



Local Positions

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
PRINCIPLES	3
GOVERNMENT	4
City Government	4
City Council	4
Mayor	5
Standards for Redistricting: (1989)	5
Planning Department	5
Police	6
Ambulance Contract for the City of San Diego, 2018	6
Civil Service System of Employment	6
Fiscal Management	7
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)	8
Port of San Diego (2015-2016)	8
Options For Unincorporated Communities (1988)	8
San Diego County Government	9
Regional Planning (1970)	10
Financing County Government (1992)	10
Fire Protection (2008-10)	11
SOCIAL POLICIES	11
Education	11
Early Childhood Education (2011)	12
Education Action Policy (2022)	12
Child Advocacy (1980, County)	15
Homelessness (2018, County)	16
Housing	17
Housing Action Policy (2021)	17
Public Libraries	27
Needs of the Seriously Mentally Ill	28
Campus Justice & Sexual Assault (2015)	29
Policing Practices	30
LAND USE AND PLANNING	31
San Diego City Urban Development	31
Land Use (1975, County)	32
Parks	32
Transportation	33
Transportation Action Policy (2021)	34

Sewerage (1992)	40
San Diego/Tijuana Inter-Relations (1982)	40
Agriculture in San Diego County (2016)	40

INTRODUCTION

The San Diego County positions included in this document stem from the work of the League of Women Voters of San Diego County, or ILO, including members of the LWV South Bay, LWV East County (formerly Grossmont League), LWV Escondido, and the two remaining Leagues in the County: the LWV San Diego and LWV North County San Diego. When the County League was dissolved in 2017, both the LWVSD and the LWNCSO voted to retain these county and regional positions as part of their local positions. The two Leagues also established a structure to continue to work cooperatively, including undertaking joint studies when appropriate. The first of these efforts was our 2018 position on Homelessness. Some studies remain applicable as originally written. Others have been updated. The earliest date indicates the adoption of the position after a study; subsequent dates indicate updated positions after further study.

PRINCIPLES

League Principles underlie all positions and League action and apply to every level of the League of Women Voters. They are concepts of government to which the League subscribes. The Principles are rather broad when standing alone, so it is necessary to exercise caution when considering using them as a basis for action. The national board suggests that any action on the Principles be taken in conjunction with current League positions to which they apply and on which member agreement and understanding are known to exist. (LWVUS, Impact on Issues, 2012-2014)

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

GOVERNMENT

City Government

Government Structures and Procedure: LWVSD supports city government with structures and procedures that promote responsive, responsible and efficient government with adequate checks and balances of power, with equal opportunities for public participation and engagement in government. (2009, 2017)

Public Participation: City government should facilitate accountability and public participation within its structures and procedures, which should be:

Efficient and Effective

- Providing the simplest structure to serve clearly defined purposes and functions, avoiding unnecessary duplication and taking advantage of cost-saving technologies.
- Providing for analysis of costs and benefits of offices and programs that takes into account social, economic, and political considerations and that utilize community expertise.
- Providing for regular review and termination of offices or programs if their purpose is not achieved or a function becomes obsolete.
- Having a direct effect upon decision-making and providing necessary leadership orientation.

Equitable

- Providing services and opportunities for participation on an equitable basis to all areas of the city, with due consideration for differing neighborhood needs.
- Providing for resident input which is representative of geographic areas and social composition.

Accessible

- Providing easily available and sufficient information to residents to receive services and to participate, with times and locations of meetings and costs to participants considered.
- Providing for public access to meetings, agendas, reports, and records of meetings and persons making decisions.

Forward-Looking:

- Articulating a coherent perspective of the present and future directions of a city, with attention to long and medium range planning and to the marshaling of resources to provide the necessary infrastructure for such a perspective. (1995, 2017)

City Council

Council members should be nominated and elected by districts; they should have salaries and staff commensurate with full-time responsibilities as the city's legislative and policy-making body. In the event of a vacancy on the council, a special district election should be held if the vacancy is for a year or more. If the vacancy is for less than a year, it should be filled by appointment as provided in the city's charter. (1983) A balance of power is necessary between the legislative branch and the administrative branch of city government. Members of the city council should elect a council president to serve a term of one year. The council president should set the council agenda. Three or more council members should have authority to place an item for consideration on the docket. The city council should take responsibility for ensuring that legislation and policies that have been enacted are carried out. (2009, 2017)

Mayor

The mayor should have salary and staff commensurate with full-time responsibilities. (1995) In the event of a vacancy in the office of mayor, a special election should be held if the vacancy is for a year or more. (1983) If less than one year, then the President of the Council should serve as mayor for the balance of the year. The mayor should respond to requests for information from the public or the city council in a timely manner. The mayor should also arrange to hear concerns from individual residents and community groups on a regular and consistent basis in a public venue. (2009, 2017)

Standards for Redistricting (1989)

The redistricting process should include:

- specific timelines for the steps leading to adoption of the redistricting plan;
- public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption;
- an automatic, non-judicial backup procedure in the event of a deadlock; and
- a requirement that any redistricting plan drawn be adopted by more than a simple majority vote.

Redistricting plan standards, regardless of who has responsibility for redistricting should include:

- substantially equal populations;
- geographic contiguity;
- protection from diluting voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority; and
- preservation and protection of “communities of interest” to the extent possible.

The redistricting plan standards should not allow the goal of protecting incumbents or preferential treatment of one political party. Each district should consist of 100,000-150,000 people or less. Redistricting should be done by a special non-partisan commission. The preferred method is the formation of a redistricting commission by having:

- an appointing authority consisting of a three member panel of retired judges plus an alternate in order to preclude appointments being made by only two members;
- a nine member commission to allow for the possibility of a representative from each council district; and
- the commission includes representatives of historically excluded group interests and public interest groups. (1989, 2017)

Planning Department

LWVSD supports a separate planning department headed by a planning director reporting directly to the mayor or city council. Functions performed by this department should include: preparation of the general plan and community plans; preparation of project plans; management of land use and development; coordination and review of plans and projects with other departments and jurisdictions; active participation in the preparation of the capital budget; research in cooperation with other agencies; public service and education environmental review.

LWVSD supports including, as part of a general plan, an implementation program which includes a capital improvements program and commitment to facilities financing.

LWVSD supports maintenance of a general plan, preparation of an annual progress report on achievement of general plan goals, objectives and policies and where appropriate, amendments as needed. Maintaining the plan should be an on-going process using available technology with extensive public participation. Sufficient funding and personnel should be dedicated to the process to keep it current. (1996, 2017)

Police

Police Protection: Support of adequate funding for an efficient police protection and crime prevention system and community involvement in crime prevention programs.

Police-Community Relations: The city council has the responsibility for police-community relations policies and programs within the entire police department and the community. The city council should regularly evaluate and reassess policies for complaint procedures. (before 1971) There should be continued training, especially in the area of human relations, behavioral health and sexual assault; high standards for police personnel (1975); and salary competitive with that of other large cities in the state. (1984, 2017) The League supports having a community review board on police practices. It should have the power to investigate all in-custody deaths and officer involved shootings. In order to better carry out its responsibilities, the board should have an independent attorney and the subpoena power. (2017)

See also Policing Practices under Social Policies, page 18.

Ambulance Contract for the City of San Diego, 2018

The League of Women Voters of San Diego believes that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is an essential core service. The City of San Diego is responsible for any contracts made to provide this service and should carefully monitor them both within the Fire-Rescue Department and through the Contract Department. No contract should be written without an independent cost-benefit analysis and a program audit. Any change in fees should be preceded by a financial audit of the EMS contractor. It is preferable that equipment and staffing be provided by the City's Fire-Rescue Department. If outsourcing is contemplated, the City could be a bidder for EMS services.

The City's EMS should meet best practices such as the duration of the contract and quality of service including personnel practices, quality of care, response time, equipment and training. The City should pursue innovative means to reduce costs for EMS. Revenues could be supplemented by local taxes.

Civil Service System of Employment

City government should maintain a civil service system of employment, which is guided by the principles of political neutrality, job competition by merit and equal opportunity for all through a commitment to the affirmative action needed to make openness of employment a reality.

Political Neutrality: Politics should be completely separated from all aspects of classified employment, recruitment, hiring, firing, promotion, and disciplinary action.

Structure: The system should include job classification and a balance of power and responsibility shared by a civil service commission, the mayor and council, and the city attorney.

Recruiting and Selection: In order to employ qualified, competent people who represent a broad spectrum of the community and are committed to public service, a city should:

- base selection on job-related skills;
- advertise job opportunities through all forms of the news media and provide wide knowledge of and access to job bulletins;

- conduct on-going evaluations of minimum requirement with emphasis on individual background;
- credit related volunteer and part-time experience as job qualifications;
- inform applicants of their rights in the employment process;
- ensure applicants understand job descriptions and how their qualifications apply to city jobs;
- conduct job-related oral interviews utilizing uniform questions. Involve resident interviewers from all segments of the community when appropriate;
- develop training and apprentice programs; and
- give consideration to veterans in the hiring process.

Working Conditions: The city should maintain procedures and incentives to encourage diversity in the hiring of employees and further encourage present employees to pursue career opportunities; promotional exams should be open to city employees as well as those outside city employment. Employees should be periodically evaluated for their competence and supervisors should create a positive atmosphere to achieve efficient employee performance. Probationary employees should be given rights of appeal.

Equal Opportunity: The city has the obligation to follow hiring procedures in all employment processes (recruiting, testing, selection, hiring, and promotion) to include more women and minorities in the work force and it should utilize statistics to assure attainment of its hiring goals. (1974, 1975, 2017)

Fiscal Management

Revenues: A flexible and equitable structure should include revenues derived from sources based on an ability to pay, with a combination of local, state, and federal revenues and with low administrative costs compared to revenue produced. (1991, 2017)

Budget Development: At the beginning of the annual budget cycle, the mayor shall propose a balanced budget for consideration by the city council. (1976, 2017) The city council should set priorities and guidelines to use in preparing the budget. (1976) The mayor should also prepare a multi-year financial forecast at the beginning of the annual budget process. There should be an independent budget analyst available to the council members. (2000) Public hearings should be held early and throughout the budgeting process. Local control and flexibility are essential in the budgeting process. (1991, 2017)

User Fees: For those services which benefit the entire community or promote general health, welfare and safety, it is more desirable to rely on general fund financing rather than charging user fees.

Federal and State Funds: Funds from other governmental levels should be sought when compatible with long-range planning and community needs and when local government is involved in the planning and administration of such funds.

Capital Improvements and Bonding: Given a major backlog of infrastructure improvements, the League endorses an Infrastructure Fund which sets aside a portion of General Fund revenues for capital improvements and infrastructure. However, bonding is the most desirable method of financing capital improvements, and local government should make greater use of its bonding capacity, with general obligation bonds preferred over methods which incur continuing liabilities without voter approval. (2017) As part of the annual budget process, the mayor should propose an updated multi-year capital improvements program. Revenue bonds may be used where there is a specific revenue stream in place to fund a particular improvement or improvements. Revenue bonds should require a $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of the city council. Proceeds from the sale of city-owned property are another acceptable form of funding capital improvements. (2017)

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

LWVSD supports:

- a TOT budget and TOT fund that are clear and user-friendly for appropriate public use. The fund balance should be publicly reported annually;
- a collaborative strategic planning process to establish TOT funding priorities;
- a TOT administrator responsible for all TOT-related business, who reports to the mayor. 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;
- not limiting the Special Promotional Programs share of TOT funds to promoting growth related to the tourism industry;
- restoration of the contribution of TOT funds to a Housing Trust Fund;
- basing the TOT rate on the rates charged by competing cities. The rate should take into account potential negative impact on the tourism industry;
- full cost recovery from TOT to serve visitors. (2002)

Port of San Diego (2015-16)

- 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 the member cities, port tenants and to the public.
- The tidelands belong to the public and should be used to promote public rather than exclusively private purposes.
- The Port District Act of 1962 should be amended to include protection of the natural environment as a primary responsibility.
- Recreation for the general public, free or at minimal cost, should have high priority in decisions about the use of the port and waterways.
- Member cities should share in surplus funds of the District.
- Commissioners should be appointed by the city councils of member cities. The optimal number of commissioners is seven, with three commissioners representing San Diego and one commissioner each for the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach and National City.
- The Port District should promote clean air, healthy communities, and environmental justice which shall be defined as working to reduce the cumulative health burdens on neighboring communities and ensure fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes in developing, adopting, implementing and enforcing environmental laws, regulations and policies.
- Port Commissioners should present a periodic report of Port plans and activities to their respective appointing authorities as is now the practice required by the San Diego City Council (Council Policy 700-20 April 24, 2013).

Options For Unincorporated Communities (1988)

Support efforts of communities to achieve self-government with equality of representation and efficient delivery of needed services.

San Diego County Government

Public Participation In County Government and San Diego Regional Agencies (1978)

Support of informed and active participation of residents in San Diego County government and regional agencies requiring:

- adequate notice and information about proposed actions, using various avenues of publicity;
- provision for public access to meetings, agendas, reports, records and persons making decisions;
- emphasis on public participation at early stages of the decision-making process;
- well-defined channels for resident input and review;
- broad-based public participation that reflects all aspects of the community – geographical, economic and social;
- consideration of the effect of times and locations of meetings, agenda item placement, transportation and other costs to public participants;
- adequate funding, staffing and training to achieve effective public participation.

Structure of Government in San Diego County and Region (1986, 2001, 2002)

Note: For the purpose of these League positions on issues, San Diego County and San Diego “region” are geographically the same. San Diego County is the arm of state government services for the whole area, including all the incorporated cities, and is the provider of local governmental services for the unincorporated areas that are not provided by special districts. The League of Women Voters of San Diego and the League of Women Voters San Diego North County cooperatively take responsibility for monitoring governmental issues of the County of San Diego and those regional issues that are addressed by governments and agencies within the San Diego region.

For the County of San Diego, we support:

- a Board of Supervisors of more than five members;
- supervisor districts drawn to maintain the integrity of communities;
- the election of the District Attorney and the Sheriff;
- the appointment of all other department heads.

In the field of regional government, we support:

- State action to expand the responsibilities and authority of existing, consolidated or future regional decision-making body/bodies to:
 - prepare, implement and maintain a comprehensive regional plan and infrastructure capital improvement program;
 - administer the plan, the project review, and enforcement process to ensure local compliance with the comprehensive regional plan, including:
 - review of the components of local general plans that have regional implication;s
 - review of major development projects having regional impact, including environmental analysis, for consistency with the comprehensive and regional infrastructure plans;
 - review of any plan for siting a new airport or expanding San Diego International Airport by the Regional Airport Authority for consistency with the region’s comprehensive plan; a public vote should occur if a new airport site is proposed;
 - review of local housing elements for compliance with state housing element law, which includes addressing regional share goals.

- allocate to or withhold federal and state funds from a local jurisdiction for infrastructure, affordable housing projects, and for the protection of natural resources, open space and agricultural lands in accordance with compact growth principles. The use of eminent domain for regionally significant projects should only be utilized as a last resort.
- Region-wide governmental bodies that reflect the population distribution and the environmental, social and economic diversity of the county. We support a directly elected body from newly established districts (of no more than 350,000 population) with fixed, staggered terms. The Policy Advisory Committee should consist of elected office holders appointed from the County's incorporated cities and the county.
- Regional bodies that override local jurisdictions when efficiency in the delivery of services can be clearly measured and could be improved by increasing the scale of operations;
- A regional governing agency that serves as the coordinator of intergovernmental policies and selected services within the region (the services to be coordinated include those administered by agencies established by the Legislature, such as transit, water supply, and port/tidelands activities);
- A regional governing agency that serves as the advocate and representative of the San Diego region's collective general purpose governments at the state and federal level; and proportional financial support of the local council of governments by its members.

For all governmental agencies we support:

- measures which assure the accessibility, visibility, and accountability of public officials;
- measures which recognize community character and values; and efforts to reduce and consolidate the number of special districts where feasible.

Regional Planning (1970)

- Support for flexible countywide planning, with broad outlines that provide guidelines and leave the details and implementation at the local support level.
- Continuation and strengthening of the San Diego Association of Governments or other councils of government.
- Support for an emphasis on conserving the physical resources of San Diego County, while providing people-oriented services.

Financing County Government (1992)

The League supports County governmental services and programs designed to meet the unique needs of the San Diego region, organized for public accessibility. The financial adequacy, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of these services and programs should be closely monitored by elected officials and by the public. Competent staff who are fairly compensated should carry out implementation.

Programs should be evaluated and prioritized for best use of available funds; long-term costs of short-term economies should be considered. Preventive measures should have high priority.

Funding for maintenance should be included in the planning of capital projects and in future annual budgets.

The League also supports substantial funding by the state and federal governments of the programs they mandate, with periodic review of state-mandated but locally administered programs to adjust funding formulas to reflect changed circumstances.

Proposals for reform of the state and local governmental financial structure should be developed by a statewide commission composed of members experienced in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, as well as residents knowledgeable about the electorate and the economy of California, and including a representative from the League of Women Voters.

Fire Protection (2008-10)

The League supports: A county regional fire protection and emergency medical system; a sustainable source of funding for prevention and suppression of fires; increased cooperation among cities and unincorporated fire services as may apply; and expansion of mutual aid fire protection agreements.

The League supports the following actions:

- Consolidate fire protection both regionally and structurally in order to create unified programs which integrate fire services in the unincorporated areas of the County.
- Designate dedicated and stable revenue sources to fund necessary and efficient fire protection services.
- Encourage the merger of fire departments, where feasible, and support contracting for fire services by smaller jurisdictions.
- Maintain the present system of both paid and volunteer staffing.
- Enforce codes and consolidated standards for fire-safe developments, general construction, and building maintenance.
- Promote resident homeowner fire-safe education programs and encourage understanding and protection of the county's unique ecosystems.
- Support residents' cell phone registration in the Mass Notification System (Reverse 911).

SOCIAL POLICIES

Education

LWVSD

Goals: Public school systems should ensure quality education for all (before 1971) and seek to eliminate segregation. The system should provide an adequate financial program; quality counseling, and guidance programs; individualized, innovative curricula; and compensatory education programs. (1979)

Curriculum: Individualized and innovative curricula should be designed to meet individual student's needs. Compensatory education programs should be developed to enrich and increase educational opportunity. It should include content focused on technology and the arts. (before 1971)

Diversity/Desegregation: School boards should give high priority to the impact on diversity/desegregation efforts when deciding on sites for new school facilities or school closures. It should adopt attendance policies that act to encourage ongoing attendance. (1979)

Financial/Budgetary: The financial program should include adequate funds for school operation and construction and provide employee salaries competitive with those of other similar sized districts within the state. (before 1971) Each year's budget should be based on priorities established by the Board of Education with meaningful input from residents, teachers, students, and administrators. The budget document should be more than an accounting tool; it should be well indexed with a glossary of technical terms. The budget should include information such as program costs directly related to the number of students served, cost trends over several successive years, and costs by program and objectives for the total budget. (1976) A district-wide budget advisory committee should be retained to advise the Board of Education. The committee should be broadly representative of school and community interests. Their membership should include teachers, students, parents and other community representatives. (1986) The information contained in the budget should be clearly defined and made understandable for the public. (1990) The district budget should reflect an appropriate balance between funding for academic achievement and student services. (2003)

Counseling: should include both physical and mental health. LWVSD supports the concept of school-based health clinics, without limitations as to services offered. Guidance and counseling programs should meet the needs of all students. (1990) Schools should provide a comprehensive quality counseling program for all students in grades Pre-K through 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. (2003)

Health Education & Fitness: School districts should ensure required physical education, nutrition, and healthy living classes and implement policies that positively impact nutrition and health. Vending machines in schools should contain only nutritious food and drinks. (2003)

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

Early Childhood Education (2011)

Elementary and unified school districts should encourage:

- pre-K teachers and administrators to collaborate with district and site staff to achieve a seamless continuum of curriculum and instruction;
- the collaboration to include a decision-making process regarding staff development activities, the distribution of funds allocated to school sites, and other relevant issues and programs;
- school readiness programs to provide universal access to preschools, be developmentally appropriate, voluntary and staffed with highly qualified personnel;
- outreach to and support for parents of young children should be initiated to enable parents to contribute to their child's readiness to learn.

Education Action Policy (2022)

The League of Women Voters at all levels believes that our democracy depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. An educated citizenry is fundamental to that goal. Young people need to be prepared for 21st century challenges regarding civic life as well as their careers and personal lives.

The League of Women Voters of San Diego also supports equitable, quality education for all students. This includes programs that assist people to become self-supporting, contributing members of society.

The system should provide quality counseling and guidance programs, and individualized, innovative curricula. The League supports curricula that provide basic standards for mastery of core learning skills to ensure success in further education and careers. It should include content focused on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, often referred to as STEAM, as well as competence in complex skills including speaking, reading and writing English. Compensatory education programs should be developed to enrich and increase education opportunities.

Civic education should also be an essential part of the curriculum in order to prepare students to be productive, responsible adults who understand their crucial role as participants in civil society.

The League believes that quality of education is synonymous with equality of education, and that all students deserve access to a curriculum that maximizes their opportunities to thrive in the 21st century.

This Action Policy draws on language from all levels of League (see the Justifications below) and is meant to supplement that position. It is neither intended to replace our current LWVSD Education Position nor preclude opting to do a full update of our Education position in the future.

Justifications:

From LWVUS Impact on Issues

Citizens' Right to Know/Citizen Participation

p. 49 "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government."

Education

Quality Education

p. 121 The LWVUS supports " 'equal access to quality education,' reflecting League recognition that 'equality' and 'quality' are inseparable."

Further Guidelines and Criteria for using the Equality of Opportunity Positions

p. 123 "People for whom community action programs are designed should be involved in the planning and implementation of those programs."

p. 123 "Programs should assist people to become self-supporting, contributing members of society."

Federal Role in Public Education

p. 125 "A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right."

p. 125 "Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build"

From LWVC Action Policies and Priorities 2021 Introduction

p. 6 LWVC Action Policies (definition/explanation for understanding)

Education: Pre-Kindergarten through 12

p. 30 "Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; and develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students.

Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing programs.”

Curriculum

p. 31 “There should be joint responsibility for coordinated curriculum planning in which the state develops broad guidelines for a common core curriculum and the local district develops a comprehensive, challenging curriculum that:

- a. includes the state minimum requirements
- b. meets the needs and challenges the abilities of all students in the district
- c. reflects priorities set in the local community.”

Curriculum: Program

p. 31 Educational programs should include “sufficient instruction to develop competence in speaking, reading and writing English,” “exposure to a broad common body of knowledge” and “preparation for leading productive lives, including responsible citizenship,” as well as, “the opportunity to graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to choose postsecondary education or immediate entry into gainful employment or both.”

From LWVSD Education Position

p. 11 “Public school systems should ensure quality education for all... The system should provide ...quality counseling and guidance programs; individualized, innovative curricula; and compensatory education programs.

“Individualized and innovative curricula should be designed to meet individual students’ needs. Compensatory education programs should be developed to enrich and increase educational opportunity. It should include content focused on technology and the arts.”

County Position on Child Advocacy (1980)

Child Abuse and Neglect

Children of San Diego County have the right to grow up free of abuse and neglect, and so the League supports:

- emergency facilities including interim residences and a 24-hour hotline with information and referral capabilities;
- systematic training of those professionals involved with children to identify, respond to and treat victims;
- development of foster homes plus training and resources for providers of care;
- increased availability of treatment, such as counseling, to families under stress as well as to victims of abuse and neglect;
- coordination of all agency services dealing with abuse and neglect;
- increased emphasis on prevention of abuse and neglect through awareness programs and parenting education

Child Day Care

The League supports:

- provision of diverse, alternative forms of daycare for children, responsive to the widely different social and economic needs of families;
- creation of public, private and family day care programs that emphasize developmental rather than custodial activities, varying curricula to meet the needs of children of all ages, offering flexible hours and a sliding fee scale;
- parent education and involvement as essential to quality day care;
- government efforts to:
 - allocate funds to meet day care needs;
 - streamline zoning and licensing laws;
 - increase supervision and training for daycare providers; and
 - expand infant care services.
- financial incentives to businesses to provide day care and tax exemptions to families for day care costs;
- allotment of day care sites in housing and industrial developments; the use of school sites as one alternative for the placement of day care programs.

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention

The League supports:

- a juvenile delinquency prevention effort that gives priority to providing opportunities for all youth to participate constructively in society to reduce the predisposition toward delinquency;
- educational programs which are relevant to child and youth needs to prepare students for life experiences such as initial employment, family living and peer relationships;
- collaboration among schools and community resources to provide after-school activities, utilizing cross-age and peer involvement, and the skills and knowledge of the behavioral and life sciences;

- information sharing and joint efforts among public and private agencies for the development of primary prevention programs for the development of primary prevention programs to improve services for all at-risk children;
- cooperative community efforts to provide practical job and skills training leading to useful work experience;
- coordination and improvement of delinquency prevention services through public policy decisions in planning, evaluation and funding;
- adequate funding that assures continuity, provides accountability for basic services, and encourages innovative programs that show promise of positive results.

The positions on Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Day Care are integral parts of a Juvenile Delinquency Prevention program. Together, these three parts constitute the Child Advocacy position.

County Position on Homelessness (2018)

There is an increasing number of persons who are homeless in San Diego County. The problem must be humanely addressed for the benefit of these individuals and families, for our communities, and for our society.

The League of Women Voters of North San Diego County and the League of Women Voters San Diego support programs and policies to assist those who are homeless or about to become homeless in meeting their basic human needs.

Permanent supportive housing should be the goal of San Diego County and local jurisdictions within the County for those who are homeless.

Strategies that should be developed to achieve that goal include:

- “Housing First” policy that provides, without prerequisites, temporary, transitional or other initial housing for persons who are homeless;
- Provision of supportive services, including effective case management, advocacy, and treatment for mental health and substance abuse as needed to help those who are homeless succeed in obtaining and maintaining housing;
- A region-wide system with clearly identified goals and measurable results to optimize cooperation, data sharing, and resource development among governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations with the overarching goal to end existing homelessness and prevent future homelessness;
- Rescission by local jurisdictions and San Diego County of policies, practices, regulations and laws that criminalize, penalize, or permit the harassment of homeless persons for engaging in necessary life activities in public spaces (ie., sleeping, standing, camping, etc.);
- Provision of facilities to meet the needs of those who are homeless for personal hygiene, storage, and trash removal, as well as safe spaces for tents, cars or recreational vehicles used for sleeping.

Housing

The League of Women Voters of San Diego supports:

- the development of economically and racially balanced communities in all parts of a city as well as in newly developing areas;
- inclusionary zoning as a tool to implement a balanced community policy;
- the use of city-owned land to facilitate the development of low and moderate income housing which includes the following guidelines:
 - long-term leases to developers with discounts to encourage and enable maximum development of low and moderate-income units
 - a minimum of 30% of the units in every development to be made available for low and moderate income housing at rentals set at HUD Section 8 existing fair market rates
- below-market financing wherever feasible;
- a more active role by cities in the application for and utilization of available state and federal subsidy programs and innovative financing to increase the supply of low and moderate income housing;
- restrictive codes or ordinances that would slow down the conversion of apartments to condominiums;
- public housing as a high priority to assist low income families, elderly, and people with disabilities;
- modifications in the municipal codes and zoning regulations that would facilitate the development of (1983, 1993) manufactured or modular housing in order to increase the supply of low and moderate income housing;
- development of manufactured or modular housing on city-owned land to accommodate low and moderate income households. (1978)

Housing Action Policy (2021)

LWVSD Position in Brief:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego and North County San Diego recognizes that the price and availability of housing can profoundly affect the public's well-being, and the region's quality of life and vitality. The League supports housing as a basic human need and fundamental component of the region's infrastructure.

To implement the League's housing position this action policy will outline strategies and steps to create and preserve housing for all income levels as a foundation for all other economic and social activities. Justifying these actions are national, state, regional, and city League positions.

The Housing Action Policy supports these overall goals:

1. **Create a sufficient affordable housing supply** and livable communities for people of all income levels, distributed throughout the region.
2. **Preserve existing affordable housing** by advocating for preservation incentives, fair tenant and landlord protections, and strategies to address displacement and **gentrification**.
3. **Safeguard equal, equitable, and fair opportunity of access to housing and remedy discriminatory housing practices** by advocating for government action at all levels.

4. **Promote the use of available and underutilized land resources** in compact development patterns that discourage urban sprawl, match jobs and housing, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
5. **Advocate for climate action plans and goals** by locating housing near transit and major employment centers, and by the use of sustainable materials and energy sources.
6. **Influence community actions that strengthen the link between housing and health, safety, and well-being**, especially when housing costs are 30% or more of a household's income.
7. **Promote, maintain, and improve existing infrastructure** to fairly distribute costs and amenities to safeguard and benefit the quality of life of all communities.
8. **Educate the public** about the link between affordable housing and the economic vitality of the region, and how affordable housing developments are designed, maintained, and managed according to accepted standards.¹

LWV Positions Justifying Housing Action Policy

(Click links to see all details of a position.

Positions are numbered for linkage within the Housing Action Policy document.)

1. LWVUS
 - a. [Meeting Basic Human Needs](#) as it relates to Housing Action
Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.
 - b. [Resource Management](#) as it relates to Housing
Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Consideration of environmental, public-health, social and economic impacts of proposed plans and actions; Protection of private property rights commensurate with overall consideration of public health and environmental protection.
 - c. [Urban Policy](#) as it relates to Housing
Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life
2. LWVC
 - a. [Housing and Homelessness](#) as it relates to Housing Action
Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.
 - b. [Homelessness Action Policy](#) as it relates to Housing Action

¹ See Resource section for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) affordable housing standards for design, maintenance, and management.

Support actions to reduce and eliminate homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, throughout the State.

- c. [Intergovernmental Relationships](#) as it relates to Housing
Flexibility for regional and local governments when administering state authorized and/or funded programs to determine needs, priorities, and the use of funds, consistent with state program objectives.
 - d. [Land Use](#) as it relates to Housing
Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern.
 - e. [State & Local Finance](#) as it relates to Housing
Support measures: to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long-range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt.
3. LWV San Diego County Regional
 - a. [Regional Planning](#) as it relates to Housing Action (see page 9)
Review of local housing elements for compliance with state housing element law, which includes addressing regional share goals.
 - b. [Transportation Action Policy](#)
Supports actions that connect people and commerce throughout the region.
4. LWV of San Diego (City League Position) (*Entire position is shown here as contained in the source document.*)
 - a. [Housing](#) as it relates to Housing Action (see page 16)
Supports the development of economically and racially balanced communities in all parts of a city as well as in newly developing areas;
 - inclusionary zoning as a tool to implement a balanced community policy;
 - the use of city-owned land to facilitate the development of low- and moderate-income housing which includes the following guidelines:
 - a. long-term leases to developers with discounts to encourage and enable maximum development of low and moderate-income units
 - b. a minimum of 30% of the units in every development to be made available for low- and moderate-income housing at rentals set at HUD Section 8 existing fair market rates
 - below-market financing should be obtained wherever feasible;
 - a more active role by cities in the application for and utilization of available state and federal subsidy programs and innovative financing to increase the supply of low and moderate income housing;
 - restrictive codes or ordinances that would slow down the conversion of apartments to condominiums;

- public housing as a high priority to assist low-income families, elderly, and people with disabilities;
- modifications in the municipal codes and zoning regulations that would facilitate the development of (1983, 1993) manufactured or modular housing in order to increase the supply of low and moderate income housing;
- **development of manufactured or modular housing on city-owned land to accommodate low- and moderate-income households. (1978)**

LWV San Diego Region Housing Action Policy

(Note: Highlighted terms are terms denoted in the glossary beginning on page 24)

Goal 1: Create a sufficient affordable housing supply and livable communities for all income levels, distributed throughout the region.

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a, 1b	2a, 2b, 2c, 2e	3	4

Actions:

- *Create a League Housing Committee to implement the actions in this document*
- *Pursuant to the **Housing Element** Update process, monitor individual jurisdictions to ensure that they adopt Housing Elements which accommodate their assigned RHNA goals in all income categories; and have meaningful programs to achieve those goals. This will help ensure that sufficient land is designated and zoned with adequate sites to accommodate assigned RHNA goals.²*
- *Monitor implementation of the adopted Housing Elements using the annual progress reports submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development.*
- *Promote the adoption of inclusionary zoning in all jurisdictions countywide.*
- *Advocate for funding at the local, state, and federal levels for affordable housing for lower-income households.*
- *Zone for more affordable and higher density housing in **high opportunity communities**.*
- *Improve the quality of schools & services in low-income communities.*
- *Broaden zoning in single-family neighborhoods to allow additional forms of housing such as duplexes, rowhomes, townhomes, and bungalow courts.*
- *Set in-lieu fees at a rate sufficient to incentivize developers to build affordable housing.*
- *Support policies such as lowering parking requirements for low/moderate income housing, micro-unit projects, and housing located near transit.*
- *Support innovative housing products and solutions like repurposed shipping containers, modular homes, tiny homes, community land trusts, and co-housing.*
- *Support policies to simplify and streamline permit approval processes in order to reduce costs and create more certainty in the development approval process.*

² The State Department of Housing and Community Development uses 30 dwelling units per acre as a proxy for identifying sites for low-income housing.

- *Plan future affordable housing opportunities in an equitable manner throughout the region, preferably in mixed-income communities. Discourage concentration of lower-income units in individual communities.*
- *Support the Housing First policy approach to address the needs of homeless households.*

Goal 2: Preserve existing affordable housing and advocate for fair tenant and landlord protections to address the potential loss of affordable units, **displacement**, and gentrification.

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a	2a, 2b	3	4

Actions:

- *Support creation of a dedicated source of funding for affordable housing preservation.*
- *Support **naturally occurring affordable housing** (NOAH) incentives for property owners.*
- *Advocate for the preservation of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels when such properties are proposed for conversion to other uses and support the development of new SRO units.*
- *Support programs that minimize relocation and displacement impacts of residents and provide rental priority for those affected by redevelopment.*
- *Fund building code safety and health inspection services sufficiently to monitor and enforce remedial actions to ensure habitable housing for all income levels.*
- *Balance the development of market-rate multi-family housing with incentives to replace any lost affordable units with new affordable units in the same price range.*
- *Maintain an appropriate ratio of long-term rental to short-term rental housing units in order to meet permanent housing needs in all income categories.*
- *Create sufficient incentives to keep vacant units occupied.*

Goal 3: Safeguard equal, equitable, and fair opportunity of access to housing and remedy historic discriminatory housing practices by advocating for government action at all levels.

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a	2a, 2b	3	4

Actions:

- *Advocate for meaningful actions to address significant disparities in housing needs and access to opportunity. Such actions include replacing segregated housing patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.*
- *Support policies, programs, procedures, and laws that address significant disparities in housing needs and access to opportunity consistent with HUD and RHNA goals by providing very-low, low, and moderate-income housing in mixed-income communities.*
- *Review the specific history of housing segregation/inaccessibility studies in the San Diego region, and support policies and procedures to establish and maintain affordable housing.*
- *Monitor developer in-lieu fees collected and how they are spent.*
- *Call for the construction of affordable units in large housing developments.*
- *Encourage the region's jurisdictions to work with financial institutions to rework and reform lending practices that affect low and very low-income residents to make homeownership more attainable as called for in the San Diego Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.*

Goal 4: Promote the use of available and underutilized land resources in compact development patterns that discourage urban sprawl, match jobs and housing, and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a 1b	2a, 2b 2d	3a 3b	4

Actions:

- Monitor the enforcement of the provision in the Surplus Lands Act which requires public entities to offer land to low/moderate income housing developers before offering it to the general market.
- Promote an improved intraregional relationship between jobs and housing with a balance between the location of low-wage jobs and the number of housing units affordable to low-wage workers.
- Support multi-family housing in transit priority areas.
- Support rezoning to repurpose land for affordable housing which had formerly been used for retail, commercial, or other purposes.
- Future housing opportunities should be focused in existing and planned urban centers and villages rather than in low density rural areas in order to promote growth in a more compact manner. In addition to reducing VMT and greenhouse gas emissions, such a policy also promotes the preservation of sensitive habitat, open space, cultural resources, and farmland, and protects people and structures from wildfires
- Promote **mixed-use development** as a means of further encouraging a compact growth pattern.
- Monitor regional plans to assure that land use, transportation, and housing are integrated with employment opportunities.

Goal 5: Advocate for **climate action plans and goals** by locating housing near transit and major employment centers and ensuring the use of sustainable materials and energy sources.

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a	2a, 2b	3a 3b	4

Actions:

- Advocate for effective climate action plans throughout the region that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support **infill** housing near transit, jobs, and services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.
- Support public policy that encourages LEED certification for new housing and uses sustainable building materials and technologies.
- Advocate for clean energy and conservation solutions to provide power to our homes and communities.
- Endorse policies to reduce materials that cause deterioration of the ozone layer.
- Support policies for clean air and water.
- Support policies for noise reduction in high-traffic living and working environments.

- *Encourage new housing developments that are net energy neutral and located near public transit and jobs to mitigate climate change.*
- *Support funding for retrofitting existing housing units to adapt to changing climate, energy sources, and resource conservation.*
- *Advocate for policies to discourage development in wildfire-prone urban wildland interface areas.*

Goal 6: Influence community actions that strengthen the link between housing and health, safety, and well-being, especially when housing costs are 30 percent or more of a household's income.

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a 1c	2a, 2b	3	4

Actions:

- *Recognize that housing affordability is a vital component to creating a well-rounded community which includes the following elements:*
 - o *a stable home for children.³*
 - o *proximity to public transit to enable access to quality jobs, amenity-rich neighborhoods, critical community services and improved health.*
 - o *access to healthy food including full-size grocery stores and produce markets*
 - o *energy efficient resources, including green building materials to lower operational costs and reduce respiratory illnesses and greenhouse gas emissions.*
 - o *reduced numbers of liquor stores in overburdened communities to reduce crime and promote a healthy lifestyle.*
- *Support as an important transportation policy to promote transit and pedestrian options so that residents of all ages and abilities have access to safe, alternative transportation.*
- *Advocate for walkable and bikeable communities that not only reduce trips but also enhance health and offer nearby opportunities for safe and clean parks and recreation.*
- *Support policies that encourage good air quality, non-toxic building materials, and reduction of overcrowded households.*
- *Assure that each city has a comprehensive emergency and evacuation plan that is integrated with the County emergency and evacuation plan.*

Goal 7: Promote and fund new and legacy infrastructure, to distribute costs and amenities fairly to benefit and safeguard all communities.

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a	2a, 2b 2e	3	4

Actions:

- *New infrastructure and public facilities should be planned concurrent with major housing development and infill. This requires a complete rethinking of how such facilities are funded.*

³ When there is stability in the home children have the opportunity to better focus on school and gain a better education. [Enterprise Community Partners Report, Impact of Affordable Housing on Families and Communities, 2014](#))

- *New infrastructure projects should be analyzed to include long-term resources, including revenue needed to protect and maintain the life of the asset (operations and maintenance costs).*
- *Promote innovative policies to broaden available funding resources beyond impact fees for infrastructure and public facilities to address deficiencies in underserved communities.*
- *Support financing strategies to address the structural gap between capital and operating budgets.*
- *As communities are planned for revitalization and additional **density**, support a **land value capture** policy so that increased value of land is invested back into the community for improvements and enhancements (such as additional affordable housing and parks).*
- *Housing development policies should include consideration of costs not only related directly to development but also costs to create equality of opportunity to internet access throughout the region.*

Goal 8: Educate the public about the link between affordable housing and the economic vitality of the region, and how affordable housing developments are designed, maintained, and managed according to accepted standards.⁴

Cross-reference to Positions	LWVUS	LWVC	LWV Regional	LWV City
	1a	2a, 2b	3	4

Actions:

- *Educate the public, including tenants and landlords, about the need for affordable housing throughout the region and government policies to achieve this.*
- *Support programs to educate the public about the importance of locating affordable housing throughout the region consistent with smart growth principles.*
- *Affiliate with communities and programs to educate the League about the importance of taking action on affordable housing goals.*

Housing Glossary of Terms

Affordable Housing - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as housing in which the occupant pays no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) - AB 32, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2004, requires the State of California and local government to prepare plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed the state targets specified in AB 32.

Complete Streets - Complete Streets are streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or public transportation riders.

Density: Number indicates dwelling units (du) per acre, e.g. 5, 10, or 20 du/acre, etc.

Displacement - Displacement occurs when a household is forced to move from

⁴ See Resource section for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) affordable housing standards for design, maintenance, and management.

its residence by conditions which affect the dwelling or immediate surroundings, and which: 1) are beyond the household's reasonable ability to control or prevent; 2) occur despite the household having met all previous conditions of occupancy; and 3) make continued occupancy by that household impossible, hazardous, or unaffordable.

Gentrification - A process of neighborhood change that includes economic change in a historically disinvested neighborhood by means of real estate investment and new higher-income residents moving in, as well as demographic change (income level, education level or racial make-up of residents).

High-Opportunity Communities – Place-conscious programs and policy reforms to advance goals of reducing neighborhood disparities, improving health, and ensuring that low-income families can afford and feel welcome in neighborhoods of opportunity. May be measured by statistical attributes of high-work, high income, high education, and high-job density within a census tract.

The California Department of Housing & Community Development created an [“opportunity map”](#) to evaluate access to opportunity, racial segregation, and concentrated poverty on 11 evidence-based indicators related to long-term life outcomes. The opportunity map covers every region of the state whose characteristics have been shown by research to support positive economic, educational, and health outcomes for low-income families—particularly long-term outcomes for children.

Housing Element - An analysis and plan for a community's housing needs for all income levels. It is a required element of a jurisdiction's overall General Plan. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reviews and approves Housing Elements to ensure each community accommodates its fair share of affordable housing. If a jurisdiction fails to substantially comply with the State's Housing Element Law, its General Plan can be deemed inadequate, and therefore invalid and subject to lawsuit. A court may impose requirements for land use decisions until the jurisdiction brings its General Plan—including its Housing Element—into compliance with State law.

Infill - “Infill development” refers to building on unused and underutilized lands within existing development patterns, typically but not exclusively in urban areas. Infill development is critical to accommodating growth and redesigning our cities to be environmentally- and socially-sustainable.

Infrastructure - Facilities and systems that support the sustainable function of a community such as roads, railways and transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parks, police and fire stations, libraries, schools, bridges, tunnels, water supply, sewers, electrical grids, and telecommunications (including Internet connectivity and broadband access). Revenue to fund infrastructure comes from property tax, developer levies and fees in new communities and developed communities, monthly utility payments from property owners, user fees, and federal and state government grants.

Land Value Capture - A policy approach that enables communities to recover and reinvest land value increases that result from public investment and government actions. Land value capture is rooted in the notion that public action should generate public benefit. (Also referred to as “land value recapture” and “public benefit zoning.”)

Livable Communities - A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services.

Mixed Use Development - Urban planning concept that blends residential, commercial, cultural, institutional, or entertainment uses into one space, where those functions are to some degree physically and functionally integrated, and that provides pedestrian connections.

Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) - Residential rental properties that are affordable, but unsubsidized by any federal, state, or local program. Their rents are relatively low compared to the regional housing market. NOAH units are at greatest risk of being lost due to market speculation and upgrades that result in higher rents and lost affordability.

Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) - The **Regional Housing Needs** Assessment (RHNA) is a state-mandated planning process that quantifies existing and future housing needs within a region and requires local governments to plan for enough housing to meet the region's needs. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is responsible for overseeing the RHNA process for the San Diego region, which is used by local jurisdictions in preparing the Housing Elements of their General Plans.

RESOURCES

Local

City of San Diego Housing Affordability Toolkit

<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/housing/toolkit>

City of San Diego Housing Commission - Addressing Affordable Housing Crisis November, 2015

https://www.sdhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2016-01-04_SDHC-Housing-Affordability-Crisis-Action-Plan_web.pdf

City of San Diego Housing Element - 2021-2029

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/he-print-view-smaller.pdf>

City of San Diego Housing Commission - Preserving Affordable Housing - May 2020

<https://www.sdhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Affordable-Housing-Preservation-Study.pdf>

Regional

Affordable Homes in Our Neighborhoods, SANDAG and San Diego Housing Federation, 2008

https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1902_18451.pdf

Regional Housing Needs Assessment 6th Housing Element Cycle 2021-2029

<https://www.sandag.org/index.asp?classid=12&subclassid=116&projectid=189&fuseaction=projects.detail>

Regional Housing Progress Report

<https://www.sandag.org/index.asp?classid=12&subclassid=116&projectid=421&fuseaction=projects.detail>

San Diego Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice - August 2020

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fhaifinal2020.pdf>

SANDAG Smart Growth Tool Box: Smart Growth Concept Map and Visualization Tools

<https://www.sandag.org/index.asp?projectid=334&fuseaction=projects.detail>

Federal - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Design

Fair Housing Design Standards

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/PDF/FAIRHOUSING/fairfull.pdf>

2020 Mandatory Design Standards for Multi-Family Housing

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-Mandatory-Design-Standards-Multifamily-Housing.pdf>

Maintenance

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Maintenance Standards for Public Housing

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/guidebooks/PIH-95-66

Management

Management Agent Handbook

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/handbooks/hsgb/4381.5

Appendix K: Property Management Standards

https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_19483.DOC

Public Libraries

County Position on Public Libraries (1984)

Support of public libraries as a basic service of government with adequate funding by local government.

Support of free access by all persons to public library service as a means for lifelong education and learning and as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

Objectives:

- Increased recognition of the essential service of free public libraries in a democratic society and government's basic obligation to provide the service with adequate funding;
- Use of all available funding for public libraries:
 - recognition by local governments that they have the prime responsibility to finance public libraries;
 - increased state and federal aid for public libraries, especially but not exclusively for capital improvements, special library projects, and inter-library cooperation;
 - legislation for special tax for public libraries, if and when deemed feasible;
 - Continued and increased funding from private sources for special projects, with library control of policy retained;
 - opposition to charging fees for basic library services;
- Measures designed to increase the efficiency and economy of public library operations;
 - consolidation of library functions or systems when service would be improved at the same cost or maintained at a lower cost;

- use of volunteers to supplement paid staff only if a librarian is available for their training and supervision;
- increased automation in all aspects of library operations to release staff for direct service to the public;
- Recognition of the need for branch libraries, with limited functions;
- Improved level and quality of public library service achieved through consolidation of functions and/or systems when consolidation is politically feasible and when it achieves cost savings that will not adversely affect, and wherever possible will improve the quality of service.

LWVSD Position on Financing for the San Diego City Library (1981)

- The LWVSD strongly supports the free use of basic library services. Public libraries are an obligation of local government. City funds should be augmented with state and federal funds. Additional methods to raise library funds also should be explored.
- If there is a Board of Library Commissioners, it should have significant, clearly defined responsibilities. Highest priority in budget appropriations should be given first to the acquisition of materials and secondly to staff salaries that are competitive with those of comparable jurisdictions and city departments.
- LWVSD supports consolidation of city and county library systems, either complete or by major function.

Needs of the Seriously Mentally Ill

LWVSD supports city government responsibility for:

- streamlining access to and coordination of services such as income; housing, medical, social and employment services and giving recognition to the special needs of seriously mentally ill people;
- providing shelters which meet the special needs of seriously mentally ill people who are homeless;
- appropriate education, training, special support and referral services to enable responders to intervene effectively to disturbances involving seriously mentally ill people. This should be a consolidated county-wide effort;
- an action-oriented blue ribbon task force to address the problems of seriously mentally ill people, including that of seriously mentally ill people who are homeless;
- involvement in buying or leasing the different types of housing needed by seriously mentally ill people; making use of a housing trust fund for such housing;
- stimulating the private sector to provide housing opportunities for seriously mentally ill people by removing zoning barriers and speeding up permit acquisitions;
- better coordination of mental health services by the city and county governments and the private sector. (1994)

Role of San Diego County Government in Responding to the Impact of the Seriously Mentally Ill

Regarding the San Diego County behavioral health system, the League supports the following objectives to benefit those affected by serious mental illness:

- Provide treatment, crisis management, long-term services and support. Services should be reasonably accessible to residents in all regions of the County, and should be taken to individuals who are not candidates for clinic-run care. Integrated services and support should include timely and affordable access to all necessary health care providers and medications that fully address physical health, mental health, and substance use disorders.
- Ensure that integrated mental health and substance use disorder services are part of a behavioral health system throughout the County, with full services available regardless of point of entry into the system (no wrong door).
- Ensure outreach services in all regions of the County for all residents who might need or benefit from the behavioral health system, using partnerships with the faith community, businesses, and other gateways into the community as well as traditional mental health community members.
- Exercise careful management, and leverage when possible, funds received from all sources in order to maintain continuity of services and support during all economic conditions. Provide information and accountability for County behavioral health programs and spending in ways that the public can easily access.
- Provide an array of supports: a full range of housing that includes Housing First and other supported housing options, including shelter beds and permanent affordable housing; supported employment; supported education; opportunities for spiritual development; exercise and diet; training and support for family members; and inclusion of families in service and support development.
- Provide specialized law enforcement/clinical teams in all areas of the County, available when needed to respond to possible behavioral health crises on a 24/7 basis.
- Collect and use meaningful input from a broad range of community stakeholders, including people affected by serious mental illness, via innovative outreach to target audiences, with participation from collaborative groups that support the system of care.

Campus Justice & Sexual Assault (2015)

Colleges and universities should incorporate the following policies with respect to sexual assault on campus:

- Mandatory, ongoing sexual assault education for all current students.
- Multiple reporting options, including but not limited to, anonymous and confidential methods.
- An affirmative consent standard of “yes means yes.”
- Compliance with Title IX laws.
- The college or university code of conduct should be read and signed as read and understood by all students.

The goals of college and university proceedings regarding sexual assault on campus should ensure the rights of parties involved (complainant and accused) are protected, ensure timely resolution of school investigations, and ensure that student complaints are taken seriously. Further, the appropriate disciplinary actions for colleges and universities that fail to respond and act appropriately in cases of sexual assault are:

- Be cited and placed on probation.
- Receive a letter of reprimand from the Office of Civil Rights.
- Responsible administrator(s) disciplined and potentially removed.

The League of Women Voters San Diego supports education on the topic of sexual assault before students reach college age. Also the colleges and universities should keep accurate records detailing the number and frequency of sexual assaults so they are easily accessible to the general public. Additionally, college and university officials should be required to report cases of sexual assault and rape to the local police department.

Policing Practices

The League supports:

Traffic stops:

- Racial and identity profiling by law enforcement is not acceptable. The LWVSD supports effective data collection on law enforcement officer encounters with the community so that any bias can be determined and addressed;
- Effective anti-bias training is necessary both in the initial training of new law enforcement officers and in regular refresher courses to reduce racial or identity profiling;
- The LWVSD supports seeking alternatives to the deployment of armed law enforcement officers in routine traffic stops as a means of reducing the number of such stops which escalate into violence.

Surveillance: Cities and counties should enact privacy and technology-use ordinances to protect privacy and other civil liberties. The proposed ordinances should include requirements for:

- Audits of specified policy and data in an annual surveillance report that is publicly available;
- Evidence of crime-prevention effectiveness, civil rights impact, fiscal costs, and source of funding for surveillance technology;
- Establishment of independent civilian commissions at the local jurisdiction level which consist of representatives of involved communities of interest such as civil rights advocates, attorneys, marginalized groups, specialists in technology, privacy and open government, to oversee all law enforcement and government acquisition and use of technology for surveillance;
- Enforcement of violations of the ordinances;
- Protection of whistleblowers.

Police in Schools:

- Shift funding away from supporting the use of school-based police and toward the use of much needed school-based mental health and counseling personnel who use trauma-informed practices, transformative justice, and other supportive approaches.
- Law enforcement officers assigned to schools should not be armed; rather, law enforcement agencies should provide additional training in mental health, restorative practices and de-escalation.

Police Discipline:

- Law enforcement agencies should keep records of all complaints made against a law enforcement officer for at least five years with the records reviewed at least once a year to determine if there is a pattern of misbehavior;

- An investigation should be conducted of all complaints, however received, with the complainant informed of the action taken to ensure officers are held to a strict standard of behavior;
- All law enforcement agencies should have a published list of misconduct and expected punishment for the breach of those standards to clarify expectations for both the officers and the public.

Police Unions: The League supports restricting law enforcement collective bargaining to salaries, working conditions, benefits, and aspects of workers compensation; any other topics would need public notification and input.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

LWVSD supports planning policies that will produce well-planned communities consistent with the Climate Action Plan. Local governmental bodies should promote public participation in the formulation and implementation of these plans. (1991)

San Diego City Urban Development

Urban Redevelopment: City governments have the responsibility for planning, influencing and implementing sound community development on a comprehensive, long-range and flexible basis. In order to prevent and cure urban deterioration, local government should become involved in local programs, provide adequate funds to enforce the municipal housing code, encourage private participation in projects, and support activities to promote public understanding of rehabilitation and renewal.

Flexible land use controls should be used to meet specific planning problems and to encourage variety in land uses and in the types and prices of housing in all city neighborhoods. (1971)

Government should support measures to prevent and cure urban deterioration. Measures should include the development and/or renovation of the existing urban area before new areas are opened for development and encouraging the involvement of both government and private interests. (1972)
Long-term leases should be favored over the sale of city-owned land. (1979)

Public Participation: Committees representative of the entire city should participate in developing plans and policies on citywide issues.

Laws: All laws relating to planning and zoning should be compiled into a single reference source. The application of state law to local planning and zoning should be clarified by city charter revision and adoption of regulations by local ordinance.

Community Development: Sound community development should be based on meeting community needs and then be evaluated with the following criteria:

- allow for needed change;
- consider the unique population for the community;
- contribute to an aesthetically pleasing environment;
- be financially feasible;
- contribute to pride in the community;
- promote the opportunity for the inclusion throughout the community of historically excluded groups;
- take into consideration the physical nature of the community.

County Position on Land Use (1975)

The County General Plan should be consistent with the adopted SANDAG Regional Plan. Furthermore, the County General Plan should:

1. recognize the difference in community needs for life-support systems;
2. assure the provision of comprehensively planned and managed capital facilities and general services, including schools and transportation, accessibility to jobs, and which minimizes urban sprawl and maintains established patterns of growth and community identity within an area;
3. implement community planning as defined by State law and allows maximum resident participation and self-determination in community planning and decision making;
4. promote conservation of critical natural resources, including valuable agricultural lands and open space, and protects or improves air and water quality;
5. reaffirm the provision of adequate parks and recreational facilities, including land acquisition;
6. enforce the provision of fair, decent, balanced housing by choice, type and costs for all residents of San Diego County.

Parks

LWVSD Position on Parks

Local government has the responsibility to provide a public park system for its residents. Planning should include evaluation of all available methods of acquiring and retaining parklands. There should be a robust process for public participation in decisions regarding the park system. (before 1971) City government should employ a qualified individual, whose sole responsibility is to promote and coordinate the various facets of parklands. (1983)

Parkland Acquisition: In evaluating methods of financing parkland acquisition, additional bonding should be considered; assessment districts should be used as a last resort. (before 1971)

Parklands should be acquired early and city governments should implement the ordinance requiring a builder to contribute money or land appropriate for parks. (before 1971).

Adequate parks and recreation programs should provide for current and future needs, with long-range planning and acquisition for population growth, and with improved coordination and cooperation between governmental agencies. (1968 and 1984) The League supports the continuation of development of local park and recreational facilities with emphasis on providing services to those areas that currently are deficient. (1991) In order to prevent loss of parklands, local government should provide for dedication of parks at the time of acquisition or designation. (1976)

The City Charter should not give the city council authority to place through roads in parks, retaining the need for a vote by 2/3 of the electorate to use parklands for a non-park purpose such as through roads or mass transit. Similarly, open space owned by a city and acquired for park purposes should also be dedicated and protected from use for through roads or mass transit. (1976) Streets should be vacated as a means of adding to parkland. (1976) Parkland, including open space acquired for park purposes, should not be used for long-term leasing to nonprofit recreational organizations or to commercial enterprises. (1983)

Residents should participate in the formation of park policy with improved procedures for making their needs and recommendations known to those responsible for making final recommendations and policy. (1983)

Balboa Park (2011)

LWVSD supports the preservation and enhancement of the cultural, recreational and passive resources of Balboa Park to meet the needs of the surrounding community and region while respecting its physical, cultural and historical environment. The pueblo lands set aside as a permanent preserve should be held in trust forever for the purpose of a free and public park and not for other purposes.

League supports:

- the expansion of parking facilities outside the core of the park in order to enhance the pedestrian experience within the park. A comprehensive tram system should ensure accessibility for people with disabilities, seniors and families with small children.
- fiscal decisions that will preserve Balboa Park as an affordable experience for all citizens of San Diego.
- preservation of the historic aspect of the architecture, landscape and culture of Balboa Park including plant preservation, maintenance and replacement with no net loss of landscape and open space.
- public access to meetings and to information regarding the operations and activities of any public/private park management and funding organization acting for the City with the goal of meeting the highest standard in transparency and accountability.
- inclusion of a sunset provision in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would require regular review and renewal of a conservancy.

County Position on Parks (1973)

- Support of the provision of regional and local parks and recreation facilities for all the residents of San Diego County whether they live in an incorporated or unincorporated community.
- Support of an equitable, broadly based method of financing for parks and recreation.
- All methods of acquisition should be considered. Support of the acquisition of park and recreation lands before or concurrent with development.
- Facilities should be provided according to need, with reasonable accessibility.
- Support of efficiency of administration.

Transportation

The LWVSD supports a transportation system that meets the following standards:

- an expanded public transit system, although priority should be given to the maintenance of streets and freeways with new construction only where essential
- transit innovations with the possibility of additional fares for special (*such as door-to door*) services, and
- the encouragement of vehicle pooling.

The increased costs of an expanded public transit system should continue to be shared between governmental subsidies and the fare box. Local revenue is preferred in the following order: increased gasoline tax, general fund, payroll tax, and sales tax. A decrease in service should only be considered when necessary for overall efficiency.

Decisions on local public transit service should be made locally and decisions on regional public transit services should be made on a regional basis with coordination and cooperation among the decision-making bodies.

Social Service Transit: The public transit system should bear the major responsibility for providing social service transit for the elderly and people with disabilities in the most cost-effective manner. LWVSD supports the cooperation of all agencies (public and private) that provide social service transit and the integration of their planning functions. (1980)

County Position on Transportation

Support of a transportation system that meets the following standards:

- safety
- favorable environmental qualities
- convenience
- availability to all
- adequate funding from fees, assessments and taxes at all levels of government.

Support of transportation plans as an integral part of land use plans.

Support of transportation planning and decision making as the responsibility of a regional planning organization, structured to be responsive and responsible to the public.

Objectives:

- Public and private educational transit systems that meet safety standards with regular inspections.
- Transportation plans that consider the environment including air quality and sensitive lands.
- Convenient access to transportation systems.
- Transportation systems supported largely from general funds, with consideration given to all appropriate funding alternatives.
- Land use planning by all local governments that considers transportation and circulation with the goal of minimizing motor vehicle traffic.
- Transportation standards that are set at the regional level and that consider all modes of transportation.
- Local transportation planning that considers the larger region in which it is situated.

LWVSD Transportation Action Policy (2021)

(Note: Highlighted terms denote defined terms in the glossary beginning on page 39)

Position in Brief: The League of Women Voters of San Diego and North County San Diego support actions that connect people and commerce throughout the region. We support the following:

Overall Goals:

- Equal opportunity of access to transportation and well-being.
- Synergistic goals of a transportation plan and a climate action plan.
- Decrease in vehicle miles traveled through land use and transportation alternatives.
- Education of the public.
- Promotion of cost-effective transportation solutions.

Specific Objectives and Policies:

1. Land Use

Transportation should be planned in relation to land use plans. Transportation and land use planning should be integrated to promote reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) through a jobs/housing balance and requirements that land use development facilitate use of transit and other alternatives to single occupant vehicles.

- **Transit should connect major employment centers with residential communities** to minimize vehicle miles traveled and planning for a variety of modes where possible including transit, biking and walking.
- **Mixed-use zoning** near transit should be encouraged in order to facilitate convenience and reduce trips and vehicle miles traveled.

2. Comprehensive Regional Strategies

- **The San Diego region should have an integrated transportation system which encompasses the following qualities: efficiency, convenience, and cost effectiveness; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; and is supported by extensive public education.**
- **Transportation planning and decision-making should be the responsibility of a regional planning organization, structured to be responsive and responsible to the public.**
 - Transportation funding should come from all levels of government and where it makes sense, the private sector.
 - Regional and local levels should have maximum flexibility to select modes and projects on which to spend allocated funds.
 - Regional decision making should include extensive local input.
 - The public should have access to meetings and materials remotely and/or online in advance of the meeting date.
- **Public transit should be prioritized over highways and road improvements.** The League supports a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM) should be encouraged (ride sharing, carpools, staged work hours, working from home, etc.)** Planning for transportation should promote alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel such as high occupancy vehicle lanes, expanded transit, car/van pools and bicycle lanes, student and employee subsidies, flextime and telecommuting.
- **There should be a mode of transportation for the rider to travel between the transit station/stop and origin/destination, known as “first- and last-mile traveled.”** This is essential in order to make transit truly competitive by increasing public/private transportation services to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- **Major streets should be planned and built to accommodate all users including automobiles, transit, bicycling and walking** in order to maximize transportation choices.

3. Climate/Environmental Considerations

- **There should be sufficient infrastructure and alternative transportation modes to meet climate action plan goals.** The League supports transportation policies to reduce VMT. These include:
 - Promote energy conservation and efficiency in transportation, buildings, and infrastructure, including energy efficiency standards and land use policies that reduce vehicle miles traveled.
 - Promote **carbon pricing** by market mechanisms such as **cap and trade** systems and carbon taxes.
 - Promote a clean, low-carbon energy economy that is sustainable, including all forms of renewable energy and transportation infrastructure.
- **Transportation systems should be planned to preserve sensitive resources as much as possible.**

4. Safety Considerations

- Assure adequate alternatives for ingress and egress for emergency situations.

5. Economic/Cost Considerations

- **There should be a comprehensive, affordable transportation system available to all San Diegans.** Planning for transportation should promote:
 - Strategies to influence travel behavior, such as fees, taxes and tolls, combined with mitigation measures for low income persons;
 - Incorporate **Transportation Demand Management** (TDM) concepts as described above.
 - Project evaluation processes which include early and informed public participation, analysis of alternative routes and modes, analysis of costs and benefits of each alternative, and consideration of consistency with regional and state transportation systems.
 - Strategies and programs to address the transportation needs of special segments of the population such as the elderly, disabled and students.
- **Structure funding to maximize transit ridership.**
 - Dedicate user fees and other transportation-related revenues exclusively for transportation-related uses.
 - Utilize a variety of other funding methods, including general funds, sales tax revenues and private sources such as developer fees.
 - Evaluate all funding in terms of equitable sharing of transportation costs, effect on travel behavior and indirect economic impacts.

Justification for Transportation Action Policy Elements

These next sections specify **National, State and Regional League positions** that justify elements of the proposed Action Policy. The full position statements are given in the LWVUS publication *Impact on Issues* and the LWVC publication *Action Policies and Positions*. (*links are embedded in position name*)

Positions are quoted in **bold**; the extrapolations from those positions used to justify the language in the Action Policy are in *italics*.

LWVUS Positions

Position on Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Air Quality. *Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.*

- *Measures to reduce vehicular pollution,*
- *Including inspection and maintenance of emission controls,*
- *Changes in engine design and fuel types and development of more energy-efficient transportation systems;*
- *Regulation and reduction of ambient toxic-air pollutants;*

Energy - *Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources. These policies include:*

- *Reduction of energy growth rates; use of a variety of energy sources, with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies;*
- *The environmentally sound use of energy resources, with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production;*
- *Predominant reliance on renewable resources;*
- *Action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development, financial incentives, rate-setting policies and mandatory standards;*
- *Mandatory energy-conservation measures including standards for new automobiles with no relaxation of auto-emission control requirements;*
- *Policies to reduce energy demand and minimize the need for new generating capacity through techniques such as marginal cost or **peak-load pricing** or demand-management programs;*

Resource Management as it relates to Transportation

- *In planning transportation facilities, resource management decisions must be based on a thorough assessment of population growth and of current and future needs.*
- *To assure the future availability of essential resources, transportation planning must promote stewardship of natural resources.*
- *In planning transportation facilities, special attention should be given to maintaining and improving the environmental quality of urban communities.*

Meeting Basic Human Needs as it relates to Transportation

- *Transportation systems should afford better access to housing and jobs and should also provide energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation.*
- *Government programs that require recipients of assistance to engage in work-related programs would be acceptable only if supplemental support services including transportation are included.*

Urban Policy as it relates to Transportation

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life

- *Support policies that promote a balance between jobs and housing, including land use policies to promote jobs and housing in proximity to one another.*
- *Support a comprehensive mass transit system to ensure all workers can reach their employers more easily while keeping greenhouse gas emissions low.*

LWVC Positions

Intergovernmental Relationships as it relates to Transportation

- *Flexibility for regional and local governments when administering state authorized and/or funded programs to determine needs, priorities, and the use of funds, consistent with state program objectives.*

Air Quality as it relates to Transportation

- *The state agency in California responsible for air pollution control and climate change policy should be strengthened and sufficiently funded to:*
 - *Set air quality standards that may be stricter than national standards;*
 - *Establish and regulate uniform policies and guidelines for administering air pollution control and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at all jurisdictional levels of government in the state;*
 - *Support lower levels of government in the enforcement of laws and regulations needed to achieve air quality standards;*
 - *Sponsor a program of educating and instructing the public in aspects of air pollution that can be ameliorated by residents' activities and participation.*
 - *Air pollution control should be administered by air basin.*
 - *A well-developed mass transit system designed to reduce automobile traffic should be established in all metropolitan areas of the state.*
 - *The Highway User's Fund should be used for transportation-related services such as smog control and transit.*

Energy as it relates to Transportation

The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable resources. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures. In acquiring new electric resources, major additional factors to consider include the:

- *Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;*
- *Development and deployment of renewable resources;*

- *Contribution to the diversity of the resource mix;*
- *Availability at times of peak power demand;*
- *Local governments should promote energy conservation, especially in relation to building codes, transportation, resource recovery, and public information.*

State & Local Finance as it relates to Transportation

Support measures: to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long-range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt.

- *Make equitable provision for persons unable to pay fees or charges levied on essential community wide services.*

Transportation Glossary of Terms

Cap and Trade - Cap and trade is an approach that harnesses market forces to reduce emissions cost-effectively. Like other market-based strategies, it differs from “command-and-control” approaches where the government sets performance standards or dictates technology choices for individual facilities. Cap and trade allows the market to determine a price on carbon, and that price drives investment decisions and spurs market innovation.

Carbon Pricing - A market-based strategy for lowering global warming emissions. The aim is to put a price on carbon emissions—an actual monetary value—so that the costs of climate impacts and the opportunities for low-carbon energy options are better reflected in our production and consumption choices.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) - AB 32, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2004, requires the State of California and local government to prepare plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed the state targets specified in AB 32.

First- and Last-Mile Traveled - “First and last-mile” connection describes the beginning or end of an individual trip made primarily by public transportation. In many cases, people will walk to transit if it is close enough. However, on either end of a public transit trip, the origin or destination may be difficult or impossible to access by a short walk. This gap from public transit to destination is termed a last mile connection.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) - Gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range. Greenhouse gasses cause the greenhouse effect on planets.

Mixed Use Zoning - Urban planning and/or a zoning type that blends residential, commercial, cultural, institutional, or entertainment uses into one space, where those functions are to some degree physically and functionally integrated, and that provides pedestrian connections.

Peak-Load Pricing - Peak pricing is a form of congestion pricing where customers pay an additional fee during periods of high demand. Peak pricing is most frequently implemented by utility companies, who charge higher rates during times of the year when demand is the highest.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) - Policies and programs intended to manage traffic demand. They include such things as ride sharing, staggered work hours, working at home, and shuttle services.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) - Measures the amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period of time, typically a one-year period. It is calculated as the sum of the number of miles traveled by each vehicle.

LWVSD Position on Sewerage (1992)

Support for the formation of a special district for the collection treatment, storage, disposal, and reuse systems.

Support for the use of sewage as a factor in determining growth management strategy by city, county and regional governments.

LWVSD Position on San Diego/Tijuana Inter-Relations (1982)

The LWVSD strongly favors efforts to foster greater communication, understanding, and cooperation between San Diego and Tijuana; all levels of government should be involved. The areas in which there is the most urgent need for cooperation are sewage and water quality.

Agriculture in San Diego County (2016)

The League believes that the county agricultural industry is of historical, environmental and economic importance to our region. The county possesses unique and separate properties and challenges that differ from the rest of California and the United States. The arid nature of its climate, lack of water sources and high land costs present a special challenge to agriculture in our region.

Land Use

Support the preservation and expansion of land used for agricultural purposes through adopted General and Specific Plans, zoning and permanent dedication programs in order to encourage the long-term presence and viability of the agricultural industry in an environmentally sound manner.

Challenges to Agriculture in San Diego County

- **Water** - Encourage farmers to improve water conservation, select crops appropriate for our climate and end all runoff of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers from their fields and groves, as currently recommended by the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (UC ANR). In addition, local governments and water districts, as well as the San Diego County Water Authority (/SDCWA) should be encouraged to facilitate ever evolving best agricultural water practices recommended by UC ANR, or similar organizations, through incentives and innovative programs.

Support the availability and use of recycled water for a dependable, sustainable source of agricultural water.

Monitor the implementation of the 2013 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act goals because groundwater, which may represent 9% of our regional water source, needs to be preserved and protected from contaminants.

Continue support of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) programs and pricing that facilitate the provision of regional agricultural water, when appropriate.

- **Climate Change**

Support efforts of the county agricultural industry to adapt to climate change through promotion of research, development of new resources and implementation of environmentally sensitive technologies and conservation strategies.

- **Pests and Diseases**

Support government and privately funded efforts to protect the agricultural industry and the environment from pests and diseases. Such programs include the University of California integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program and the California Detector Dog Teams.

- **Pollinator Protection**

Support Efforts to protect, maintain and foster a sustainable, healthy population of bees and other pollinators to support county agriculture.

- **Labor**

Support immigration policies at the local, state and federal levels which allow for a legal labor force to work in local agriculture.

- **Opportunities**

- Support new alternative water use farming practices and technologies which result in long term, sustainable, efficient water use.
- Support research on, and implementation of, sustainable agricultural practices at all levels including production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management
- Support an understanding and awareness of the concept and value of sustainable agriculture both within the agricultural community and among the public.