

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI LOCAL POLICY POSITIONS

Long Form Revised 2024

Statements in italics (enclosed with parentheses) indicate related positions stated elsewhere

I. VOTING

(Adopted by LWVMO August, 2024)

Positions Approved by Majority of Membership March 2, 2024

2024 LWVKC Election Administration Study

Voter Registration

The LWVKC endorses automatic voter registration, as it makes political participation easier and more effective.

The league supports measures that facilitate voter registration. The LWVKC should support efforts to ensure that Missouri is in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and that the Missouri DMV has incorporated voter registration services into their driver's license application, renewal, and change of name and address processes, as NVRA compliance facilitates voter registration. The league should litigate or take other actions when the State of Missouri fails to comply with the NVRA, either with or without other organizations that support voting rights registration.

Third Party Voter Registration

The League's actions that engage voters and encourage them to vote is core political speech that should be protected; The LWVKC should defend its right and primary mission of engaging voters and promoting voting.

Voter Registration Roll Management

The League opposes legislation and practices that remove registration solely on the basis of inactivity. Voting is not mandatory; purging on the sole basis of inactivity is punitive.

The League believes that organizations, including political parties, should not be allowed to use caging and purging methods, often geographically targeted, to remove registered voters from the voter registration rolls. Caging efforts are non-uniform as they are targeted and discriminatory. LWVKC supports voter registration roll management efforts that are uniform, transparent and non-discriminatory;

Voters should be provided with public notice via multiple sources that are robust and contemporary as well as individualized notice prior to being purged (removed) from

voter registration lists.

Voter Registration Roll Management: Third Party

Sources of Data

To encourage voter participation, the LWVKC supports state voter outreach programs that seek to register eligible but unregistered voters.

The State of Missouri should provide uniform, transparent and non discriminatory data reporting tools and resources to help local election authorities to accurately maintain their voter registration rolls.

Data from 3rd party organizations used in voter registration list maintenance should use strict criteria (strong matches) and be tested for accuracy prior to use, with an objective of minimizing disenfranchising eligible voters.

College Voters

Strict voter ID laws, including those which disallow college IDs, unnecessarily disenfranchise voters, including college voters. Students should be allowed to use a valid college ID to vote. ID requirements should not be punitive or costly.

The League opposes absentee voting restrictions that disenfranchise registered voters because of clerical error, without providing notice and means to correct those clerical errors. The League also opposes other absentee voting restrictions that disenfranchise registered voters such as notarization burdens and the inefficiency of the post office by imposing requirements on when ballots are received at the election authority rather than when postmarked.

In addition to current LWVKC efforts at high schools, the LWVKC should further develop partnerships and interactions with post-secondary educational organizations to support voter education efforts.

II. GOVERNMENT

A. CAMPAIGN FINANCE (1996)

1. Support local ordinances that define and regulate political action committees.

Changed 2005 because local ordinance #4640 was established in 1996.

2. Support a local ethics/election commission to oversee municipal election procedures.

B. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY *(See also Law Enforcement positions, Planning and Zoning #3 and Sustainability #12, #14 and #18)*

1. Support more detailed breakdown of county budgets for general revenue and the road and bridge fund. (1972)

2. Support bonds as part of the city's financial structure. (1989)

The League should study bond issues, disseminate information and after careful study, recommend its position. The League should help provide more citizen participation and grass roots involvement in bond proposals.

3. Support adequate revenue for the city's operating fund. (1989; revised 2005)

In March 1989, members studied sources of revenue for the city, which included sales tax, licenses and fees, fines, charges, and intergovernmental transfers. All members agreed that additional funds were needed. Sources of additional revenue discussed were earnings tax, increase in property tax, increase in the cigarette tax, a soft drink tax, auto stickers, increase in the Cable television franchise tax, and a local gasoline tax. Members did not favor increasing City Utilities payment in lieu of taxes or taking their reserves. Members should undertake a further study when a specific tax proposal is made.

In 2005, the wording "Support increased revenue..." was changed to "Support adequate revenue. . ."

C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT *(See also Environmental Quality #10-#12, Fiscal Responsibility, Law Enforcement #1, Parks, Planning and Zoning and Sustainability positions)*

1. Support cooperation among local governmental units. (1970)

Following a 1970 study, members concluded that areas of satisfactory cooperation could include tax assessment and collection, health, civil defense, and the library district. Improved cooperation was needed in fire and police protection, streets and centralized purchasing. It was suggested that the possibility of a metro form of government be investigated.

2. Support Council/Manager form of government. (1955, 1971)

A clarification was made in 2001: City Council is comprised of mayor, four zone and four general council members.

3. Support home rule for Greene County, preferably embodying an elected partisan legislature and an executive. (1972, 1976, 1989)

Home rule was studied in 1972 and 1976. In 1979, LWV conducted a successful petition drive in support of county home rule. In 1980, Greene County voters turned down the charter prepared by the Greene County Charter Commission. In 1989, the League again agreed that it should support the concept of charter government (home rule) for Greene County.

4. Support City Charter mandates that give City Council the power to remove CU Board members by specific procedure. (1982)

A 1980-82 study of CU included the relationship between City Council and the CU Board. The membership found that in general the charter of the City of Springfield provided a clear and workable format for the City Council/CU Board relationship. However, the power to remove CU Board Members, although implied by the power of appointment, needed to be specifically stated for the CU Board as it was for other boards. League members felt that definite procedures should be established including reasonable grounds, a public hearing before Council if desired, a lapse of time before vote on removal, and a majority vote of the Council to remove a limit on the number of board members who could be removed in one year. Reviewed 2005; definite procedures and criteria have been established. CU Board members are elected on a rotating basis.

5. Support of appointed CU Board. (1982)

In the 1982 consensus, the membership was in strong agreement the CU Board should remain appointive rather than become elective.

6. Support broad representation on the CU Board. (1982; amended 1989)

In a 2005 review, the word "broadened" was changed to "broad", since representation has been broadened, and continued support recommended.

Based on the 1982 consensus, members believed that representation on the CU Board should be broadened to include a limited number of consumers other than business and professional people and that if this could not be achieved by more liberal interpretation of the Charter, the Charter should be amended. As of 2005 review, CU attempts to accomplish this goal by recruiting representatives knowledgeable about issues from all quadrants of the city and to achieve a male-female balance and ethnic diversity.

7. Support for City Council having independent, professional input into utility rate making decisions. (1982)

8. Support the opposition to placing City Utilities under the Public Service Commission. (1982)

Based on the 1982 consensus, the League is opposed to placing the regulation of utility rates under either the Public Service Commission or a local rate making body.

III. JUSTICE

A. JUDICIAL (2005)

1. Support a “merit selection, non-partisan plan” for Greene County judges.

Under the Missouri Constitution, this plan calls for the Governor’s appointment of a five-member Judicial Commission comprised of Greene County citizens—two lawyers, two laypersons, and the presiding judge of the Greene County courts. The Commission selects three persons from the applicants, whose names are sent to the Governor, who makes the final appointment.

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT (1995) (See also Fiscal Responsibility positions and Local Government #1.)

1. Support a regional area jail. (Revised 2000).

Earlier position read: Supports a centralized Greene County Jail serving the needs of the City and the County.

2. Support an equitably funded countywide communication system that allows emergency responders to communicate directly between agencies.

As of 2005, an 800-megahertz radio tower has been built which allows police, fire departments and the health clinic to communicate with each other. Position maintained since future funding cuts may jeopardize the program.

3. Support additional personnel, technology and equipment for law enforcement to meet the public safety needs of the City and the County. (1995)

4. Support legislation for uniform minimum standards for adult correctional facilities and efforts to improve physical conditions and prisoner morale.

This position resulted from a 1978-79 study of Adult Corrections. League members felt that the present Greene County jail facilities were not adequate and that the administration of the jail should be divorced from politics. Improvement for existing facilities should include use of exercise yards, adequate ventilation systems, separate sleeping facilities, adequate visitor facilities, indoor exercise yard, library facilities, and vocational and educational programs. The work release program should be encouraged and supported. Suggestions for minimum standards for facilities in Missouri include the segregation of juveniles and less crowding. There should be state enforcement of legislated standards. In 2000, *Adult Corrections* was eliminated and this position moved to the *Law Enforcement*.

5. Support a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable and transparent and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry; reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcements programs and policies, and periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness.

A just, effective, equitable and transparent criminal justice system should:

- establish procedures for the elimination of systemic bias,
- foster collaboration between government and community-based programs,
- focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation and
- rely on evidence-based research for decisions.

IV. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A. TRANSPORTATION (1975) (See Sustainability positions #19 and #21)

1. **Support Amtrak service through Springfield** (deleted in 2016).
2. **Support improved and more effective public transportation for Springfield with emphasis on rerouting, safety, convenience and future needs.**

In this position from a 1975 study, specific suggestions regarding the transportation system included: the use of a grid system with elimination of routing all buses to the Square and the addition of other transfer points; and the use of more convenient closed headways during peak period, shelters at transfer points, clearly marked bus stops, safe waiting areas, the stimulation of demand, better advertisement of trial extension routes, longer periods, provisions for parking lots and bicycle racks at the end of the bus lines, special express buses to large employment centers, and the implementation of “dial-a-ride” seven days a week for areas not served regularly.

Although improvements of routes, shelters and turnouts have been made, position was maintained in 2005 because of changing needs

B. PARKS (1956, 1980-81, 1990, 2005) (See *Environmental Quality--Sewers #10, Green Building, Local Government #1, Planning and Zoning, and Sustainability #18*)

1. **Support adequate parks and recreation programs for Springfield and Greene County.**

Revised 2000; earlier position was: “Support of adequate parks and recreation programs for Springfield.” In 2005 the position, “Support for recreational use of green space surrounding the Blackman Water Treatment Plant”, was deleted at Annual Meeting since this area is now used for alternative energy programs.

2. **Support funding through property tax, general revenue, fees, set asides, and/or donations and grants.** Reviewed 2005; set asides defined as meaning money earmarked for a particular project. The positions, “Support of County wide park planning” and “Support a County Parks and Recreation Board to coordinate planning with other agencies” were deleted 2000, since they had both been accomplished

C. PLANNING AND ZONING (See also *Environmental Quality--Sewers, Fiscal Responsibility, Green Building, Local Government #1, Parks #1, and Sustainability #2, #3, #10, #13, #15-17, #19*)

1. **Support comprehensive planning for the city and county and their coordination.** (1975-1982)

This position evolved during a three-year study in the 70’s. In 1981, the position was expanded to include the county.

2. **Support residential and commercial planning and zoning, parks development, and preservation of open space.** (1966; revised 1975 and 1987)

In the 1966 study of the Comprehensive Plan, the League reaffirmed its support of annexation from time to time, to provide for the orderly growth in Springfield.

In the 1975 Comprehensive Plan: A comprehensive plan should be revised every five years, not later than ten years, and have emphasis on citizen input. The League supports judicious use of tax incentives to encourage the use of present available land and existing facilities such as sewer, water and electricity.

Residential Planning--The 1975 study also produced some specific suggestions with regard to residential planning. The sidewalk ordinance should be enforced; builders and developers should be encouraged to consider

planned unit development; single family units should not be abutting multi-family units; buffer zones should be required between different zones; density in multi-family should take into consideration circulation, open spaces, and aesthetics; neighborhood renewal projects should be encouraged; developers should consult qualified hydrologists; and the use of taller building should be encouraged. There should be an ordinance whereby developers would bear the cost of damages that result from building on sinkholes, flood plains, etc.

Commercial Planning – Commercial unit developments should use living green space, traffic circulation should be of primary consideration and the use of neon signs should be limited.

In 1987, League members agreed that the responsibility for consideration of aesthetic values in regulating community development or redevelopment should be shared by City Council, Community Development Department, Environmental Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Department, and individual citizens. The consensus was that the League should support a zoning ordinance which would include a landscape provision on new and renovated property.

Recreation and Open Space Planning should include: preserving neighborhood parks and existing parks, continuing to apply for grants and exploring new grants by the Park Board, encouraging preservation and acquisition of open space, using drainage areas and flood plains for open space, and promoting cooperation between schools and the Park Board for sharing facilities.

School Planning – Sidewalks in school areas should be required; the School Board should consult the Planning Department when considering new locations.

Traffic Circulation – High volume arterials should have limited access and pedestrian and bike pathways should be separated from vehicular traffic.

3. Support construction of adequate and equitably financed sanitary disposal and storm drainage in Springfield and Greene County. (1975; revised 1990)

In a 1975 study, members agreed on recommendations for the sanitary and storm drainage system. They stressed, in all areas, comprehensive city and county planning and cooperation.

City Storm Drainage Systems – Recommendations included the adoption of a grading ordinance, the preservation of flood plains, sinkholes, and other natural drains, requirements for developers to plan for and construct proper storm drainage facilities, and the reexamination of subdivision ordinances.

County Storm Drainage System – Recommendations included giving this item top priority in the Capital Improvement Program, putting initial emphasis on enlargement and improvement of treatment plants followed by installation of trunk lines and providing subsidies for individual connection when they are a financial impossibility.

County Sanitary Disposal System – Recommendations included giving this item top priority in high density, urbanized, and/or manufacturing areas, adopting and enforcing a plumbing code, regulations governing the installation and inspection of septic tanks and laws regulating wells, making subdivision regulations more stringent and adopting a comprehensive sanitary sewer plan.

Financing Storm Drainage and Sanitary Disposal Systems: Recommendations included utilizing methods in letting sewer construction contracts that encourage more competitive bidding, providing alternatives to present tax bill methods of financing, and supporting the most expedient method of construction and operation of sanitary and/or storm sewers in the county when the population density warrants it.

In 1990, the League supported a sales tax for a Waste Treatment Plant, based on this position.

D. SAFETY (See also Education #4 and Sustainability #18)

1. Support safety councils, improved visibility at intersections, and community efforts to develop a safe path to school. (1965)

2. Support construction of sidewalks and bikeways, safe crossing mechanisms and educational programs on bicycle and pedestrian safety. (1973)

Based on a 1973 study, the League supports school sidewalk construction, more efficient crossing mechanisms, and more publicity of an educational nature with regard to pedestrian safety. The League also supports

the organization of the less expensive bicycle paths for transportation within the city limits, the construction of paths through parks for recreational use, stricter law enforcement regarding cyclists and possible consideration of an inspection/licensing system to help finance bike paths.

E. SUSTAINABILITY (1999-2001 study)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sprawl-Population (See *Health and Basic Human Needs*)

- 1. Support efforts to direct growth and development in Springfield-Greene County, based on the carrying capacity of the environment.**
- 2. Support efforts to contain urban sprawl by preserving farmland and maximizing use of in-fill within Springfield and development and redevelopment within the Greene County Urban Services District. (2000)**

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY (See *Green Building*)

- 3. Support preservation of the physical integrity of a neighborhood's housing resources as necessary to a sustainable community, by consistently applying realistic and practical standards.**
- 4. Support on-going funding to implement enforcement of housing standards.**

PLANNING/CENTER CITY/TRANSPORTATION (See *Environmental Quality #13 and 14, Fiscal Responsibility #3, Green Building, Local Government #1, Parks #1, and Planning and Zoning*)

- 5. Support vigorous enforcement of the Urban Services District to control sprawl**
- 6. Support development and enforcement of standards for mixed use development.**
- 7. Support a better balance between the interests of business, government, and individual citizens and citizen groups when considering questions related to growth and land use.**
- 8. Support adequate governmental financing for the strengthening of existing neighborhoods, redevelopment of Center City and the provision of green spaces, walking and bike trails and sidewalks.**

At the 2005 Annual Meeting, the wording "Support of increased governmental financing ..." was changed to "Support of adequate governmental financing...."

- 9. Support on-going cooperation between city and county governments and a stronger emphasis on regional planning in the areas of transportation and planning.**
- 10. Support efforts to improve and landscape the city's existing major arterial roads as an alternative to building new roads around the city.**
- 11. Support establishing bus routes to meet the needs of population dependent on public transportation as data is substantiated, as well as efforts by City Utilities to explore alternative means of transportation.**

F. GREEN BUILDING (2008; revised 2010)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT (See *Environmental Quality #1, Health and Basic Human Needs, Planning and Zoning, and Sustainability--Economic Vitality and Social Sustainability*)

- 1. Support the practice of green, sustainable building, both public and private, that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, and mercury.**
- 2. Support the creation of clean industry, business, manufacturing, and jobs.**

We encourage lenders to consider green building loans as important as other building loans, to provide comprehensive programs for staff on green building terminology, practices, technology and certification, to develop

coalitions with realtors, builders and developers to advance green building and to inform them as to what information lenders need when considering green loans.

We encourage realtors to advertise and promote green property as aggressively as other property, to list green structures as such in the Multi-List document, to identify green building resources for consultation when appropriate, to provide take-home literature on green building to prospective buyers which includes factual information and references to other sources and to assist buyers in understanding financing.

We encourage developers and builders to acquire significant understanding of what is required for a building to qualify as “green built,” to require green certification in order to advertise structures as green, to discuss with clients green features prior to construction, to use the “life-cycle” assessment tool that is more accurate in evaluating cost and to appoint one individual as team leader who is experienced in green building technology.

We urge local officials to support and promote the concept of green building certification for all new and renovated public buildings, to support only one nationally recognized certification program, to implement building inspector training for green building certification, to provide staff who are certified in sustainable building practices to work with individuals, builders and developers in submitting building permits, to update planning and zoning to include regulations specific to green building and to educate the general public on the short and long term benefits of green buildings.

We urge educators to support a green building philosophy, to educate the public regarding immediate and long term benefits of building green schools, to build and renovate schools that will meet green building certification, and to promote the green building construction process as a “lab” for better educating students in math and science and the importance of protecting the environment, to enable them to be more knowledgeable consumers and to teach them about employment opportunities in the field.

3. Support government’s promoting and when possible, mandating new construction and renovation that meet at least minimum green building certification standards by removing barriers, updating codes and policies, using only one certification program and assisting the general public with resources and information. (added 2010)

V. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AIR (See *Green Building*)

1. Support effective air pollution controls, including the elimination of open trash burning. (1968)

SOLID WASTE (See *Green Building*)

2. Support solid waste management systems that control pollution and provide efficient, economical, and adequate service to all residents. (1971)

The 1971 study made the following recommendations: Mandatory once a week collection by private haulers under contract with the city, zoning the city into districts for garbage collection, basing collection costs in proportion to the amount of trash collected, revision of fee schedules and prohibiting out of town trash, stricter regulations on landfill use and private haulers’ trucks, mandatory household trash collection, and enforcement of the burning ordinance.

3. Support a voluntary materials recovery program, which includes composting. (1971, 1989)

In 1984, the League renewed support for its recycling position. The 1989 consensus supported composting, with a request for more “drop-off” sites and continued support for the materials recovery program. The words “efforts toward recycling” were deleted since wording was redundant. In 1991, the League struck the words “through a waste to energy system.”

In an election on February 5, 1991, the voters approved a materials recovery program (a six -point plan). In 1994 the Materials Recovery Facility program plan was abandoned. The city was not able to guarantee flow control

due to independent haulers' ability to take trash other places. Residents near the proposed site for the facility caused many delays over several years prior to this finding. The program's other five components are being addressed.

4. Support efforts to pre-cycle. (Added 1993 General Meeting)

5. Support concept of waste to energy. (1991, 2005)

This position was eliminated in 1991; it was re-instated at 2005 Annual Meeting, since it was relevant once again.

WATER (Studied 1968, 1991; revised 1989) (*See Green Building and Sustainability--Water positions*)

6. Support water conservation and recommend to City Utilities to continue and expand the educational program on water conservation, preservation and protection.

In 1989, the words "preservation" and "protection" were added to support this position. In the 1968 study, the League supported the position, "Support of fluoridation of the water supply"; position deleted 2000. In 1991 and 2000, the League reaffirmed its position on water conservation. In a 1991 study, this position was added: "Support for Stockton Lake as the best choice for a future source of water for Springfield". Position deleted 2000 since it had been accomplished.

7. Support the sale of water by City Utilities of Springfield to other area municipalities, as long as policies are in place to guarantee water supplies to City Utilities customers. (2011)

8. Support water rate price structuring by City Utilities that:

a) provides separate charges for usage and infrastructure cost

b) encourages water conservation. (2011)

HAZARDOUS WASTE (1979)

9. Support payment of the cleanup and removal cost by those who are responsible for leaks and spills of petroleum and hazardous materials in Springfield and Greene County.

The consensus on groundwater pollution by petroleum and hazardous materials was taken in February 1979. Action to insure payment of cleanup cost should include punitive measures for non-payment. Fines and interest accrued should be placed in escrow during the appeal process. The city and county should require notification to proper officials prior to shipment of hazardous materials.

10. Support regulation of all pipelines carrying hazardous materials in the Springfield area.

Owners of wells should be informed of the necessity of regular testing because of the danger of the contamination of the underground water with hazardous materials, and the proper officials should be notified.

11. Support the use of less polluting materials such as gravel and sand, instead of sodium and calcium chlorides, by the city and state on icy streets and highways.

Both the City Council and the public should be educated as to the possible contamination of water by sodium and calcium chlorides. As of 2005 review, the city still uses salt and calcium chloride.

SEWERS (*See Environmental Quality #5, Green Building, Parks, and Planning and Zoning #3*)

12. Support replacement of septic tanks with alternative waste treatment systems including sewers, banning of septic tanks on lots of less than three acres in a development, and use of new alternative treatment systems in parks and recreation areas, where possible.

This position is based on the alternative Waste Systems consensus, taken in 1979. League members felt that public education and legislation were needed to compel developers and the city to use waste treatment systems other than septic tanks.

13. Support use of alternative waste treatment systems, as opposed to septic tanks, the adoption of strict rules and regulations for installation and maintenance, and of legislation to alter basis of

sewer costs for owners of three acres or more or to defer them until land is subdivided. (1983, revised 2010)

In the 1983 study, the members reached the agreement that there should be strict rules and regulations for the installation and maintenance of waste treatment systems within Greene County. The League supports the use of alternative waste treatment systems as opposed to septic tanks in the unincorporated areas of Greene County with standards for all new construction, and city and county enforcement of regulations. The League supports legislation to alter sewer cost to large landowners (3 acres or more) for sewers or trunk lines that cross their land. Square footage as a basis of cost should be changed, possibly to linear; or to deferment of cost until the land is subdivided. The position was amended in 2010 to remove a geographical reference of Greene County.

14. Support solid waste disposal that protects the ground water supply, provides for a clean environment and encourages conservation of natural resources.

The study of waste in February 1984 attempted to update members about the waste problem. The 1971 study was conducted before Springfield's present landfill was opened. At that time, leachate from the previous landfill was polluting streams and rivers. The consensus was that problems of pollution should be the prime consideration in any landfill operation and that the city should continue to pursue the concept of waste to energy. In 1991, the League struck the words "through a waste to energy system".

B. SUSTAINABILITY (1999-2001 study, revised 2005; water section restudied in 2011)
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Water (See Environmental Quality--Sewers #6 and #9 and Planning and Zoning #3)

- 1. Support developing non-mechanical filtering processes, i.e. wetlands.**
- 2. Support control of water pollution resulting from over-fertilizing, run-off from land disturbance activities and exceeding parking space requirements.**

In 2005, deleted "Such control would allow for more green space" and changed wording of the position to clarify intent of position.

- 3. Support efforts to reduce phosphate use.** (2000)

Trees (See Planning and Zoning)

- 4. Support development of a Community Forestry Master Management Plan and an arborist to enforce the plan.**
- 5. Support a comprehensive, enforceable tree ordinance and a land disturbance ordinance for Springfield and Greene County.**
- 6. Support maintaining the current tree inventory of the city of Springfield.** (2000) (1999-2001 study)

C. GREEN BUILDING (2008; revised 2010)

NATURAL RESOURCES *(See Environmental Quality--Solid Waste and #6 and Parks #1)*

- 1. Support the conservation of natural resources by conserving water, energy, and forests.**
- 2. Support recycling of all waste building and demolition materials that otherwise would add to or pollute the landfill.**
- 3. Support adoption of landscaping practices and designs that use native plants, natural fertilizer, and reduces the need for water.**

VI. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

A. EDUCATION (1969, 1971; updated 1979) *(See Green Building and Safety)*

1. Support measures to produce quality education and adequate schools for all children in the R-12 School District.

In 1971, the League agreed that R-12 schools would be improved by meeting AAA and North Central standards in guidance counseling and libraries on both the elementary and secondary levels, by putting more emphasis on the improvement of teaching and attaining a wider geographical representation of faculty, by encouraging greater citizen participation using citizen's advisory committees and publishing Board of Education agendas, by decentralizing the schools thus giving individual schools and principals more freedom in meeting the needs of their students, by increasing the use of school buildings by community groups, by reviewing transportation policies concerning mileage limits, overcrowding and poor discipline on buses and by the equalization of cost.

The League was in agreement, that to prepare the student for a vocation and responsible citizenship, a quality education should emphasize learning, creativity and aesthetic appreciation, and the development of self-discipline, a set of values, a sense of responsibility and concern for others.

2. Support early childhood education as a priority of our local school system, ensuring financial support toward program implementation and certification of qualified personnel. (1990)

Early childhood education, which helps children achieve successful transition toward school readiness should be a priority of our local school system and should be financially supported to ensure implementation. Planning an early childhood education program should include coordination of private and public agencies and the various disciplines associated with child development. Parent involvement and training should be emphasized. Use of financial incentives for educational programs should be considered to assist certification and recruitment of early childhood education personnel.

3. Support public educational TV (Adopted by 1974 Annual Meeting, reviewed 2005; support should be continuing)

4. Support improved training for school bus drivers, enforcement of safety laws, and stronger discipline on school buses. (1976)

B. HEALTH AND BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

MENTAL HEALTH

1. Support services for the mentally ill by improving available housing, making counseling services widely available, and improving outpatient case management, such as special employment assistance, job training, and/or supervised employment. (1987)

2. Support for increased affordability and accessibility of mental health care services for adults in Greene County (2013-2015)

This study involved working with many community organizations involved in mental health services. The results of the study were printed in a 24-page paper which is available on the League website. The advocacy outreach from the study resulted in the creation of the Ozarks Mental Health Network, which is a consortium of area agencies who represent mental health, and affiliated, services.

- a) Promote mental/behavioral health as a public policy issue on par with physical health and physical disabilities.
- b) Advocate for treatment based on need and not on the ability to pay.
- c) Support efforts to divert mentally ill people from the Greene County Jail and into appropriate mental health treatment.
- d) Advocate for additional funding structures for mental health care.
- e) Encourage and work with other organizations seeking to promote affordability and accessibility of mental health services for all.

POVERTY

3. Support health services especially for the poor and disadvantaged with a focus on information and referral guidelines to access city/county health services. (1978; revised and maintained 2005.)

As of 2005, a Federally-funded Health Clinic has been established; also The Kitchen has a clinic and pharmacy. Position maintained since such services are subject to funding cuts.

4. Support the position of Homeless Service Coordinator. (1987)

In 2005, deleted the words, “in reaffirming the League’s support for health care services for the poor and disadvantaged” after “coordinator” in the position above, since they were redundant. In particular, the League supports policies and programs designated to prevent or reduce poverty and increase access to health insurance. (1987 study).

5. Support policies, ordinances, legislation, and programs that allow a small dollar loan market that maintains access to affordable credit while safeguarding consumers. A loan is affordable if the borrowers can repay the loan and cover basic expenses without borrowing again or obtaining money from another source. Local governments should be able to regulate payday and auto title lending within their jurisdictions to achieve a viable small-dollar loan market that provides consumer access to affordable credit and safeguards against predatory lending. (2020 study)

SENIOR SERVICES

5. Support more emphasis on home health care and homemaker services as an alternative to institutional care for the elderly. (1983-84, 2005)

The 1983-84 study of the subject “Care for the Elderly” was broad and unwieldy. It was narrowed to health care. The committee found that the item involved state and national legislation to a great extent. Through the study, League members learned much about availability and cost of health care for the elderly. In 2005, the following position was deleted: Support requiring pre-screening for all individuals who apply for state assisted (Medicaid) nursing home care in Missouri. (1983-84 study on Aging)

C. SUSTAINABILITY (1999-2001 study)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sprawl-Population (See *Health and Basic Human Needs*)

1. Support family planning and educational programs locally, statewide, nationwide and internationally.

ECONOMIC VITALITY (See *Fiscal Responsibility #3 and Green Building*)

2. Consequences of growth: Support containment of future development within the Urban Services District.

3. Job and wage profiles: Support the education, business, and government sectors working together to attract higher-paying technical and professional jobs to the Springfield area, while at the same time providing opportunities for education and training in such jobs.

4. Industrial Development: Support the city’s use of tax incentives to encourage businesses to locate in Springfield. (2000, revised 2010)

This position was amended in 2010 from supporting the “current level” of support to supporting the use of incentives.

D. GREEN BUILDING (2008; revised 2010)

GREEN BUILDING EDUCATION (See also *Education #1*)

- 1. Support education of the community, i.e. the general public, students and educators, policy makers, builders, developers, lenders, appraisers, and sellers and buyers on the benefits of green building practices, based on accurate data.**
- 2. Support working with other community organizations in making this information available to the community on an ongoing basis.**