

Wave Lengths

A publication of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County

January 2007

Planning for Progress

In January of each odd numbered year, our League goes through the rigorous process of planning — to establish the focus of issues we will consider for study. Why do we do this?

The outcome of our planning process helps us identify those issues of concern to us as members of our community and consider the need to study or update studies done in the past. We learn a great deal by participating in this activity and the positions we take enable us to act in several ways.

Example: Currently, the Community Services Consortium is holding public meetings in Benton, Lincoln and Linn Counties. Their mission:

"To help people in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties of Oregon to overcome the causes and conditions of poverty by providing services leading to productive and self-sufficient lives."

Based on what we learned from our Homeless Youth Study, we were able to submit comments to assist that group in their efforts to find solutions to the problems faced by homeless youth and families.

The State League also did a similar study, but the focus of their work was in metropolitan areas in our state where outcomes and efforts differ due to our rural environment.

Included with this newsletter are current state and local positions that have been established based on studies that have completed. Please take the time to review these and consider —

- Is the position based on the study still appropriate, or do we need to update our position?
- Is there an issue or concern that was not included and should be studied?

Please review the materials and bring your responses and questions to the January 25th meeting, or mail to Sue Krein, P. O. Box 1, Depoe Bay, 97341, to assure your concerns are included.

JANUARY MEETING
Thursday, January 25, 2007
12:00 noon
Newport Library

Program Planning Discussion
Brown bag lunch

Proposed Update of Water Policy Position

The League of Women Voters of Lane County seeks the help of local leagues from around the state in encouraging the Board of the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) to recommend an update of the Water Policy and Planning position and an update of the Water Quality position for the 2007-09 program period. We are asking that you consider this request during your annual program planning process.

An update can be described as a review for member education and for possible minor modifications to improve language and relevance. The Water Policy and Planning position was adopted in 1977 and revised in 1985. The Water Quality position was adopted in 1969 and has not been revised since.

Given the number of years that have elapsed since adoption, the positions remain remarkably relevant. They consist of broad principles which address many critical issues that remain of concern. However, we believe it is time for an update.

In 2005, the LWV of Lane County used portions of the two positions to focus our research into water quality and quantity problems in Lane County and elsewhere. What we found was not reassuring: degradation of rivers and streams throughout the Willamette basin, a continuing system of allocating the right to water based on historical uses rather than current needs and community values, and inadequate funding for the state agencies charged with protecting water quality. Many League members and much of the general public are unaware of these problems. Thus, although the League's positions may be fundamentally sound, the identified goals have not been reached and, in some cases, may need to be adjusted.

(Cont'd. page 2, **Water Policy**.)

(From **Water Policy**, page 1.)

What has changed in Oregon since these positions were last studied? More people, denser development, more affluence, better understanding of natural system interrelationships, new pollutants, new technologies, reduced federal and state funding, creative partnerships. Also, many members have joined the League since then, some moving to Oregon from other states, and did not participate in earlier studies.

The recent water shortages in the Klamath basin have highlighted the legal and scientific challenges in allocating scarce resources. At the same time, new strategies are being developed. For example, the Deschutes River Conservancy is working with two irrigation districts to ease the transition from agrarian to urban land uses and to address the associated changes in water requirements.

On the one hand, municipalities must now obtain permits for urban stormwater discharge and take steps to reduce the pollution entering streams from this source, yet the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality continues to issue wastewater discharge permits for the Willamette River and coastal streams that allow large toxic mixing zones. There is clearly much we need to learn about the current state of regulation and innovation to promote the protection and enhancement of water resources in Oregon.

We thank you for your consideration of this information. We would greatly appreciate it if you would express your support for updating both the Water Policy and Planning position and the Water Quality position in your program planning response to the LWVOR Board. We have enclosed brief descriptions of possible scopes for the studies (see below). Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

— Flo Alvergue and Nancie Fadeley, Co-presidents LWV Lane County County

Title: Water Policy and Planning Update

Scope: Undertake a two-year update focused on:

1. Oregon Water Law, which is based on the doctrine of “prior appropriation.”
2. The pricing of water and the economic impact of current law.
3. Strategies and options under current law to promote conservation, make changes in beneficial uses, and manage shortages.
4. Legislative changes needed to manage water for the benefit of the public.
5. The interdependence of land use planning and water for the benefit of the public.
6. Funding the costs of water management.

Based on this research, determine if changes in the wording of the position are necessary.

Title: Water Quality Update

Scope: Undertake a two-year update focused on:

- Trends in laws, regulations, and enforcement.
1. The impact on water quality of urbanization, forest practices, manufacturing, agriculture, water levels, and treatment processes.
 2. Coordination between government and non-government agencies and programs.
 3. Legislation and funding needed to achieve clean water.
 4. Strategies for educating the public.

Based on this research, determine if changes in wording of the position are necessary.

Next LWVLC BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 29, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

West Coast Bank, 506 SW Coast Hwy, Newport

LWV of Lincoln County – Summary of Positions – 1975-2006

Homeless Youth

2006

LWV Lincoln County supports state and local programs and services which intervene to prevent conditions that lead to homelessness.

LWVLC supports the ASF (Adoption and Safe Families Act), which provides funding to local programs and services. LWVLC supports ASF's long range goal-- to put at risk children into a permanent healthy family environment through adoption, or when possible, education and treatment for parents to return the children to their families, or to place them with other family members.

LWVLC supports state, county, city and private programs, specifically including schools, which attempt to identify children at risk before the situation becomes critical.

LWVLC supports and encourages proactive programs to assist youth and families, including affordable housing and emergency shelters, daycare centers for children and improved public transportation systems.

Child Health Position:

2005

1. The LWV of Lincoln County supports the mission, goals and legislated responsibilities of the state Department of Human Services to provide health, childcare and safety services for children and families. The LWVLC also supports the county goals identified by the Lincoln County Children and Families Commission particularly Goal II – Healthy Thriving Children.

2. The LWVLC supports adequate public funding at the national, state and local levels for health and safety services, which include adequate staffing of schools and the child welfare agency; and adequate funding for food and shelter for all children in the County. Specifically the LWVLC supports the widest inclusion of families in the OHP by supporting adequate national funding for Medicaid and expanding health care access of children and families through public clinics with sliding fee scale payment options.

3. The LWVLC supports the Oregon's Progress Board's Benchmark Project as a method for identifying and measuring outcomes of services such as the Child Well-Being Index.

4. The LWVLC supports the development of three needed services in the county:

- A crisis-center for children and families that could provide emergency child care
- Accessible dental care for children
- Mental health services for children and families regardless of income or health insurance eligibility

5. The LWVLC supports a healthy, safe environment for all the children in Lincoln County.

Land Use and Natural Resource Issues in Lincoln County

2001

1. The LWVLC supports all the statewide planning goals of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, with particular emphasis on Goal 5 (open spaces, scenic and historic areas, and natural resources); Goal 17 (coastal shorelands); and Goal 18 (beaches and dunes). We advocate the cooperation and compliance of local jurisdictions in meeting these goals, conducting periodic reviews, and revising local codes and ordinances as appropriate.

2. The LWVLC supports preservation of open spaces in the coastal shoreland, including bays and estuaries. We support actions such as:

- a. Identifying outstanding properties which might be available for purchase,
- b. Advocating for their preservation through scenic easements, transferable development rights or outright purchase by environmental conservancies or other groups.

Land Use (cont'd.)

- b. Supporting and/or recommending local ordinances to preserve open space and/or limit development
- c. Supporting and/or recommending cluster types of developments with limited paving and more open spaces.

Lincoln County School District

2000

The LWV of Lincoln County studied the Lincoln County School District curriculum, organization, and financing in 1984-85. It was determined that the LWV of Oregon on K-12 School District Finance may allow us to take action on some issues under the state position on K-12 School District Finance.

Port Districts

1983

The Lincoln County League of Women Voters supports the use of prudent economic development strategies by port districts within the county when such activities are undertaken with public knowledge and participation and are consisted with adopted land-use planning. We believe that the port districts should try harder to educate and inform the public about port business.

Domestic Violence Services

1979

The Lincoln County League of Women Voters believes that resources should be available throughout the county to provide shelter, referral and counseling services to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We support legislative domestic violence laws and ask that they be enforced. We believe there should be cooperation at all levels among agencies providing services.

Siletz Indian Tribe Restoration

1977

The Lincoln County League of Women Voters supports legislation to restore the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon as a federally recognized Sovereign Indian Tribe and also to restore to these Indians, Federal Services and benefits furnished to federally recognized American Indian Tribes.

Libraries

1975

The LWV of Lincoln County supports county-wide public library services.

	Retain	Drop	Update	Restudy	Comments
Homeless Youth					
Child Health					
Land Use/Natural Resources					
LC County School District					
Port Districts					
Domestic Violence Services					
Siletz Indian Tribe Restoration					
Libraries					

Summary of Statewide Positions, League of Women Voters of Oregon, 2006

GOVERNANCE

Constitutional Provisions, Adopted 1963; Revised 1980

Promote a basic framework of state government, free of obsolete material and statutory detail, with basic democratic rights, a legislative assembly—apportioned by population, adequately salaried and permitted to meet in annual session; a strengthened executive branch, administrative post-audits, a uniform judicial system, and effective local government. Revision of the Constitution should be permitted by use of the constitutional convention, initiative amendment or legislative amendment.

Economic Development Revenue Bonds, Adopted April 1983

Support authority to issue economic development revenue bonds by the state, ports and large cities (more than 300,000 population), as well as support for other economic stimulants.

Election Laws, Adopted 1987; Revised 1997 Promote publicity on registration, election dates, ballot contents; statewide centralized registration; a shortened registration cutoff; the use of vote-by-mail; county clerk certification; fewer election dates; a state-issued Voters' Pamphlet with guidelines.

Emergency Board, Adopted 1982

Support the Board's use to provide fiscal adjustments between legislative sessions with provision for balanced representation, public participation and legislative review.

Fiscal Policy - Tax System, Adopted 1965-66, 1973; Revised 1971, 1973, 1979, 1984, 1992, 1993, 1999; Educational Update 1999

Support criteria for evaluating tax proposals, fiscal responsibility of local government, a progressive income tax, sales tax with reduced regressivity, local property tax with exemptions, school district financing by the state and the removal of the emergency clause restriction on revenue measures.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall Position, Adopted 1988; Revised 1996

Educational Update 2001 Support the right of Oregon citizens to propose or revise statutes through the direct initiative; discourage amending the Oregon Constitution by the initiative process but, if allowed, support specific restrictions; support petition, referendum and recall. Oppose paying petition circulators by the signature.

Judicial System, Adopted 1979

Support criteria for evaluating the judge selections system and the financing of district and circuit courts.

NATURAL RESOURCES Air Quality, Adopted May 1968

Promote shared responsibility among all segments of society (government, industry, agriculture and individual citizens) for improved air pollution abatement practices.

Offshore and Coastal Management, Adopted May 1990

Oppose oil and gas and marine mineral exploration and development within Oregon's territorial sea and federal lease sales within the U.S. Economic zone off the Oregon coast, any diminishment of the Land Conservation and Development Commission Goal 19's strong environmental and natural resources conservation policy giving clear priority to long-term renewable resource uses; support for public involvement in decisions about offshore exploration and development and related offshore facilities.

Energy Conservation, Adopted May 1973; Educational Update 2003

Support state policies which promote long-range planning for conservation and wise development of energy sources and public input on the development of particular sources and the siting of specific installations.

Nuclear Energy, Adopted May 1980

Support a nuclear power program managed to protect current and future generations and maintain an environment beneficial to life.

Land Use, Adopted May 1995; Educational Update 2002

Support citizen participation, education, communication and ongoing reevaluation in comprehensive planning; support LCDC's 19 statewide land use goals and policies that promote both conservation and development of land as a natural resource. Support a system of local government based on constitutional home rule, recognizing the principles of democratic representation and control, basic simplicity.

Summary of Positions, LWVOR – 2006 (Cont'd.)

Land Use, Adopted May 1995; Educational Update 2002

Supports basic simplicity of democratic representation and power to plan for the future and consideration of the interdependence of land use, transportation and environmental quality. Supports the appointment of Citizen Involvement Committees, separate from planning commissions.

Parks, Adopted January 1999

The park system is an appropriate function of state government, should provide protection and preservation of natural, cultural and historic resources, and provide recreation and education programs, protect public ownership of and access to ocean beaches. It should be adequately funded and should utilize long-range planning.

Seismic Risks, Adopted March 1995

Support education and preparedness to mitigate earthquake and tsunami hazards, including evaluating dams for risk and taking remedial actions. All levels of government share responsibility.

Water Policy and Planning, Adopted January 1977; Revised March 1985

Support for a water policy managed for the benefit of the public, the recognition of the interdependence of land use and water planning, the coordinated planning for the use of both surface and ground water and the shared cost of water management by all water users.

Water Quality, Adopted January 1969

Support promotion of comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and improvement of water quality.

Water Resources of Columbia River and Columbia River Task Force, Adopted 1979

Support for comprehensive planning in the Columbia River Basin for conservation, development and management of water. Minimum stream flows should be established and maintained on all streams in the Columbia River Basin.

SOCIAL POLICY

Adult Corrections, Adopted August 1983

Support a full range of correctional programs for adult offenders with alternatives to incarceration, adequate facilities, comprehensive transitional program and sentencing guidelines.

Child Care, Adopted March 1989

Support a diverse child care system with is available, accessible and affordable with adequate compensation and recognition for caregivers of children.

Children at Risk, Adopted January 1995

Support comprehensive statewide locally-based program and services for teen pregnancy prevention and to assist pregnant teens and teenage parents, with the state having the primary funding responsibility, and support for required curriculum relative to teen pregnancy and parenting.

Public Postsecondary Education, Adopted January 1985

Promote a broad spectrum of higher education for professional, vocational and personal enrichment for all qualified and motivated individuals with specific policies related to the Oregon State System of Higher Education, Community Colleges and Board and Commissions.

Farmworker Issues, Adopted January 2001

The state has a role in support of the sound and fair relationship between farmers and the agricultural workforce, with the goal of economic and social justice for both parties.

Adult Mental Health in Oregon, Adopted January 1987; Educational Update 2001

Support comprehensive, integrated adult mental health delivery system (fed, state, local, private funds) in the least restrictive environment possible with consistent and equitable civil commitment process.

Mental Health Services for Children and Youth, Adopted January 1975

Support a coordinated plan for comprehensive mental health services for all levels of need under the direction of a single service agency responsible for basic state standards with sufficient funds to implement state-mandated programs.

Juvenile Justice, Adopted March 1981; Educational Update 2000

Promote the coordinated planning and implementation of juvenile services with priority on prevention; a variety of services, separation from incarcerated adults, diversion of status offenders, basic state standards, dependable funding and uniform data system, with right-to-privacy.

LWVOR Program Planning

Local League **LWV of Lincoln County**

Date _____

Number Present _____

Drop: Position may not again be incorporated

Update: Add background information to support the position, usually can be provided by Portfolio Chair into the program without a new study.

Retain: No change in position.

Restudy: Requires a resource committee which informs members and may seek a new member agreement on the position.

Proposed New State Study Items: Include Title, Scope, and Outlook for Work; use additional sheet if necessary.

PRESENT POSITIONS	RETAIN	DROP	UPDATE	RESTUDY
GOVERNANCE				
Constitutional Provisions				
Economic Development Revenue Bonds				
Election Laws				
Emergency Board				
Fiscal Policy				
Initiative and Referendum				
Judicial System				
NATURAL RESOURCES				
Air Quality				
Coastal Management (and Offshore)				
ENERGY:				
Conservation				
Nuclear				
Land Use				
Parks				
Seismic				
WATER:				
Policy and Planning				
Quality				
Resources—Columbia Basin				
SOCIAL POLICY				
Adult Corrections				
Child Care				
Children at Risk				
Education—Postsecondary				
Farmworker Issues				
HEALTH POLICY:				
Adult Mental Health				
Mental Health Services .for Children/Youth				
Juvenile Justice				