

The League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls, Texas

PROGRAM OF ACTION & STUDY, 2011-12

At the Annual Membership Meeting, May 2011, the following Local Program was approved.

1. Financing City Government.

[1979] The League supports a budget process which takes into account long-range planning, budget evaluation, and encourages public input. **(2011)** Retained, with restudy.

2. Mental Health//Mental Retardation Center.

[1979 & 2002] The League supports the work of the Helen Farabee Regional Mental Health//Mental Retardation Center, with the following goals: *(a) More & better education* for the public, in order to understand & be more supportive of the mentally ill. *(b) Increased funding* from the City, County and State, as well as developing grant opportunities from Federal & public sources. *[c] Expanded services*, such as supportive housing, day care facilities & opportunity workshops for job training & employment. **(2011)** Position retained.

3. Wichita Falls Public Library.

[1990 & 1996] The League supports significant improvement and upgrading of the library, including branch outlets, and a wide array of modern services. **(2011)** Position retained.

4. Recycling in Wichita Falls.

[1998] The League strongly supports feasible and practical methods of recycling that the city, county, and other entities have or may begin, including curbside recycling. We support educating the public on the Three R's - - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. **(2011)** Position retained with recommendation that the League's Recycling Brochure be updated periodically.

5. Boards & Commissions of the City of Wichita Falls.

[2004] The League supports: *(a) Greater Awareness:* The League encourages the Times Record News to publish a series of articles on the Boards & Commissions, their history, membership, scope, need for participation, and encourages other community publications to cover this subject, also. *(b) Member Recruitment:* The League

asks the City to prepare brochures for citywide distribution about the Boards & Commissions; conduct periodic publicity campaigns; and focus on those areas where membership on Boards & Commissions is low, especially in minority areas. *[c] League Participation:* The League is ready to assist in the preparation or distribution of such brochures on how to get involved in the work of these bodies, listing what they are, what they do, and how to become a member. The League also encourages its members, and the public, to become participants in the Boards & Commissions process. **(2010)** Position retained.

6. Water Resources for the City of Wichita Falls & Region B.

(2006) The League supports: *(a) Water Access:* Access to water for basic needs as a right of every citizen. *(b) Water Planning:* The League encourages Region B to consider water conservation as the primary water planning strategy for Region B; to include consideration of environmental flows in Region B water planning; to use agricultural and industrial water conservation best management practices in the Region B water plan. *[c] Government Responsibilities:* The League asks governing entities to consider

water use//availability when planning for business//municipal development; and to support public awareness//education on the issue of water conservation and the use of various incentives to encourage wise water resource use. **(d) League Participation:** A League representative will attend Region B Water Planning Group meetings and public hearings, when possible, and we will actively lobby in support of this position; the League will actively support water conservation awareness among its members and the public at large; and will support consolidation of water management agencies to improve focus on this critical issue. **(2010)** Position retained.

7. Ethics in the City of Wichita Falls Local Government.

(2008) The League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls supports the development and implementation of a City of Wichita Falls ethics ordinance (or Ethics Code), which contains the following elements:

(a) A description of ethics rules enforceable by the City of Wichita Falls; **(b)** The creation of an independent Ethics Review Board; **[c]** A complaint mechanism; and **(d)** An enforcement process which is appropriate. **(2011)** Position retained.

8. Parks & Recreation Facilities in the Wichita Falls Area.

(2010) The League recognizes that parks, open spaces, and a variety of recreational activities provide enhanced quality of life for citizens of the community. In the Wichita Falls area there are many opportunities for a variety of enjoyable activities through the many public and private organizations. Therefore the League **(a)** Encourages the city to continue to plan for increased parks and open spaces for future requirements; **(b)** Encourages the city to continue to provide a variety of activities geared to different interests, ages, demographics, and abilities; **[c]** Encourages the city to assure the maximum public access to public lands, lakes, and facilities; **(d)** Encourages the media to continue to publicize local events and activities so citizens will know the many activities available for their participation. **(2011)** Position retained.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

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The League's Program of Action & Study rests on grassroots-level input and includes program planning and efforts to reach agreement on issues, with a range of advocacy activities to seek passage of these positions. Our positions are directed at local or Wichita Falls regional issues.

We are a member of the State League, LWV-Texas, and the National League, LWVUS, which also have program positions on State or National Issues. These can be found at:
State League www.lwv.org
National League www.lwvtexas.org