

LWV Kitsap Positions 2022-2023

Updated May 17, 2022

NATURAL RESOURCES

Position in Brief: Support the orderly development of Kitsap County in a manner that provides a variety of urban and non-urban environments while preserving the integrity of the environment and the county's natural resources as well as minimizing the public cost of providing services.

Statement of Position: We support management of land as a finite resource, not as a commodity, since we believe that land ownership, whether public or private, carries responsibility for stewardship. In resolving conflicts between public and private property rights, we believe the criteria to be considered are uniqueness or scarcity, importance to the community as a whole, promotion of health, safety and welfare, and the irreversibility of decision.

Support the goal of maintaining, so far as possible, the rural character of Kitsap County. Foster appropriate population densities in rural areas, including the elimination of bonus densities in Planned Unit Developments. Support preservation of open space, agricultural land, forest and woodland, and the requirement and protection of green belts between different land uses.

Encourage long-range planning that result in urban concentration (particularly in areas considered transportation hubs), reinforces existing community identities, and allows opportunities for industrial development and the provision of housing for people of all income levels.

All known factors should be considered in a consistent, logical manner in making land use decisions, with emphasis on the availability and protection of water resources and the protection of Critical Areas, wetlands, recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat, flood and geologically hazardous areas.

OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND RECREATION

Position in Brief: Support acquisition of open space, park and recreation lands, and provision of funds to develop, maintain, preserve and operate such areas.

WATER RESOURCES

Position in Brief: Support measures to ensure adequate and safe water supplies for county residents.

Statement of Position: Promote coordinated planning and management of surface and groundwater resources to meet the needs of current and projected population. Support implementation of the wellhead protection program and measuring of water use. Support waste management practices that protect regional water quality. All land use decisions must consider the protection of wetlands and critical recharge areas. Support purchase or other protection of open space lands that may serve a recharge function.

Support educational programs related to water use and encourage individual and government conservation efforts.

GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Position in Brief: The League of Women Voters of Kitsap supports measures that improve county government responsiveness to the people, provide for a greater separation of powers, promote administrative efficiency, increase the size of the legislative body to reflect population growth, and promote intergovernmental coordination.

Statement of Position: The League of Women Voters of Kitsap supports measures that:

- Encourage an informed and active citizenry. Comprehensive information as to the operation of county government should be readily available from trained, courteous personnel, from websites and print publications. Opportunities for citizen comment on and review of legislative and administrative decisions should be provided wherever appropriate. We do not, however, support institution of a people's initiative and/or referendum procedure at the county level of government.
- Strengthen the separation between legislative and administrative functions of county government, providing clear lines of authority and assignment of responsibilities.
- Increase the size of the legislative body to reflect population growth. In choosing members of this body, we support the process of nomination by district in a primary election with election to office by a vote of all county voters in the general election.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.
- Consider legislative and administrative decisions utilizing an equity lens so that all people have equity regardless of race, religion, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender, socio-economic status, physical and mental abilities as well as all other actual or perceived pertinent differences.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, POULSBO, BREMERTON AND PORT ORCHARD MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Position in Brief: Support procedural changes in local government that will improve efficiency, provide checks and balances, promote intergovernmental cooperation, and increase citizen confidence. Consider legislative and administrative decisions utilizing an equity lens in order that all people have equity regardless of race, religion, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender, socio-economic status, physical and mental abilities as well as all other actual or perceived pertinent differences

SUSTAINABILITY

Position in Brief: A sustainable community respects its own diversity, values the complexity of the natural world, and accepts responsibility for the social, economic, and ecological wellbeing of present and future generations through individual and collective actions. It advocates an economy that equitably provides satisfying livelihoods in a safe, healthy environment that protects its natural resource base and the viability of natural systems on which all life depends. It balances regenerative and degenerative resources by applying the following principles:

- 1) Rates of use of renewable resources do not exceed their rates of regeneration.
- 2) Rates of nonrenewable resources do not exceed the rate at which sustainable renewable substitutes are developed.
- 3) Rates of pollution emission do not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment.

Statement of Position:

Specifically Sustainable Communities:

- 1) Have levels of pollution, consumption and population size that are in keeping with regional carrying capacity;
- 2) Share an ethic of responsibility to each other and to future generations;
- 3) Reflect the social and environmental costs of the provision of goods and service in the prices charged for them;
- 4) Encourage informed democratic participation and deliberation in their system of governance, education and civic leadership;
- 5) Enhance neighborhood livability and access to green space in their design markets, land use and architecture;
- 6) Make sure that housing is affordable and interrelated with employment, recreation and shopping areas;
- 7) Integrate principles of sustainability into the community's Comprehensive Plan and other planning policies and procedures;
- 8) Foster business development policies and procedures that support a sustainable community;
- 9) Encourage inter-jurisdictional planning that supports a sustainable community; and
- 10) Encourage innovative and creative approaches to sustainability.