police Commission should audit, review and evaluate the Police Department and participate in Police Department budget-making.
4. Members of the Police Commission should be appointed for a limited term.
5. The permit-processing function of the Police Commission should be transferred to another City Department of Agency.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

6. The General Manager of the Police Department (the Chief of Police) should be accountable to the Police Commission.
7. The Police Commission should have the ability to remove the Chief of Police from his post with the concurrence of the Mayor and City Council.
8. Support for a procedure for recruitment, selection, and appointment of the Police Chief based on generally accepted professional standards.
9. The Personnel Department and the Police Commission should continue to play an important role in recruiting and selecting qualified candidates for the job of Police Chief.
10. The Mayor and the City Council, as elected officials, should have the principal roles in the appointment of the Chief of Police.
11. The Chief of Police should be appointed for a limited term, renewable only once.
12. Support of extension of the public's "right-to-know" incases of complaints against the Police Department.
13. There should be a provision for external investigation of citizen complaints.
14. Opposition to reinstatement of Police Department's minimum height requirement of five feet.

Community Relationships

1. We strongly support the Department's primary role of law enforcement and crime prevention. The Department should continue to improve the technologies which will assist in this standard role.
2. Strengthening the relationship with the many communities within the city is vital to this primary objective.
3. We encourage outreach and communication with the public in order to foster this relationship. This should include personal contact, visibility, public meetings, meetings with Senior Lead Officers in the areas, access to Department information and activities via the internet as well as methods for those who do not have access to the internet.
4. Although educating and mentoring is of vital importance in the community, it is important to relate resources to the budget realities. Efficient and cost effective programs such as awareness of crime, intervention in disputes, anger management, and rehabilitation services should be addressed primarily by community leaders with LAPD support to the extent possible.
5. Maintaining the supervisory controls required by the Consent Decree is essential.
6. All personal data collected should receive the privacy deserved—for example, financial disclosures of officers, or personal data or DNA of residents.
7. Demographics of the department should generally reflect the community though quality of the employees and sworn officers must be maintained.

Gang Relationships

As defined by the Los Angeles Police Department, gangs relate to "those who have joined a group who form an allegiance for a common purpose or belief, and who claim a particular territory or neighborhood and direct their criminal activity towards rival gangs and the general population." Because of the large impact on the population by these groups, the LAPD/community relationship is critical to the success in moderating gang activity.

1. The top priority for the Department is to enforce the law (apprehend, arrest, jail, enforce gang injunctions). To best accomplish this, it is essential to maintain positive

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

relationships to build the necessary trust, improve officer and community relationships and awareness of gang activity.

2. Participating in such programs as intervention, graffiti control, reduction of gang recruitment are beneficial to the whole community and should be led and funded basically by community organizations with LAPD support. Coordination among the organizations is essential for efficient and cost-effective programs and these programs should be constantly evaluated.
3. Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and their appropriate databases throughout the country is advantageous to maintain valuable information on gangs and their members.

LAPD Immigration Policy

The current policy, as outlined in Department's Policy Manual as Special Order 40 should be maintained. The Los Angeles police officers should not become immigration officers. It is the federal government's responsibility to set policy and enforce those laws.

SECESSION (2001)

Support of all efforts to improve services and responsiveness to the diverse voices of many communities in the City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles should continue as one city.

1. Detachment from the city does not assure better services for less money. Those cities around Los Angeles that have incorporated from the County in recent years did so to achieve better services and accepted an increase in taxes in order to do so.
2. Detachment has never occurred in a city the size of Los Angeles with its complex Infrastructure. Voters are asked to count on results based on disputed information that is ultimately unknowable because of the need to duplicate assets and the consequences of the impact on bond ratings, etc.
3. Political representation would increase, but that would not necessarily affect the quality of services, responsiveness of government, or accountability. There would be more politicians, but considerably fewer staff members available in the new city.
4. A fully implemented citywide neighborhood council system could provide the sense of community desired while increasing participation in and influence on government.

TRANSIT (1984) (2001)

Support transportation policies and practices that facilitate the following:

1. Intra-County Movement

- Coordination among transportation agencies to assure an efficient transportation system in the greater Los Angeles area. Such coordination should include paratransit-type transportation, similar to the DASH system in Los Angeles, between residential neighborhoods and shopping centers and other attractants that are located in cities that are near or adjacent to Los Angeles.
- Coordination of intra-County taxi service by cities and/or Los Angeles County. This coordination should facilitate intercity travel by taxi within the County. Franchising requirements should focus on safety and insurance requirements while easing restrictions on passenger movement.

2. Local Participation

- Public/private partnerships to provide for more DASH-type systems and/or shuttles within City of Los Angeles neighborhoods which are currently underserved. Private partners could include shopping malls and medical complexes.
- Neighborhood Councils reviewing local transit needs and working on realistic plans to improve local transportation.

3. Safety and Communication

- Locating public transit stops in safe places with adequate lighting, an ambiance of safety, and adequate security in transit stop/hub parking areas. Transit stops should be kept clean by frequent maintenance. Benches and shelters to protect waiting passengers from the rain and the hot southern California sun should be provided.
- Transit agencies making information about transit more widely available at locations like libraries, grocery stores, post offices, senior centers, recreation areas and schools. Large full-MTA system maps should be available at these locations and available upon request from the public. Ads about the transit system should be aired regularly on radio and TV. Information should also be available in phone books. An easy-access phone number (800 number) and Web address should also be prominently advertised, displayed on the sides of buses, shown in phone books and listed at bus stops. Bus stops should have bus route and schedule information listed. In locations where DASH or other transit is unavailable, LADOT should consider making discounted taxi scrip available.

VOTING RIGHTS (1980, 2012)

1. Support of election procedures which enable citizens to carry out their rights and duties as voters, such as:

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

- Adequate and clear information for voters on elections, election issues and candidates;
- Impartial summaries of ballot measures and, where appropriate, statement of financial impact;
- More public notices to solicit arguments from the public; and
- More publicity on all election procedures.

2. Placing of measures on the ballot.

- Support of changes which will simplify and expedite the way in which ballot measures are adopted.
- Support of procedures to ensure that a ballot simplification digest for each measure appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.
- Support for lengthening the time between adoption of resolutions by Council and deadlines for filing ballot arguments.
- Support for review of all proposed ballot measures by the Charter and Election Committee.
- Support of measures to require adequate public notification of deadlines and procedures involved in submitting opposing arguments.

3. Initiatives

- Support for simplification of the method of validating signatures.
- Support for general petition format changes to conform more closely to statewide standards.
- Support for requirement that proponents' names and addresses appear on the face of the petition.
- Support requirement that the circulator and signer be registered voters.
- Opposition to lowering signature requirements.
- Opposition to an unlimited circulation time to gather signatures.
- Opposition to the requirement that proponents have to file ballot arguments in favor at their own expense.
- Opposition to the requirement that proponents must enter the precinct for every name on the petition.

LWVLA Local League Positions 2011-2013

4. Sample Ballots

Voters should receive their sample ballots by mail at least ten days prior to an election.

5. Vote By Mail Elections (2012)

- Support of VBM election option for certain city elections: vacancy elections, single issue elections and runoff elections.

If a VBM election option is implemented, the LWVLA supports the following:

- Ballot drop-off boxes in public buildings such as city offices, libraries, fire stations, etc.
- One or more “voting centers” where a voter could vote in person.
- Voter outreach programs to contact both active and inactive registered voters.
- A fail-safe process for obtaining a replacement ballot if the mailed ballot is not received.
- Publicity campaigns to promote VBM election.

Culver City (2012)

Support of an all vote by mail process in a pilot program for municipal elections in Culver City. Support for ballot drop off boxes in public buildings.

1. Support of one or more “voting centers” where a voter can vote in person.
2. Support of voter outreach programs to include both active and inactive registered voters.
3. Support of a process for obtaining a ballot if a mailed ballot is not received.
4. Optional; The clerk can provide prepaid postage for returning cast ballots.
5. Support of publicity campaigns, including TV programs, at council meetings, in libraries and schools, etc. to promote all vote by mail elections.

Las Virgenes (2012)

Support of an all vote by mail process in all municipal elections in the Las Virgenes area, including the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Oak Park, and Westlake Village.

1. Support of ballot drop-off boxes in public buildings such as city offices, libraries, fire stations, etc.
2. Support of one or more “voting centers” where a voter could vote in person.
3. Support of voter outreach programs to contact both active and inactive registered voters.
4. Support of a fail-safe process for obtaining a replacement ballot if the mailed ballot is not received.
5. Opposition to envelopes with prepaid postage for returning cast ballots.
6. Support of publicity campaigns, including TV programs, at council meetings, in libraries and high schools, etc., to promote the vote by mail elections.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (1972)

Support of measures to promote reuse of materials, measures to encourage research and development in waste management and measures to insure that completed landfills are used for open space only

Objectives

- To provide tax incentive for research and development in waste management;
- To provide sound reuse techniques and education of citizens in waste reduction, reuse and recycling;
- To provide for an aesthetically acceptable open space use of completed landfills;
- To encourage cooperation between industry and government; and
- To seek reliable long-term methods of disposal that would reduce use of the land-filled method.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT (1991)

1. Support of measures to encourage use of reclaimed water for power plant cooling, groundwater recharge, agricultural and landscape irrigation, industrial processes, commercial building operations and other non-potable purposes.
2. Support of mandatory use of reclaimed water in major new developments where feasible and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
3. Support for, and encouragement of, a diversity in sludge management methods.
4. Support of feasible and reasonable treatment of dry-weather flows from some major storm drains.

Priority should be given to exclusion of pollutants at the source through public education, prevention measures and enforcement. (LWVUS Position.)