

**League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
Statements on Positions**

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Statement of Position: AIR POLLUTION

The members of the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake agree that objective evidence of air pollution in the Salt Lake area justifies immediate and vigorous abatement activities. An abatement program should attempt to balance considerations of health, economics and aesthetics. An effective air pollution control program requires the cooperation of all three levels of government.

The means of implementing such a program should include the following:

- The existing air sampling program should be expanded in the Salt Lake area.
- Air monitoring should continue to be the responsibility of a state agency in cooperation with the federal government.
- Enforcement should be at the local level of government in compliance with standards set at the state or local level.
- Local ordinances should be clarified and enforcement provisions should be enforced. Such ordinances should be enacted where lacking. Local government studies of alternate methods of refuse disposal should be continued.
- Appropriate local agency or agencies should apply for available federal funds through the Clean Air Act.
- In the absence of a state agency empowered to take emergency action in the event of an acute air pollution episode, a local agency should be given this authority.
- The members of the Salt Lake League recommend the following state action:
- State legislation should be enacted now which would require that standards of air quality be adopted. This legislation would delegate the determining of such standards to a qualified technical agency.
- In view of the fact that federal law will require auto exhaust control devices on new cars beginning in 1968, new state legislation should (a) prohibit rendering inoperative these devices after sale, and (b) require periodic inspection of these devices.

April 1966

CANYONS MASTER PLAN (See Salt Lake Canyons Master Plan)

Statement of Position: GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that:

- The legislature should mandate comprehensive mapping of geographical hazards statewide.

- The legislature should mandate written disclosure of the availability of geological hazard information to prospective property buyers.

January 1984

Statement of Position: FLOOD CONTROL

The members of the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake City believe that present flood control measures being used to protect the valley are not adequate nor is the best possible use being made of the money spent.

The League also feels that the present flood control plans do not fall within the stated positions of our total water use concept.

A more effective program should contain:

- Better long-range planning. This should include consideration of the inter-related aspects of (a) the Master Plans, (b) zoning, (c) building codes, (d) construction of reservoirs for both flood control and conservation, (e) future development of the valley, (f) financing at all levels of government, (g) effects on the underground water table, (h) pollution of water supplies, (i) recreation, and (j) aesthetics.
- Stricter enforcement of existing ordinances.
- A competent, professional county staff to deal with technical problems and empowered with adequate authority to implement such a program.
- A qualified State Flood Control Director with powers to override local officials in time of emergency .

April 1968

Statement of Position: JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports the Jordan River Parkway concept. We urge:

- Acquisition of Jordan River flood plain lands.
- Cessation of dredging river channel, allowing the river to reform its bank in accordance with nature.
- Increased efforts to clean up river pollution.
- Increased efforts to clean up river bank pollution.

April 1972

Statement of Position: SALT LAKE CANYONS MASTERPLAN

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake has long supported mass transit and this

support applies to vehicular traffic in the Cottonwood Canyons. An increase in mass transit alternatives, especially at rush times and in summer, is needed. We support incentives to encourage car pooling and park and ride, including parking fees at ski areas, vehicle tolls at canyon entrances, and annual parking fees, with fee revenues to be used to improve mass transit.

We believe that because of traffic problems and the need to protect natural amenities for future generations, man-made ski facilities should not expand at the present time beyond U.S. Forest Service boundaries. Alpine skiing operations should not be extended into White Pine Canyon in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and we believe a chair lift system connecting Park City with the Cottonwood Canyons would not be practical or safe.

Siting of the Olympic Games in Salt Lake should be conditional on limiting the number of permanent structures in the canyons and holding no events in the Cottonwood Canyons. At this time we remain concerned about profitability of the Games and costs to taxpayers.

We approve of fees for canyon use, particularly fees for group picnics and overnight or car camping.

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports a formal, diverse group to coordinate canyon policies in the interests of all affected government and non-government entities.

January 1989

Statement of Position: SEWAGE AND WATER QUALITY

The League of Women Voters believes that the Salt Lake area sewage treatment facilities which empty into the Jordan River are inadequate. We urge that the sewage treatment system be upgraded to protect the health and ecology of our community. To this end, the LWV supports achievement of economical and coordinated sewage treatment through a regional management agency. We support one single treatment plant phasing out existing plants emptying into the Jordan River, provided that a single plant continues to be the most economical proposal to achieve adequate treatment.

We urge coordination and consolidation of water supply and distribution for the Salt Lake area. Original position 1953, updated February 1965, January 1977, February 1965, January 1977

Statement of Position: SOLID WASTE

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports public control of collection, separation and recycling of solid waste.

April 1972

Statement of Position: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER QUALITY

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that water quality standards for the Jordan River should be maintained to protect current and planned recreational use. Sewage treatment should be upgraded in order to maintain those standards and prevent the deterioration of water quality in the face of anticipated population growth.

The Salt Lake League further believes that all local sewage treatment entities should base their service rates on the amount of indoor water use in order to be equitable and to encourage conservation.

We believe that wastewater treatment plant construction costs may require support from the state of Utah to supplement local and federal funding.

January 1983

Statement of Position: WATER SUPPLY IN SALT LAKE COUNTY

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes the demand for water should be managed as one means of insuring future local water supply. We support price structure adjustments such as inverted block rates and flexible rates based on seasonal demands and elevation, but oppose higher water rates to new connections. We support restrictions on days and times of outdoor water use during periods of limited supply. We reaffirm our support of measures to coordinate management of local water supplies.

September 1982

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Statement of Position: MODERNIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

After careful consideration of the problems facing the Salt Lake County area, the League of Women Voters feels that the eventual solution must be a modernized form of county government. To this end we support the passage of a constitutional amendment which will permit the legislature to prescribe optional forms of county government. Until such time as an optional form of county government is established, we urge the following interim measures:

- Consolidation of City-County services.
- Consolidation of Special Purpose Districts.
- Cooperation of City and County governments in the area of capital improvements.
- Cooperation of city and county in the solution of mutual problems.

The League supports the following concepts to be incorporated in a modernized form of City or County:

- Equal representation (the one man-one vote concept) .
- Separation of legislative and administrative powers.
- Qualified department heads, whether elected or appointed.
- A basic level of service (i.e., garbage collection, fire and police protection, etc.) should be delivered to all residents by the City or County.

April 1956, updated 1957, 1960, 1965, January 1972

Statement of Position: FISCAL POLICIES AND BUDGETARY PROCEDURES

The League of Women Voters supports enforcement of the provision of the Municipal Procedures Act adopted by the Utah State Legislature in 1961.

We favor:

- Budget messages that are clear and meaningful to the public;
- Budget hearings as a means of public education on city fiscal problems and procedures.
- Public hearings on utility budgets as well as the general fund, capital improvements, and other budgets on which public hearings are required by law;
- Continued reservation of \$1 million of the annual city sales tax revenues for financing capital improvements.

To that end that budget hearings will be more meaningful to the public, we favor:

- More and better publicity before the hearings.
- Preparation and presentation at hearings of simplified, popularized versions of the budget.
- Encouragement of public attendance at and participation in budget hearings.

March 1963

Statement of Position: SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports changing the election date for elected boards of Special Districts to conform with general election dates. The League feels that such a change would increase district visibility and voter awareness. Because a larger number of voters turn out for a general election, candidates for special district offices would be able to reach a larger electorate; thus, more voters would be better informed about these candidates and their positions.

The League supports revision of present state statutes governing Special Districts to provide as much consistency among the statutes as possible while still maintaining the flexibility necessary for the variety of purposes Special Districts serve; to simplify and clarify the diversity of laws governing Special Districts; and to ensure accountability of Special Districts to the electorate.

The League supports the concept of consolidation of fire districts in Salt Lake County.
May 1981

HEALTH CARE

Statement of Position: *as announced by National Board of the League of Women Voters of the United States:*

GOALS: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE:

Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/ patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION:

The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

TAXES:

The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

COST CONTROL: The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- the reduction of administrative costs,
- regional planning for the allocation of personnel,
- facilities and equipment,
- the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- malpractice reform,

- the use of managed care,
- utilization review of treatment,
- mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- consumer accountability through deductibles and co-payments .

EQUITY ISSUES: The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by:

- allocating medical resources to underserved areas ,
- providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- requiring insurance plans to use community
- rating instead of experience rating,
- establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations .

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS :

The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together : the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family .

April 1993

PLANNING AND ZONING

Statement of Position: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING AND FINANCING

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that:

- Capital improvement planning, i.e., the tool employed by professional planners to obtain orderly development of capital improvements , should be the method used to program capital improvements.
- All incorporated cities and the unincorporated county should prepare a short-term (e.g. 5 year) capital improvements plan.
- In order to finance capital improvements, the League supports bonding and more effective use of available resources.

April 1983

Statement of Position: PLANNING

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that more effective planning is necessary in the Salt Lake area. To this end, the following measures are urged:

- City and County officials should support adequate planning .

- Local Boards, commissions, and departments should work with planning departments throughout the county regarding issues affecting more than one entity.
- Budgets of local planning and zoning commissions should be adequate to support needed planning functions.
- Comprehensive plans should be completed, adopted by elected officials, and implemented. Salt Lake County should consider adoption of a housing code.
- Existing codes and ordinances should be strictly enforced.
- Planning and development should proceed with concern for the quality of the environment.

April 1983

Statement of Position: PLANNING GOALS AND POLICIES FOR MASTER PLANS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that citizens' committees have a role to play in the planning process. Master Plans should be continually reviewed and reevaluated by the appropriate planning commission and its professional staff and periodically reviewed by a citizens' committee.

We believe that planning commissions should be responsible to their elected Council or commission members.

We support:

- Parallel state statutes governing zoning in cities and in counties;
- Opportunity for all political subdivisions affected by any proposed zoning change to be heard before any action is taken;
- Uniformity and effective enforcement of building, electrical, plumbing and housing codes and coordination of subdivision and zoning ordinances throughout Salt Lake County; and
- Authority for Salt Lake County and incorporated cities to eliminate non-conforming uses.

April 1983

Statement of Position: ZONING

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports improving City and County zoning ordinances and their administration and enforcement.

We believe that:

- Members of Planning Commissions and Boards of Adjustment should be a) selected on the basis of statutory requirements, assuring a balance of professions, and b) controlled by a code of ethics to prevent conflicts of interest.

- Alternate members of Planning Commissions and Boards of Adjustment should be appointed to assure a quorum at all meetings.
- Notification of hearings should be done in a timely manner with special effort to reach all interested parties.
- Planning Commissions and Boards of Adjustment should state in their records specific reasons for their decisions
- An explanation of the decisions should be sent to the applicant.
- Reports of complaints and decisions should be readily available to public and press.
- More flexible ordinances are desirable, provided safeguards against arbitrary decisions can be assured.
- Staff recommendations should be given more consideration in decision making.
- A merit system for enforcement personnel should be adopted.
- Adequate enforcement personnel should be provided in order to ensure compliance with local zoning ordinances .
- Each municipality should have an attorney who is experienced in and assigned to zoning matters.

April 1983

Statement of Position: PLANNING AND FINANCING ACQUISITION OF RECREATIONAL LAND

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports the acquisition of land for recreational purposes in accordance with the goals set by the Salt Lake County Master Plan as formally adopted in July 1965.

- We favor the idea of regional parks, especially the proposed Jordan River Lake-Dimple Dell area. We urge that land for neighborhood parks be acquired rapidly, and that, wherever possible, such sites be purchased adjacent to school locations.
- The full recreational potential of the Jordan River should be developed.
- Acreage standards for park land in the County as set by the National Recreation Association study of 1960 and recommended by the Salt Lake Valley Citizens Council are a satisfactory planning guide. But we urge that area needs to be restudied and revise periodically as changing population concentrations alter the original projections. The reappraisal should be done by staff in the Planning or Recreation Departments, with consultation from outside experts and the community if needed.
- The Master Plan's proposals for water management should be included in flood control plans. Multi-purpose development of the Jordan River in particular should be part of these plans. Further, we feel that any bond issue for flood control should include funds for the development of a Jordan River Lake.
- The County should participate in the acquisition of recreational lands within Salt Lake City limits at least to the extent that such land use is shown in the Master Plan.

- We support bonding as a method of financing recreational land purchases .
- The County should create a Capital Improvement Reserve Fund as an aid to long-term financial planning for capital improvement projects, including the acquisition and development of land for recreational purposes.
- Contract purchase is an acceptable means for financing acquisition of recreational land, but should be used less extensively and primarily to prevent loss of desirable park land to other uses. There should be more careful scrutiny of contract terms.

January 1966

SOCIAL POLICY

Statement of Position: EDUCATION OF GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake acknowledges that there are children capable of high performance whose educational needs are not being adequately met within the present structure of public education.

To improve education for gifted and talented students , we support :

- Sufficient funding to identify gifted/talented students, and to provide programs that meet their needs.
- Pre-service and in-service training programs to prepare teachers to recognize and serve gifted/talented students.
- Observation and monitoring of school programs to insure appropriate education for gifted/talented students.
- Education of the public concerning the needs of the gifted/talented.

September 1981

Statement of Position: HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that students who fail to complete high school represent a wasted resource to themselves and the community. We recognize that the educational system has the primary responsibility to help all students stay in public school. However, parents, governmental agencies, including social service, health, and the justice system , and the business community have important responsibilities in this endeavor as well. The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports individual and cooperative efforts of these groups.

To increase the numbers of high school students obtaining diplomas , the League supports :

- Increased funding for guidance counselors and social workers, particularly at the elementary level.
- Programs for early identification and remediation of at-risk students .
- Training for teachers to identify and help at-risk students .
- Establishment of effective systems for student tracking , including attendance

- records and parent notification .
- Lower class size at all levels.

July 1989

Statement of Position: SEXUAL EQUITY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake recognizes that support of sex equity in Salt Lake vocational education promotes skill training and job placement without regard to sex .

To support and improve sex equity in vocational education in the Salt Lake area we support:

- School counseling that informs students of sexual equity in vocational education and encourages vocational training options without regard to sex .
- Federal and local involvement in vocational sex equity planning and implementation with an emphasis on local school board support.
- Coordination between local vocational training programs and the needs of industry to insure vocational training meets the current and future skill requirements of employers .
- An emphasis on the availability of more vocational specialization and advanced training in order to promote higher job entry levels without regard to sex .
- The exchange and sharing of vocational sex equity program success and information among school boards, administrators and instructors.

September 1982

Statement of Position: Meeting Basic Human Needs

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports the right of all persons in the United States who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available to have an income and/or services adequate to meet their basic needs for food and shelter. We also believe the above statement should be expanded to include access to health care.

We believe that access to health care should include: preventive care; primary care; maternal and child health care; emergency care; catastrophic care; nursing-home care; nutrition programs; substance-abuse programs; health education programs; sex education programs and mental health care. We do not believe access to basic health care should include experimental "high-tech" procedures such as artificial heart transplants .

Funding for the four basic human needs should be appropriated as follows:

- Food/nutrition - Federal government should fund more than 50% of these costs;

- state and local governments as well as the private sector should each pay less than 50% but should share responsibility.
- Health care - Federal government should fund more than 50% of these costs; state and local governments as well as the private sector should each pay less than 50% but should share responsibility.
 - Housing - Federal government should fund more than 50% of these costs; state and local governments as well as the private sector should each pay less than 50% but should share responsibility.
 - Income Assistance - Federal government should fund more than 50% of these costs; state and local governments should share the remainder of the costs. The private sector should not have any responsibility in this area.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the federal government to set minimum standards and/or guidelines for assistance programs.

LWV of Salt Lake believes the following methods should be used to reduce poverty: increasing job opportunities; expanding coverage of the minimum wage; providing access to health insurance, i.e., expanding subsidized health care, creating risk pools for the employed insured, etc.; providing support services, i.e., child care, transportation or subsidized health care; providing opportunities and/or incentives for basic or remedial education and/or job training; requiring income assistance recipients to work, attend school or participate in job training programs in exchange for benefits; providing programs designed to decrease teen pregnancy; and enforcing child-support laws.

If mandatory obligations are imposed on recipients of assistance, such a policy should include the following: exemptions for primary care givers (i.e., persons caring for young children, the elderly or the disabled); equitable compensation (not below existing wages for similar work); disregard of some earned income for the purpose of calculating benefit levels; job training; basic education; the promotion of self-sufficiency, the goal of which is becoming independent of the welfare system in a reasonable amount of time; and the retention of supplemental support services (i.e., health care, subsidized child care, etc.).

November 1988

Statement of Position: EDUCATION IN SALT LAKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake advocates excellence of education in Salt Lake County high schools. We believe the level of excellence can be enhanced through:

- Increasing the quality and/or number of classes in math, English, science, social studies, foreign language, and computer science.
- Requiring high school students to do appropriate and meaningful homework on a regular basis.
- Limiting the number of activities that interrupt regular school days and scheduling most extra-curricular activities outside the regular school day.

- Testing student achievement on a regular basis.

May 1984

Statement of Position: COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that county and state government should be responsible for providing public mental health services. County and state government should increase funding to cover inflation and cost of service increases, more live-in/work places for the chronically mentally ill, and more youth programs. The league should be actively involved in raising community awareness about mental health issues.

April 1985

Statement of Position: HOUSING

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports landlord tenant laws.
February 1989

WATER TAXATION

LWVU Position based on "Taxation for Utah Water Delivery and Development:

The LWV of Utah has positions on water conservation and planning strategies which should enable future generations to live on a limited water budget without threatening the health of the natural environment. We favor policies that support a safe and reliable water supply for our citizens. A stable revenue flow to pay for water delivery infrastructure must be in place. Since user fees may be unstable or burdensome, especially in times of drought and under regimens of strict conservation measures, additional revenue sources that are not tied to rates of consumption may be necessary. Although state sales tax and local property taxes have been a traditional support for water districts in Utah, other sources might be more equitable, for example assessments on each water account or hook-up.

Any water policy or fee should meet the following standards:

- Transparency - easily identified and understood
- Voter approval - approved by direct vote of the citizenry or elected representatives
- Time limitation – subject to time limits or scheduled sunset review

Furthermore, a robust public discussion on water policy is critical in a state where water is limited, rapid growth is predicted, and competing environmental and lifestyle choices must be considered.

December 2004

TRANSPORTATION

Statement of Position: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Salt Lake League of Women Voters recognizes the urgent need for improving metropolitan public transportation in the Salt Lake Valley and urges that all levels of government share the responsibility.

We support:

- Financing by the tax-paying public through sales tax, federal funds, negative incentives (gasoline taxes, motor vehicle taxes, etc.), bonding and other general funds, with examination of the possibility of diverting Highway Trust Funds to public transportation projects.
- Improvement of overall services with better promotion of public transportation systems.
- Development of a coordinating body at the state level.

The League acknowledges the difficulties in maintaining and operating a public transportation system and believes that successful public transportation is the responsibility of all citizens.

August 1972, updated April 1974

Statement of Position: 1-15 CORRIDOR AND LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake City continues to recognize the urgent need for improved transportation systems in Salt Lake Valley and urges that all levels of government share the responsibility for planning, funding, and implementing appropriate solutions.

We support:

- Interchange improvements on 1-15 at 1-80 West, 1-15 East at 2100 South and 3300 South, and a new interchange at 11400 South. We do not support an additional interchange on North Temple.
- Development of additional lanes and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on 1-15.
- Development of a Light Rail Transit system using the existing Union Pacific railroad right-of-way and including a loop in the Salt Lake Central Business District.
- Construction of these improvements being done in a manner which does not disrupt existing neighborhoods.
- Financing needed improvements through sales tax and user fees, such as gas and motor vehicle taxes, and federal funds as available. Bonding to fund the Light Rail Transit System is desirable.

February 1988

VOTING RIGHTS

Statement of Position: PARTISAN ELECTIONS

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes that the present non-partisan status of Salt Lake City is in keeping with good government. The Salt Lake League is opposed to any efforts to institute partisan municipal elections in Salt Lake City.

Statement of Position: ALTERNATIVE ELECTION SYSTEMS

(In 2004-2005 The League of Women Voters of Utah undertook a study of alternative elections systems. The Salt Lake League began identifying faults in the current political process: the dominance of big money, poor media coverage, voter apathy, inadequate public debate, non-competitive voting districts, and voter frustration with candidates and parties. We agreed that any changes in election systems should address these issues.)

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake believes a majority vote should be required to elect a candidate to a single seat position. We think that using an instant run-off system to select a majority candidate would support League goals of a more robust political debate, higher voter turn-out, and fewer wasted votes (However, this preference does not preclude the League from supporting other means of achieving a majority where appropriate.)

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake supports experimentation with proportional representational systems to achieve League goals of improved depth and tenor of political debate, accountable election officials, competitive elections, legislative bodies that reasonably mirror the electorate, and a higher level of citizen participation.

October 2005