

LWV Positions

- * City of San Diego
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- * United States

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LWV SAN DIEGO, POSITIONS IN BRIEF

I. Government

City Government (before '71, revised '83, '89, '95, '96, '00)

('95) LWVSD supports the current Council-Manager system of government. The Mayor should be involved in the planning of the budget from the beginning of the budget process. San Diego City government should promote responsive, responsible and efficient government with adequate checks and balances of power, with equal opportunities for all citizens and with provisions for citizen participation.

The City Charter should be a general outline of governmental responsibility, with details of administration in ordinances. Council members should be nominated and elected by districts; ('95) they should have salaries and staff commensurate with their full-time responsibilities as the city's legislative and policy-making body.

The League has developed standards for redistricting which include openness to the public and equal distribution in geographically contiguous districts. Redistricting should be done by a nonpartisan commission when population changes cause imbalance; at least every ten years.

The Mayor should develop an annual legislative program, recommend policy, and be responsible for human relations leadership.

The Mayor should remain a member of the Council and, as such, participate in the selection and termination of, and the giving of policy instruction to, the City Manager.

Vacancies in the offices of mayor or council should be filled by special elections if the vacancy is for a year or more.

City Manager ('95): The City Manager should be appointed by the City Council and should be responsible for enforcement of the laws and ordinances, for preparation and execution of the budget, and for the flow (though not the control) of information to the Council.

City government should seek solutions to problems of discrimination.

Planning Department ('96): LWVSD supports a separate Planning Department headed by a Planning Director reporting directly to the City Manager or City Council. LWVSD supports including, as part of the General Plan, an implementation program commitment to facilities financing. LWVSD supports the current Council Policy to update the General Plan every five years with sufficient funding and personnel to meet the five-year goal.

Police-Community Relations (before '71, revised '75 & '84) : The City Council has responsibility for police-community relations policies and programs within the entire Police Department. There should be continued training, especially in the area of human relations, high standards for police personnel, and pay competitive with that of other large cities in the state.

Civil Service System of Employment ('74, revised '75) : City government should maintain a civil service system of employment. Politics should be completely separated from all aspects of classified employment. The city should be a leader in using affirmative action procedures in all employment processes.

Fiscal Management (before '71, revised '76, '91, & '00) : San Diego should have an equitable and balanced tax structure considering revenues within the total tax structure. At the beginning of the annual budget cycle, the Mayor and Council should set priorities and develop guidelines for City Manager to use in preparing the budget. There should be an independent budget analyst available to the Mayor and Council Members. Public hearings to allow citizen comment should be held at this early stage. LWVSD supports LWVC efforts to amend Prop 13 (Jarvis) and Prop 4 (Gann) in ways consistent with our overall fiscal goals of flexibility, equity, and adequacy.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) ('02) League supports: 1) A TOT budget and TOT fund that are clear and user-friendly for appropriate public use with annual reporting of the fund balance. 2) A collaborative strategic planning process to establish TOT funding priorities. 3) A TOT administrator responsible for all TOT-related business, who reports to the City Manager. Responsibilities include administering the TOT ordinance, strategic planning, developing and implementing measures of efficiency and effectiveness of programs and making financial records available for auditing. 4) Using the Special Promotional Programs (SPP) share of TOT funds for more than promoting growth related to the tourism industry. 5) Restoration of the contribution of TOT funds to the Housing Trust Fund. 6) Basing the TOT rate on the rates charged by competing cities while taking into account potential negative impact on the tourism industry. 7) Full cost recovery from TOT to serve visitors.

II. Social Policies

Education (before '71, revised '76, '79, '86 & 90): The San Diego public school system should ensure quality education for all and seek to eliminate majority and minority isolation. The system should provide an adequate financial program, quality counseling and guidance programs, individualized, innovative curricula and compensatory education programs. LWVSD supports the concept of school-based health clinics.

Counseling: (2003) LWVSD believes the San Diego City Schools should provide a comprehensive quality counseling program for all students in grades K-12 which is developmental and systematic in nature, sequential, clearly defined and accountable, and proactive and preventive in its focus. The program should be in line with national, state and county professional standards. A collaborative district and community counseling and guidance advisory committee should be established.

Health Education & Fitness: (2003) LWVSD believes the SDCS has a role in solving the growing problems of obesity, eating disorders and lack of physical fitness in the student population by ensuring required physical education, nutrition and healthy living classes. Vending machines in schools should contain only nutritious foods and drinks.

Referral Resources: (2003) LWVSD supports the development of a central database of referral resources for student services available to staff, students and the community.

Budget for Student Services: (2003) LWVSD believes the SDCS budget should reflect an appropriate balance between funding for academic achievement and student services.

Housing ('78, revised '83): LWVSD supports a policy to effect the development of economically and racially balanced communities in all parts of the city as well as in newly developing areas. LWVSD supports restrictive codes or ordinances that would slow the conversion of apartments to condominiums; the use of city-owned land to facilitate the development of low and moderate-income housing, including the use of manufactured or modular housing.

Seriously Mentally Ill ('94) : City government should respond to the needs of the seriously mentally ill (SMI) people through: streamlining access to and coordination of services, providing shelters and housing, appropriate training and support of police, an action-oriented Blue Ribbon Task Force, and better coordination of services by city and county governments and the private sector.

Libraries

Finance ('81): Public libraries are an obligation of local government with funds augmented by state and federal funds. LWVSD strongly supports the free use of basic library services but feels that additional methods of augmenting library funds must be explored.

LWVSD supports consolidation of city and county systems, either complete or by major function.

Central Library Siting ('89): LWVSD considers these factors to be the most important in siting a Central Library (listed in descending order): size, cost, architecture, public transportation access, downtown, parking. A Central Library should be built large enough to encompass all present and projected functions for a minimum of 50 years.

III. Land Use and Planning

Centre City Development ('76 & '77, revised '83 & '84): LWVSD supports revitalization of the downtown area. Development of Centre City should be pursued with an emphasis on human concerns and follow a master plan to provide cohesion among projects. The goal should be a twenty-four hour community that includes

housing, commercial and government use and open space. A transportation system should be planned in conjunction with a regional system. Present residents should not be displaced.

Parks (before '71, revised '76 & 83): Local government has the responsibility to provide a public park system for the citizens of San Diego. Citizens should participate in the formation of park policy. Land set aside for park use should not be withdrawn without a vote of the people and should not be used for long-term leasing to non-profit recreational organizations or to commercial enterprises.

San Diego Unified Port District ('91): The San Diego Unified Port District should include protection of the natural environment as a primary responsibility, emphasize recreation for the general public, maintain a balance of maritime commerce and other business, and be accountable and responsive to member cities and the public.

South Bay Planning ('81, revised '83 and '93): LWVSD supports planning policies that will produce well-planned communities. LWVSD supports the restoration, enhancement, preservation and protection of the wetlands within the Sweetwater Marsh and National Wildlife Refuge. LWVSD supports continuing development of local park and recreational facilities with emphasis on providing services to those areas that are currently deficient.

Transportation ('80): LWVSD supports an expanded public transit system funded by governmental (preferably local) subsidies and the fare box, paratransit innovations, coordinated social service transit and vehicle pooling. Maintenance of streets and freeways should be given first priority with new construction only where essential.

Urban Development ('71, revised '72 & '79): Local government has the responsibility for planning, influencing and implementing sound community development on a comprehensive, long-range and flexible basis. Development should be based on criteria considering community needs, financial soundness, aesthetic and social needs.

IV. San Diego/Tijuana Interrelationships

('81 & '82)LWVSD strongly favors efforts by all levels of government to foster greater communication, understanding, and cooperation between San Diego and Tijuana. The areas in which there is the most urgent need for cooperation are sewage and water.

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