

League of Women Voters of Portland: Positions

Updated June 2023

League of Women Voters of Portland, Oregon

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The “League of Women Voters 101: League Basics” and “League of Women Voters of Portland: Positions” were formerly in the annual Member Directory. Now they can be found online at <https://lwvpdx.org>. The LWVPDX Positions are under ADVOCATE and the LWV101: League Basics under ABOUT. Print copies of both are available to members on request.

Current Positions

June 2023

League of Women Voters of Portland members review and affirm our local positions annually.

In addition to the local positions included here, the Portland League also uses LWV of Oregon positions

<https://www.lwvor.org/lwvor-position-index> and LWV of the United States positions

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf>

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I. CITY OF PORTLAND

City Government (2020, 1991, 1965, 1963, 1961)

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes that a thriving, livable city requires a city government that meets these criteria: accountability, responsiveness, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and nonpartisanship.

Our members believe that to more fully meet these criteria, Portland needs to improve its government structure. The highest priorities for change are to improve citizen representation by increasing the number of commissioners, to institute a city manager, and to establish the City Council as a legislative or policy-setting body. We also support electing some or all city councilors by district.

Within the City Council, the mayor should have the same voting power as the other members, establish the council agenda in collaboration with the other councilors, run the council meetings, prepare a city budget for council consideration, and serve as the formal representative of the city.

We support adequate and thoughtful long-range planning in accordance with other published League positions.

We also support adequate and thoughtful coordination with other local governments in accordance with other published League positions.

We believe city government should solicit broad and inclusive input through fully representative, accessible and robust public involvement processes that reflect best practices. The city should also provide adequate feedback on how community input has been used in its decision-making.

Planning (2009, 1974, 1973)

The League of Women Voters of Portland supports comprehensive long-range city planning based on:

- Citizen involvement at all stages of the planning process;
- Communication and coordination among citizens, citizen advisory groups, and city and regional planning agencies;
- Consideration of environmental, social and economic impacts of proposed plans and actions;
- Determination of long-range goals and priorities.

Goals should include:

- Area-wide orderly growth and development;
- A visually attractive urban community with a sustainable and healthful environment and a healthy economy;
- Quality infrastructure and public facilities designed to meet the needs of residents and businesses;
- Fair distribution of tax burdens and government investment.

Economic Development (2015)

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes that economic development is a proper concern for governmental entities including the City of Portland. We define economic development to include the broadest range of activities that contribute to the stability, growth and diversification of the Portland economy, measured by the increase and rate of increase in the median family income and standard of living in Portland.

The most important factors to be considered when promoting economic development are:

- Quality and number of jobs
- A healthful environment

- Creation and preservation of open spaces
- Neighborhood revitalization that benefits existing residents
- Effects on existing local businesses
- Equity issues
- Ability to attract private investment
- Overall return on investment of public funds.

We believe effective strategies to advance economic development goals include infrastructure development, targeted job training, and protection of the industrial land base including brownfield reclamation. Other tools that may be employed with appropriate restrictions and accountability include participation in public-private partnerships, tax increment financing (TIF) for urban renewal, loans of public funds to private enterprises, and tax credits and abatements.

Prosper Portland (formerly known as The Portland Development Commission (PDC)) is Portland's principal redevelopment and revitalization agency. When Prosper Portland uses tax increment financing for urban renewal, the City must consider the impact on overlapping taxing jurisdictions and the essential services they provide. The City should perform regular performance audits to study the effectiveness of urban renewal and TIF in the delivery of the financial benefits promised to taxing jurisdictions. The City should have a limited ability to amend urban renewal areas' duration, maximum indebtedness, or acreage. Urban renewal districts should be reserved for areas that are physically deteriorated, unsafe, poorly planned, or economically stagnant.

The League supports reviewing the City's system of regulations, fees and taxation to identify unnecessary impediments to businesses operating in the city. City regulations should be less vulnerable to differential interpretation at the permit level. Designated staff should assist businesses in navigating development regulations.

The League supports greater investment in education at all levels, including specific workforce training programs as a key component of local efforts to spur economic development. Educational institutions, private industry and government should cooperate to create a workforce with skills relevant to the needs of local industry.

The Auditor's office should evaluate the expenditure of economic development funds and the effectiveness of those expenditures in accomplishing the stated goals. Governmental agencies should hold recipients of public dollars accountable with binding agreements for recovering funds when promised goals are not met.

We support transparency and public participation in all phases of economic development projects: planning, monitoring, and evaluating.

Neighborhood Associations (2007, 1975, 1973)

1. The LWV of Portland believes that Portland's Neighborhood Associations have the potential to serve the public good by providing important opportunities for civic participation and improving neighborhood livability. To meet this potential, Neighborhood Associations must be integrated into city networks of communication and decision-making, and they must be adequately supported by city funding and services. Neighborhood Associations, in turn, need to consistently invite and include all residents in their operations.
2. Portland's neighborhood system structure:
 - Neighborhood Associations should continue to be autonomous entities separate from city government.

- Because Portland's neighborhood system is grassroots in nature, diversity of NA character should be honored. A decentralized system of service delivery is appropriate.
- District Coalitions, in their varied organizational formats, should remain in place as long as they are effective, with funding from the city.
- Uniformity and equity should be pursued where possible but should not come at the expense of effectiveness.

3. The city's role in supporting Neighborhood Associations should consist of:

At the Council and Bureau level:

- Informing Neighborhood Associations of city projects and activities affecting them
- A willingness to solicit and receive neighborhood input
- Consideration of neighborhood needs within city budgeting process
- Funding that is adequate to maintain this system

Through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement:

- Ensuring a neighborhood voice in city operations
- Encouraging better communication between city bureaus and neighborhoods
- The setting forth of healthy governance practices in guidelines for Neighborhood Associations
- Support for neighborhoods and District Coalitions including assistance and adequate funding for communication, outreach, leadership training and technical assistance

4. Successful Neighborhood Associations should:

- Be independent with the authority to set their own agenda
- Have the ability to interact with all government and non-governmental entities
- Work to engage the various populations in the neighborhood
- Respond to neighborhood needs
- Represent neighborhood interests effectively to the city
- Utilize effective means to communicate with neighborhood residents at least twice a year

Neighborhood Associations should not be the only avenue for civic engagement with Portland's government. If resources are adequate, city assistance could be offered to groups other than Neighborhood Associations to increase organizational capacity. When Neighborhood Associations are functioning effectively, with both the resources to do their work, and city's acknowledgement of their role, encouragement should be given to other community groups to channel work on civic issues through the neighborhood system.

Portland Police Bureau (1982)

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes the primary function of the Portland Police Bureau is the protection of life and property through the just and effective enforcement of the law, including crime prevention programs and strong visibility of the police.

Just and effective enforcement of the law demands good police/community relations. We support the specialized education and training of police personnel in human relations, including the use of specialists from outside the Bureau. The selection and assignment of police personnel should reflect the individual's knowledge of and sensitivity to variations in community needs.

We support citizen involvement in the functioning of the Portland Police Bureau including, but not limited to, budget advisory committees, precinct advisory councils, and citizen advisory groups.

Portland Police Bureau: Oversight and Accountability (2021)

Introduction:

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes that a safe, just, and equitable public safety system in Portland requires that the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) meet the following goals:

- Accountability for police officers who violate community standards and PPB policies and directives.
- Reduction in the use of force.
- Fair, equitable, and respectful treatment of community members.
- Reduction of bias-based policing with a goal of eliminating it.

Improving Police Bureau Culture:

Changing the culture within the PPB must be a key goal of the bureau leadership. The PPB must end practices that systematically place police in opposition to or in domination of the public, or that treat community members as enemies. Officers should see themselves in partnership with the community in solving problems and should show respect for all individuals and cultures.

Improving the culture within the PPB should include: officer education in best practices used successfully elsewhere, public involvement, and positive community relations.

Portland Police Bureau policies should require officers to:

- Interact with community members in a professional and courteous manner.
- Consistently show respect for all individuals including those suspected of criminal behavior, experiencing a mental health crisis or causing a public safety concern.

The League supports strengthening when necessary and consistently enforcing PPB policies that apply to interactions with the public and co-workers.

Addressing Bias-Based Policing:

We define bias-based policing as taking harmful actions based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic or housing status, mental or physical ability, or against other groups protected by law or policy. To prevent and reduce bias-based policing with the goal of elimination, PPB should provide ongoing, meaningful anti-bias training at all levels of the organization. The training should be regularly and thoroughly evaluated for its effectiveness in promoting respectful communication and improved understanding of the communities being policed.

PPB should prohibit the use of racial slurs and derogatory bias-based comments by officers while in public and in the workplace. PPB directives prohibiting such language must be supported by every level of the organization, be consistently enforced, and met with appropriate disciplinary actions.

PPB policies and discipline guidelines should include consequences up to and including termination for any officer who has regular or continuous association with groups that are engaged in organized efforts advocating criminal behavior against individuals and groups in the community, including, but not limited to: race, religion, gender, and national origin.

Reducing Use of Force:

Use of excessive force by police not only harms individuals, but seriously erodes community trust. The PPB should set explicit goals to reduce the severity of force used by officers. Techniques such as de-escalation, exhausting other methods before deploying force, and using the least force necessary should be employed to achieve this goal.

The PPB should track its progress by keeping consistent records on the severity and frequency of its use of force. They should make periodic reports that are easily accessible to the public and clearly outline current trends.

Investing in Alternatives:

The city and PPB should invest in programs that assign some duties currently held by bureau members to unarmed, appropriately trained civilian employees. For example, non-sworn personnel with suitable experience and proper preparation can handle administrative tasks or interactions with people in crisis, with mental health issues, or urban camping complaints effectively.

Enhancing Transparency:

The public interest should determine the scope and timeliness of releasing records or information. Whether such information demonstrates an error or misconduct or embarrasses an officer should not be a deciding factor in whether to disclose information to the public.

Strengthening Civilian Oversight and Community Involvement:

Civilian oversight of police should include an accountability system with the following powers:

- Authority to conduct independent investigations of police misconduct, including cases of deadly force.
- Power to subpoena witnesses and other evidence.
- Authority to compel statements from officers and witnesses.
- Meaningful role in determining findings and administering appropriate discipline in misconduct cases.
- Authority to recommend policy changes to the PPB with Portland City Council having the final say in adoption.
- Authority to use its independent judgment when weighing evidence and determining or recommending findings and discipline in misconduct cases. The oversight board's standard of review should not give deference to PPB's internal determinations.

To function effectively, the accountability system must have sufficient public funding to conduct thorough investigations, maintain adequate staffing, and support a community board.

Just and effective enforcement of the law requires good police-community relations. We support meaningful community involvement in the functioning of the PPB including, but not limited to, police oversight boards, budget advisory committees, and both limited duration and standing advisory committees.

II. MULTNOMAH COUNTY

County Government (2004, 1983, 1978, 1976, 1964, 1958)

In the interest of providing economical and efficient county government that is responsive to the people, the League of Women Voters of Portland supports home rule for Multnomah County.

The League of Women Voters of Portland also supports:

- Separation of administrative and legislative functions;
- Salaries of elected officials based on recommendations by outside professional consultants with final approval by the Board of County Commissioners;
- A paid lobbyist (intergovernmental liaison) to represent Multnomah County's interests;
- Election of Multnomah County Commissioners and Auditor;
- Appointment of Sheriff, Assessor and Director of Elections;
- Election of County Commissioners from single-member districts;
- Freedom for an elected official to run for another office without having to resign from his/her current office;
- Filling of vacancies on the board of County Commissioners by appointment, with appointees free to run for election;
- No limit on the number of terms elected officials may serve;
- Clearance of initiative petitions by their sponsors with an officer similar to legislative counsel to ensure correct wording and legal application.

Multnomah County Library System (2004, 1986)

The League of Women Voters of Portland supports a public library system that upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know. We support the library as a basic community service with an assured, stable and adequate source of funding that will allow:

- Provision of library resources in keeping with new ideas and technological advances with an easy to use retrieval system;
- Continual acquisition of materials including books, other multimedia items and software in a variety of formats and languages to serve the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of all library patrons;
- Continued remote access of library resources through the Internet and other state-of-the-art technology;
- Offering reference materials (print and electronic), and the support to utilize these resources, to meet the needs of science and business patrons as well as the general public;
- Access by all persons to public library services spread throughout the county with adequate hours of service;
- Maintaining the Multnomah County Library Internet website as well as other forms of outreach to places where people live, work, and play, taking into account the multilingual nature of our communities;
- Promoting visibility in the community through The Friends of the Library, The Library Foundation and other groups of volunteers

III. EDUCATION

Public School Districts in Portland (2011, 2006 revised, 1980, 1979, 1976, 1975, 1973, 1972, 1971, 1969, 1968)

The League of Women Voters believes that public schools should provide a quality education for all children to develop the greatest potential in each individual, and that public education is critical to the success of our city.

Therefore, the League supports:

1. A quality basic education provided for all students, with services available in an equitable way so that all students have access to comparable services, regardless of circumstances such as income, race, ethnicity, geographical location, or family background.
2. Programs or services provided by districts which offer an alternate approach or focus for students with different learning needs, including a strong mix of off-site and on-site vocational education programs.
3. Teacher evaluation that improves teaching quality and student learning.
4. Grade organization that is determined by a number of factors, including evidence-based research, student needs, logistical impacts, and community input.
5. Adherence to set school boundaries with few exceptions, which may be based on educational, emotional, behavioral, or medical criteria, and offering all students access to a consistent and broad spectrum of classes.
6. Creative approaches to achieve diversity in school populations.
7. Changes in the school education structure (use of buildings) which positively affect the quality of education and which take into consideration the preservation of neighborhoods and the needs of the community.
8. Adequate physical facilities, with buildings and all facilities meeting state and local standards.
9. School districts' decisions on future use of land and buildings based on a plan that takes into account population projections, physical conditions, land use designations, and community needs, with coordination between the City of Portland's Comprehensive Plan and relevant infrastructure facility plans.
10. Effort made to generate income to offset the costs of maintaining desirable underused facilities. Public announcements of all district facility plans, including all underused or not-in-use facilities, with adequate information and opportunity for public discussion and participation in the decision-making.

School Funding (2023 update, 2011, 2000)

The League supports adequate and sufficient funding of public education with public money. While the League of Women Voters of Portland recognizes that the major responsibility for funding public schools has shifted to the state level, the League supports local measures when necessary to ensure quality education.

Therefore, the League supports:

1. Using local taxes such as local property tax and business income taxes to augment the funding provided by the State.

2. Using grants and other temporary funding for professional development, pilot projects, or for other one-time needs.
3. Using a combination of federal, state, and local funds to provide equitable educational opportunities that recognize and support students with differences in abilities whether these are intellectual, physical, or emotional.
4. Allowing private funds to be raised in support of individual schools, provided those funds are shared across the district in an equitable and transparent manner.
5. Tracking and making available to the public information in an understandable format, including class size, per-pupil expenditures, costs for educating special-needs students, or other cost data.
6. Employing the services of a chief financial officer to provide strong, transparent fiscal leadership.
7. Participation by local schools and their communities in budget discussions via site-based management.

Multnomah Education Service District (MESD) (1986)

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes Education Service Districts (ESDs) as currently structured are the most effective way to deliver regional educational services. The option of merging ESDs into fewer units should remain open for future consideration.

The League supports efforts to increase public awareness of MESD services. Such efforts could include the identification of MESD services used by school districts for parents and teachers as well as increased public information activities by MESD.

The League supports election of board members on primary election day. The League also supports wide distribution of sufficient information about the candidates to assure visibility to the voters.

IV. SOCIAL POLICY

Housing (2001, 1989)

City, County and private sectors should continually monitor changes in the population needing affordable housing and address their housing needs.

Criteria to be used when selecting areas for neighborhood revitalization should include neighborhoods: a) at risk of further deterioration; b) showing some evidence of stability, citizen involvement and community support; c) having a community focal point, such as a school, park, community center and/or convenient transportation.

We support a variety of means to encourage private investments in low-income housing, such as tax abatement, tax credits, low-interest loans and grants.

We favor consolidation of City, County and private agencies involved in housing within the City of Portland. Benefits derived from the consolidation include: less duplication, cost efficiency, convenience to the public, shared knowledge and heightened awareness of the importance of adequate housing.

Housing and Homelessness in Multnomah County (2023)

Position in Brief:

Support of equal opportunity in housing.

Support of measures to provide programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Multnomah County residents.

Support for action at all levels of local government for the provision of affordable housing for all Multnomah County residents.

Details:

1. Programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
2. An overall plan for development with integration of housing, land use and transportation and with attention to factors such as natural resources and basic human needs.
3. Financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, tax incentives and other means to encourage housing construction and rehabilitation.
 - a. Broad guidelines for use of these funds with more local decision making.
 - b. Use of fiscal incentives and disincentives to encourage enforcement of housing law.
 - c. Enforcement of use of redevelopment set-aside funds for low- and moderate-income housing.
4. Standardization and modernization of local building and zoning codes to conform with applicable codes that:
 - a. are enforced by trained inspectors
 - b. encourage new and innovative building materials and methods that can be used to cut housing construction costs
 - c. encourage the use of density bonuses; mixed, cluster and inclusionary zoning; second units; infill development; air rights; and increased density along transportation corridors.
5. Protection of the rights of both tenants and landlords.
6. Removal of barriers that inhibit the construction of low- and moderate-income housing.
7. Education of local communities concerning the need for affordable housing and methods by which this can be attained.

Affordable Housing Financing and Administration (1981)

The League of Women Voters of Portland supports:

- Retention of single-room-occupancy (SRO) housing units and support by the City of Portland for rehabilitation for existing units;
- Retention of downtown low-income housing supported by federally subsidized loans, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and federal rent subsidies;
- Encouragement of privately developed, middle-income housing downtown through incentive low-interest loans;
- Avoidance of building closures for building and fire code violations by: a) establishment of a hearings officer position with authority to enforce the code and, b) provision of low-interest loans to building owners for complying with code;
- Consolidation of information on the availability and location of subsidized housing in a master list, which could be located with Home Forward (formerly named Housing Authority of Portland);
- Sufficient housing expertise within the Planning Commission to facilitate effective attention to housing issues in Portland.

As a general policy, the League of Women Voters of Portland does not favor city acquisition of buildings for low-income housing or SRO units. Only if all other means for retaining low-income housing or buildings of

historical importance have failed, should the city purchase such property. The League recommends that some entity other than the city administer buildings acquired in this manner.

The League favors financing of any such building acquisitions by tax increment funds, housing and Community Development Block Grants or revenue bonds.

Community Residential Facilities (2007, 1977)

The League of Women Voters of Portland supports the use of Residential Care Facilities for socially dependent individuals as defined by state law, Residential Training Facilities for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and Residential Treatment Facilities for individuals with alcohol and/or drug dependence and those with mental and/or emotional disorders.

The League supports Community Residential Facilities for individuals with a criminal history provided clients are carefully screened and monitored and consideration is given to the impact on the community.

Community Residential Facilities are licensed by the State. Standards should provide for quality staffing, facilities and care.

Teenage Girls at Risk (1995)

The League of Women Voters of Portland, Oregon supports equal access to appropriate services for at risk girls and boys. These services should be comprehensive in nature and should include outreach, treatment and follow-up.

We support:

- Appropriate services that include consideration of gender, developmental phase, intellectual capacity, cultural identification, sexual orientation, as well as mental and physical clinical considerations.
- A comprehensive service directory plan that includes outreach, emergency services, case management, individual and family counseling, housing and follow-up. Effectiveness of these programs should be evaluated periodically.
- Emphasis on early detection and prevention of child abuse.
- The teaching of parenting skills.
- Strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy which include the following: school-based health centers, sex education programs, teacher training, and the availability of a range of contraceptives at the school-based health clinics.
- Group homes and improved foster care for youth under age 16 in need of housing. Group homes as part of transition services for youth leaving residential treatment programs.
- Gender specific drug and alcohol treatment programs.

Juvenile Justice (2006, 2003, 1997)

1. The general goals and characteristics of the juvenile justice system should be to:

- Protect the public.
- Stress programs for prevention, early intervention and treatment for delinquents and at-risk youth. These programs should provide care, guidance, treatment and control to promote the child's welfare.
- Provide fair and impartial procedures.
- Promote personal responsibility and accountability for one's delinquent acts.
- Reform and rehabilitate offenders.

- Promote swift and decisive intervention.
 - Maintain an open and accountable system.
 - Stress alternatives to detention or incarceration.
2. We believe that mandatory minimum sentencing for a broad range of juvenile crimes is not a desirable goal of the juvenile justice system. The justice system should have some flexibility to consider a youth's family circumstances and personal history. There should be guidelines for sentencing to encourage equal sentences for equal offenses, but these should not be mandatory.
 3. We support the adoption of a "second look" concept for 15- to 17-year-olds convicted of Measure 11 offenses. The purpose of this "second look" should be to encourage rehabilitation. The decision to reduce a sentence should be made in a court hearing before a judge and based on testimony from a panel of professionals acquainted with the case.
 4. Although the over-representation of minorities in the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice system is due in large part to societal problems, we agree with justice officials that the justice system should work to correct this imbalance in the following ways suggested by Krisberg and Austin in their publication *Reinventing Juvenile Justice*:
 - Increase the ethnic balance in law enforcement, probation and court agencies.
 - Require cultural sensitivity training for police, probation officers and judges.
 - Establish drug treatment programs and make them readily available.
 - Create job training and placement programs.
 - Increase involvement of minority communities in police work.
 - Establish family support services in minority communities.
 - Build mentoring programs for at-risk youth.
 5. Services of the justice system, such as parent effectiveness classes, should be extended to family members of youth involved with the justice system. Punishment of parents for the acts of their children should occur only after all other efforts have proved ineffective. An array of possible penalties in addition to financial fines should be available to provide a flexible response to gaining parental cooperation.
 6. Youth under the age of 18 should not be subject to automatic waiver to adult court. Youth under 15 should be assumed incapable of understanding the legal system adequately to stand trial in adult court.

All other juveniles should be evaluated for their competency to stand trial before being turned over to the adult court system.

VI. REGIONAL ISSUES

Promotion of Orderly Metropolitan Government

(2000, 1994, revised 1979, 1967)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County believe that a sense of regional community is vital in dealing with regional issues. We support efforts aimed at developing and expanding this sense of regional community among all residents of the Portland metropolitan region.

We support coordination, cooperation and the delivery of services at a broader level (including bi-state), when needs justify it.

We support a regional government with power to enforce its decisions and with adequate and equitable financing. We support changes in state legislation and the Metro charter which are justified in order for Metro to carry out its prescribed functions.

We recognize that Clark County, Washington, is an integral part of the Portland metropolitan region, and we support Clark County being a participant in regional decision-making, should it wish to do so.

Metropolitan Government (2000, revised 1994, 1992)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support a regional government composed of:

- A council of not more than 13 councilors elected from defined districts; and
- An Executive Director, preferably to be appointed by the council.

Metro should continue to perform the following services and functions: Oregon Zoo, solid waste management, Oregon Convention Center, Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation facilities, transportation planning, surface water run-off coordination, planning and development, and information and assistance to local governments. The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support Metro's involvement in planning for: a parks system, sewage systems, and water supply and distribution systems, in conjunction with local jurisdictions.

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support the following revenue sources for Metro: service or user fees; an excise tax on users of district services or facilities; per capita dues paid by counties, the Port of Portland and Tri-Met; federal and state funds; and general obligation and revenue bonds. The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County also support Metro's consideration of the use of an income tax for additional funding.

Metro should strive to develop visibility and foster communication with the public and local governments by the use of government officials and private citizens on advisory committees, and by creative methods of providing information about its activities to its constituents.

Regional Planning and Governance (1996)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County believe the following issues are of regional concern:

- **Growth management** - affordable housing, long-term planning, parks/open space, urban growth boundaries/densities, economic development
- **Natural systems management** - water, air quality, solid waste/recycling
- **Regional infrastructure** - transportation including ports and airports, sewers, storm water drainage
- **Human services and amenities** - arts, libraries, education, health service, mental health
- **Public safety** corrections, police, emergency preparedness

We believe that efficiency, political feasibility, and economy should be determining factors in cooperative efforts among local governments. Intergovernmental agreements are one method of resolving issues that local governments cannot solve by themselves.

We believe that the entire area benefits from having regional attractors for arts, sports, and recreation. User fees and hotel-motel taxes should be part of the funding for these facilities.

Urban Growth Management (2000, revised 1994, 1992)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support the concept of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), including designation of urban reserve lands for future needs. The UGB should be difficult to change to ensure well-managed growth. Metro should work closely with local jurisdictions to ensure that funding is identified for planning, infrastructure, and services to urban reserves.

Requests for amendments to the UGB should be allowed from Metro, counties and cities with jurisdiction, and landowners. Notice of proposed amendments should be provided to the petitioners, affected property owners, cities and counties, neighborhood associations, and the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). In addition, notice must be published in local newspapers.

Public hearings should be held at all stages of the amendment process, including the city/county level before that governing body makes its recommendation, the Metro hearings officer, the Metro Council before its final decision, and the Metro Council when it hears an appeal. Notice of public hearings should be sent at least 30 days before the scheduled hearing.

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support the concept of Regional Urban Growth Goals and Objectives. We support the development and maintenance of functional wildlife and recreation corridors to create metropolitan greenspace. We also support retention and development of well-planned economic communities, which can include the following components: a mix of housing options, employment, social services, industry, and amenities.

Existing urban land should undergo continuous redevelopment and infill where appropriate.

Metropolitan Transportation (1998, revised 1994, 1987, 1977)

Transportation of People. The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support a metropolitan mass transportation system which is regional, serving all surrounding communities. The system should be integrated into a well-planned metropolitan community and should be a help in preserving the vital city core. It should be a means of equal access for drivers, non-drivers, students, elderly, and handicapped to metropolitan areas, especially to those areas of high employment. The system should be designed with consideration for economy of land use and should not significantly add to sight, sound, or air pollution, nor destroy the livability of the area involved. It should be competitive in convenience, duration and quality of ride with private cars to reduce traffic congestion. The system should be efficient and economical, with attention to cost control and financing; it should be flexibly financed.

We believe financing for a metropolitan mass transportation system should be from a combination of national, state and regional sources. We support diversion of designated gasoline tax funds and use of motor vehicle license fees for mass transit, recognizing that this may mean an increase in these taxes. We support vehicle taxes based on energy efficiency. Keeping in mind special considerations for special categories of service, we believe that mass transit riders should contribute toward the cost of their ride through fare differentials for different levels and types of service. We support a no-fare system within the city core.

In order to shift emphasis from automobile use to mass transportation, we endorse peripheral parking instead of additional core parking. To increase efficiency, small mass transit vehicles whenever feasible should be used for neighborhood districts and outlying communities; better use should be made of buses off-peak hours, and mass transit routes should enable movement directly from one outlying area to another.

Bicycle racks should be located at park and ride stations. We favor continual public education with respect to the mass transit system, conservation and efficient use of energy by public and private transportation, and traffic safety.

Transportation of Goods. The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support the transportation of goods by a variety of modes, realizing the unique capabilities of each mode. Whenever possible, and taking into consideration the commodity and situation, we encourage the use of the most economic and energy-efficient mode, and also the use of multi-modal transportation systems. We believe that communities should have access to some mode of transportation for goods.

Transportation Routes. Transportation routes must be an integral part of all land use planning. Planning for the location and construction of transportation routes must weigh all social and environmental costs, including economy of land use, fuel shortages, and sight, sound and air pollution. Individual citizens and neighborhood groups must be kept informed and insured input and active participation in the planning, development and operation of any transportation program, especially for their own area. To minimize overlapping of functions, governmental agencies should coordinate transportation planning.

TriMet. The TriMet Board of Directors should be appointed by the governor with consideration of regional recommendations and broad district representation. The directors should be compensated for board-approved, out-of-district expenses.

TriMet should continue to be a separate entity and should work with the regional government for planning and resource utilization.

We support a payroll tax within the TriMet service district boundaries, that is broadly based and is equitably shared between employer and employee.

Port of Portland (revised 1994, 1975)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support planned and regulated economic growth. When planning for economic expansion to accommodate population, government should balance economic needs with environmental concerns. The public should be consulted in all planning. Regulatory agencies should continue to enforce the law in their special spheres. We agree that voluntary association of the lower Columbia River ports in Oregon and Washington for planning and marketing might be beneficial. Any movement towards consolidation of the lower Columbia River ports should be initiated by the smaller ports. We agree that Port of Portland commissioners should be appointed by the Governor and to ensure continuity their terms should be staggered.

Solid Waste (revised 1994, revised 1985, 1972)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Portland and Clackamas County support an environmentally sound solid waste management plan. To conserve our resources as much as possible, it should provide for maximum re-use and recycling. In support of this, local units of government should use recycled products whenever economically feasible. Industry should produce less unnecessary packaging, and more standardized and biodegradable containers. It is industry's obligation to discard the "built-in obsolescence" theory and to manufacture better quality products. Local government should foster the use of neighborhood shredders, encourage research for alternatives to burning, and enforce existing laws.

Education of the public about solid waste problems is a primary need. The consumer should be educated to exercise care in purchasing, to demand quality products, to recycle, and to change the throw-away philosophy.

Financing of the solid waste management program must be adequate, economical, efficient, manageable and flexible, covering present and future needs. Financing should be supported by private and commercial interest together with local and regional governments. Financing should be provided by user fees and charges, licensing fees, disposal fees on car bodies and appliances, by bonds, and by federal and state grants and moneys.

The State should have authority over planning, regulation and enforcement of the solid waste program. Collection should be done by private industry with local government (city, county) handling the franchising. Transfer stations, recycling and disposal sites should be under regional jurisdiction.

Regional government should have the authority to initiate the process of siting regional landfills. Local government (city and/or county) land use plans must make it possible to site landfills within their own geographical boundaries. The state shall direct the appropriate state-level authority to accomplish the siting should the regional governing body be unsuccessful in providing a landfill.