

LWVPGC PROGRAM PLANNING 2017 - 2019

Our annual Program Planning meeting is your opportunity to indicate support for, or suggest changes to, our current League positions. Last year we reviewed League positions at national (LWVUS) level. This year we will review the positions at the local (LWVPGC) level, regional (LWVNCA) level and the state (LWVMD). These positions have been adopted through study and consensus by members at each level of the League over many years.

We're also looking for your ideas for new studies for the coming years and your suggestions for topics for meetings, events, and field trips. The results from our Program Planning meetings are used by the LWVPGC Board to decide on the program elements to recommend for member adoption at our Annual Meeting in May, or to recommend to the LWVMD and LWVNCA Boards.

PART 1: Review of LWVPGC Positions

GOVERNMENT

Detention Facility (1974)

Support for:

- a) improving the local detention facility, to improve, equalize, and humanize the jail
- b) varied educational, vocational, guidance, and health programs for the inmates, with emphasis on programs that can be continued after inmates are released.

Filling Vacancies in Elected Positions (1983)

County Executive: Support for a change in the current filling of vacancy process for the office of County Executive. The County Council should appoint one of its members as interim County Executive until the voters elect a new County Executive at the next regular primary and general elections.

County Council: Support for a change in the current filling of vacancy process for the office of County Council procedures until the voters in that district elect a new County Council member at the next regular primary and general elections.

Retain	Drop	Update

Fiscal Policy (1972)

Support for:

- a) fuller utilization of local taxes, with preference for more progressive income surtax, rather than the property tax, by re-evaluation of the tax(ing) status of income-producing businesses or activities of exempt organizations
- b) additional kinds of local taxes, with particular support for those not unduly regressive

Health Department Salaries (1978)

Support for:

- a) a salary differential to make the recruiting and retention of health department employees competitive with the rest of the metropolitan area
- b) a differential being paid by the state
- c) a county supplement while working for a state differential

Local Tax and Spending Limitations (1980)

Support for:

- a) a change in the Charter Amendment known as Tax Relief Initiative by Marylanders (TRIM).
- b) changing annually any such limit in effect, based on an indicator, rather than a set dollar amount.

Planning and Zoning (1974)

Support for:

- a) establishing a controlled-growth policy for the County, based on the ability of the County to provide adequate

Retain	Drop	Update

- b) public facilities and services to all residents
- c) openly developed explicit County development , growth, and staging policies for implementing an explicit set of County goals, including the attraction of high technology industry
- d) a strengthened comprehensive planning process as the basis for all future growth, allowing only zoning actions that are in strict accordance with adopted area masterplans, and including a mechanism for instituting timing or staging of development as an integral part of the comprehensive planning process
- e) as necessary, at any stage of the development process (zoning, subdivision, or building permit), applying enforceable, adequate public facilities ordinances to ensure that adequate public facilities exist at the time of a building's occupancy
- f) openly soliciting and encouraging citizen participation in the establishment of the County goals, development, growth, and staging policies
- f) requiring all County departments and agencies to actively encourage informed citizen participation in all phases of the comprehensive planning and development process

(Planning and Zoning Continued)		
---------------------------------	--	--

g) orderly and balanced development of all County land, based on:

1. adhered to, comprehensive planning
2. consistent criteria and controls
3. clear and formal delineation of governmental responsibilities
4. adequate financing
5. adequate advance notice of all proposed land use changes, through newspapers of record and on-site, to achieve harmonious neighborhoods
6. most efficient methods of providing services and transportation
7. acquisition, maintenance and utilization of all possible park and recreation facilities, through such methods as:
 - a) inter-mix of land uses
 - b) site plan techniques and detailed, uniform zoning maps
 - c) down zoning of undeveloped land after a reasonable time initiated by a public body of citizen groups

(Planning and Zoning Continued)

School Board Structure (1974)

Support for:

- a) a 4-year term for school board members
- b) staggered terms for board members
- c) non-partisan school board elections at the time of the
- d) general election

Structure of Prince George's County Government (1972)

Support for Charter Government to

provide for:

- a) a clear delineation and coordination of executive, legislative, and departmental functions
- b) a County Council for legislative and policymaking purposes with a separately elected Executive for administrative purposes
- c) election of a majority of the Council by districts
- d) public hearing at nights on significant issues, with advance notice
- e) a Council consisting of seven or nine members, with the Chairman selected by Council from its own members
- f) appointments by the County Executive to boards and commissions having local impact, except those boards currently appointed by the governor (Election, Library). The Council should have the power to reject or approve appointments (rejecting by a 2/3 vote, confirming by a majority vote)
- g) bond issues not subject to referendum, except when petitioned to referendum by 10,000 qualified County voters.

SOCIAL POLICY

Day Care (1988)

Support for:

- a) availability of day care for all children-•infants, pre-schoolers, school-agers, sick children, and those who are handicapped
- b) encouraging all licensed or

(Structure of Prince George's County Government cont,d)		

registered child day care providers, including family providers, private centers, not-for-profit centers, workplace centers, before-and-after school care in schools (sponsored either by the Board of Education or other organizations), by such means as:

- 1) low interest government loads for obtaining a facility and/or equipment
- 2) direct support from businesses, unions and community organizations
- 3) the County government of the Council of Governments providing free information on how to develop a day care facility.

c)licensing, registration, and inspection procedures

d) annual inspections of day care providers, including at least one unannounced inspection per year

e) licensing or registering all child day care providers, to include quality of care, which is a critical issue that must be considered during the licensing and relicensing process

f) measuring the quality of day care for children, including the following factors: nurturing environment, child development programs, ratio of providers to children, staff qualifications, and physical plant. Some ways to measure this quality of care are unannounced inspections and surveys of parents using the facility and children receiving care there. Additional education for staff members should be encouraged.

(Day Care cont'd)		
-------------------	--	--

- g) using day-care vouchers for families, including those families above the poverty level; however, eligibility should require an upper limit to the family income.
- h) encouraging builders and businesses to help meet day-care needs, without permitting builders to increase the density permitted within a zone
- i) expanding the state program for subsidies (or vouchers) to parents using child day care should be expanded, with the County also contributing to the subsidy.

Health (1978)

Support for:

- a) improving certain aspects of health services and their administration under the County Health Department
- b) improving and expanding the following:
 1. family planning services
 2. salary structure and related personnel aspects within the county
 3. maternal health clinics
 4. physical facilities for health centers and clinics
 5. decentralization and variety of services
 6. information to the public
 7. health education
 8. control of sexually transmitted diseases
 9. environmental health
 10. adequate basic statistics on fiscal and health service programs

Housing (1966)

Support for:

- a) adequate housing for all county residents, on an open-occupancy basis. regard to race or creed, adequate housing for all County residents, without

(Day Care cont'd)		

- regard to race or creed,
- b) including:
1. a strong, specific, and enforceable housing code
 2. sufficient staff to provide for regular inspections
 3. readily available information to help both tenant and owner meet code requirements
 4. county program of rehabilitation and federally aided urban renewal
 5. emphasis on gradual replacement, rather than wholesale demolition of blighted areas
 6. a program of public housing for low income groups on small, scattered sites
 7. adequate provisions for housing people who are displaced, and strong efforts to maintain the communities for the original residents
 8. national-, state-, and local-government initiatives (legislation, education, etc.) to obtain open housing

Spouse Abuse (1977)

Support for:

- a. utilizing a variety of services supported by funds from the public and private sectors, and provided on an outreach and clinical basis
- b. continuing current services such as:
 1. information and referral
 2. emergency shelter
 3. financial assistance
 4. counseling
 5. shelter home
 6. transportation to appointments related to the problem of battered spouses
- c. increased domestic-violence training for police officers, so they can better handle this

(Housing, cont'd)		

very dangerous area statutory changes in:

1. tort immunity laws to allow for suit in personal injury cases
2. injunctive relief to allow authorities to bar offenders from joint home for a limited period of time

EDUCATION

Alternative School (1975)

Definition: a school that offers a program different from the established program

Support for:

- a) concept of alternative schools
- b) acceptable alternatives
 1. clusters offering alternatives
 2. alternative programs within one building
 3. finding financial support for varied programs

Career Education (1976)

Support for:

- a) expanding the components of the County's 1976 career education program
- b) funding from all sources
- c) evaluating the program to ensure that course offerings reflect the current job market
- d) improved follow-up with students
- e) more community involvement; e.g., union and local business participation

Gifted and Talented Programs in the Schools (1976)

Support for:

- a) the present program for gifted and talented students
- b) expanding the program countywide

(Spouse Abuse cont'd)		

- c) developing evaluation procedures
- d) expanding the target group to include areas of giftedness beyond the intellectually gifted
- e) disseminating information to the public about the availability of the program

Guidance Counseling in Elementary Schools (1973)

Support for:

- a. a goal of one-counselor in every elementary school or continuing the practice of one counselor for every two schools if sufficient clerical help is provided
- b) utilization of para-professionals to carry out programs designed by counselors
- c) increased communication with parents regarding objectives of counseling program
- d) counseling training for professional educators
- e) developing criteria for selecting schools to have counselors, with need being the greatest factor, and number of resource people available to each school taken into account

Head Start (1975)

Support for:

- a) continuing and expanding the program
- b) tests to determine program effectiveness
- c) continued use of available federal funds
- d) continuing special education programs for educationally deprived children
- e) continuation of analysis and development of all monies that might be available to the County through Federal programs.

(Gifted and Talented Cont'd)		

**Mainstreaming Handicapped Children
(1979)**

Support for:

- a. the present, mandated mainstreaming of handicapped children when the needs of those children can be met without disrupting the learning climate for other students.
- b. maintaining a strong general education program in the public schools
- c. identifying children with special needs as early as possible
- d. frequent, periodic testing and evaluation of handicapped children to adjust and review the effectiveness of the program
- e. staff development programs to create sensitivity toward the special needs of handicapped children and to provide appropriate training in special education for the class-room teacher
- f. Maintaining appropriate class sizes
- g. aides, specialists, and resource teachers to help in the classroom when handicapped children are mainstreamed
- h. appropriate teaching materials to meet the needs of each handicapped child
- i. Involving parents in decisions affecting their handicapped child's evaluation and placement.

--	--	--

School and Housing Patterns (1978)

Support for:

- a) the community-school concept, as long as integrated schools and the quality of education are maintained
- b) in closing schools, give remain-open preference to schools in integrated communities
- c) integrated, walking schools

Cluster and/or magnet schools are not a means of maintaining integrated schools, but they may be a way of providing better programs and improving the quality of education.

School Budgeting (1974)

Provide more information in the three written budgets prepared for the public (the Superintendent's budget, the budget approved by the Board of Education, and the final approved budget).

Support for:

- a) content and format readily understandable by laymen
- b) available information about each individual school's budget
- c) public access to all editions of the budget
- d) showing in the proposed budget the actual expenditures in the prior fiscal year
- e) public input into the budget-making process (i.e., public hearings)
- f) empowering the County Council and County Executive to make line-item cuts

School Health Services (1996)

The Prince George's Board of Education should strive to achieve a staffing model of similar proportion to Baltimore City and Montgomery County. Hiring registered nurses should not now be a top priority but certainly represents an ideal toward which the County should strive.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (1993)

Support for:

- a) the preservation of natural features in our county; e.g., valley stream parks and wooded lands
- b) keeping the recreation program under MNCPPC
- c) cutting costs in the recreation program by making the Enterprise Fund facilities self-supporting on an operating-cost basis and by using inmates of the County Correctional Center to help maintain our parks
- e) opposition to additional user fees on open spaces, such as ball parks, tennis courts, etc.
- f) MNCPPC encouraging developers to consult with neighborhoods impacted by their developments

Solid Waste Management (1988)

Support for:

- a) solid waste management in the County that protects public health and the environment through promotion of: source reduction, mandatory recycling, and adoption of a conservation ethic among individuals, businesses, and governments
- b) a solid waste management plan that includes source reduction, recycling, incineration, and landfilling
- c) source reduction and a mandatory recycling program that has a target goal of 50 to 75 percent of the waste stream.
- d) implementing incineration only after the recycling program has reached the above

- e) restricting incineration to 25% to 35% of the waste stream (The remainder should be landfilled.)
- f) three criteria for evaluating solid waste management components and options
 1. instituting a program least detrimental to the health of the environment
 2. instituting a program that can immediately impact the waste stream
 3. adoption of habits that conserve natural resources
- g) additional criteria
 1. potential for cooperation from the business and industrial communities
 2. potential for extending landfill life-times
 3. total cost of the system
 4. ease of management and centralized control
 5. potential for job creation
 6. generation of electricity
 7. potential for significant cost overruns

(Solid Waste Cont'd)		
----------------------	--	--

PART 2: LWVPGC PROGRAM

Suggestions for new studies for the coming years and or for topics for meetings, events, and field trips. See the criteria for studies at the top of this fact sheet.

Suggested Studies:

Suggested Meeting Topics:

Suggested Events:

Suggested Field Trips:

Part 3. LWVNCA PROGRAM PLANNING 2017 – 2019 SURVEY

The LWV of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) needs your League's input for 2017-2019 Program Planning. We held two programs in 2015 - 2016: a forum on regional transportation issues entitled "Crossing Boundaries" on March 28, 2015 and an MLD (Membership and Leadership Development) training with the LWVUS. In the 2016 – 2017 year, we plan a regional forum on Housing and Homelessness to be held in the spring of 2017.

Please consider studies and informational forums that address issues affecting the Washington, DC Metro Area, that are timely, show widespread member interest and conclude that government action is one way to address the problem.

League _____ Name/Contact Info: _____

Complete the survey and return before February 15, 2017 and return to presidentlwnca.org or dianehibino@comcast.net.

1. Decide whether you want to retain, edit or drop current LWVNCA positions. Positions are at LWVNCA.org or click [here](#).
2. Review some past ideas developed by the LWVNCA Program Directors:
 - a. Charter Schools vs Public Schools
 - b. Human Trafficking
 - c. Regional Transportation follow-up; Metrofunding Fracking and Consequences
 - d. Alternative Energy Sources
3. Submit ideas for a study or update of LWVNCA positions or for informational forums.
4. Considering all ideas from Items 1, 2 and 3 above, decide which ones you endorse and select the top three. Add names of volunteers to help us, if possible.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____