

- > LWVBoulder County POSITIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY---9/09
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- > Introduction:
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- > Founded nearly 90 years ago to promote informed and active
- > participation in government, the LWV was committed to sustaining an
- > effective democracy long before the term, “sustainability”, became
- > fashionable. Let’s look at a sampling of today’s LWVBC positions
- > with an eye toward sustainability in two arenas: the natural
- > environment and social policy.
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- > Sampling of positions:
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- > ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
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- > Growth Management:
- > Judge growth on its “environmental impact and its effect on the
- > social balance...”; Emphasize “carrying capacity of the land”,
- > “preservation of open space”, “agricultural preservation”, enhance
- > “opportunities for people of all ages, races and economic levels...”.
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- > Principles of Good Planning:
- > Consider long-range implications and recognize that “land use,
- > housing and transportation are interrelated”, “encourage the use of
- > alternate modes of transportation”.
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- > NATURAL RESOURCES
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- > Open Space Programs: Support “acquisition and resource management
- > of Open Space..”.
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- > Solid Waste Management: “..promote and manage waste reduction”,
- > “set long-term goals and standards for a comprehensive solid waste
- > management policy”, prioritize “source reduction education”.
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- > Transportation: Emphasize “alternatives to the automobile”.
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- > SOCIAL POLICY
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- > Schools: Support “coordination and financing, long-range planning
- > and open channels of communication”, prioritize “providing students
- > with basic tools for learning...”.
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- > Housing: Provide “subsidized housing for low income people”,
- > support “incentives for the construction of energy efficient
- > homes”, support “social impact statements to determine the effect
- > of other policies on affordable housing”.
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- > Health Care: Support preventive care and health services, from

- > prenatal to comprehensive long-term care.
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- > Conclusions:
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- > While our positions do not overtly call for “sustainability”, nor
- > are they introduced by a preamble about how they promote
- > sustainability, they share an emphasis on the need to consider long
- > term effects of decisions, on the interconnectedness of decisions
- > across policy areas, and on the value of fairness. In these ways,
- > they promote sustainability in planning and management across
- > policy areas.
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- > Our challenge today is to adapt ourselves to make our League
- > sustainable. As an organization that has grown and thrived through
- > the depression, the Second World War, and the upheavals of the
- > second half of the 20th century, the League has changed with the
- > times. To continue to sustain our League, we must adapt to the new
- > virtual world of the internet and all that it implies, while
- > holding fast to our goal of promoting an informed and active
- > citizenry so essential to sustaining all that we hold dear.
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- > Sara Michl
- > Sept. 19, 2009
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