

## **LOCAL SUPPORT POSITIONS 2017-2018**

The following positions are a locally-developed guide to action for League of Women Voters of Redding Area, Inc. The League may not act contrary to a position, but occasionally valid reasons arise for taking no action on an issue. It is the responsibility of the local League Board to decide when to act. Local Leagues may also use League principles and most positions developed at National and State levels.

Whatever the issue, the League of Women Voters of the Redding Area believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- Ω competent personnel with clear responsibilities
- Ω adequate financing
- Ω coordination among agencies and levels of government
- Ω effective enforcement
- Ω well defined channels for citizen input and review

### ***GOVERNMENT***

#### **OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED CITIZENS' COMMITTEES**

Support for officially recognized citizens' committees which utilize the widest and best possible balance of public sector participation and are designed to produce relevant, timely decisions and/or recommendations for action or conveyance to the body they serve.

Objectives of this position:

1. an active and broad-based recruitment of committee members, including publicity for vacancies
2. an annual form for committees to complete and send to the body who appoints them indicating, among other things,
  - a. how often they meet
  - b. actions taken
  - c. recommendations
  - d. a functioning membership listThis would serve as a means of direct communication, as an instrument to determine if there is a continuing need for the committee and, if indicated, a redefinition of purpose.
3. to ensure the strongest citizen participation and to retain the integrity of the citizens' committees, the supervisors, city council members, or staff should attend in an ex officio or advisory capacity only, unless otherwise mandated.

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES IN SHASTA COUNTY (Revised 2007)**

Support of adequate funding and personnel at regional and local levels for emergency planning and preparedness programs that enhance public safety and minimize loss of life and destruction of property in emergency situations.

Objectives of this position:

1. clearly defined lines of authority between all levels of governmental and private emergency relief agencies
  - a. recognizing the particular need for local involvement in emergency planning, including prevention, response and recovery

- b. based upon the legal and fiscal ability of each agency to actually provide assigned services
  - c. encouraging the coordination and sharing of information between all concerned agencies and providing for participation in "mutual aid" programs
  - d. including relocation planning that ensures timely and effective emergency response.
2. ongoing identification and evaluation of natural and man-made hazards within the county, including but not limited to toxic spills, volcanic activity, nuclear disasters, flooding, dam inundation, fire danger, earthquakes and terrorist activities, using not only state and federal mandated studies but also studies necessitated by local conditions
  3. land use planning which recognizes potential hazards to public safety
    - a. anticipating the possible need for the quick clean-up and disposal of hazardous materials
    - b. enhancing the ability to reach and evacuate people threatened by fire, inclement weather or other disasters, using the latest methods such as reverse 911
    - c. discouraging the location of high density structures, i.e., schools, hospitals, public meeting places, and emergency facilities such as communication centers in areas with identified hazards
    - d. comprehensive floodplain management and regulation of development within the hundred year floodplain
  4. regular planning, updating and evaluation of emergency response programs by both governmental agencies and public facilities
    - a. developing and maintaining a comprehensive county-wide communication network
    - b. including participation in "emergency rehearsals" by the county, cities and departments concerned with public safety to provide assessments of emergency readiness
    - c. providing emergency relief personnel with continuing, specialized training
    - d. including emergency drills in public facilities
  5. ongoing, aggressive programs of public education identifying for the public responsible agencies and procedures and stressing the role of each individual in an emergency with county government taking primary responsibility for such education.

**ELECTION PROCEDURES** (Adopted 2005, Revised 2014)

Support state and local measures which will protect every citizen's right to vote and to protect this right through written regulations and procedures that encourage an active and informed electorate and ensure accurate and secure tallying of ballots.

Objectives of this position:

1. to provide adequate funding for facilities to house voting machines in a secure and safe environment
2. to promote a statewide data base of registered voters
3. to support state reimbursement for mandated elections and special elections.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE** (Revised 2006, Reviewed 2013)

Support of adequate personnel and funding from all sources for local programs to prevent juvenile delinquency, with funding and action to assist and rehabilitate juvenile offenders.

Objectives of this position are to support:

1. local programs to divert juvenile first offenders from the juvenile justice system
2. adequate medical, psychological and educational services as well as identified necessary services for juveniles
3. professionally supervised receiving and foster homes
4. coordination and communication among agencies handling juveniles
5. adequate and well-trained probation staff to handle case loads
6. development of follow-up services for juveniles who have fulfilled their sentence.

## **SHASTA COUNTY LIBRARIES** (Adopted 1982, Reviewed 2008)

Support for adequate funding for the Shasta County Libraries system so that it can serve the needs of its citizens and offer services comparable to other California counties.

Objectives of this position:

1. the encouragement of additional funding to supplement the regular library budget such as active pursuit of grants, collection of fines and financial sponsorships by individuals and organizations. This income should not be deducted from the regular budget so that the libraries are encouraged to develop additional funding. The creation of a special district may be considered as a means of establishing a stable base for adequate funding.
2. the provision of adequate library staff so that quality service is provided on a daily basis. In order to use this staff most effectively, their input should be solicited on a regular basis through staff meetings, and they should be involved in regular in-service training programs.
3. the encouragement of cooperative services among libraries.
4. use of a volunteer program to supplement the libraries' services and staff. This type of program would operate most effectively with the use of a paid coordinator of volunteers.
5. continued use of the branch library system and coordination of the system with population needs.

## ***SOCIAL POLICY***

Promote social and economic justice to secure equal rights for all without discrimination; promote the well-being of children, families and citizens with comprehensive health care; change cultural norms which contribute to poverty and violence.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES** (Rewritten 2014)

Support state and local policies, legislation, and programs which promote accessible, affordable, quality child care and early identification, intervention and treatment for all children in Shasta County.

Objectives of this position:

1. Adequate and stable funding for children's services
2. Support quality programs that provide for the education, health care, and child care needs of children
3. Support collaboration among agencies to provide appropriate, comprehensive services for children and families
4. Encourage the use of a management system to provide integrated services for children and families
5. Encourage and support a central data collection system regarding the wellbeing of children and families
6. Support the increased awareness of consumers regarding programs and best practice for the education, health care, and child care needs of children in Shasta County
7. For the purpose of sharing information and resources, establishment of clear lines of communication among all agencies which serve children
8. Adoption of evaluation tools that look at both quality and long-term effectiveness of programs
9. Encourage utilization of existing successful programs when expanding or adding services for families and children
10. Encourage the use of neighborhood facilities for providing services for families and children
11. Support on-going training for individuals and agencies working with children
12. Encourage solutions for special problems
13. Support comprehensive health screening, intervention services and treatment programs for all children in Shasta County.

## **TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND PARENTING (Adopted 1984, Revised 2001)**

Support of programs in the community which reduce the rate of teen pregnancy and which meet the educational, physical and emotional needs of adolescent parents and their families.

Objectives of this position:

1. support programs which foster responsible decision-making skills and encourage teens to examine life and career options
2. encourage both public and private institutions and agencies to recognize and address the problem of teen pregnancy and parenting
3. develop and coordinate services that identify and assist pregnant minors and adolescent parents. These services would include but not be limited to programs that:
  - a. provide medical care
  - b. teach child development and parenting skills
  - c. provide counseling on post-partum options
  - d. assist in completing educational objectives
4. support programs for pregnant minors and adolescent parents that foster independence from entitlement programs, including but not limited to:
  - a. vocational training
  - b. job placement assistance
  - c. child care

## **MENTAL HEALTH (Adopted 2006, Revised 2011)**

Support of a comprehensive public mental health system that emphasizes local services, provides treatment for the individual as a whole person, and supports the relationship between the individual and his/her family and community.

Objectives of this position:

1. adequately funded services
2. locally accessible out-patient, crisis, acute and long-term mental health services
3. a competent mental health workforce at all levels ranging from paraprofessional to clinical to medical professional
4. insurance parity for mental health services
5. mental health services that are developed in partnership among consumers, families and service providers
6. responsive, coordinated, efficient and compassionate services delivered through collaboration across multiple community service systems
7. services that are developmentally appropriate and address the specific mental health needs of young children; children and youth; transition-age youth; adults; and the elderly
8. services that address the specific mental health needs of homeless individuals and families
9. public education focused on mental health promotion and the reduction of stigma related to mental illness.

## **HEALTH CARE (Adopted 2016)**

Every resident of Shasta County should have access to the level of health care which meets basic human needs to improve and maintain quality of life. Primary health care includes the prevention of disease; health promotion and education; prenatal and reproductive health; acute and long-term mental health care, as well as dental, vision, and hearing services.

Objectives of this position:

1. support disease prevention services and programs
2. support health education programs

3. support programs offering prenatal/reproductive health services and education
4. support locally accessible health services including affordable prescription medications and treatments
5. support locally accessible mental health services to provide crisis, acute and long-term health care
6. support dental, vision and hearing services for all residents
7. support programs to recruit and retain physicians and other health care professionals.

## ***NATURAL RESOURCES***

### **LAND USE (Adopted 2004)**

Support of general plans which will protect and advance the overall quality of the environment, and promote orderly change and development, including orderly annexations and/or detachments, with general plans reviewed and modified according to law.

Objectives of this position:

1. to provide for orderly land use and prevention of urban sprawl
2. to monitor policy standards for the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and ensure they are consistent with League criteria
3. to ensure adequate notification to property owners in each annexation or detachment election
4. to support citizen advisory groups for the periodic review and update of City and County General Plans
5. to encourage adoption of procedures for close cooperation between city and county planning staffs and commissions
6. to monitor Governmental agencies in the provision of:
  - a. meaningful involvement of citizens in the earliest planning and regulatory stages and throughout the process
  - b. public information that is released in simple language, well in advance of public hearings, and easy to obtain
  - c. a variety of zoning controls and a careful review of permits to build, including limited period permits
7. to support quality community focused development, planning should include:
  - a. adequate low and moderate housing opportunities
  - b. innovative plans and design projects, including provisions for open space and the protection of natural resources, in major developments, public and private
  - c. provisions for public infrastructure, including streets, power, street lights, solid waste disposal, access to water, and controlled runoff, required on major developments, public and private
  - d. public acquisition of land for parks, green belts, open space, and scenic easements
  - e. adoption of special preservation districts
  - f. developer contribution of land and/or fees when related to growth and public welfare
  - g. school and utility districts in preliminary planning stages
  - h. required environmental, social and economic impact statements
  - i. long range planning, including a focus on encouraging a sustainable community

### **WATER RESOURCES (Adopted 1988, Reviewed 2000 and 2008)**

Support local and regional water and land use policies and decisions which adequately protect resources such as undisturbed wetlands, estuaries, unique scenic areas, undisturbed riparian habitat, water quality and water quantity.

Objectives of this Position:

1. support secondary flood plain zoning equal to the 100 year flood
2. protection of the agricultural resource of the Sacramento Watershed

3. support comprehensive Environmental Impact Reports prior to authorization of water projects in the Sacramento Watershed
4. preservation of the Sacramento Watershed, its riparian habitats and anadromous fisheries
5. encourage the responsible government officials to assign water experts to evaluate data regarding water quality and quantity relating to land use planning
6. encourage cooperation between the many water districts in the Sacramento Watershed area
7. encourage the education of septic system owners to prevent contamination of wells and other water sources
8. encourage expanded efforts to map all water sources in the Sacramento Watershed area

### **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION (Revised 2003)**

Development of an adequately funded, multi-modal transportation system which is efficient, convenient, cost effective, safe, serves all segments of the population, minimizes harmful effects on the environment, is integrated with land use development, includes use of transit and other alternatives to single occupant vehicles and is supported by extensive public information.

Objectives of this position:

1. environmental, social, economic and land use impacts should be considered in transportation projects by city, county and regional districts
2. formalized procedures should be developed for interdepartmental and interagency communication to facilitate integrated transportation/land use policies and decisions
3. transportation funding should come from all levels of government, but regional and local levels should have maximum flexibility to elect the modes and projects on which to spend allocated funds
4. cities and county should provide for public input and review of transportation plans from development to implementation and periodically thereafter
5. local transportation planning should include:
  - a. prioritization of transportation projects based on public needs/safe and environmental conservation
  - b. alternatives to single vehicle travel such as expanded transit, car/van pools and bicycle lanes
6. cities and county transportation projects should be consistent with regional and state transportation systems
7. cities and county governments should actively review and participate in discussions concerning transportation systems within their jurisdictions
8. cities and county governments should evaluate funding in terms of equitable monetary allocations for mitigating regional transportation impacts
9. local agencies should support development of alternative fuels which may improve air quality in the county and cities.