



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN POSITION SUMMARIES

(Enhanced Position Statements are available on www.lwvmi.org)

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GOVERNMENT

Redistricting for State Legislature and US House of Representatives: LWVMI supports the formation of an independent redistricting commission in lieu of the legislature as the primary redistricting body. Such a commission should afford equal representation to the major parties and provide for independent and diverse representation. This commission should be established through legislation and/or a constitutional amendment.

Intergovernmental Relations within Michigan - LWVMI supports measures to allow flexibility in solving metropolitan area or regional problems, and to encourage orderly grown and efficient government. Such measures should include cooperation, coordination and long-range planning.

Taxation and Budgeting - LWVMI supports the development of a state-local tax structure which is adequate, equitable, flexible and moderately progressive.

Election Laws – LWVMI supports uniform ease and accessibility of voting with assurances of accuracy, security and voter privacy; fair and regional presidential primary; local officials having primary authority of elections, the principles of initiative, referendum and recall; nonpartisan merit appointment and the subsequent retention of judges for local courts; public funding for judicial election campaigns.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Great Lakes Ecosystem – LWVMI supports maintaining the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem. To achieve protection of this international resource, criteria for the decision-making process and the suitability of any proposal should include public education and participation, better communication in government, separation of authority for proposals and permits, coordination of research, shoreline management, high water quality standards and water conservation.

Land Use – LWVMI, recognizing that land is a finite resource not just a commodity, believes that land ownership (whether public or private), implies responsibilities of stewardship.

Pesticides - LWVMI supports reduction of exposure to all pesticides and the use of non-toxic alternatives, regulation of the use of pesticides by all levels of government and public notification of pesticide use.

Solid Waste Management – LWVMI supports measures to solve the problem of solid waste disposal including state cooperation with local and federal bodies, primary responsibility by local government, and mandatory reuse and recycling technology.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations - LWVMI supports adequate regulation and inspection of facilities and the public's right to know of environmental risks.

SOCIAL POLICY

Children and Youth – LWVMI supports a system of comprehensive and coordinated services for all children and families in order to provide basic resources for an adequate quality of life, policies and programs staffed with well-trained and sufficient personnel to provide preventative, protective and rehabilitative services for all children and their families, and individualized justice for children within the framework of due process of law with adequate and coordinated court services

Public Education (Pre-K-12) in Michigan - LWVMI supports the development of a publicly financed public education system in which there is equal opportunity for an excellent education available to all children in Michigan and an educational structure that provides transparency and accountability at all levels and in all venues.

Health Care - LWVMI supports equal access for all to quality health care at reasonable cost, cost effective methods of health care delivery which do not sacrifice adequate individual care, and fees for health care professionals that reflect a combination of government, market place and provider considerations. Individual positions exist on facilities, health care personnel, consumer responsibility, professional liability, third party reimbursement and access to facilities and services.

Social Services – LWVMI supports a system of social services to 1) provide sufficient income assistance to assure decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter for those persons unable to work, or for whom jobs are not available, or whose earnings are inadequate; and 2) establish adequate financial incentives and opportunities for realistic job training and counseling.

Structure and Funding of Michigan's Public Libraries - LWVMI supports a basic and stable level of funding for public libraries to insure basic services to all residents of Michigan. Sources include all penal fines, state aid and local taxes. The organization of public libraries should be uniform with self-governing library boards having financial autonomy, complying with minimum standards and cooperating with other libraries.

Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Workers: LWVMI supports legislation and publicly fund programs and services that address the ongoing challenges faced by agricultural employers to recruit and retain viable, skilled migrant/seasonal farm workers. It is quality of life issues for workers and their families that draw workers in a competitive labor market.

Prisons in Michigan – LWVMI supports a cost-effective prison system that reduces recidivism, utilizes alternatives to incarceration, reduces emphasis on prison construction, and provides supportive/rehabilitative programs.