



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO

PROGRAM AND HISTORY

1953 - 2020

A Guide to *Public Policy Positions*

League of Women Voters® of Jefferson County, CO

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TAKING ACTION AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Individual League members are always free to take action on whatever they choose; as long as they do so in their own name, and leave no impression that they speak for the League.

MISSION OF THE LWV

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORY *FIRST IN THE COUNTRY*

In the early 1950's so much of Jefferson County was unincorporated open land that women who wanted to belong to the League of Women Voters joined the Denver League. It was obvious; however, that many items of interest to Jefferson County residents could not be studied by the Denver League. Ignoring the predictions that a county league would never work, a "Know Your County" study was begun in 1952 in anticipation of applying for provisional status as a separate league.

The Jefferson County League, the first county league in the United States, was organized on May 27, 1953 with a membership of about sixty women in three units. The board meetings were held in a milk house office on an old farm. During the first year as a provisional league, "Know Your County" was completed and seventy-five copies were given or sold outside the membership. An education committee was also established. In January of 1954, the national board of the League of Women Voters gave full recognition to the League of Women Voters of Jefferson County. All subsequent county leagues were patterned after it.

In addition to time spent on issues of state and national concern, the ensuing years have brought the adoption of Local Study Items followed by committee research, appropriate publications, meetings for consensus or concurrence, and finally position statements with a focus on action. All this is contained in the following pages. However, there are a few highlights worth mentioning.

While actively campaigning for passage of a school bond issue in 1955, League's participation in a bond rally and parade were seen on Edward R. Murrow's "See It Now" television program. The first candidates' meeting was held in 1958. Having league observers attend public meetings in 1960 was the beginning of today's Observer Corps. At the same time, a study of county fiscal structure resulted in a publication, "Quo Vadit", which was purchased by the school district for each junior and senior high school student and school administrative officials.

In 1964, local leagues began to undertake additional studies limited to their own areas. The Jeffco League hired its first part-time office secretary in 1965. Another milestone was reached in 1966 when the Jeffco League joined with other area Leagues to form the League of Women Voters of Metro Denver. It was dissolved in 1991.

Making Democracy Work!TM through voter education and advocacy efforts is still is our mission. Certain traditions have evolved over the years: the Legislative Event (providing a preview of the upcoming state legislative session), member meetings with the County Commissioners and the School Board of Education, the Citizens Guide publication and our monthly newsletter, VOTER – The Voice of LWV Jeffco. Our website at www.lwvjeffco.org and Facebook provides up to date information to our members and the public.

The action reported in this booklet has been taken at the local level. No action or lobbying at the state or national level is reported. Please refer to the National League [Impact On Issues](#) and the LWVCO [Program for Study and Action publications](#) for more information on the national and state positions and actions.

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PRINCIPLES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. Government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

LWV JEFFERSON COUNTY PRESIDENTS

1953 Velma Muelengracht	1983 Deloris Olsen	2007 Cath Perrone
1955 Beverly Hunt	1985 Jo Rock	2008 Robera Kreutzfeld
1957 Margaret Fischer	1987 Purnee McCourt	2009 Gwen Lipkie
1959 Barbara Courtney	1989 Kay Marsh	2010 Jo Rock, Karil Frohboese
1960 Cynthia Daniels	1991 Ruth Wells	2011 Ann Roux, Susan Vaughan
1961 Charlotte Hoops	1993 Marcia Schafer	2012 Ann Roux
1965 Wanda Babb	1995 Ann Nesshofer	2013 Pat Mesec
1967 Bobbie Cromwell	1997 Kathy Glass, Jo Rock, Patty Schoedler	2015 Executive Committee
1969 Bette Seeland	1999 Sue Chichester	Christina Manthey
1971 Fran Yehle	2000 Gwen Lipkie	Patty Schroeder
1973 Judy Carstens	2001 Gari Westkott	Tina Campbell
1975 Pat Mesec	2002 Carol Coppock, Kathy Reul	Lucinda Schneller
1975 Nancy Miller	2003 Flodie Anderson	2016 Mary Lonergan
1977 Carol Wilson	2004 Marjory Beal	2017 Mary Lonergan
1979 Judi Steele	2005 Marian Downs	2018 June LeCrone
1980 Anita Ging	2006 Adrienne Andrews-Glenn	2019 June LeCrone

LOCAL PROGRAM IN BRIEF

GOVERNMENT

Governmental Solutions

Support of governmental solutions most suitable to the needs of Jefferson County.

Boards and Commissions

Support of structures, procedures and practices for elected and appointed boards and commissions committees and special districts, which insure accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, effective performance and openness.

County Government

Support for increasing county commissioners from three to five members.

Fiscal Policy

Support policies that promote fiscal responsibility, efficiency, economy, transparency, long range planning, and the inclusion of citizens in the financial process. Budgeting should strive to provide adequate funds for programs and services.

Library

Support for the property tax as the primary means of funding a library system.

Highways

Support for evaluation and assessment of costs, long term environmental, economic and social implications in an open and transparent method before a road or highway is built or improved.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use

Support of an integrated, total county approach to planning which provides for the diverse needs of the members of the community while ensuring environmental quality. Support of county-wide wildfire mitigation efforts.

Open Space

Support of the Jefferson County Open Space program as a county-wide program, funded by a sales tax. Support of procedures and criteria for the use of Open Space funds for development.

Environmental Hazards

Support of measures which provide residents with notification of hazards (including wildfire hazards), safety measures and warning systems, related to man-made or natural hazards.

Noise Pollution

Support of implementation of noise standards by local governments with adequate funding for enforcement.

Sustainability

Support of a way of life, which seeks to balance environmental, economic, and human needs, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal.

Wildlife

Support for the conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats for the contribution they make toward the health and sustainability of the environment.

LOCAL PROGRAM IN BRIEF (continued)

SOCIAL POLICY

Education

Administration / Finance

Support of policies, which promote efficient administrative and financial practices in the Jefferson County School District. Quality Education Support for a Jefferson County School budget that provides a high quality of education for all.

Charter Schools

Promote conscientious review of charter school applications and renewals along with comprehensive and continual oversight of charter schools in Jefferson County.

Housing

Support well-planned diversified types and densities of housing with access to public transportation for all income levels. Dispersed low-income housing as an integral part of the community. Support of shelters and transitional housing in Jefferson County as emergency and short term housing measures with emphasis on assisting people to become self-sufficient. Support manufactured homes, accessory dwelling units, shared housing, and accessible homes for families, individuals, seniors, and disabled in landscaped and regulated settings with adequate open space.

Health Care Services

Support of Jefferson County government leadership in developing health policy and in facilitating and coordinating delivery of physical and mental health care services for county residents. High priority is placed on preventive care, primary care and emergency care. Health services should be evaluated in terms of accountability, availability, and equitable financing.

Human Trafficking (LWVUS Position 2014)

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent it. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

Income Inequality

Supports policies that lead to reducing income inequality and to promoting inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

LOCAL STUDY ITEMS

1953 Know Your County
1954 Administrative and Financial Structure of Jefferson County Schools
1955 Health and Sanitation Facilities in Jefferson County
1956 Comparative Forms of County Government and Related Problems
1957 State Constitutional and Statutory Provisions of County Government
1958 An Analysis of Jefferson County Government
1959 Governmental Solutions and Regional Cooperation
1960 County Fiscal Structure: Efficient and Economical Practices
1961 Education; County Fiscal Structure
1962 Educational Standards; Incorporation
1963 Consolidation of Previous Studies on Local Government
1964 County Parks and Recreation
1965 Review of All Studies and Directives for Effective Action
1966 Air Pollution; Planning and Zoning
1967 Planning and Zoning; Evergreen's Governmental Needs; Arvada—Special Districts
1968 Budget of R-1 Schools
1969 Review of Local Government Positions
1970 Housing
1971 Lakewood; Mountain Land Use
1972 Mountain Land Use; Open Space; County Home Rule
1973 County Home Rule; Health Services; Land Use Planning
1974 Know Your Communities: Wheat Ridge and Evergreen; Boards and Commissions;
Revised Standards on Education
1975 Administrative and Financial Structure of the School District; Know Your
Communities: Mountain Parks, Arvada and Evergreen
1976 Continued 1975 Studies
1977 Noise Pollution; Open Space and Recreation; Evergreen Study of Alternative Forms of
Local Government; Know Your Community: Lakewood
1978 Evergreen and Lakewood Studies continued; Know Your County; Housing; Jefferson
County Budget
1979 Know Your County; Environmental Hazards
1980 Know Your County; County Home Rule (update); Know Your Community: Chatfield
1981 Environmental Hazards (update); Housing (update); Evergreen's Growth and Development
1982 Alternative Methods of Funding Education
1983 No New Study
1984 Quality Education; Open Space
1985 Library
1986 Boards and Commissions Reevaluation
1987 Know Your Community: Golden; Health Services
1988 Health Services
1989 Health Services
1990 Housing
1991 Education
1992 Education
1993 Land Use Policies; Education
1994 No New Study

LOCAL STUDY ITEMS (continued)

- 1995 Education: Site-based Management, Special Education; Land Use: Old Plats; Know Your Community: Chatfield
- 1996 A Study of Zoning; Know Your Community: South Jefferson County
- 1997 Welfare in Jefferson County
- 1998 Financing County Government and Services
- 1999 Restorative and Community Justice
- 2000 No New Program
- 2001 Study of Programs for Troubled Youth in Schools; Education: Effectiveness of Alternative Methods of Educating Students; Update of Housing; Update of Current Election Process and Technology
- 2002 Health Care Policies; Juvenile Sex Offenders Treatment Facilities and Programs
- 2003 Study of Health Care Conditions, Options and Policies including the CHP+ in Jeffco;
- 2003 Study of Placement and Treatment of Juvenile Sex Offenders in Jeffco; Study of Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Tax and Its Benefits for Jeffco organizations
- 2004 Eminent Domain; Survey of Special Districts
- 2005 Study of Options for Jefferson County Government; Evaluation of Open Space Budget with Emphasis on Funds for Maintenance; Study of Lakewood Sales Tax Increase
- 2006 Study to Examine Intolerance in Society and Its Relationship to the Erosion of Personal Liberties; Emergency Preparedness in Jefferson County; Sex Offenders in the Court System
- 2007 Governance of Library System; Wildfire Mitigation; Renewable Energy in Jeffco; FastTrack's Update
- 2008 Economic Aspects of Open Space; Examine Current Status of Jefferson County Justice System; Homelessness in Jefferson County and Services provided by Local Agencies; Sustainability
- 2009 Study of Sheriff's Office; Youthful Sexual Offender Programs, Homes and Centers in Jefferson County; Sustainability continued; Civics Education in Jefferson County
- 2011 County Finance Study. Concurrence was reached Fiscal Policy.
- 2011 Highway Study. Led to consensus
- 2013 Human Trafficking Activities in Jefferson County Study. Led to concurrence.
- 2014 Wildlife Protection Study. Consensus led to a Natural Resources position.
- 2015 Income Inequality Study under Social Policy and Air Pollution Study under Natural Resources began in 2015 to continue into 2016
- 2016 Income Inequality Study resulted in a concurrence statement. Charter School Study under Social Policy and update of the Government Officials Policies

PUBLICATIONS

- 1953 "Know Your County"
- 1954 "Kids, Cash and Cold Facts"; "School Keeps"
- 1955 "Sewage: Your Problem and Mine"
- 1956 "Alternatives for our Present County Government:
- 1957 "How Your Jefferson County Government Operates"
- 1960 "Quo Vadit"
- 1961 "Schools in Review"; "Community Mental Health Clinics"
- 1962 "Distribution of Jefferson County Property Taxes"
- 1963 "Before the Roof Falls In"; "Home Rule for Arvada"
- 1964 "Parks and Recreation in Jefferson County"; "How Your Jeffco Government Operates"
- 1965 "This Is Arvada"
- 1966 "What's Going On Up Here?"
- 1967 "Study of Planning and Zoning in Jefferson County"
- 1968 "It's Your Decision"
- 1970 "Environmental Geology in Our Own Backyard"
- 1971 "Summertime Discovery"; "Fire Chutes"
- 1972 "This Is Lakewood"; "Mountain Puzzle"
- 1973 "Golden"; "Jefferson County Department of Health and Related Service"
- 1974 "ABC's of Appointed Boards and Commissions"
- 1975 "Wheat Ridge: Who? What? Where?"; "Housing For All—How?"
- 1976 "Know Your Community: Evergreen"
- 1977 "Our Schools—Let's Communicate"; "Mount Vernon Canyon to Bergen Park"
"Arvada: Know Your City"; "Open Space and Recreation in Jefferson County"
- 1978 "This Is Lakewood"
- 1979 "Jefferson County Budget"; "Land Use"
- 1980 "Possible Environmental Hazards in Jefferson County, Parts I and II"; "Open Space and Recreation in Jefferson County"
- 1981 "Where We Live—South Jefferson County"
- 1983 "A Citizen's Guide to Jefferson County, Colorado"
- 1984 "Jefferson County Open Space, 1973-1984"
- 1986 "The Library Study"; "Boards and Commissions in Jefferson County"
- 1987 "Golden, Colorado: Challenging Past and Future"
- 1989 "Health Care Services in Jefferson County"
- 1990 "Housing in Jefferson County"
- 1992 "Education: The Changing Scene"
- 1994 "The Planning and Zoning Maze"
- 1995 "The Regulation and Impacts of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems in Jefferson County";
"New Choices: A Look at Five Jefferson County School Options"; "Academic Excellence, A Guide to Selecting the Right School"; "Nuclear Waste at Rocky Flats: Our Cold War Legacy",
Rocky Flats Video
- 1997 "Local Wetlands: A Community Perspective"; "How to Evaluate a School Board Candidate"
- 1999 "Moving Jefferson County into the 21st Century, A Study of Financing County Government and Service"; "Jefferson County Division of Human Services in Transition"
- 2000 "Democracy"
- 2001 "Legal and Policy Issues Related to Gays and Lesbians"
- 2002 "A Whole Lot of Choices: A Look at Jefferson County's Option and Charter Schools";
"Programs that Identify, Assess, Assist, and Monitor Troubled or At-Risk Youth in Jefferson County"
- 2003 "Health Care in Jefferson County: The Changing Picture"
- 2007 "A Whole Lot of Choices: A Look at Jefferson County's Option and Charter Schools, An Update"
- 2015 "Charter Schools: A Refresher Course"

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENTAL SOLUTIONS

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of governmental solutions most suitable to the needs of Jefferson County. County government should be responsive, representative and efficient. Governmental units should be encouraged to cooperate with other governmental units in providing services and to consolidate if program effectiveness and efficiency would be promoted. Strong support of regional approaches to solving regional problems. Support of an audible roll call by all governmental bodies for each decision.

STANDARDS

When considering proposals for change, the effectiveness of the existing structure should be evaluated first.

Any proposal should support the general welfare of the people. It should be flexible in scope and authority to adjust to future growth and development patterns and flexible in determining the level of services according to the demands of the people. The desired services should be provided effectively.

The proposal should not unduly complicate governmental structures or generate collateral problems. It should fix responsibility for the performance of specific functions.

The proposal should be financially feasible, while, at the same time, distributing the tax burdens equitably among all taxpayers. There should be adequate financial resources to ensure economy and efficiency.

There should be ample provisions for the initiation, administration, and enforcement of laws or ordinances necessary to carry out the wishes of the people.

For Incorporation Proposals:

Incorporation should improve the level of existing services, and/or provide new ones at an equitable cost for all taxpayers. There should be a reasonable tax base and/or a strong potential for growth in the tax base.

For Annexation Proposals:

Annexation should be for the common welfare and prosperity of both the annexing city and the area to be annexed. The terms should be fair and just. Consideration should be given to the natural, geographical, economic and social characteristics of the annexed area and the annexing city. The lines of the annexation should be drawn to form a compact area abutting the municipality.

The city should be financially able to provide municipal services to the annexed area in a reasonable time period. Extension of water and sewer lines should be available and feasible from an engineering standpoint.

HISTORY

Study: In 1953, the League of Women Voters of Jefferson County became the first county League in the United States. At that time most of the county was unincorporated, and the function of the county government was a major concern for the new League. The League has continued to remain an active player in the oversight of all governmental units in the county. It has analyzed state constitutional and statutory provisions for county government, considered possibilities for regional solutions, evaluated local governmental practices and studied incorporation proposals. These separate studies were consolidated into the current position in 1979. In 1980, the membership agreed that these positions were also applicable to the budget process. The study "Financing County Government and Services--1998-1999 focused on the budget and the limitations created by the passage of the Gallagher and TABOR amendments. An attempt was made to determine the fairness of the distribution of revenues for services to large unincorporated urban areas in the County. However, the issues are complicated and data open to interpretation.

Action: League supported incorporation of Lakewood and Wheat Ridge in 1969 and their subsequent successful efforts to become home rule cities (Lakewood: 1972, 1973, 1982, 1983 and Wheat Ridge: 1977).

In other action, the League supported the formation of the Law Enforcement Authority in unincorporated areas in 1969, the consolidation of water and sewer districts in Lakewood in 1973 and 1974, and, in 1979, the unsuccessful effort to pass a 1/2 per cent sales tax to build a justice complex.

Based upon the concept of representativeness and the state position on reapportionment, the League opposed lines drawn for the County Commissioner districts in 1982 following the 1980 census. Subsequent revision of district lines incorporated several of the League's suggestions. In 1993 a statement to the Lakewood City Council addressed the redrawing of the ward boundaries for city council members.

In 1987 the League supported an unsuccessful attempt to form a Lakewood City Fire Department based upon the League of Women Voters of Colorado's position on special districts. In 1993 the League supported the consolidation of the Lakewood and Bancroft Fire Protection districts. The proposal was defeated.

League opposed the annexation and development of the Chatfield Green area in Jefferson County by the city of Littleton in 1991. The proposal was approved. In 1993 the League urged the Open Space Advisory Committee to take a field trip to the "Chatfield Green" area as they consider this acquisition.

GOVERNMENT FISCAL POLICY

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support policies that promote fiscal responsibility, efficiency, economy, transparency, long range planning, and the inclusion of citizens in the financial process. Budgeting should strive to provide adequate funds for programs and services.

STANDARDS

- County finances should be administered according to sound fiscal procedures.
- The county commissioners should create and encourage a fair and flexible system of taxation and speak out against proposals and state laws that impede sound financial practices. They should schedule annual audits performed by independent, external accounting professionals.
- The county commissioners should provide and publicize electronically and in print accessible opportunities for public education and citizen input during the budgeting process. The Citizen's Budget Review Panel, whose members should represent a cross section of county residents, should be continued. The panel's mission should be clearly defined, and its work should be publicized.
- The budget's format should be understandable to citizens. Budget priorities should be explained.
- Financial information, including budgets and audits, should be easily accessible electronically as well as in printed form. All budget meetings need to be publicized in both electronic and print formats.

HISTORY

At the 2010 Annual Meeting, a local study was approved to examine how county government services are financed and how the services are prioritized in the budget process. The study examined revenue sources, expenditures, budget policies, state laws that affect the county budget, and changes anticipated in the future. In March 2011, a five-page Every Member Material (EMM) explained the above points to the membership and looked at the specifics of the 2011 budget. The research committee asked for an extension of the study so that a position could be written concerning finances and budgeting in the county government. In September 2011, the research committee and the Jeffco Board presented a concurrence statement for consideration and it passed. It was adopted at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of structures, procedures, and practices for elected and appointed boards and commissions which ensure accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, effective performance, and openness.

STANDARDS

Accountability: Elected and appointed boards, commissions, committees and special districts should be responsible to citizens and hold their own leaders, committees and members responsible for their actions and decisions. Honesty and integrity should be promoted among their members.

The appointing boards should:

- Review and evaluate the performance, composition, attendance records, and budgets of the appointed boards.
- Develop general attendance guidelines.
- Meet with each appointed board at least once a year.
- Maintain a current list of appointed board members.
- Attend meetings of the appointed boards of which they are members.

Appointed boards commissions and committees should:

- Have a defined purpose, which supports the mission of the organization being represented.
- Maintain ongoing communication with the appointing entity regarding policy and procedure parameters under which they must operate.
- Ensure that they are responsive to citizens, and maintain an open and collaborative environment.
- Promote open and effective communications with the appointing board, commission and the citizens.
- Ensure that member decisions are made with Impartiality and integrity.
- Provide Training for new and returning members.
- Promote honesty and integrity among members.

Elected boards, commissions and special districts should:

- Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability.
- Have a clearly defined purpose consistent with the statutes and policies of the organization to which they have been elected.
- Stagger terms to eliminate having an elected board, commission or special district of all new members.
- Provide training for new and returning members to ensure an understanding of the underlying policies and procedures under which the elected board, commission or special district operates.
- Maintain an open, transparent and collaborative environment.
- Ensure communication with the public and other members of the board is timely, and informative regarding decisions; provide rationale behind the decisions.
- Ensure that all policies administrative and regulatory are adopted at a public hearing and that the public has an opportunity to be heard and to present evidence.
- Encourage public participation and input. Provide a timely response to public input.
- Maintain effective communication with other elected and appointed boards, commissions, special districts and their committees in developing policies.
- Ensure that member decisions are made with impartiality and integrity.

Representativeness: Elected and appointed members of boards, commissions and special districts may represent the County/city as a whole as well as their own areas.

Elected officials appointing board, commission, committee, and special district members should:

- Review and evaluate the performance, composition, attendance records, and budgets of their appointed boards and commissions.
- Attend the scheduled meetings of the appointed boards, commissions, committees and special districts to which they have been assigned.

GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (continued)

Reappointments to a board should not be automatic; performance and attendance should be evaluated.

When vacancies occur on an appointed board, commission, committee or special district there should be:

- An explicit system of filling vacancies that provides for a mix of members who represent the community and its geographical area.
- Notifications of vacancies on appointed boards, commissions, committees and special districts, should be published on County websites and in other County publications used to advertise vacancies.
- Specific information such as job descriptions, qualifications, functions of the board or commission, committee, or special district, and instructions as to the location and form of application, should be available to the public.
- Adequate time allowed for applications to be made. Designated timelines should be clear and followed to ensure vacancies will be filled promptly.
- An assurance that consideration will be given to all applications.

Decision-making capability: Elected and appointed boards, commissions, committees and special districts should possess the knowledge, resources, and power to make decisions that meet the needs of citizens and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities. They should:

- Utilize information provided by staff.
- Record the rationale regarding any decision which was against staff recommendations.
- Ensure that decisions are transparent and documented in minutes.
- Required a statement of involvement by elected and appointed boards, commissions and special district members of potential conflicts of interest. Any member should refrain from voting on any decision where a conflict of interest exists

Effective Performance: Elected and appointed boards, commissions, committees and special districts should function in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort. All decisions should be consistent with stated policies of the board, commission or special district.

Openness: Full information from elected and appointed boards, commissions, committees, and special district meetings will be available to the public. Elected officials' emails and other electronic communications, used to discuss pending legislation or other public business among themselves, should be made available to the public and open to the fullest extent possible. Citizen participation should be assured by public notification of meetings, and procedures for participation. Governing bodies should communicate among themselves and with appointed boards.

HISTORY

Study: The League first studied the appointed boards and commissions in Jefferson County in 1974. Among the boards examined were county and municipal planning commissions, the Open Space Advisory Committee, and the County Health Board. These positions were reevaluated in 1987 and extended to include elected boards.

In 2015 the Observer Corp for the Jefferson County School Board noted that there were inconsistencies in the standards of the position as it existed. The applicability of the policies and procedures to elected officials needed clarification. A study was authorized at the Annual meeting in April 2015. This led to the position update in March of 2016.

Action: The League has used these positions in letters to the county commissioners in support of open government and the public's right to know. (1984, 1987, and 1988). Letters have also been sent to Jefferson County School Board. League members have testified before the Jefferson County Commissioners using the position.

In 2000, The LWV Jeffco supported Shiloh House, a residential treatment facility for abused and neglected children. League spoke before the Planning and Zoning Commission and attended the meeting where the commissioners voted against allowing Shiloh House to continue to house more than one youthful sex offender per home in residential areas. In 2017, the League requested that Jeffco Public Schools 2017-2018 Adopted Budget disclose statistics (as in previous budgets) regarding Charter Schools as to money spent, and percentage of students enrolled which was omitted from this year.

GOVERNMENT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support for increasing the number of county commissioners from three to five members.

STANDARDS

- The Board of County Commissioners should be a policy-making board only, comprised of a minimum of five members elected for staggered terms of four years.
- The Chairman of the Board should be elected by the Board.
- Sensitivity to the financial implications of increasing the number of commissioners and to the desirability of having an appropriate balance of representation between rural and urban areas is important.
- All other county officials, including a county manager, should be appointed. There should be job qualifications for these positions.
- The county government should have the power to control annexations which affect its boundaries and to consolidate special districts.

HISTORY

Study: In a local study in 1956, the League consensus included a call for a state constitutional amendment permitting counties to have home rule. Such an amendment passed in 1970, and the League endorsed the concept for Jefferson County in 1972. In 2004, the League voted not to retain its position on county home rule.

After a restudy of the League position in 1991, the League supported the election of five county commissioners to be elected by district.

In 2006 the local membership urged a restudy of county government. The resulting consensus supported the concept of increasing the number of county commissioners from three to five. There was no clear consensus on how commissioners should be elected.

Action: The Jefferson County League was instrumental in the adoption of a study of local government by the League of Women Voters of Colorado in 1959. As a result of the state study, the League helped place a constitutional amendment permitting county home rule on the 1970 general election ballot.

At its annual meeting in 1975, the membership supported an effort to increase the number of county commissioners from three to five with three members being elected from districts and two elected at-large.

A 1976 ballot proposal, developed by a citizens' committee and approved by the county commissioners, to elect five county commissioners at-large was supported by the League. The proposal was defeated.

In 2014, the League worked on the JEFFCO5 Campaign to place a citizen's initiative on the November 2014 ballot by circulating petitions. Insufficient signatures were gathered and the issue did not appear on the ballot.

GOVERNMENT LIBRARY

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of the property tax as the primary means of financing the Jefferson County Public Library. Grants and donations are also appropriate sources of funding.

STANDARDS

- A county library system should have high levels of materials and services.
- Cooperation and coordination with public schools is desirable.
- Important to the system, but not to be used as substitutes for adequate funding, are user fees for specialized services only, book sales, and the use of volunteers.

HISTORY

Study: In 1984, after many cuts in materials and services, it became evident the Jefferson County Public Library Board would ask the County Commissioners to place a proposal for an increased mill levy for libraries on the ballot. Jefferson County League members conducted a study so that League could take a position on any proposal. Consensus was reached in March 1986.

Action:

The League supported an increase in the mill levy for Jefferson County Public Libraries in 1986, which passed. In 2007, the League urged the County Commissioners to change the governance of the Jefferson County library system from a county library district to a separate library district. The League considered the fiscal implications to the new district and to the county. A new district was not created, and the Jefferson County Library remains a county library.

In 2015 supporters of a bond issue for the Library approached the Jeffco League for its support on the bond issue. The bond issue passed.

GOVERNMENT HIGHWAYS

POSITION IN BRIEF

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County believes that before a road or highway is built or improved the needs, the costs, and the long term environmental, economic, and social implications and consequences of such a road or highway must be carefully assessed. In addition, any and all feasible financing alternatives must be evaluated. Based on the League's firm belief in open and transparent government and in the citizens' right to participate in government, the decision making process regarding when, where, and how a road or highway is built and financed must also be transparent and open.

STANDARDS FOR THE PLANNING PROCESS

- Plans should address the efficient movement of people and goods, economic and social well-being of the existing community, and the safety of the existing community and the road itself.
- The costs to be assessed before a road or highway is built should include the projected dollar costs (including future maintenance and possible default by public and private contractors), environmental costs (including potential wetland destruction, wildlife habitat, and scenic vistas), and social costs to communities.
- Financing alternatives may include taxes, fees from licenses and permits, impact fees, special districts, federal funds, Public Highway Authorities through their agreements (PHA), Public Private Partnerships (PPP), tolls, bonds, and certificates of participation.
- Specifically regarding private or public-private contracts, the Jeffco LWV opposes non-compete clauses, and supports contracts that meet federal, state, county, and municipal minimum standards for safety, durability, and accountability, and should allow for repayment of the original investment plus an agreed upon compensation within the term of that contract. Extremely long contracts should be avoided. Contracts should allow for renewal, and should include stated and anticipated risks which might result in exiting or renegotiating the contract.
- The long-term implications and consequences of a road or highway should include concurrence with the overall long term land use plans for the area, compliance with accepted and legal standards, consideration of all alternatives, including public transit, and the use of environmentally sustainable materials.
- The planning process, all phases of construction, and long term operation (including any contracts with governmental or nongovernmental entities) must be open and transparent to the public.

HISTORY

Study: Following the members' consideration and discussion of the Jefferson Parkway "Every Member Materials" in December 2009, April 2010, and spring of 2011, it became apparent that the LWV Jeffco had enough information (including various related positions) for members to develop an opinion, but Jeffco League lacked a broad study of highway issues. At the Annual Meeting in April 2011, members approved a study to develop standards for highway and road development. Although there were local, state, and national League positions that apply, there are additional new and evolving issues that needed to be considered, such as private funding of public infrastructure, materials and processes. The Jefferson Parkway was used as a platform for this study and the resulting consensus questions.

Position derived by consensus at unit meetings held December 13-15, 2011.

Approved by Board of Directors February 14, 2012 and adopted at Annual Meeting April 2012.

NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of measures which would provide residents with notification of hazards, safety measures, and warning systems related to manmade or natural hazards such as dams, dumps, landfills, wildfires, storage and transportation of hazardous materials and radioactivity associated with mines, water and the Rocky Flats Nuclear Facility.

STANDARDS

- Notification of any hazard should pass from owner to prospective buyer prior to the sale of any property.
- Detailed evacuation plans and/or emergency procedures prepared by an appropriate government agency should accompany, where applicable, re-zoning applications for areas proximate to an identified hazard. The plans should be made known to persons residing within the area of concern, as defined by pertinent government agencies. Such agencies (e.g., the Office of Emergency Preparedness) must have adequate funding to help coordinate evacuation plans and/or emergency procedures within the county.
- Where needed, sufficient and fully functioning warning systems should be installed in the vicinity of identified environmental hazards (e.g., posted signs near abandoned mines or siren systems). There should be regular safety inspections of both warning systems and the identified hazards.
- A complete analysis of the water, including a test for radioactivity, should be required of all new wells.
- State and statutory aid should be provided to bolster local wildfire mitigation efforts. The risks to the Jefferson County economy and environment as well as to the state as a whole are grave enough to warrant this assistance. Local government should make land use decisions that protect our resources and preserve our quality of life.

HISTORY

Study: The 1980 study identified the desired response to and prevention of environmental hazards in Jefferson County while recognizing that most of the prerogatives for legislation belong to the state legislature. The study included material on water pollution, the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) and a description of the facilities of metro hospitals able to treat victims of a nuclear disaster. An update in 1986 included information on an application for an incineration permit by Rocky Flats, solid waste, and hazards associated with radon gas.

Funded by an 1995 Department of Energy \$9000 grant, by way of the LWVUS Education Fund, the Jeffco League prepared a booklet and video on Rocky Flats providing information on waste storage issues and on how citizens could become involved in the decision making process. The video and prepared programs were used by many groups.

In 2008, the Jeffco League reviewed the challenges and methods of wildfire mitigation, and concluded that risks to the county's economy and environment were great enough to require state and statutory aid to bolster local wildfire mitigation efforts. Residents should be notified of possible wildfire hazards in and around their property.

In 2009, the Jeffco League had an update on Rocky Flats focusing on the perspectives on closure, cleanup, remediation and future directions for the property. The League considered the proposal to use it as a wildlife refuge.

Action: The League's positions were presented to a subcommittee of the Rocky Flats Monitoring Committee in 1981. League supported continuing the hazard warnings on FHA loans for homes near Rocky Flats.

In 1989 and 1990, LWV Education Fund donations and comments of support were made to the County Commissioners for the Household Chemical Roundup. Also in 1990, League supported an increased fee at solid waste facilities in Jefferson County to finance environmental programs such as the Chemical Roundup.

In 2004 the League wrote a letter of concern encouraging public comment and the allowance of time for interested parties to speak about their ideas and concerns regarding the Rocky Flats Clean-up Project and the eventual creation of a wildlife refuge. The League urged that the public be kept informed about the process and the clean-up progress.

In 2005, the local League became involved with the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments and shared the responsibilities with the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

NATURAL RESOURCES NOISE POLLUTION

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support for implementation of noise standards by local governments with adequate funding for enforcement.

STANDARDS

- Noise control standards should be adopted by all levels of government, but particularly at city and county levels. Enforcement should be concentrated at the local level.
- Planning and zoning at all levels of government (with local emphasis) should be used to control noise. Consumer pressure to require quieter products should be encouraged.
- Education of the public about the hazards that noise pollution poses to public health and welfare should be a function of local governments and law enforcement agencies, the health department, noise control personnel, and the public schools. The media and PTA's should be involved in this process.

HISTORY

Study: Because the League considered noise to be a sufficient hazard to public health and welfare, a noise control study in 1977 resulted in a general environmental statement and standards to apply to planning and zoning. As a result of the Jeffco study, a LWVCO position on noise was approved.

Action: The League supported continued funding for a noise control officer in Lakewood in 1978 and the reinstatement of noise control in the Lakewood budget in 1979. Both were denied.

NATURAL RESOURCES LAND USE

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support for an integrated, total county approach to planning which provides for the diverse needs of the members of the community while ensuring environmental quality. Support of county-wide wildfire mitigation efforts. (See environmental hazards)

Because of the unique qualities of the Front Range and the value of this area to the public in general, no development should be allowed unless consideration has been given to the aesthetics and to the preservation of the natural qualities of the land.

STANDARDS FOR THE PLANNING PROCESS

- An adequate professional planning staff, whose comments and recommendations are read into the legal record at the hearing, should be provided.
- A uniform building code, based on performance standards that would permit use of new materials once their quality and safety have been proven, should be used.
- Land use should be modified or regulated (i.e., slash removal, floodplain zoning, county-wide wildfire mitigation) to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and to protect the environment. Prospective purchasers should be notified of the problems and hazards connected with the land.
- Controls should be established for the Planned Development category.
- Zoning resolutions and maps should be updated periodically based on the comprehensive plan.
- Regulatory powers should be limited to the planning commission and/or the local governmental unit. Powers of the Board of Adjustment should be limited to variances of accepted uses in the Zoning Resolution.
- Understandable terminology should be used.
- Newspapers, websites and blogs should be encouraged to publish planning and zoning information. Hearings should be scheduled at a time convenient to the greatest number of people.

STANDARDS FOR LAND USE DECISIONS

- The Comprehensive Plan should be followed unless there is a change in conditions or a fault or weakness in the plan.
- The Plan should be specific as to land use and should reflect good planning rather than existing zoning and uses.
- Provisions should be made for continuous evaluation and updating.
- The intent of the zoning resolution should be fulfilled. Subdivision regulations, building and housing codes should be met. There should be coordination with state, regional and other local entities' plans.
- The impact of the development on the environment, including, but not limited to, the following, should be considered:
 - The density of development should be in accord with the natural determinants of the land.
 - An optimum mountain-area population should be established based on the carrying capacity of the land and the community's ability to support it. A low overall density with some use of cluster development is appropriate for the mountains.
 - The surrounding land use and the effect on the entire community should be considered.
 - Governmental units should require proof of basic services when approving a new development. When applicable, the developer should be required to post a bond or its equivalent, to adequately ensure performance.
- The neighborhood principle and sense of community should be enhanced.
- Provision should be made for community and neighborhood commercial centers, civic and cultural centers, industrial parks, and transportation corridors.
- Strip zoning should be discouraged. Service roads should be provided to limit access onto major thoroughfares. Provisions should be made for off-street parking.

NATURAL RESOURCES LAND USE (continued)

- Governmental units should provide for the acquisition, administration and maintenance of public lands including parks, open space, and schools. To ensure availability of lands for public use, governmental units could use the following methods: special zoning, tax relief, purchasing open land with tax funds, and/or requiring developers to dedicate land or money.
- The following purposes and functions of Open Space Parklands are supported:
 - To preserve natural areas which are characterized by unusual terrain or geological formations, unusual or native flora or fauna, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, fragile ecosystems, or water resources.
 - To preserve open space for passive recreational uses such as walking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, nature studies and fishing (if so designated).
 - To preserve areas for agricultural uses.
 - To preserve open space lands for future recreational needs.
 - To utilize open space lands for shaping the development of cities, limiting urban sprawl, and disciplining growth.
 - To prevent encroachment on hazardous areas such as flood plains, swelling clay, fire chutes, landslides, etc.
 - To retain the aesthetic value of open land.
 - To obtain balance and harmony between open space and development for the use and benefit of the public.
 - To preserve historic monuments.
- The following purposes and function of developed parkland and recreational facilities are supported:
 - To preserve parklands for recreational uses.
 - To provide recreational opportunities for a wide range of age and interest groups.
 - To provide neighborhood recreational areas and community gathering places.
 - To foster innovative community design which enhances the urban landscape.

HISTORY

Study: The first venture of the Jeffco League into the area of land use was in 1959. A 1966 study resulted in goals and standards for planning and zoning. Criteria for mountain land use were adopted after a 1972 study. Members reviewed and consolidated all land use positions in 1973. A land use unit in 1979 centered on citizen impact and involvement in land use decisions. Members were updated on Jefferson County Land Use Planning in 1984. Several 1990's unit meetings covered land use, growth and natural resources (including wetlands) topics. The zoning process was reviewed in 1997. Committee members attended watershed and mountain water meetings.

A study of parks and recreation in Jefferson County in 1964 resulted in standards for parks and open space. Purposes and functions of parks and open space were adopted in 1977 as part of a study of the Open Space Program (see Open Space position).

In 2007 a Jeffco concurrence supported county-wide wildfire mitigation efforts to the Land Use and Environmental Hazards positions. League urges the implementation of various measures designed to protect our most critical areas (watershed, areas with historic significance, and areas important to industry and the local economy) from catastrophic wildfire.

Action: In 1968 the Jeffco League supported the successful passage of bond issues for both North and South Jeffco Metropolitan Recreation and Park Districts. In 1969, the League supported development of bridle paths in South Jeffco, the Lakewood Student Park Project, and sponsored a go-see environmental tour.

The League worked with PLAN Jeffco in 1972 for passage of a 1/2 percent sales tax in the county for the purchase and preservation of open space. The idea was initiated by Leaguer Carol Karlin.

NATURAL RESOURCES LAND USE (continued)

HISTORY

In 1973, the League supported adoption of the Golden Ralston Comprehensive Plan and the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan. The League urged adoption of more restrictive flood hazard regulations, and the purchase of open space. Concern was expressed about several rezoning cases.

Beginning in 1978, land use positions were used to address mining operations. The League opposed operations on South Table Mountain, North Table Mountain, Clear Creek Canyon, and Deer Creek Canyon (Rattlesnake Gulch), and supported the Chatfield Bluffs project. A letter was written to the County Commissioners regarding the Cooley Gravel Mining in Clear Creek Canyon in 1982. League representatives served on a Gravel Ad Hoc Committee in 1973 and the Aggregate Resources Roundtable in 1986.

A Genesee annexation rezoning was opposed in 1979. The League supported Golden's purchase of rights-of-way for open space and/or parks in 1981. A housing development in Chimney Creek, off I-70, was opposed in 1982. The proposal passed. The League also commented on Arvada's Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in 1982.

A League representative served on the Southeast Land Use Plan Advisory Committee in 1984-85. The complete plan was reviewed and comments made. The Southeast Plan was used to support our statement in 1986 regarding the development of the Grant properties. The League was represented on the Coalition for Evergreen in 1987. A statement was also presented before the Golden Planning Commission in 1987. The North Plains Community Policy Plan was critiqued in 1988.

In 1987, the League joined a lawsuit against the County Commissioners and the Bear Creek Development Corporation seeking to stop construction of a radio tower on Mt. Morrison. The lawsuit was dismissed "with prejudice". The tower stands, but was erected with less visual impact than originally planned.

League made comments on the Clear Creek/I-76 Joint Planning Project in the Arvada area in 1990.

Lakewood action included:

- Support of the Lakewood 1982-85 Capital Improvement Program as it related to land use and parks in 1982, and suggested amendments to the Park Element of Concept Lakewood, which was adopted in 1984.
- Support of a Lakewood Park Dedication Ordinance in 1983, cautioning against granting waivers to the park dedication requirements in 1984, and support of a park improvement fee for non-residential development in 1988.
- A League representative served on the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group in 1986. The League reviewed and supported the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan in 1987.
- Support in 1990 of the reclassification of 13th Ave to "transit corridor".
- Spoke in 1991 to Lakewood Planning Commission in support of Department of Community Resources' Comprehensive: Master Plan and Related Lakewood Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

In 2003 the League wrote a letter in support of the west corridor Regional Transportation project.

In 2005 the League wrote a letter to the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement in support of a balanced multi-modal transportation system that preserved Colorado's natural beauty with minimal additional land use and disruption to the land.

In 2007 League wrote a letter to the Open Space Advisory Committee and to the County Commissioners in opposition of the petition to construct a water tank and pump station on Jefferson County Open Space near the mouth of Coal Creek Canyon citing League positions regarding conservation and wise management of resources and reiterating that growth should not take place faster than services and infrastructure can be provided.

NATURAL RESOURCES

OPEN SPACE

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support for a county-wide Open Space Program funded by a sales tax. Support of procedures and criteria for the use of Open Space funds for development.

STANDARDS

- The first priority for the use of open space funds should be the acquisition of open space land: greenbelt, water resources including drainage areas, the mountain front, small plots in urban areas and mountain areas. Specific examples include: North and South Table Mountains, the Hogback, Green Mountain and the Crown Hill area. Maintenance is the second priority, followed by development and then the establishment of a Reserve Fund.
- The allocation formula should be based on the concept of a county-wide program which allows for flexibility in meeting urgent demands and acquisition needs in any area of the county, and reflects the fact that most of the land available is in the unincorporated area. The 1972 Resolution meets this standard.
- The originally adopted role of park and recreation districts within the open space program should be continued.
- There should be a mechanism for periodic review of the open space resolution every two to six years (e.g., public hearings, review by the County Commissioners, Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee or an ad hoc committee).
- Unincorporated Jefferson County Open Space fund expenditures for the development and maintenance of capital recreational improvements should be reviewed by the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) or a subcommittee of OSAC. The review procedures should meet League's standards (see Boards and Commissions position).

Development should be compatible with the concept of open space and meet adopted criteria.

- Open Space funds may be used for: protective development as permitted in the 1972 resolution; native plantings; trails; camping; sodded playgrounds; fields for soccer and softball; courts for games such as tennis; water-related developments for fishing, boating and beaches; nature centers; cross-country skiing, amphitheaters, outdoor ice skating areas and horse arenas such as at Crown Hill.
- Open Space funds should not be used for developments, which include: athletic complexes, zoos, cultural centers, swimming pools, museums, bowling alleys, libraries, fairgrounds, motorcycle parks, gun ranges and lights for courts and fields. Other sources of funding are available and should be used for these developments.

The following criteria should be used in allocating open space funds for the development and maintenance of park and recreational capital improvements:

Of Primary Importance

- An appropriate agency should review the request and make recommendations.
- Acquisition needs for the area's population should be met.
- Development should be appropriate for the site.
- Future maintenance costs to the Open Space Program should be considered and minimized, with the appropriate entities assuming these costs.
- Funding alternatives should be considered.
- Citizen input on the type and scope of development should be ensured.
- The impact of the development on the overall program should be considered (e.g., effects on acquisition, maintenance, trail development, joint ventures).
- The project should be part of a long-range development plan.
- Development should be balanced by natural open space land in the local area.
- There should be a need for recreational development in the area.

NATURAL RESOURCES

OPEN SPACE (continued)

STANDARDS

Of Secondary Importance

- The amount already spent in the area for acquisition and development should be considered.
- Facility development standards should be considered.

HISTORY

Study: With the study "Open Space and Recreation" in 1977, League members reviewed the Open Space Program they helped establish in 1972 and adopted guidelines and priorities for the program. After the 1982 amendment of the 1972 Resolution to allow for capital recreation improvements, "Jeffco Open Space 1972-1984" was published and members adopted procedures and criteria for evaluating development proposals. Additional Open Space updates were prepared in 1998 and 1999.

Action: In 1972, the League supported the establishment of the Open Space Program. (see Land Use)

In 1978 and 1980, the League opposed various amendments to change the allocation formula to use open space funds for development and to divert one-half of the open space revenues for a county jail. The amendment to allow funds to be used for development was passed.

In 1980, the League supported the use of funds for acquisition of open space land in Golden.

In 1986, a League representative was appointed to the Open Space Ad Hoc Committee. The League also made comments on: Lakewood's Belmar request, the process used for the acquisition of the Jefferson County Center Park (County Government Complex), and the Evergreen Center for the Arts proposal.

The Ad Hoc Committee recommendations were supported in 1987. The issue of adequate funding for security and maintenance was addressed in comments on the 1988 and 1989 budgets. The budget process was questioned.

In 1988 the League reviewed and commented on the Open Space Master Plan Draft, supported the purchase of 134 acres on Green Mountain, sponsored a tour of Jeffco Open Space for participants of the LWVUS Convention, and commented on the appointment process for OSAC members. (Jeffco LWV Boards and Commissions' positions were used.)

In 1989 the League supported the adoption of the Master Plan and an aggressive acquisition program, opposed a Hogback land trade for the Bandimere Speedway, joined the Coalition for Open Space and met with the County Commissioners regarding process and acquisition, commented on the operation of the Open Space program for a Management Audit Report, supported Hiwan staffing and programming, and supported the Lookout Mountain location for a Nature Center.

Letters were sent in 1990 advancing most of League's positions in regard to the budget process. Also in 1990 in commenting on the Standley Lake Conceptual Plan, the League supported a park designed to encourage low-intensity activities and focusing on the natural aspects of the area. In 1991, the League supported: approval of the budget, a procedural change which provided for public comment prior to the formal budget adoption hearing and a Lakewood/Open Space joint venture development of the Fox Hollow Golf Course rather than a loan or the outright grant that was approved. Also in 1991, League opposed the swap of 400 acres on North Table Mountain for 100 acres of the Open Space Matthew/ Winters Park, as proposed by Western Mobile. It was defeated. That same year, a letter was sent to the Jefferson County Board of Adjustment to deny a request by Bandimere Speedway for a sign larger than the code allows to be placed near Open Space lands.

NATURAL RESOURCES

OPEN SPACE (continued)

HISTORY

In 1992 League generally supported the proposed 1993 Open Space budget but said \$35,000 for the fairgrounds should be eliminated. It was kept in. League also supported the preservation of the 876 acre Dakota Hogback parcel bounded by C-470, Ken Caryl Road, Deer Creek Canyon, and the base of Lyons Hogback.

League recommended, in 1993, the adoption of proposed changes to the Zoning Resolution which clarified circumstances under which land presently designated "open space" in the Planned Development Zone District may be re-zoned and which established permitted uses and standards for such Open Space zoned land. The same year League opposed a land trade with Bandimere. (Approved) In 1994 support was given for the preservation of Clear Creek Canyon and the Mountain Area Land Trust's proposal for preservation of land adjacent to Elk Meadow. Extensive comments were made regarding the update of the Open Space Master Plan in 1995. A Great Outdoors Colorado grant for a Mountain Backdrop study was supported in 1997. In 1998 several letters were sent opposing a possible Nike complex on South Table Mountain and urging its preservation. Nike withdrew the proposal. League supported the 1999 campaign to use bonds for the acquisition of Open Space priorities.

The League recommended in 2013, that the JEFFCO Open Space 2013 Draft Master Plan be more detailed in its descriptions. The 2013 Draft was very general in nature with little detail about what could actually be accomplished. For instance, it does not provide a sense of what lands may be at stake, what lands qualify for conservation, or what properties may not be available for conservation.

NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support for a way of life which seeks to balance environmental, economic, and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal.

STANDARDS

Sustainability encompasses individual households, neighborhoods, local towns and cities, states, and nations. It includes environmental and economic concerns, and human needs.

HISTORY

Interest in the concept of sustainability surfaced within the Jeffco LWV early in 2008. That fall League members toured the single stream recycling plant operated by Waste Management in north Denver.

The committee researching the information became known as the Sustainability Committee because as the members studied the topic it became obvious that sustainability is the key to the future of our communities. The committee studied opportunities available within the county for individuals as well as businesses to follow more sustainable practices. Slowly, it became apparent that the concept of sustainability was inherent in many of our LWV positions at the local, state, and national levels.

The concept of sustainability had grown slowly, starting with recycling and energy efficiency. A member survey attempted to illustrate ways in which small life style changes can make a positive impact on our communities

In December 2008, at the Legislative Breakfast, the members voted to study and come to a consensus regarding the concept of sustainability.

In spring 2009 League developed a definition of sustainability, reviewed established positions that supported our definition, reported on municipalities' participation in sustainable practices, collated and reviewed the Personal Behavior Survey of members, and presented national, state, local and general "interesting ideas". Jeffco League shared the work with other leagues.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado formed a committee to study the issue. In 2010, they adopted the Jefferson County League's definition of sustainability as a principle.

In 2009 League researched jobs in Green industry in the county, the development of St Anthony's, the Jefferson Parkway, Rooney Valley development, Lakewood Zoning and the County Commissioners. The Jefferson County Master Plan was not complete at that time but League did learn that it was in the planning stages. Golden was planning to hire a sustainability coordinator. Some municipalities seemed to have been thinking about sustainability, but it was difficult to find much information on what they were planning. During the research League found some areas that had the potential for making a big environmental impact.

Membership subsequently directed the committee to focus on the proposed privately-funded Jefferson Parkway toll road in the northern part of the county, and the proposed commercial development of the Rooney Valley.

In November 2010 a National Call to Action on Climate Change was made. From that call the committee developed commitments to write a monthly information article to be shared with the community and to develop a Speakers Bureau.

In February of 2011, Jefferson County applied for a grant from the League of Women Voters of Colorado. The Jeffco League received \$1,500 to be used for the development of a Sustainability Speakers Bureau.

At the unit meetings in April of 2011, members discussed the latest developments at Dinosaur Ridge and in the continuing battles over the Jefferson Public Parkway Highway Authority.

NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY (continued)

HISTORY

Action:

The following letters were sent:

- U.S. Department of the Interior and Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet requesting that a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement be required before the Wildlife Refuge easement is granted.
- In 2009 to the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission and to the Jefferson County Commissioners urging that revisions to the Master Plan grant approval to development that recognizes the interdependence of social, economic and environmental impacts.
- City of Lakewood in February 2010 during the city's zoning ordinance review to encourage the inclusion of the League's concept of sustainability in revisions to the city's Zoning Ordinance.

A guest commentary appeared in the online edition of The Denver Post in May of 2010 expressing concerns about the Jefferson Parkway, including an easement through a section of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, the potential for a non-compete clause in a contract with a private developer, and the need for more public transparency upon the part of Parkway backers.

NATURAL RESOURCES WILDLIFE

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support for the conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats for the contribution they make toward the health and sustainability of the environment.

HISTORY

Study: In November 2014 members concurred with a proposed Wildlife Position to be included under Natural Resources.

SOCIAL POLICY

EDUCATION: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of policies which promote efficient administrative and financial practice in the Jefferson County School District.

STANDARDS

- The distribution of building funds throughout the county should be made on the basis of need as determined by population growth and equality of educational opportunity.
- Transportation should be furnished at school expense to students living outside the mileage limitation. Mileage limitations and bus loading regulations should be strictly enforced.
- There should be open communication within the school system and with the public to stimulate an understanding of the factors which affect quality of education.
- The structures and functions of the Citizen Advisory Committees should be clearly defined. Their activities and work should be publicized in order to increase community awareness.
- The budget's format should be understandable to citizens. Citizen participation through advisory committees in the budget development process should continue.
- Public workshops and hearings should be held early in the budget process to provide information which would allow citizens to knowledgeably participate in the budget development process and to offer recommendations.

HISTORY

Action:

In October 2012, LWV Jeffco publicly supported Jefferson County School District ballot issue 3A, to increase the mill levy to maintain academic excellence in our schools, and 3B, which would fund upgrades to the district's buildings. The rationale was stated "we believe the administration has met the League's standard of operating efficiently and with sound financial practices by requesting an increase in the mill levy and that the League supports adequate facilities so that our students can learn in a safe and healthy environment. Financial prudence mandates that we maintain our investment in our schools. 3B is a necessary expense for the residents of our county." Both the mill levy Issue 3A and bond issue 3B passed in November 2012.

In December 2014, a Call to Action was sent to all LWV Jeffco members in regard to the Budget Process.

Members were asked to recommend the following to the BOE:

- Gather information from a broad representation of the citizens of Jefferson County to include all socio-economic levels, age levels, diverse race and ethnic groups; as well as people with and without children.
- Utilize a survey instead of a one-question poll which has multiple questions and is cost effective.
- Employ statistically sound questions on a survey developed by professionals trained in designing surveys to ensure that it is a valid tool which accurately represents the opinions of the Jeffco community.
- In addition, a Letter to the Editor was sent to all major Jeffco publications stating League's support for efficient administrative and financial practices.

In January 2015 a Letter to the Editor was sent requesting that the charter school application for the Golden View Classical Academy be denied.

In September 2015 the Jefferson County League of Women Voters sponsored a forum entitled "The Duties and Responsibilities of a School Board" in an effort to educate the public on the responsibilities of school boards.

SOCIAL POLICY CHARTER SCHOOLS

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of policies which promote conscientious approval of charter school applications and renewals and comprehensive and continual oversight of charter schools in Jefferson County.

STANDARDS

Jefferson County Public Schools will:

- Mandate that charter schools follow state charter school laws by being non-sectarian, non-religious, non-home based and operate in accordance with the applicable policies of Jefferson County Public Schools.
- Ensure that charter schools adhere to all federal and state laws and Constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.
- After thorough review by appropriate committees, grant charters only to applicants that have a well thought-out plan consistent with the stated approval criteria and free of conflicts of interest.
- Require an educational program that reflects high expectations with rigorous standards for pupil performance which meet or exceed those of the state and the district.
- Require charter schools to comply with all terms of the contract between the charter school and the school district.
- Implement a transparent and thorough process that uses comprehensive academic, financial, and operational performance data to make merit-based renewal decisions.
- Establish distinct requirements for any third-party contracts with a charter school including education management providers (EMP).

HISTORY

Study: In March 2015 the Education Committee presented as an FYI '*Everything One Would Ever Want to Know*' about charter schools in two documents. The presentation included a suggestion that existing positions would not allow LWV Jefferson County to adequately lobby on charter schools in Jefferson County. As a result of this finding members authorized a study of charter schools. In March 2016 the Education Committee presented their findings to members. The study found that while state statutes are robust in their format, but that the enforcement of the statutes is not always so robust. As a result the above policy was developed.

SOCIAL POLICY QUALITY EDUCATION

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of a budget that provides high quality education for all students regardless of course selection.

STANDARDS

- The areas of math, science, and language arts are essential to quality education.
- Curriculum areas to be strongly supported are business, literature, foreign language, social studies, vocational education, art, music, and physical education. Curriculum for special needs children such as gifted and talented, learning disabled, special education, handicapped, and English as a second language should also be strongly supported.
- Other areas to be strongly supported are competitive teachers' salaries, incentives for upgrading (e.g., career ladders, master teacher concept, pertinent educational opportunities), class size (age and subject appropriate) and libraries.
- Home economics, speech, drama and forensics are less important.
- Athletics should be at least partially fee supported.

HISTORY

Study: The League has been active in educational issues since the first formulation of the position on administration and financial structure in 1954. Further study in 1961 led to the standards for building and servicing schools. A study of the budget in 1968 did not lead to additional positions, but the 1975 study resulted in standards on communication and finance.

The League was not able to speak to budget issues concerning curriculum until 1984, when positions relating to curriculum and teacher incentives were developed.

Members received education updates in 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997 and met with School Board members and staff in February 2000.

The League studied option and charter schools in 2002 and published *A Whole Lot of Choices: A Look at Jefferson County's Option and Charter Schools*. An update was published in 2007 discussing the new charter schools, option schools, and special programs housed in neighborhood schools. Members were presented with a review of charter schools in April 2015.

Action:

The League has been active in bond issue elections. The League supported bond issues that passed in 1955, 1960, 1962, 1971, and 1979 that failed in 1976 and 1989. In 1992, League supported both parts of a bond issue and only Part One passed. League supported a successful 1997 school bond issue. The League took no position on bond issues in 1958, 1966 and 1974.

In 1987, 1989 and 1990 the League supported mill levy increases which did not pass. No position was taken on the failed 1998 mill levy increase. League supported a successful 1999 mill levy increase.

A letter of recommendation concerning the search for a new superintendent and the vision of the Jefferson County Schools was sent in 1990. In 1993, League supported Even Start's efforts to renew federal funding for the Links to Literacy Even Start Family Literacy Program in Jefferson County.

In 1995 the R-I Board of Education was asked to move the lobbyist's report to an earlier time in their meeting's agenda. The League supported the mill levy override in 2000. In 2003, the League supported a mill levy increase and a bond proposal for Jefferson County schools.

The League membership met with the Board of Education in 2000, 2002, 2005, and 2007.

The League supported a mill levy and bond proposal in 2004 and 2005. In 2008, the League supported an increase in the mill levy to support operations and a bond issue for construction.

In October 2012, LWV Jeffco publicly supported Jefferson County School District ballot issue 3A, to increase the mill levy to maintain academic excellence in our schools, and 3B, which would fund upgrades to the district's buildings. Both the mill levy Issue 3A and bond issue 3B passed in November 2012.

SOCIAL POLICY

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support Jefferson County government leadership in developing health policy and in facilitating and coordinating delivery of physical and mental health care services for county residents. High priority is placed on preventive care, primary care and emergency care. Health services should be evaluated in terms of accountability, availability and equitable financing.

The LWVUS position states: *"The federal government should set minimums, uniform standards and bear the primary responsibility for financing. State and local governments, as well as the private sector, should have a secondary role in financing health care programs."* (04/88 Impact On Issues)

STANDARDS

Roles: Jefferson County should develop health policy, monitor compliance with health statutes and regulations, and facilitate and coordinate delivery of services for county residents. High priority should be given to preventive care (e.g., screenings, immunizations). The County should also assess the health needs of the community, provide health education, strengthen linkage with mental health agencies and provide resources for primary care for the needy.

Duplication of services should be avoided by such methods as contracting with other agencies where feasible (e.g., Denver Health and Hospitals).

Jefferson Center for Mental Health should provide treatment for emotionally disturbed juveniles, the borderline mentally ill, the seriously mentally ill and mental health emergency services. As resources permit, the Center should also provide leadership in coordinating services, working with other agencies, and sponsoring preventive community educational programs.

In addition to the programs mandated by statute, Jefferson County R-1 School District's prime role should be to provide health education, including information on substance abuse, sex education, and birth control, as well as nutritional programs (e.g., reduced and free hot lunches).

Early childhood programs are a high priority for promoting mental health. Following identification of a physical or mental health problem, referral for treatment should be made to the appropriate agency or private provider.

Lower priority is ascribed to non-mandated screenings (e.g., scoliosis), safety/suicide prevention programs, mental health counseling (other than identification of need and referral), educational programs for the emotionally disturbed (other than as mandated) and crisis intervention.

Extended day care programs for severely and chronically mentally ill children and adolescents should be provided by other agencies.

Private professional providers and agencies should participate in local physical and mental health programs as well as federal and state programs such as Medicaid and should offer pro bono services. They should cooperate with the County in coordinating the delivery of health services.

Nonprofit volunteer agencies, such as the Jeffco Action Center, should not be expected to provide primary health care services. They offer emergency and interim help in a crisis situation.

SOCIAL POLICY

HEALTH CARE SERVICES (continued)

Criteria for Evaluating Health Care Programs

Programs for physical and mental health care should be characterized by accountability for appropriate and quality care, availability of services, and financial responsibility and equity.

Accountability:

- Non-professionals should be included on governing boards of agencies.
- Programs should target population at risk and be responsive to the needs of the people.
- The patient's right to confidentiality, to be informed about illness/treatment, and to forgo treatment should be respected.
- Agency should have criteria and procedures for evaluating its own programs (e.g., performance standards and professional peer review).

Availability:

- Services should be provided at convenient locations.
- Public transportation should be available.
- Relevant information on available programs should be disseminated to target populations.

Financial responsibility and equity:

- Fees should be based on ability to pay, and services free where necessary.
- Appropriate cost control measures should be instituted. Measures could include: physician participation in federal, state and local health programs; promoting prevention/primary care programs; expanding outpatient services; reducing wasteful practices and unnecessary regulations; using allied health professionals; prospective pricing budgeting; and limiting liability.
- Reasonable compensation for providers should be based on necessary and appropriate costs. This does not negate providers' obligation to offer pro bono services and participate in health programs. Participation should be universal to ensure the equitable distribution of complementary private activities.

Prioritized Services

For all ages the highest priority for health care services should include preventive care, primary care, emergency care, and prescriptions needed for treatment. Specifically, highest priority is also given to: nutrition and reconstructive surgery for infants and children; health and sex education (including family planning) for teens; maternal health care for teens and adults; acute care for chronic medical conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes) for adults and the elderly; and home care and nursing home care for the elderly.

Moderate priority is given to: dental and vision care and prosthetic devices for all ages; catastrophic care for all but the elderly; nutrition; reconstructive care and rehabilitative therapy for teens, adults and elderly; substance abuse treatment for teens and adults; family planning, AIDS treatment and home care for adults; and day care and respite care for the elderly.

A low priority is given to: heroic medical procedures, transplants, and experimental procedures for all ages; respite care for infants, children, teens, and adults; treatment of eating disorders for teens; and catastrophic care for the elderly.

The highest priority for mental health services for all ages should include preventive care, including early childhood programs, educational programs and counseling; outpatient treatment including assessment, evaluation, placement, counseling (individual, family, and group); medications and emergency care; and short term hospital alternative facilities and residential care for the seriously mentally ill.

Lower priority should include community outreach programs; consultation and trauma management; vocational programs for persons with chronic mental illness; and programs such as day care (all ages), respite care, group boarding homes and nursing home care.

SOCIAL POLICY

HEALTH CARE SERVICES (continued)

HISTORY

Study: At the beginning of the health services study in 1987-89, members used case studies to review the resources in Jefferson County regarding health care; studied health services for prenatal care, teens, and family planning; and studied the Jeffco Health Department's Dependency Treatment Programs. In December 1989, the LWVUS Education Fund was used to publish Health Care Services in Jefferson County. Five hundred copies were distributed to members, officials, providers and interested citizens. Consensus was reached on priorities, roles, and criteria for physical and mental health care services.

A study of individual sewage disposal systems was undertaken in 1995.

In 2003 the League studied health care conditions, options and policies in Jefferson County. The study included the Children's Health Plan (CHP+).

In 2006-2007, the League looked at funding of Jefferson County Health Department.

Action: In 1990, the League supported Jefferson County Health Department's grant application for the Colorado Trust prenatal initiative. The Jefferson County Board of Health meetings were being observed.

During the winter of 1993-1994, a series of town meetings on health care reform was co-sponsored by the League and the Clear Creek Valley Medical Society.

In 1995, League commented on proposed Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) regulations. In 1995 League also supported Citizens for Lakewood's Future request to the "Colorado Trust" for a grant to develop a "Healthy Communities Index".

In 1998, League unsuccessfully opposed a cut in funding for the Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment.

Local and national positions underlay action in 1997-2000 to monitor and facilitate the transition to "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families" (TANF). LWV Jeffco moderated a community roundtable and participated on the executive committee monitoring welfare reform and action.

In 2003, the League supported a mill levy to provide additional funding for organizations serving the developmentally disabled in Jefferson County.

In 2007, the League sponsored a Health Care Reform for Colorado Forum which discussed the reform proposed by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care. Representatives from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care, from the Colorado Health Institute, and from Health Care for All Colorado served as panelists for the public meeting.

SOCIAL POLICY HOUSING

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support well-planned diversified types and densities of housing with access to public transportation for all income levels. Dispersed low-income housing as an integral part of the community.

Support manufactured homes, accessory dwelling units, shared housing, and accessible homes for families, individuals, seniors, and disabled in landscaped and regulated settings with adequate open space.

Support shelters and transitional housing in Jefferson County as emergency and short term housing measures with emphasis on assisting people to become self-sufficient. Shelters and transitional housing should address LWVUS criteria.

STANDARDS

Housing for families, individuals, seniors, and disabled persons should be:

- Located with access to public transportation, medical services, shopping, and other amenities.
- Access to open, space and parks with green spaces near the building.

Building Design should provide:

- Ease of living with safety and security, including adequate parking, lighting, laundry facilities, and fire safety.
- Special consideration for seniors and disabled, such as elevators and doorways wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, low counters, and appropriately sized appliances.

Features which improve livability:

- Opportunities for extended educational, cultural, and recreational experiences.

HISTORY

Study: Using the LWVUS position on equal opportunity in housing as a basis, the Jeffco League, in 1969, began its first study of housing in the county. A 1970 consensus developed positions on diversification of and densities in new housing projects.

The League prepared slide shows in 1971 and 1974 and conducted tours in 1973 and 1974 documenting the need for low/moderate-income housing in the county. The slide presentation was used both as part of the two studies and to stimulate community awareness of the need for implementation of fair housing.

In 1975, the booklet, HOUSING FOR ALL: HOW? (First printed in 1974), was distributed throughout the county. The research for this booklet led to consensus on conditions for quality in high-rise structures for the elderly.

The 1990 study reviewed state, county, and municipal public and private housing programs. The information was updated in 1997.

In 2009, the League looked at homelessness in Jefferson County. A survey was done, and statistics gathered were shared with the membership and the County Commissioners.

In 2017, the League under the Demographics Study reviewed the housing needs and impact on homelessness that will happen based on the projected population changes in Jefferson County. From this study, a consensus was reached to revise the position which removed the specific references to 'high-rise developments for the elderly' to 'support manufactured homes, accessory dwelling units, shared housing and accessible homes'. At this time, the position was updated it to read 'seniors and disabled' in place of 'elderly and handicapped'.

Action: League has been active in housing issues at the county and municipal levels. County action has included support for a Public Housing Authority and a Federal Rent Supplement Resolution, a prerequisite for the use of federal rent subsidies. Both failed in 1969. League supported the county adoption of the Metro Housing Allocation Plan in 1973 which failed. In 1974 it was passed by Arvada, Lakewood and Jefferson County.

The League initiated the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for a Jefferson County Housing Authority in 1975. Ten League members served on the 10-week-long Housing Advisory Task Force which recommended the Authority. The League then supported it in formal hearings before the County Commissioners, and it passed.

SOCIAL POLICY HOUSING (continued)

HISTORY

Action: (continued)

In 1971 the League supported a successful Lakewood resolution to create a Lakewood Housing Task Force. The League supported housing proposals for the elderly in 1971 and 1973; and supported low-income housing in 1973. The re-zoning proposal for housing the elderly was delayed by court action and was not approved until 1977.

The League supported the creation of the Lakewood Housing Authority and use of Community Development Block Grants in 1975. In 1976, it supported the adoption of the Lakewood Housing Code which passed unanimously.

In Arvada, action in support of the Rent Supplement Resolution in 1969 was successful. The League supported the formation of the Interfaith Housing Task Force in 1971 and use of Community Development Block Grants in 1975. In 1975-76, the League supported re-zoning proposals to allow two housing developments for the elderly.

In 1975, the League supported Wheat Ridge's acceptance of the Metro Housing Allocation Plan which failed. In 1976 Wheat Ridge, Golden, and Edgewater contracted with Jefferson County Housing Authority to administer their housing needs, thereby accepting the Allocation Plan. In the Golden area, League supported a mobile home park in 1977.

Housing concerns were addressed as part of statements on open space and planning and zoning in Lakewood in 1986 and 1989, and before the County Commissioners in 1986.

In 1993, League supported a Community Development Block Grant from the city of Lakewood to the Jeffco Action Center for a 30-bed homeless shelter. In 1994 League supported re-zoning for a Jeffco Action Center homeless shelter in Lakewood against bitter neighborhood opposition. The re-zoning was not granted. In 1998 a Lakewood rezoning for Habitat for Humanity was successfully supported. The Jeffco League then supplied lunch for Habitat workers that summer. In fall of 1999 Leaguers donated a workday to Habitat. Also in 1999, League supported a \$20,000 Jefferson County contribution for an overflow homeless shelter at Ft. Logan. It was approved.

In 2017, League supported the County Commissioners continued acceptance of CDBG and HOME fund during the public comment period with a formal letter with League's statement delivered to the Commissioners and to the Clerk for the official record. An Action Alert was sent out to all LWV Jeffco Members to speak in support of the Commissioners continuing to receive these funds. Our advocacy work made a difference as the Jeffco Commissioners voted to accept CDBG/HOME federal funding.

SOCIAL POLICY INCOME INEQUALITY

POSITION IN BRIEF

Supports policies that lead to reducing income inequality and to promoting inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

STANDARDS

- Provide access to free pre-school and all-day kindergarten for all students.
- Promote and support trade school education and apprenticeships at the high school level and beyond.
- Increase stock of affordable housing in Jefferson County.

HISTORY

At the 2014 annual meeting members authorized the study of income inequality in Jefferson County. A committee was formed and a study was begun. Information on income inequality in Jefferson County was presented to the membership at unit meetings in February 2015. At that time the committee had not yet developed a position. In the October 2015 meetings the committee presented the membership with the above position for concurrence. The position was adopted at that time.

SOCIAL POLICY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

POSITION IN BRIEF

Opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

HISTORY

Study: At the LWVUS Convention 2014, the above position was adopted by concurrence with LWV New Jersey position.

Prior to the adoption of the position, National League had no specific position on Human Trafficking. However, LWV Jeffco had taken action prior to the National Convention to hold a concurrence at the local League level. An in depth study was conducted, presented at the September 2013 unit meetings, that brought to light the human trafficking activities being conducted in Jefferson County. In October 2013, a panel discussion was held with the following individuals: Katie Kurtz, Asst. DA Jefferson County, Donia Amick, Sgt. Investigation Division - Special Investigation Unit, Lakewood, Emily Lafferrandre, Director of Education and Advocacy, Prax(us) Organization and Jeff Brodsky, President/Founder, JOY International. The overall goal of this panel event was to raise awareness of the issues surrounding human trafficking including: *What is happening in our area, What we can do as individuals to support their work and Where/How to report and/or get more information.* The community response was huge with over 100 attendees. Partnerships were formed between community organizations and the League in order to increase awareness and support their efforts to provide services to victims.

After the panel discussion and unit meeting study session, a concurrence (based on the LWV Ohio position) was presented and voted during the November Unit Meetings. The LWV Jeffco Board approved the concurrence and it was formally adopted at the 2014 Annual Meeting. However, the National statement above will now be used in its place as our formal position going forward as it was adopted on the National level at the LWVUS Convention 2014.

Action: During the 2014 CO Legislative session, the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee monitored and supported legislation. HB 1273 Human Trafficking (Reps. McCann & Wright: Sens. Newell & Schwartz) was passed which helps to align Colorado with the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). In the Senate Judiciary Committee, testimony was provided about "Safe Harbor" laws. "Safe Harbor" laws can provide safe housing and services for victims and/or immunity from criminal prosecution. While this bill does not include any version of "Safe Harbor" legislation, it does create the Human Trafficking Council, and this council will have the opportunity to review and observe other states that have implemented various versions of "Safe Harbor" legislation. This bill allows Colorado to participate in and provide a more even execution of human trafficking legislation and enforcement. It passed through Senate Committees and full Senate unanimously.