

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, LONG BEACH AREA
LOCAL POSITIONS**

Last Revised 2006-2007

I. SCHOOL DISTRICT STRUCTURE - Board of Education 76-77

We support:

More open communication between School Board and citizens.

II. LONG BEACH CITY GOVERNMENT 84-85

We support the following revisions in the objectives of the Long Beach City Government position:

- A. Action to maintain City Charter embodying the principles of Council-Manager government; improvements in orderliness and clarity, including elimination of conflicting, repetitive and obsolete provisions.
- B. Increased emphasis on affirmative action in the employment of women in city government.

III. LAND USE 1974-75; revised 2004

We support the adoption of a city plan that provides for orderly growth and that enhances rather than diminishes the quality of life in the community. This objective would require:

- A. Development which gives priority consideration to its effect on residents, particularly their neighborhoods and environment.
- B. Growth focused through zoning to limit sprawl.
- C. Prohibition of encroachment on parks and beaches for other than appropriate purposes.
- D. Evaluation of high-rise building in terms of its impact on the surrounding environment.
- E. Dedication of land, or fees in lieu thereof, by developers for parks, recreation or other public purposes.
- E. Adoption of a requirement for land dedication or fees in lieu thereof by a developer for park and recreation purposes (Quimby Bill).
- F. Preservation of areas and buildings of unusual historical interest.

IV. THE GENERAL PLAN-SHORELINE ELEMENT

We support a shoreline plan designed for the maximum enjoyment of people consistent with the optimum protection of social, economic and natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Effective public participation with access to all relevant information and studies.
- B. Conformance of zoning regulations to the General Plan and their strict enforcement.
- C. Provision for public transportation and energy conservation as priority considerations in all downtown shoreline development.
- D. Provision in the Downtown Redevelopment Plan for the shopping, housing and recreational needs of the present residents of the area.
- E. Exclusion of high-rise construction from Ocean Blvd. east of Cherry Avenue.
- F. Exclusion of additional landfill. Shoreline development should be related to natural or educational purposes.
- G. Maintenance of a balanced recreational use of Alamitos Bay based on comprehensive studies.

V. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION 75-76

We believe the factors to be considered for improved public transportation to be:

- A. Increased information to the public.
- B. Continued subsidy to provide the best service to the greatest number.
- C. The least costly route which satisfies the needs of most segments of society, providing easy accessibility, adequate parking, feeder lines and quiet fast service.

VI. REDEVELOPMENT 75-77

We want our city to be attractive, safe, and economically healthy with diversified urban amenities reflecting the desires of its residents and respecting the integrity of its unique assets. Redevelopment, when adopted as a means to this end, should consider personal and social needs as well as economic requirements and should be accountable to the citizens and/or their elected representatives.

OBJECTIVES:

We therefore, support the following principles in the application of redevelopment laws and/or procedures:

- A. Every redevelopment plan should be as detailed as possible with regard to objectives, plans for implementation, and costs; and should be subject to regular local and regional review.
- B. Broad public input should be solicited early in the planning process and should continue through the life of each project.
- C. The Redevelopment Agency should be accessible and responsible for keeping the public informed of its activities.
- D. The Redevelopment Agency should be enlarged from the present membership of five.
- E. An effective means of appeal from Redevelopment Agency decisions should be provided.
- F. Redevelopment financing should provide equitable distribution of tax increment funds between the Redevelopment Agency and other taxing districts, with particular consideration of the impacts of inflation on the latter.
- G. The total amount and length of indebtedness of each project should balance the debt with the benefit to the community.
- H. All possible sources of funds for redevelopment should be explored, to reduce dependence on tax increment funding.
- I. The definition of "blight" should prevent the inclusion of developments which would occur regardless of redevelopment activity.
- J. Housing should be a priority consideration in every redevelopment project.
- K. Every effort should be made to enable residents and small business to remain in or return the project area. Relocation should minimize hardship through adequate funding and counseling.
- L. Alternatives to massive demolition and construction should be preservation and restoration.

VII. COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS 77-78

We support a role for Commissions that emphasizes maximum public participation in the decision making process of government.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Commissions should maintain their independence from political pressures and yet be accountable to the elected representatives of the people, especially on issues that affect the quality of life.
- B. An adequate staff should be a resource, offering (well in advance) all materials, options and possible recommendations to the commission; but the final decision or recommendations should be made by the commissioners.
- C. Adequate orientation should be presented to new commission members.
- D. Commissions should represent a cross section of the population with some allowance for necessary expertise.
- E. Commissions must observe the intent of the Brown Act, which is "that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly".
- F. The city should make every effort to inform the public of their right to know under the Brown Act.
- G. Meetings should be well publicized in advance and be held at times and places convenient to the public.
- H. Commissions should have guidelines to encourage orderly input from citizens.

VIII PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE 85

We support a humane and fiscally responsible public social policy.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. The equitable, efficient, and effective use of available funds. To prevent both duplication and omissions in social services. To provide adequate community coverage at times and places accessible to persons in need (including 24 hour emergency care). To insure that need rather than availability of funds should determine the services provided.
- B. A centralized, well publicized information and referral service, staffed by skilled social workers readily available to those needing help.

- C. Representative public participation, including users of services, in social policy planning and evaluation.
- D. A comprehensive, prioritized Human Service Plan, with provision for periodic review and update.

IX. HOUSING 79-80

We support a housing policy that recognizes, as a basic need, housing that is affordable, decent, safe and sanitary.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. To increase the availability of low and moderate income housing:
 - 1. Offer incentives to developers.
 - 2. Search out and implement available programs.
 - 3. Consider innovative approaches (e.g., shared housing and manufactured housing).
- B. To eliminate age discrimination and to eliminate other forms of discrimination already covered under the law.
- C. To distribute subsidized housing throughout the community to prevent segregation.
- D. To encourage rehabilitation and revitalization of neighborhoods beyond target areas.
- E. To regulate condominium conversion through:
 - 1. Substantial waiting period prior to any conversion of newly constructed rental units.
 - 2. Adequate notice to tenants prior to conversion hearings.
- F. To require developers to provide adequate relocation assistance to displaced persons.
- G. To require developers to contribute toward the replacement of eliminated rental units.
- H. To promote arbitration for landlord-tenant disputes and to publicize the availability of arbitration councils.

X. LONG BEACH CITY BUDGET

We support a budget process which provides for formal, effective, representative citizen participation (input, review, evaluation) at every step of the entire budget process.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Promotion of citizen awareness of the importance of budget decisions and the possibility for effective citizen participation in these vital decisions.
- B. Promotion of citizens' understanding of the budget document and the budget process
- C. Promotion of a channel for participation by neighborhood and other groups at initial planning stage and subsequent key decision making stages.

We support a fiscally sound budget which reflects the goals, priorities and programs of city government. The budget form should include sufficient detail and explanation, in simple, clear, concise language, to enable a citizen to participate effectively in the budget process.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Explanation of priorities and obligation of the city, to include a statement of:
 - 1. Total revenues of the day
 - 2. Legally required expenditures
 - 3. Amount of discretionary money
 - 4. A specific description by department of intergovernmental grants, which includes acronyms, funding sources, direct and indirect funds, and matching funds.
- B. Explanation of the programs of the city, which includes, by department, a statement of:
 - 1. Programs
 - 2. Detailed program objectives and adequate performance indicators.
 - 3. Sources of funds
 - 4. Summary of personnel by job title and salary range
 - 5. Expenditures (actual for past year(s), current and future budgeted amounts).
- C. A citizen's guide to the budget (explanation of the budget document.)

XI. POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN LONG BEACH 87-88

We support Police/Community Relations which protect and balance the rights and responsibilities of the police and of the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Police Department policy should be set by a body composed of Police and citizens, the

latter selected by a Grand Jury type process from a pool of candidates nominated by citizen groups, City Council members and individuals.

1. Orientation, staff support, and legal counsel should be furnished for the body.
2. Decisions of the body should be appealable to the City Council.
3. Groups and individuals should be encouraged to share with such body comments on police matters.

B. Citizen/Police education, communication and interaction should emphasize:

1. Face-to-face interaction between police and citizens by such means as school, Neighborhood Watch groups, seminars and forums.
2. Sensitivity training for police in regard to minorities and immigrants.
3. Widely disseminated information, using all communication media, about recruitment, complaint procedures, citizen rights and responsibilities in dealing with police, and police rights and responsibilities in dealing with citizens.
4. Recruitment of minorities.
5. Mandatory psychological screening of Police Academy candidates prior to admission.
6. Sufficient psychological service and counseling provided to meet stress related needs of police personnel.

C. The process for handling any complaints about police actions should provide for:

1. Easily accessible locations throughout the community for receiving complaints.
2. Acceptance and investigation of complaints by independent as well as nonuniformed police personnel.
3. Notice to both complainant and accused of the initiation and the results of every complaint, including any disciplinary action.
4. An optional lie detector test for both complainant and police.

XII. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES IN LONG BEACH WITH EMPHASIS ON YOUTH 88-89

We support the position that the Long Beach Department of Parks Recreation and Marine should be responsible for providing recreational activities which respond to the changing needs of youth and that the Department of Parks Recreation and Marine participate in the coordination of all recreational activities (both public and private) for youth in Long Beach.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Ways should be found to maximize the participation of youth in recreational programs which appeal to their needs. Costs should not be allowed to prohibit involving all youth in Long Beach.
- B. Youth should have a role in determining recreational needs in planning and policy making for the City Department of Parks Recreation and Marine.
- C. Greater efforts should be made to inform youth of recreational activities available (both public and private).

XIII. THE HOMELESS IN LONG BEACH 89-90

We support the timely use of private and public funds and facilities to provide food, shelter and rehabilitative services to the homeless of Long Beach. We also recognize that all levels of government must address the underlying causes of homelessness and the means of preventing it.

To this end we advocate the following:

1. The right of the homeless to adequate food and shelter without regard to their race, sex or religious beliefs.
2. Affordable housing for those capable of independent living and full utilization of available government assistance programs.
3. A well publicized information and referral resource, easily accessible to those in need of help.
4. An outreach program and care facility for mentally and physically handicapped persons.

5. Job and psychological counseling services to identify individual needs and promote self-sufficiency.
6. Regular communication among agencies providing services for the homeless.
7. A manual for the training and use of those working with the homeless.
8. An ongoing program for educating the citizens of Long Beach on the needs of the homeless. Particular attention should be paid to the basic causes of homelessness and measures to prevent and ameliorate it.
9. Recognition of the responsibility of city, county, state and federal governments, working cooperatively, for immediate and long term solutions to the problems of the homeless.

**XIV FINANCING LONG BEACH LIBRARY SYSTEM
96-97, Re-Affirmed 2006**

We support an assured, stable, adequate and fiscally sound source of funding for the Long Beach Public Library. Following a local study, this position was adopted at the Annual Meeting of the LWV/LBA on May 21, 1997.

In adopting the finding of the local study, the members of the LWV/LBA agreed to the following:

1. The need to restore adequate hours of service, including extended daytime, evening and weekend hours.
2. Support for the continued expansion of library resources in keeping with new ideas and technological advances.
3. The importance of meeting the needs of the diverse ethnic population of Long Beach.
4. The need to provide increased programs and services to children.
5. The need to provide adequate professional and nonprofessional paid staff.
6. To encourage private contributions and volunteer programs to augment library resources and services.
7. To assist in identifying a core community-wide leadership which will support these goals and form a Task Force to investigate alternative means of financing for specific levels of service.
8. To accept the responsibility to participate in community-wide education in the exploration of alternative methods of public financing for the Long Beach Public Library.

XV ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY 2004

We support commitment by Long Beach city officials and residents to the protection and conservation of our natural resources, particularly finite resources, in order to meet the needs of future generations as well as our own.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Open Space and Development
 1. Provision of the recommended amount of open space and recreation areas, with priority to congested areas.
 2. Dedication in perpetuity of parklands with only compatible uses permitted.
 3. Use of environmentally friendly surfaces, such as grass, in public places.
 4. Maintenance of "Green Building" standards with emphasis on restoration and preservation.
- B. Air Quality
 1. Pollution control measures for port activities.
 2. Reduction of pollution emissions from city-owned and contracted vehicles.
 3. Reduction of fossil fuel dependency, as for example, by encouraging alternative modes of transportation.
- C. Water Quality
 1. Provision for a continuing supply of safe drinking water.
 2. Balanced environmental, recreational, and economic use of the city's water-based

resources: its waterfront, beaches, rivers, bays, and canals.

3. Reduction of urban runoff, frequent testing of water quality, and enforcement of anti-pollution measures.
4. Restoration and preservation of wetlands with provision for public access.
5. Intensified efforts to reclaim, store, reuse, and desalinate water resources.

D. Energy and Conservation

1. Reduction of energy consumption through conservation in residential, public, and commercial buildings.
2. Increase in public awareness programs and incentives for conversion to sustainable energy sources.
3. Comprehensive recycling, reuse, and waste reduction for public and private entities,
4. Diversion of solid waste from landfills to less environmentally harmful disposal programs: e.g., conversion to energy.

We support the following measures to achieve these objectives:

1. Adequate funding for sustainability programs in relevant city departments;
2. Appointment of a coordinator for interdepartmental implementation programs;
3. A commission representative of the entire city, adequately staffed and financed, to recommend policy;
4. Outreach to inform and involve the public in sustainable principles and practices;
5. Cooperation with regional, state, and federal regulatory agencies involved in sustainability issues;
6. Incorporation of sustainability principles in all relevant city departments' decisions;
7. Development of a sustainability element in the Long Beach General Plan.
8. Education of citizens to encourage individual responsibility and to advocate for effective implementation and enforcement of sustainability procedures.

XVI LNG IN THE LONG BEACH AREA 2007

We believe that the importation and use of Liquefied Natural Gas in the Long Beach area is a key component of a long range energy program which would stress use of the cleanest fossil fuel.

Objectives and Criteria:

- A. It is essential to use a formalized, rigorous risk assessment and management process to make determinations as to the initial and ongoing safety of any proposed or operational LNG docking, unloading, storage, and delivery facilities.
- B. There should be public disclosure of deliberations on issues relating to the siting of LNG facilities, with equal emphasis given to the need to protect national security and the right of the public to make informed decisions on concerns vital to their health and safety.
- C. Information provided to the public relating to LNG facilities should include comparisons of the characteristics and hazards of LNG to those of other liquids and gases currently stored and used in the Port of Long Beach.
- D. The consideration of air quality should be one of the primary factors (a) in evaluating any proposed LNG facility, and (b) in the oversight and control of ongoing LNG operations.
- E. Any required mitigations relating to air quality should take place in or near the areas affected by the construction and operation of the facility.