

LWVPT Public Policy Positions to be readopted for 2017-2018

Government

County government

Promote a working cooperation among the governmental units in our counties. Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects the individual liberties established by the constitution; and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in governmental decision-making.

Social policy

Meeting Basic Human Needs - Health Care

Promote a healthy community that recognizes the importance of social, geographic, political influences. Promote a health care system for the Piedmont Triad that provides access to affordable, quality care for all residents, including prevention of disease, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care (including substance abuse treatment). Promote control of health care costs, equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total expenditure level for health.

Child Care

Promote creation of day care centers at the parents' work places.

Promote appropriate level of education and qualifications, with adequate compensation, for care providers and staff.

Natural resources

Water

Promote measures that will maintain good water for human use, including:

- Control population density in the northwestern quadrant and adjacent to the water reservoirs of Greensboro.
- Encourage innovative building patterns, which allow the retention of open spaces and controlled buffer zones along the main tributaries and reservoirs.
- Use tax revenue for a continuous program of purchasing open space and controlled buffer zones along the main tributaries and reservoirs.
- Promote measures to reduce sedimentation and storm runoff.
- Conserve present water supplies by allowing water rates to reflect water costs.

Land use - Sign ordinances

Support sign ordinance measures for Guilford County.

Transportation

Promote development of modes of transportation that provide alternatives to the private automobile, such as a demand-response transportation system, improved bus and taxi programs, and encouragement of carpooling and bikeways.

Support continuation of a multi-modal transportation terminal in downtown Greensboro

Education

(Adopted by LWVPT Members, March 21, 2017)

The LWVPT Public Education Roundtable History

The LWVPT Public Education Roundtable was founded in 2010. One of the first acts was the participation in the LWVUS national study on the "Federal Role in Public Education" in 2011. Concurrent and following this almost year-long study, numerous meetings were held to discuss the status of public education on a local level and coupled with the knowledge gained from participation in the national study, the LWVPT Public Education Roundtable developed "A Round Table of Thoughts about Public Education – A White Paper", printed and widely distributed in 2012. The document reviewed public education in the United States and North Carolina and examined, in depth 6 critical existing challenges: Poverty, Funding and Equity, the Imperative of High Quality Teaching, Curriculum Issues,

Privatization and Re-segregation of Schools. Subsequently in May, 2013, League members from across the state caucused at the LWVNC State Convention and through discussion, validated that these challenges are statewide issues.

The LWVPT Public Education Roundtable Position

After extensive study, the LWVPT Public Education Roundtable believes that for quality education to exist and thrive locally for all children pre-K through grade 12, the following principles must be the foci of the League: funding equity, integration, high quality teachers and principals, support service to include teacher assistants and small class size especially in high poverty schools. Public tax dollars must be used only for public school education with accountability and transparency required in all educational settings. Therefore, the LWVPT endorses the following principles to form its Public Education Policy.

1. Opposition to vouchers, tax credits, scholarships, or other uses of public tax dollars to fund private or parochial school attendance.
2. Support for fully funding public pre-K for all children and providing support for families of pre-K children suffering physical, emotional, and other traumas that negatively and possibly permanently affect their ability to succeed in school.
3. Provision of highly qualified effective teachers and principals in all schools that includes professional staff development, support staff and adequate classroom equipment and materials and salaries competitive with the national average.
4. Holding charter schools that receive public dollars to the same educational accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools.