

### Current LWV Positions in Brief\*

LWV-US: Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

#### GOVERNMENT POSITIONS (LWV-US: Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.)

King County and Local	Washington State	National
<p><b>King County Governance</b></p> <p><b>Policy-Making Body</b> Support a county-wide policy-making body with legal authority to establish policy for functions which require area-wide solutions.</p> <p><b>Representation</b> Support a form of county government that is representative of the areas governed.</p> <p><b>Resources</b> Support a form of county government that would have the power and resources to carry out its functions including adequate financial resources.</p> <p><b>Efficiency</b> Support increased efficiency and cost effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Coordination</b> Support coordination and cooperation among all local governments, including ports, schools and special districts.</p> <p><b>Planning</b> Support establishment of long-range goals, plans to attain them, and a performance budget in an understandable form, including a long-range capital improvement program.</p> <p><b>Annexation</b> Support tools to promote urban annexation.</p> <p><b>Ethics in Government</b> Support measures to ensure that public officials and employees perform their responsibilities in accordance with the highest ethical standards, and take measures to increase citizen confidence.</p> <p><b>Courts</b></p> <p><b>Administration</b> Support a strong court administration.</p> <p><b>Jurisdictional Overlap</b> Support reduction of overlap where feasible.</p> <p><b>Judicial Selection</b> Support changes to the judicial selection system.</p> <p><b>Special Districts</b> Support consolidation of like special districts and setting of minimum, enforceable, county-</p>	<p><b>Education</b> Action to support in principle the Basic Education Act (1977) and the Levy Lid Act. Action to obtain a balanced tax structure and to maintain uniform assessment practices to ensure equitable and sufficient financing. Action to support adequate and stable state funding of common schools in Washington including the costs of in-service training. Action to increase visibility, accessibility and accountability of the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Action to support closer links between schools and social services, so that every child is ready to learn. Action to support greater involvement of parents, an increased role in decision making for teachers, and more flexible state education requirements. Action to provide greater access to public higher education to all, at whatever point in life it can be beneficial.</p> <p><b>Port Districts</b> Action to encourage cooperation among port districts, but with local options for voter control over major policy and expenditure decisions.</p> <p><b>Representative Government</b> Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to promote an informed electorate. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the election process. Action to support the initiative and referendum process, adopt improvements to the process and require additional information for voters. Action to protect the interests of all affected parties in considering the formation of new counties. Action to clarify in legislation the processes in county formation and to require that the entire county have the ability to vote on separation. Action to support election methods that promote "representative-ness," citizen participation and accountability and that produce proportional representation. Action to support a majority vote requirement if achieved through a mechanism such as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Action to support a primary that is "open" and encourages minor party participation if a primary continues to be used. Action to verify the accuracy of election equipment using WA State methods; mandatory audits of election results and ballots; extending HAVA deadlines; vote-by-mail or polling place; no automated denial of voting rights; voter registration permanent with sworn statement as proof of citizenship.</p> <p><b>Washington State and Indian Treaty Rights</b> Action to enhance salmon resources, establish a procedure for retrocession of jurisdiction and support tribal land use planning of trust lands.</p>	<p><b>Voting Rights</b></p> <p><b>Citizen's Right to Vote</b> Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.</p> <p><b>DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation</b> Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.</p> <p><b>The Election Process</b></p> <p><b>Apportionment</b> Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.</p> <p><b>Campaign Finance</b> Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.</p> <p><b>Selection of the President</b> Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.</p> <p><b>Citizen Rights</b></p> <p><b>Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation</b> Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.</p> <p><b>Individual Liberties</b> Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.</p> <p><b>Public Policy on Reproductive Choices</b> Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.</p> <p><b>Congress and The Presidency</b></p> <p><b>Congress</b> Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.</p> <p><b>The Presidency</b> Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and</p>

wide standards for special districts.		legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POSITIONS (LWVUS only)</b> Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.</p> <p><b>United Nations</b> Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.</p> <p><b>Trade</b> Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers and expand international trade and that advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.</p> <p><b>U.S. Relations with Developing Countries</b> Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.</p> <p><b>Arms Control</b> Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.</p> <p><b>Military Policy and Defense Spending</b> Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.</p>		
<p><b>NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS (LWV-US: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.)</b></p>		
<p>King County and Local</p> <p><b>Farmland</b> Support preservation of agricultural industry.</p> <p><b>Solid Waste Management</b> <b>Disposal</b> Support reduction and recycling first. <b>Landfills</b> Support measures to reduce.</p> <p><b>Regional Water Supply</b> <b>Conservation</b> Support measures to promote conservation. <b>Approach</b> Support regional approach to water issues. <b>Management</b> Support a regional water entity to handle development.</p> <p><b>Water Rights and Groundwater Protection</b> <b>Benefit</b> Support principle of maximum net benefits. <b>Allocation</b> Support allocation using above principle. <b>Standards</b> County standards should exceed federal, state standards. <b>Well Statistics</b> Well usage should be monitored.</p> <p><b>Comprehensive Land Use Planning</b> <b>Zoning Examiner</b> Support of a Zoning Examiner System in King County. (Local) <b>SeaTac Airport and its Impact</b> Support cooperation to prevent and solve land use problems around the airport. (Local)</p> <p><b>Parks for South King County</b> Support comprehensive planning, acquisition and preservation of parks, open spaces, unique areas, habitats and green belts to provide a wide variety of facilities for all age groups. (Local)</p> <p><b>Transportation of Hazardous Materials through our Communities</b> Support coordination among all levels of government and industry to regulate transportation of hazardous waste. (Local)</p>	<p>Washington State</p> <p><b>Energy</b> Action to support an energy policy within Washington; to educate the public on energy conservation; to establish incentives for efficient use of current energy sources and the greater use of alternative energy sources.</p> <p><b>Resource Management</b> Action to obtain coordinated planning and ensure environmental quality in the use of water, air and land resources. Action to insure that forest management is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats.</p> <p><b>Waste Management</b> Action for coordinated control and reduction of solid waste; to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in Washington and to promote safe management of that waste which is produced, including toxics in the home.</p>	<p>National</p> <p><b>Natural Resources</b> Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Resource Management</b> Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.</p> <p><b>Environmental Protection and Pollution Control</b> Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment. <b>Air Quality</b> Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources. <b>Energy</b> Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources. <b>Land Use</b> Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship. <b>Water Resources</b> Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water. <b>Waste Management</b> Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes. <b>Nuclear Issues</b> Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.</p> <p><b>Public Participation</b> Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Policy</b> Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.</p>

**SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS (LWV-US: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.)**

King County and Local	Washington State	National
<p><b>Transportation and Growth Management</b>  <b>Concentration of Growth</b> Support mass transit to reduce sprawl.  <b>Planning</b> Support balanced system that coordinates all types of transportation.  <b>Usage</b> Support incentives to promote usage by general public and employers, including transit-oriented development.  <b>Funding</b> Support an increase in state, regional, and local funds to implement plans.</p> <p><b>Public Health</b>  <b>Funding</b> Support adequate and sustained funding for public health.  <b>Prevention</b> Support community-based preventive services.  <b>Communicable Disease</b> Support activities to control communicable diseases.  <b>Preparedness</b> Support efforts to prepare for emergencies.  <b>Maintain environment</b> Support measures to ensure a safe and healthy environment.</p> <p><b>Public Schools of South King County</b>  Support an educational program that provides quality staffing, meets the needs of the individual student and involves the citizens of the school districts. (Local)</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Programs</b>  Support the use of public funds for programs that meet the cognitive, physical and social needs of children from birth to eight; that</p>	<p><b>Administration of Justice</b> Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel. Action to maintain a separate court system and facilities for youths that will balance the procedural rights of the adversary system with the protection of youth's basic rights. Action to realize equity in sentencing standards. Action to obtain alternatives to incarceration is of prime importance.  <b>State Tax Policy</b> Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.  <b>Transportation</b> The League supports a balanced state transportation policy that defines the role of the state and supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue and flexibility for a multi-modal system of transportation.  <b>Children's Programs</b>  <i>Child Support and Custody:</i> The League of Women Voters supports vigorous, efficient and innovative child support enforcement methods and broad education regarding the responsibilities and consequences of parenthood. The best interest of the child should be the overriding consideration in determining custody, visitation and an appropriate level of child support. The physical and emotional security of the child should be paramount. Children are entitled to support adequate to meet basic needs commensurate with the parents' income, resources, and standard of living. Courts should have the discretion to order post secondary educational support in appropriate circumstances.  <i>Children's Services:</i> Action to support stable and adequate funding for children at risk, with priority given to prevention, early identification and intervention services, community based treatment programs, day treatment programs and residential care.  <i>Day Care for Children:</i> Action to provide for the general welfare of children in day care centers. Action to ensure that the state enforce minimum standards that include provision for a safe, healthy, clean environment. Action to support sufficient staff with emphasis on competence and ability to provide a creative, challenging and caring environment.  <b>Economic Diversification</b> Action to ensure a balanced state economy with a strong mixture of large and small businesses. Measures to contribute to long-range planning and cooperation between all levels of government with local initiatives wherever possible.  <b>Gun Control</b> Action to provide governmental regulation of ownership and possession of firearms, and measures to limit their accessibility.  <b>Health Care</b> Action to provide universal access to affordable health services for all residents of the state of Washington and to control total system expenditures with seamless coverage regardless of ones health status.</p>	<p><b>Equality of Opportunity</b>  <b>Equal Rights</b>  Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.  <b>Education, Employment, Housing</b>  Support equal access to education, employment and housing.  <b>Housing</b>  <b>Fiscal Policy</b>  <b>Tax Policy</b> Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.  <b>Federal Deficit</b> Promote responsible deficit policies.  <b>Funding of Entitlements</b> Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.  <b>Health Care</b>  Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.  <b>Meeting Basic Human Needs</b>  Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.  <b>Income Assistance</b> Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.  <b>Support Services</b> Provide for essential support services.  <b>Housing Supply</b> Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.  <b>Child Care</b>  Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.  <b>Early Intervention for Children at Risk</b>  Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.  <b>Violence Prevention</b>  Support violence prevention programs in communities.  <b>Gun Control</b>  Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.  <b>Urban Policy</b>  Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.  <b>Death Penalty</b>  Abolish the death penalty.</p>

encourage parent education and involvement; and that provide health and human services to these children and their families.	<b>Human Resources</b> Action to achieve equal rights for all. Action to achieve equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Action to obtain measures that provide basic human needs for those unable to provide for themselves. Action to ensure that there are emergency support services for those involved in physical and/or mental violence.	
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National Positions for 2006-2008 > [http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006\\_Impact\\_web.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006_Impact_web.pdf)

Washington Positions for 2007-2009 > [http://www.lwwa.org/advocacy/advocacy\\_index.html](http://www.lwwa.org/advocacy/advocacy_index.html)

King County South Positions for 2007-2008 > <http://www.lwwa.org/king-co-south/KCSPProgram20070517.pdf>