

League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland 2016-2017 Local Program

GOVERNMENT

Regionalism: Intergovernmental cooperation and regional tax-base revenue sharing (2009)

LWVGC supports:

Voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies, and maintain service standards;

Regional tax-base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of participating communities.

County government (1979)

LWVGC supports a structure of county government that would include:

A single county executive and a responsible representative legislative body;

Adequate financing for county services and capital improvement;

Provision of urban services by that level of government that can be most effective.

Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Special Districts (2007)

LWVGC supports measures to promote the accountability, accessibility, visibility, citizen participation in, and coordination of all boards (i.e., authorities, boards, commissions, and special districts) connected to Cuyahoga County governance.

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (CCCPA)(2007)

LWVGC believes that:

CCCPA should be required by its local Rules and Regulations to prepare plans for future developments and conduct public hearings to gather comments on these plans;

CCCPA should be required to present a budget that clearly demonstrates how tax levy funds are being spent;

CCCPA proposed capital projects funded by tax revenues should include: purpose, needs, and plans; demonstration of market demand and public consensus; cost effectiveness, including a projected Return on Investment (ROI); and overall community impact, including economic and environmental factors;

CCCPA capital projects should have a separate section in the operating budget.

The Northeast Ohio Development Fund LLC (NEODF), created by the CCCPA under the New Market Tax Credit (NMTTC) program of the federal government, should:

Have a board appointed by elected officials, such as mayors and the county executive

Publicly disclose criteria used to select projects

Give public notice of chosen projects before final acceptance

Invite public comment on proposed projects

Address possible conflict of interest issues of NEODF staff and board.

(CCCPA positions continued)

LWVGC believes that:

In order to address the disparity of representation on the CCCPA Board, equal numbers of board members should be appointed by the Mayor of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Executive, with a final member named by joint agreement.

Public officials who appoint board members should:

- Require a disclosure statement of each CCCPA Board candidate and member

- Conduct periodic reviews of board members' compliance with legal requirements

Any CCPA levies should be limited to a duration of not more than five years.

Ethics in government (2012)

LWVGC supports a government ethics policy that:

- Applies broadly to elected and appointed officials, employees, members and employees of boards and commissions, contractors, vendors, and lobbyists;

- Prohibits conflicts of interest, use of position for personal gain, corruption in the awarding of contracts, nepotism, and favoritism;

- Fosters transparency through financial disclosure by key elected and appointed officials, contractor and lobbyist registries, and online public posting of disclosures and registries;

- Disciplines those who falsely file or fail to file required disclosures or who fail to report wrongdoing;

- Instills individual commitment through ongoing training and education, signed compliance statements, and "plain speak" publication of the ethics policy;

- Encourages ethical conduct among covered persons through obligatory reporting of possible violations and protections against retaliation;

- Contains a complaint process, which honors privacy and anonymity and which protects from retaliation and unfounded charges;

LWVGC supports an ethics policy that has an effective enforcement mechanism that is:

- Independent of political pressure;

- Both reactive and investigatory;

- Authorized by the strongest process permissible by law: charter, ordinance, resolution, or administrative rules;

- Protective of due process rights for the accused;

- Explicit in its range of penalties.

LWVGC supports ethics enforcement by a single entity, preferably an independent ethics board, with guaranteed funding and qualified professional legal staff.

Administration of Justice in Cuyahoga County (1971, 1973, 2003)

LWVGC supports comprehensive planning, improved bail system, rehabilitation of offenders, alternative handling of some "no-victim" crimes, improved police-community relations, uniform code of training and conduct, and adequate financing.

Charter Review*

LWVGC supports:

- Periodic review of city charter or other governing documents
- Citizen participation in the charter review process

Taxation*

LWVGC supports:

- Taxes that are fair and equitable
- Taxes that provide adequate resources for government programs
- Taxes that are understandable to the taxpayer and encourage compliance
- Taxes that are easy to administer
- Continual evaluation of governmental tax resources and allocation

Planning*

LWVGC supports:

- Community planning programs for municipalities, with specific emphasis on land use, development and revitalization of aging areas
- Adoption of comprehensive long-range planning programs that promote the common good, with periodic updates
- Citizen participation in the planning process
- Acquisition, development, and maintenance of green space and park-like areas within municipalities

SOCIAL POLICY**Transportation (1972, 1999)**

LWVGC supports mass transit as a public service, publicly controlled with operating costs subsidized, to meet the transit needs of all residents of Cuyahoga County, including the special transit needs of senior citizens and handicapped persons.

Primary and Secondary Education*

LWVGC supports:

- Quality, integrated public education
- Sufficient funding for quality public education
- Continued monitoring of educational facilities, allocation of resources, programs, and educational methods
- Citizen input in long-range planning of finances, facilities, staffing, and educational methods

Cuyahoga Community College (1962, 1964, 1979, 1999)

LWVGC supports Cuyahoga Community College as the two-year higher education institution in the county that provides accessible and affordable educational programs and services that meet the needs of the county's population.

Public Libraries*

LWVGC supports:

- The best possible public library services that reflect the needs of the community
- Continuing evaluation of financing and future development
- Cooperation between public libraries and school libraries

Health services (1973, 1983, 1984, 1997)

LWVGC supports:

- A health care delivery system that provides adequate health care to all residents of Cuyahoga County, and effective comprehensive health planning by bodies representative of consumer interests as well as health professionals;
- Continued evaluation of health care services for all in Cuyahoga County, with particular attention to financing, delivery distribution, and availability;
- Continuation of health services to the medically indigent.

Housing*

LWVGC supports:

- Enforcement of local housing codes to protect the health and safety of citizens
- Mandatory inspections including but not limited to: routine inspection of every dwelling, inspection of all rental buildings, re-inspection at specific intervals, point-of-sale inspection, and adequate staffing and training of impartial housing/building inspectors
- Access for limited-income owners to information about assistance in the correction of code violations
- Housing that meets the varying needs of residents, including assistance programs for those of limited income
- An adequately funded and efficient housing court

Diversity*

LWVGC supports measures designed to promote understanding and responsibility in diverse and multi-racial, multi-cultural communities

Public Recreation*

LWVGC supports:

- Public recreation programs based on needs of the community served and providing recreation to all ages and abilities
- Continued evaluation of programming, facilities, and financing
- Financial support from both municipalities and school districts, with transparency in their relationship
- Maintaining a balance of recreational facilities and publicly-owned open spaces

NATURAL RESOURCES

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (1979)

LWVGC supports the continued development of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and its restoration and preservation as an open green area.

Natural resources / Environment – Lake Erie (1966, 1999)

LWVGC supports:

- Restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its tributaries;

- A coordinated water quality program;

- A precautionary moratorium on all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) that produce untreated animal waste;

- Improved and similar wastewater transportation, delivery, and treatment systems on each CAFO site within the Lake Erie Watershed.

Transportation policy on outmigration (1997-1999)

LWVGC supports comprehensive planning by local, county, regional, state, and federal governments and agencies in order to achieve policies on transportation, tax structures, and allocations that will encourage a sustainable balance between urban areas, farmland, and open spaces.

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve

LWVGC supports the preservation of the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former "Dike 14") as a nature preserve with judicious public access, such as nature trails, boardwalks, coastal overlooks, benches, viewing scopes, a hawk tower, and educational/informational signage.

**These positions were originally adopted by one or more chapters prior to the merger of the LWVGC. The LWVGC voted on May 30, 2015 to approve these as positions of the LWVGC as a whole. The histories of these positions are currently unavailable.*

Several chapters have positions not held by all chapters or the LWVGC as a whole.