



VOLUME XV

PERSPECTIVE

ISSUE 6

JANUARY 2009

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2009 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

**ROOM 205 FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY
1026 E. Kearsley**

STATE & LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

Program planning helps guide League advocacy. This is the time to review our program positions and make Recommendations to the Board. Recommendations can be made to DROP A POSITION, REOPEN A POSITION FOR STUDY, OR MAINTAIN THE POSITION. Your recommendations would then be discussed by the Board and the recommendations brought to the Annual Meeting for a membership vote.

[Check following pages for more information.](#)

LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS:

FLINT CITY CHARTER
HOUSING RELOCATION
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
GENESEE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
FINANCING OF THE FLINT SCHOOLS
LIBRARY SERVICES IN GENESEE COUNTY

STATE POSITIONS:

SATE POSITIONS COVERISSUES IN THE AREAS OF GOVERNMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SOCIAL POLICY. More information www.lwvmi.org

DEMOCRACY AGENDA

What would your choices be for the State League to concentrate resources on for the next Legislative year?
Which do you think would be our “best bets.”

WE WILL RANK OUR PRIORITIES FROM THE FOLLOWING:

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
ETHICS AND LOBBYING
REDISTRICTING

Please join us for issue discussion (and refreshments) so that the Board will know what you priorities are for the Coming year. Members do the actual voting, but anyone’s input can give added perspective on these position

OUR LOCAL POSITIONS

FLINT CITY CHARTER – an active committee is reviewing this position.

FLINT CITY CHARTER: Support of Charter with the following standards:

- A. Support a strong mayor elected on a non-partisan basis.
- B. Support non-partisan election of council persons.
- C. Support a direct line of responsibility and accountability to be clearly established for all Departments, agencies, boards, and commissions for the function of city government.
- D. Support a responsible and accountable financial structure under the jurisdiction of the executive.
- E. Support City Council power to override a mayoral vote by 2/3 vote.
- F. Support a personnel system under the jurisdiction and responsible to the executive with Policies consistent with sound personnel procedures, which allows for a grievance Commission responsible for employee appeals and accountable to City Council.

OUR LOCAL SUPPORT POSITIONS ARE PRINTED IN YOUR ANNUAL REPORT OR CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER FOR MORE INFORMATION. COPIES OF THE POSITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE 26th.

DEMOCRACY AGENDA

1st choice? 2nd choice? Background information for you on the 26th.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- Allow no-excuse absentee ballots
- Establish regulations against fraud in the ballot process

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Require quarterly campaign finance reporting from all registered committees
- Establish contribution limits for PACs and parties
- Establish an aggregate individual contribution limit
- Require political robo-calls to have a disclaimer and be disclosed as campaign Contributions
- Establish an independent, nonpartisan body for enforcement of campaign finance, Lobbying and ethics laws
- Implement random audits of campaign reports

ETHICS AND LOBBYING

- Require lobbyists to state interests in bills, issues, regulations and budgets
- Require a on-year “cooling off” period before an elected official can be registered lobbyist
- Require personal financial disclosure for elected officials and top administrative officials

REDISTRICTING

- Change the way districts for the Legislature and Congress are drawn every 10 years after the decennial census.

GOVERNMENT

Elections Laws – LWVMI supports uniform ease and accessibility of voting with assurances of accuracy, security and voter privacy; fair and uniform party regulation; open primaries and a regional presidential primary; local officials having primary authority for elections, the principles of Initiative, referendum and recall; nonpartisan merit appointment and the subsequent retention election of appellate judges; nonpartisan election of judges for local courts; public funding for judicial election campaigns.

Intergovernmental Relations within Michigan – LWVMI supports measures to allow flexibility in solving regional problems and to encourage orderly growth and efficient government. Such measures should include cooperation, coordination and long-range planning.

Taxation and Budgeting – LWVMI supports a state-local tax structure that is adequate, equitable, flexible and moderately progressive.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Great Lakes ecosystem – LWVMI supports maintaining and defending the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Governmental decision-making should include public education and participation, inter-governmental cooperation and coordinated research. Shoreline management, high water-quality standards and water conservation are priorities.

Land Use – LWVMI, recognizing that land is a finite resource, not just a commodity, believes that land ownership (whether public or private) implies responsibilities of stewardship.

Pesticides – LWVMI supports reduction of exposure to pesticides, the use of non-toxic alternatives, regulation of the use of pesticides by all levels of government, and public notice of pesticide use.

Solid Waste Management – LWVMI supports measures to solve the problem of solid waste disposal including state cooperation with local and federal bodies, primary responsibility by local government, and mandatory reuse and recycling technology.

SOCIAL POLICY

Children and Youth – LWVMI supports a system of comprehensive and coordinated services for all children and families to provide basic resources for an adequate quality of life; policies and programs staffed with well-trained and sufficient personnel to provide preventive, protective and rehabilitative services for all children and families; individualized justice for children within the framework of due process of law with adequate and coordinated court services.

Education:

Structure, Financing and Goals – LWVMI supports a publicly financed public education system in which there is equal opportunity for good education available to all children. State, federal and local governments should share financial responsibility with the state having the greatest funding responsibility and with some local millage levies. Public funds should not be used for general nonpublic education purposes.

Teacher Certification in Michigan – LWVMI supports teacher preparation and professional development with certification of educators.

Public School Academies (PSA) – LWVMI supports the concept of educational choices for parents and students within the public school system. PSAs (also known as Charter Schools) should demonstrate strong oversight, accountability, evaluation criteria, and compliance with state laws. The number of PSAs should be limited until student achievement can be assessed.

Health Care – LWVMI supports equal access to quality health care at reasonable cost, cost-effective methods of health care delivery that do not sacrifice adequate individual care, and fees for health care professionals that reflect a combination of government, marketplace and provider considerations. Positions also address facilities, health care personnel, consumer responsibility, professional liability, and third-party reimbursement.

Social Services – LWVMI supports a system of services which: 1) provide sufficient income assistance to assure decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter for people unable to work, or for whom jobs are not available, or whose earnings are inadequate; 2) establish adequate financial incentives and opportunities for realistic job training and counseling.

Structure/Funding of Michigan's Public Libraries LWVMI supports basic and stable funding for public libraries to insure basic services to all state residents. Sources include penal fines, state aid, and local taxes. Organization of public libraries should be uniform with self-governing library boards with financial autonomy, the establishment of minimum standards, and cooperation with other libraries.

Prisons in Michigan – LWVMI supports a cost-effective prison system that reduces recidivism, utilizes alternatives to incarceration, reduces emphasis on prison construction, and provides supportive/rehab



**League of Women Voters
Flint Area
P.O. Box 230
Flint, Michigan 48501-0230**

**EDUCATING AND
ADVOCATING FOR
RESPONSIBLE
GOVERNMENT**

LWV-FLINT AREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Mail To: LWV-FA P.O. Box 230 Flint, MI 48501-0230

Dues are \$55.00 per member, \$80.00 for two in one household, \$30.00 for students. Scholarships are Available. Contact Helen Hoyt for more information at (810) 233-6659.

LWV-FA President: Jeanette Hall (810) 659-9683

Board Members: Rhina Griffel, Larry MacDonald, RoseAnn MacDonald, Andrea Ananich, Ann Kraft, Marion Wright, Jan Nieuwenhuis, Edith Prunty-Spencer, Helen Hoyt, Ruth Brown David Caswell, Toni Promenchenkel

www.lwvflintarea.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women.