

LOCAL PROGRAM

Local Government

Local Government Bodies:

Support of Council-Manager government with no fewer than six councilpersons and one Mayor. Four councilpersons should be elected from districts and two councilpersons and one mayor should be elected at large. In drawing district boundaries, the League of Women Voters of Wheaton agrees with present State Statute which stipulates: "The city council shall divide the city, whenever necessary thereafter, into districts which shall be of as compact and contiguous territory as practicable of approximately equal population."

Home Rule:

Support Home Rule for the City of Wheaton and DuPage County.

Zoning and Annexation:

Support for professional planning to balance the city's residential and commercial development with substantial open space; the maintenance of a viable central business district and, where compatible, expansion of the city's tax base.

Cable TV:

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton supports:

- The City of Wheaton maintaining its public educational and governmental channels as part of the Cable TV franchise agreement.
- Broad-based citizen participation in the Community Media Commission.
- Participation in Cable TV by public institutions serving Wheaton.
- Provisions for non-commercial cable TV programming produced by public institutions.
- The continuation of public access television programming produced and/or sponsored by individuals.
- All of the positions above even as communication technology evolve.

Social Policies

Housing:

- Support of Open Housing Ordinance for Wheaton.
- Support of additional housing units and housing assistance for low and moderate income families, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Recreation:

Park District Programs and Facilities:

- The League of Women Voters believes the current programs are meeting most of the needs of the community. However, improved programming for junior high age and teenage young people should receive the District's attention.

- The League of Women Voters believes the Park District Board has the responsibility to provide what the community wants; however, the resources must be managed responsibly. The League has some concerns about the appropriateness of subsidizing out-of-community participants in senior citizen activities.
- The League of Women Voters believes criteria should be developed by the Park Board to meet the on-going needs of citizens who cannot otherwise participate in the programs. We support increasing the awareness of scholarship programs through community resources who can make referrals as well as through the media.
- The League of Women Voters supports the use of a Master Plan to bring cohesiveness to the work of the Park District. We support continued input by the public into the planning. We support an annual review of the Master Plan by the Board of the Park District.

Transportation:

The League supports and encourages bicycling for transportation and recreation wherever and whenever possible. Whenever city streets are upgraded, Wheaton planners should evaluate ways to make cycling safer and implement bike lanes where feasible. Planners at the municipal and county level should coordinate bicycle path routes in order to enable cyclists to travel to different areas, for both transportation and recreation.

The League supports a bus system for Wheaton and encourages the coordination of the Wheaton system with systems throughout the region, rather than owned and operated by Wheaton. Ridership might be increased by publishing routes, times and destinations at bus stops or in the local newspaper, newsletter, etc. Pullover lanes might be added on heavily traveled roads, so as not to hinder traffic flow.

Health Care:

Support for improved access to health care in our community and for improved coordination of preventive health service.

Education:

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton reaffirms its support of quality education in Wheaton-Warrenville District 200. Quality education should be sufficiently diverse to meet the needs of all students. Public education should provide a foundation for lifelong learning, which includes critical thinking and communication skills, as well as fundamental knowledge to function independently in society.

Some of the ways to achieve these goals include:

- reasonable and appropriate class size
- teachers and administrators who meet high professional standards
- teachers and administrators maintained in positions for which they are trained

- quality and equity throughout the system of physical plant, program and materials
- mutual trust and communication between the community and school system

Adequate resources are necessary to accomplish these goals, and they should include sufficient constitutionally-mandated state funding and exploration of alternative sources of funding. We support a balanced budget, but not at the expense of quality education.

It is in the interest of the entire community to invest in and support public education. Moreover, the League firmly believes it is also the obligation of the citizens of a participatory democracy to support public education to foster an informed electorate.

AREAS FOR EMPHASIS – 2011-2012

Areas for emphasis include the following issues and will be carried out through the Working Groups in place. They are:

- Diversity
- Education
- Environment
- Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Viable Downtown
- Fiscal Policy/School Funding