

LWVUS and LWVCO Positions that support the concept of Sustainability-----Jeffco study 2009 and Georgia Locker 2009

Sustainability is a long term goal which seeks to balance environmental, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet that same goal.

The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with fundamental principles of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations.

“Sustainable thinking” calls for integrating the goals of the separate League programs . Principles of sustainability are reflected in most program areas, although often they are implicit rather than explicit. As a result, the problems or issues to be resolved may be seen in a different light, and new means of resolution may be indicated. Sustainability is an intertwined concept that can be seen in all our position areas, for instance, positions in Government affect Natural Resource positions and Social Policy positions

### Key

- ✓ **LWVUS positions which could contribute to a “Sustainability” Position statement**
- **LWVCO positions which could contribute to a “Sustainability” Position statement.**  
**Underlined are found in both**

### Natural Resource

- Must be managed as interrelated parts of life supporting ecosystem and conserved and protected to assure future availability
- Decisions must be assessed on population growth and of current and future need
- Protection and management responsibilities are shared by all levels of government

### Air Quality

- Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources
  - Regulating toxic air pollutants, ozone, and acid deposition  
Energy efficient transportation system

### Energy

- Support environmentally sound polices that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources
  - Variety of sources with an emphasis on conserving and efficiency
  - Predominant use of renewable energy  
U.S. is a member of world community  
Reduction of growth rates  
Action by government  
Mandatory energy conservation- building thermal standards, new car standards  
Policies to reduce demand

### Land Use

- Promote polices that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship
  - Resources and quality of life  
State wide planning

## Solid Waste

Supports polices to reduce, reuse, and recycle solid and hazardous waste; polices that ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal to protect public health, air, land, and water resources; and planning and decision making processes that recognize suitable solid and hazardous wastes as potential resource.

## Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

- Preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment

## Water

- Protection of prime agricultural land, ecosystems and environmental concerns  
Supports measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water  
Local representation should exercise strong role in planning  
Conservation  
Recycling to stretch resource and additional research

## International

### UN

Promote international peace and security;

Advance the social and economic well-being of the world's people; (need for energy)

Foster trust and cooperation among nations by encouraging adherence to conventions, treaties, and other international agreements;

Improvement of basic living standards worldwide; reduction of inequalities within and among nations;

Protection of the environment and global natural resources;

Improving basic living standards worldwide;

Promoting the well-being and potential of children, with special attention to the girl child;

Promoting human and political rights; ensuring access to a basic education for all

### Trade

Elimination of environmentally and economically harmful subsidies and incentives (e.g., for fishing, timber, agriculture);

Domestic regulations and practices that advance environmental and social goals and that are not a pretext for restricting trade; and

Aid to developing countries to improve their ability to create and enforce national laws protecting the environment and human and labor rights.

Financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to participate effectively in the world trading system;

Policies that recognize the special circumstances of developing countries in the areas of food security and transition to the world trading system;

Encouraging cooperative efforts to promote the sound management of global resources and improve the quality of life;

Promoting measures to reduce tensions and increase communication, including scientific and cultural exchanges and other cooperative programs

Trade negotiations and trade agreements that lead to progress on environmental and social objectives;

Monitoring and reporting of countries' practices and performance in these areas;

Recognition of the legitimacy of multi-lateral environmental agreements;

Protection of endangered species;

Policies that recognize the special circumstances of developing countries in the areas of food security and transition to the world trading system.

## **Government**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

Responsive legislative processes must meet these criteria:

ACCOUNTABILITY. A Congress responsive to citizens and able to hold its own leaders, committees and members responsible for their actions and decisions.

REPRESENTATIVENESS. A Congress whose leaders, committees and members represent the nation as a whole, as well as their own districts and states.

DECISION MAKING CAPABILITY. A Congress with the knowledge, resources and power to make decisions that meet national needs and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities.

EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE. A Congress able to function in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort.

OPEN GOVERNMENT. A Congress whose proceedings in committee as well as on the floor are open to the fullest extent possible.

## **Citizen's Rights:**

- ✓ Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. Improve methods of financing political campaigns to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption, and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office. Protect the right of all citizens to vote. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making. (LWVUS)

## **Transportation**

Use of funds to finance system

Improve mobility and quality

Environmental factors of balanced system

Public transportation system improved immediately:

## **Reproductive Choice**

- ✓ Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. (LWVUS)

### **Justice System:**

- Support measures which facilitate efficient administration of justice. Support of sentencing measures that protect the community, compensate victims, and rehabilitate offenders. Support a juvenile justice system that has as its primary purpose the rehabilitation, safety, and well being of the offender; promotes the juvenile's understanding of the harm done; and promotes the protection of the community and the juvenile's successful reentry into the community. (LWVC)

## **Economic**

- ✓ **Tax policy:** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

- Support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive and which incorporates social, environmental, and economic goals. Oppose most earmarking of funds and sales tax on food.
- ✓ **Funding of Entitlements:** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal old-age survivor, disability, and health insurance.

## Social Policy

### Health Care

- ✓ Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.(LWVUS)
- Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary. (LWVC)
- ✓ **Income Assistance:** Support income assistance programs based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.(LWVUS)
- ✓ **Urban Policy:** Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life. (LWVUS)

### **Equality of Opportunity:**

- ✓ Support the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with its goals. Support equal access to education, employment and housing. (LWVUS)

### **Basic Human Needs**

- ✓ Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. Provide for essential support services. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family. (LWVUS)

### **Children's Support Systems**

- Ensure availability of affordable quality child care to all children who need it. Support measures to encourage public responsibility for the protection, care, and training of children. (LWVC)

### **Education**

- Support a pre-K through 12 public education system in which a balanced curriculum of humanities, arts, and sciences lead to lifelong learning for all students. Support of a stronger Colorado Commission on Higher Education to effect improvement in the state higher education system, with input from all concerned parties, including the general public. (LWVC)

### **Violence Prevention**

- ✓ Support violence prevention programs in communities. Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of weapons. (LWVUS)