

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALLS CHURCH SUPPORT POSITIONS

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I. PLANNING

The League of Women Voters of Falls Church supports the ongoing implementation of a Comprehensive Plan, which affords a coordinated approach to meet the present and future needs of the city's residents. Future development should:

- A. Encourage the continuation of the family atmosphere of the community;
- B. Enhance the physical appearance of the city in buildings and landscape design;
- C. Consider the impact of traffic flow on the city.

II. ZONING (1970, 2007)

The LWVFC believes zoning ordinances should be strictly interpreted and enforced, including adequate on-site reviews of conformance to approved plans, and that:

- A. The Zoning Ordinance and its interpretation should support the city's efforts to ensure that development is compatible in location, height, mass, scale, density, use, site layout and architectural character with the surrounding neighborhoods;
- B. Exceptions should be allowed only after review by the Planning Commission;
- C. Stabilization and protection of residential areas should be a major consideration in the review of any redevelopment or rezoning proposal;
- D. Effective buffers sufficient to screen and protect low-density residential areas from the impact of new development should be required in all cases;
- E. New development should not adversely affect the capacity of the city's infrastructure;
- F. The city should ensure that the financial and infrastructure impact analyses are readily available to interested members of the community in a timely fashion;
- G. Consideration of Special Exceptions and rezonings should be structured to provide public input and review before a First Reading on any major development project.

III. HOUSING (1969, 1974, 1977, 1993, 2007)

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Plan, housing goals should:

- A. Encourage affordable housing units for all age levels and support efforts to meet the needs of diverse social and economic groups, including the homeless.
- B. Encourage zoning code changes and mixed use development to increase affordable housing;
- C. Pursue developing new sources of support and subsidy for affordable housing;
- D. Support development of a residential mix to meet changing economic conditions;
- E. Emphasize maintaining and improving the quality of housing and neighborhood environments;
- F. Integrate new housing with existing neighborhood.

IV. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (1977, 2007)

Commercial/business development in the city should:

- A. Emphasize greater business development in commercially zoned areas;
- B. Encourage land consolidation and mixed business uses;
- C. Provide greater employment opportunities and increased city revenues;
- D. Have minimum adverse impact on the capacity of the infrastructure;
- E. Incorporate design, massing, scale, site layout and uses that conform to the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

V. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (1978,2007)

The Capital Improvement Program should:

- A. Emphasize broad dissemination of information to citizens regarding capital improvement projects;
- B. Provide periodic public review (i.e., every five years) for all capital improvements that have been deferred;
- C. Support:
 - 1. a cost-benefit study prior to any bond decision, to determine the feasibility of a project and/or the desirability of new construction versus renovation;
 - 2. early publication of notification of intent to present a bond issue;
 - 3. dissemination of information to the public on the justification for the city's decision to support a project going to referendum.

VI. LAND USE (1984)

The LWVFC supports a mixture of uses in order to provide single and multi-family housing in business and transitional areas where appropriate. The city should encourage restoration, renovation and redevelopment of commercial property. Some of the tools that can be used are:

- A. Public improvements as stipulated in negotiated contracts;
- B. Rezoning to alter permitted land use;
- C. Changes in parking ordinances;
- D. Parcel consolidation;
- E. Architectural guidelines.

VII. EDUCATION/CHILD DEVELOPMENT (1973, 1981, 2005)

The Falls Church League of Women Voters supports:

- A. Sufficient funds to provide:
 - 1. a caring, competent, qualified teacher in every classroom;
 - 2. school and class sizes that are appropriate for instructional goals and the emotional needs of children;
 - 3. strong early childhood programs and interventions, for students with special needs;
 - 4. quality professional development opportunities;
- B. Educational programs that offer challenging curricula and enrichment for diverse learners and that prepare all students for higher education or competent entry into the work force;
- C. Opportunities for all students to participate in extracurricular and service learning activities to develop and apply skills needed to become active participants in their communities;

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EDUCATION/CHILD DEVELOPMENT *continued from page 2.*

- D. Parenting education for high school students;
- E. Extended day care for all school-age children whose families request it, financed primarily by user fees on a sliding scale, with city subsidies where necessary;
- F. Adult classes in child development and behavior, with city subsidies where necessary;
- G. Efforts to seek business and private support of the schools to enhance the education programs provided by public funds, with the goal that such efforts be self-sustaining and that the school system continue to fund the essentials of a quality education.

VIII. RECREATION (1969, 1981)

The LWVFC supports:

- A. Land acquisition for recreational purposes and open space within the city;
- B. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

IX. TRANSPORTATION (1983, 2007)

The LWVFC believes it is important to:

- A. Expedite traffic flow on the city's major streets to minimize traffic on minor arteries and residential streets;
- B. Synchronize traffic signals to facilitate traffic flow without encouraging excessive speed;
- C. Encourage a common entrance into parking areas for adjacent businesses, with exits onto rear or side streets;
- D. Maintain plantings, curbs and gutters along our streets;
- E. Publish a transportation column in Focus with information about mass transportation and parking.
- F. Improve and expand pedestrian access and creation of a pedestrian-friendly environment in every neighborhood.

X. WASTE MANAGEMENT (1990, 2007)

Recognizing the need for increased attention to problems of waste management at all levels of government and the need to develop efficient local strategies to address these problems, the LWVFC supports:

- A. city funding of an expanded curbside program to include all marketable recyclable material;
- B. A voluntary program, with the possibility of a future mandatory program;
- C. A requirement by the city that apartment owners provide opportunities for tenants to separate newspapers and other materials included in an expanded city program;
- D. A requirement by the city that owners of commercial buildings, establishments, and institutions provide opportunities for the collection of office paper, as well as for the collection of all marketable recyclable materials where sufficient volume exists;
- E. city efforts to encourage food service businesses to procure recyclable food-service containers.
- F. a collection program for accepting and disposing of household hazardous materials.

XI. HUMAN SERVICES (1990)

The LWVFC supports a consolidated Commission for Human Services to:

- A. Enhance coordination and efficiency in planning, funding and evaluating the delivery of human services;
- B. Strengthen consultation on human services issues among city Boards and Commissions, the city Council, and the city Manager;
- C. Provide effective liaison with local representatives to regional human services bodies;
- D. Improve effective coordination between public and private providers of human services;
- E. Reduce the demand on city staff for support of numerous Boards and Commissions.

XII. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (1995)

In order to meet the needs of the present without compromising the well-being of future generations, the LWVFC believes that Falls Church government and citizens should:

- A. Address the long-term implications of our development and infrastructure decisions and practices;
- B. Explore participation in programs that support sustainable development;
- C. Integrate principles of sustainable development into the Comprehensive Plan and other planning policies and procedures;
- D. Revise the zoning code to reflect the principles of sustainable development as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan;
- E. Foster business development policies and procedures that support sustainable development;
- F. Encourage inter-jurisdictional planning that supports sustainable development.

XIII. CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH (1997)

Since the LWVFC believes that demographics are an important tool to be used in the public decision-making process, we support:

- A. Ongoing collection of demographic information using such tools as the U.S. census, school census, surveys and needs assessments;
- B. Timely input of demographic information into the city's Geographic Information System;
- C. Improved dissemination of demographic information such as an annual report to citizens.

XIV. REVENUE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH (2005)

The LWVFC supports:

- A. Expansion of local revenue-raising alternatives that allow for reduced dependence on the real estate property tax.
- B. Annual assessments of real estate and tangible personal property based on 100% of their fair market value. Assessment methods should be equitable, straightforward, transparent, and efficient to administer. Taxpayers should have explicit rights for administrative and judicial appeals.
- C. A tax system for our local government that reflects community goals and values and that provides adequate revenues to support them.

XV. Inter-Jurisdictional Relationships (2007)

The LWVFC believes that:

- A. Inter-jurisdictional arrangements for housing and human services should be based on documented need, mandates, effectiveness and expense;
- B. There should be a mechanism in place for periodic review of all arrangements with other jurisdictions;
- C. In view of the responsibilities placed on the citizens who represent the city on inter-jurisdictional bodies, more effective communication between these representatives, City Council and city staff should include:
 - 1. City orientation of individual representatives when appointed;
 - 2. An organizational point of contact within the city government, including periodic consultations when appropriate;
 - 3. Periodic reporting by representatives to City Council;
 - 4. The expectation that such representatives be included in relevant city budget discussions.