

LWV WHEATON LOCAL PROGRAM (POSITIONS) 2016 - 2017

Local Government

Local Government Bodies: *Revised May 2014*

We believe in representative government by districts when geographic population distribution allows. For the city of Wheaton, we support 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 Illinois State Statute (65 ILCS 5/5-2-18.2) (from Ch. 24, par. 5-2-18.2) Sec. 5-2-18.2) 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: *Revised May 2014*

We support Home Rule for the City of Wheaton and DuPage County.

Zoning and Annexation: *Revised May 2014*

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

Cable TV: *Removed May 2014*

Social Policies

Housing:

- We support Open Housing.
- We support housing units and housing assistance for low and moderate income families, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Parks and Recreation: *Adopted June 2016*

Park and recreation systems provide services through local, state, and national agencies. On the local level for the LWV of Wheaton, and our surrounding communities (Carol Stream, Warrenville, West Chicago, Winfield) these services are provided by park districts, special recreation associations, and the DuPage County Forest Preserve.

Illinois is one of the few states that has separate, autonomous units of government of park districts. These units of government have separate elected boards of commissioners, tax levies, and budgets that are not part of a city, village or town. Boundaries of park districts do not have to match, and seldom do match, the city's boundaries.

Special recreation associations are unique to Illinois based on legislation in the 1970's to create cooperative programs serving people with disabilities across many communities. These associations have boards made up of representatives from each member community, regardless of whether it is a park district or recreation department.

The goals of these local public systems are to help preserve land for conservation, active and passive recreation, and improve the quality of life for their residents of all ages. Through productive leisure activities and pursuits, people can engage in fitness and intellectual challenges, gain new skills, and enhance social outlets.

1. Park and recreation systems should offer a variety of diverse recreation activities for all age groups, with consideration of different ability levels, languages, cultural background, financial ability to pay, and time and location.
2. Park and recreation systems should plan for the on-going and future needs of the community and review these masterplans on a regular basis for the cost and value to the community through the input of the community.
3. Park and recreation agencies should seek to stretch their resources through partnerships, intergovernmental agencies and/or external funding sources.
4. Park and recreation agencies should develop and maintain walking and biking path systems. These systems should link to other existing systems.
5. Park and recreation systems should utilize environmental practices, products, and assist with storm water diversion to reduce flooding.
6. Park and recreation systems should maintain a balanced budget.
7. Park and recreation systems should hire and retain qualified, educated professionals in all administrative positions.
8. Park and recreation systems should provide for continuing education opportunities for all staff.
9. Park and recreation systems should strive to be accessible to participants with differing abilities and special needs whenever feasible.

Transportation: Revised June 2016

We support and encourage bicycling for transportation and recreation wherever and whenever possible. Whenever city streets are upgraded, 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.

Planners at the municipal and county level should coordinate travel routes and parking options in order to enable people to travel efficiently to all areas of the region.

Health Care: Revised May 2014

We support improved access to health care and improved coordination of preventive health service.

Education: *Revised May 2014*

We reaffirm our support of quality education. 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.