

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
PROGRAM FOR ACTION
2011-2012**

**I. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
(1988, 2006)**

The LWVWC supports coordinated public transportation service in Washington County with the following provisions:

1. Continuous participation by business, industry, labor and civic, governmental, and other institutions in the planning, development and operation of coordinated public transportation;
2. Cooperation among government and private entities for the purpose of regional solutions, such as light rail;
3. Use of adequate public and private funds to subsidize public transportation;
4. Weighting the social and environmental as well as economic considerations in all planned phases of public transportation;
5. Dedication of a portion of Regional Mobility Authority funds to alternative transportation options.

**II. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
(2004, 2006)**

The Solid Waste Management System for Washington County should:

1. Provide for safe disposal of hazardous waste;
2. Be economically justified based on comparison with alternative options;
3. Be a long-term solution for solid waste disposal;
4. Be environmentally safe, minimizing air pollution, water pollution, dust, noise and land usage;
5. Within the limits of economic justification, maximize waste reduction, resource recovery, reuse and recycling;
6. Maximize, to the extent practicable, conservation and utilization of energy available from the disposal process;
7. Benefit the greatest possible number of communities initially and provide for future growth and addition of other communities;
8. Use technology that is efficient and reliable and that has a satisfactory history of operation;
9. Be operated and coordinated by trained, qualified personnel;
10. Preserve archeological and cultural resources and be aesthetically acceptable;
11. Support a 2-mile buffer zone between landfill sites and major tributaries of regional waterways;
12. Support the Boston Mountain Solid Waste Management District's efforts to locate an acceptable landfill site or sites.

In planning for a solid waste management system in Washington County, officials should:

1. Embark on an extensive education program;
2. Keep all possible options open for as long as practicable;
3. Ensure that plans are sufficiently flexible to allow for future modifications;
4. Ensure that landfills are sited in geologic and hydrologic environments affording protection from pollution from leaks and system failures and are not dependent solely on engineering design, quality construction and efficient operation for safety.

III. TREE AND LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE (2004, 2006, 2008)

Tree and landscape provisions for the City of Fayetteville should:

1. Create a desirable environment for business, industry as well as residential areas by moderating effects of sun, wind and rain and buffering noise, air and visual pollution;
2. Decrease storm water runoff, stabilize soil and help prevent erosion;
3. Provide habitat for wildlife;
4. Increase property values and protect investment;
5. Preserve and augment desirable vegetation and riparian corridors of rivers and streams;
6. Separate and screen incompatible land uses;
7. Establish minimum landscape requirements;
8. Encourage public education in the value of trees and landscaping;
9. Require a "site analysis" before a site is disturbed;
10. Promote energy conservation;
11. Apply to all zones;
12. Provide for tree replacement under certain conditions;
13. Insure that tree replacement should be of like or similar species in terms of size and ultimate canopy, with emphasis on native species and the discouragement of invasive species;
14. Establish drainage requirements which encourage Low Impact Design (LID) elements for stormwater runoff;
15. Provide for enforcement of tree and landscape ordinances by a tree and landscape professional;
16. Include attention to parking lots encouraging pervious surfaces and street plantings;
17. Consider appropriate planting under utility lines and at intersections;
18. Provide for long term maintenance of plantings made by developers.

IV. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS (1997)

The LWVWC supports the protection of private property rights balanced with consideration of public health, environmental protection and long range planning in Washington County.

Based on national criteria and study, the LWVWC further supports policy that:

1. Ensures that the public has safe water treatment systems, sewage treatment and solid waste management;
2. Maintains or improves the environmental quality of the air and water, including sensitive wetlands, floodplains and unique scenic or historic areas;
3. Encourages long range planning to consider environmental, public health, social and economic impacts of proposed plans and actions;
4. Supports the principles of “takings” case law as settled in courts.

V. HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (1998, 2006, 2011)

The LWVWC supports standards that minimize erosion and pollution caused by development on hillsides and along streams in Washington County using the following criteria:

1. Limit intense development on hillsides and flood plains;
2. Require that impervious cover should not exceed 40% on slopes of 15% or greater;
3. Limit disturbance of natural terrain, trees and drainage channels;
4. Follow the Fayetteville 2020 Plan’s recommendations for hillsides: “Slopes that are 18% or greater generally should be kept free of development. Some passive recreation and low density residential may be permitted on slopes under 28%. The most intensive uses should be confined to areas where slopes are generally 8% or less.”
5. Require additional drainage through and beyond new development in areas on hillsides, near floodplains, and along streams;
6. Allow water absorption by using pavers (blocks of concrete, rock, etc.) strips of concrete or permeable surfaces as much as possible;
7. Discourage use of pesticides and herbicides in areas where rain can easily carry run-off into drainage ditches, storm drains, etc.;
8. Require more storm drains for heavily developed, critical areas;
9. Require a local impact statement for large scale developments on steep slopes and flood plains;
10. Reduce sewage run-off by a continuing program of rehabilitation of sewer treatment;
11. Enforce ordinances that prohibit channeling storm water run-off into sanitary sewer lines.

VI. WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL AND JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Update and study of the Juvenile Detention Center including the Juvenile Justice System. (1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2006)

The LWVWC supports a juvenile detention facility and its operation under standards developed by the American Correction Association. The LWVWC supports the following for the Washington County Jail:

1. Adequate supervised probation in lieu of incarceration in some cases;
2. Intensive need-based follow-up for prisoners upon release;
3. A good system of pre-screening before sentencing to determine appropriate rehabilitation programs for individuals;
4. Adequate services for incarcerated women to include, but not limited to, recreation and exercise facilities, library facilities and in-house work;
5. Adequate jail space, staffing, rehabilitation programs and professional probation staff;
6. Prevention programs, particularly for youth;
7. Action which would decrease jail population including, but not limited to, shortening the holding time for individuals who are committed to prison while awaiting mental health assessment, trial, or who are already sentenced to boot camps or prison;
8. Equitable treatment for male and female inmates in the Washington County Jail.

VII. WASTE WATER TREATMENT (1999, 2002, 2004, 2008)

The LWVWC supports adequate waste water treatment for Washington County communities with the goal of maintaining water quality and preventing contamination of aquifers and surface water.

The LWVWC supports limits to on-site water treatment systems which promote urban sprawl and may not have adequate maintenance and operation oversight. The LWVWC advocates the use of monitoring water treatment systems through a comprehensive water agency for the enforcement of standards, education and financial responsibility by polluters.

VIII. SIGN ORDINANCE (1999, 2002, 2004)

The LWVWC supports a more adequate Washington County sign ordinance and believes that:

1. The present Washington County sign ordinance, No. 96-1, is inadequate.

2. All off-premise signs except “Logo Signs” and “Tourist Oriented Directional Signs” visible from federal and state highways in Washington County should be prohibited.
3. LWVWC continues to support I-540 as a “Scenic By-Way” and the retention of its natural beauty.

**IX. PARKS MANAGEMENT
(2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2011)**

The LWVWC supports a parks mission that includes:

1. Helping people to enjoy life by providing parks and recreational opportunities;
2. Providing recreation for all ages and abilities;
3. Providing after school and summer recreation for children;
4. Providing designated green space;
5. Establishing nature parks and nature areas in parks;
6. Provide adequate maintenance for all parks.

The LWVWC supports continual updating of Fayetteville’s Master Park Plan:

1. A trained park consultant should update the plan.
2. The Parks Board, Consultant or Park Director should hold public meetings to obtain public opinion on recreational possibilities.

The LWVWC supports the Fayetteville Park Land Ordinance, which establishes new parks as the city grows.

The LWVWC supports trailways throughout the city for walkers and bikers.

**X. SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS
(2002, 2006)**

LWVWC believes public policy in Washington County, which governs illegal substances, should:

1. Reflect an understanding of substance use, substance abuse and addiction;
2. Frame substance use/abuse as an issue of public health rather than criminality;
3. Focus public resources on the prevention and treatment of substance abuse;
4. Require treatment program evaluations to be made public;
5. Support resources which provide one-stop, whole-life guidance;
6. Include adequate funding for the Washington County Drug Court program.

Substance abuse treatment in Washington County should:

1. Be easily accessible in location and served by public transportation;
2. Encourage voluntary participation and be affordable;

3. Inform the public of treatment availability;
4. Provide immediate access to professional therapeutic services;
5. Meet the “Principles of Effective Treatment” listed by the National Institute of Drug Abuse;
6. Include a full intake assessment that immediately determines the level of urgency for treatment, as well as addressing mental and physical health needs, personal life skills and family relationships;
7. Provide immediate attention to detoxification and other physical needs, including a program of therapy which speeds the detoxification and healing process;
8. Offer therapeutic programs tailored to individual needs for both adolescents and adults, administered by professional, certified staff;
9. Provide residential programs offering suitable environments conducive to healing and allowing for outdoor exercise;
10. Provide treatment options including regular and/or intensive outpatient therapy, partial day residence and long-term residence up to one year with transitional housing available in a therapeutic “community” setting;
11. Provide long-term follow-up contact with clients;
12. Encourage self-help groups including 12-step programs;
13. Be evaluated according to appropriate quality guidelines and licensing criteria.

XI. PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS (2007, 2011)

The LWVWC supports conservation of areas that are highly ranked ecosystems within the watersheds of communities in Washington County as determined by scientific study through the following policies:

1. Designating for protection in land use planning areas that are highly ranked ecosystems, such as waterways, stream banks and floodplains;
2. Balancing land preservation and community development in the future transition from farmland, prairies and woodlands to urbanization;
3. Encouraging public sector conservation efforts or purchase of highly ranked properties through the use of tax credits, transfer of development rights or property taxes;
4. Promoting private fund raising for land conservation efforts through public/private matching programs;
5. Developing through cooperation of political entities in NWAR regional and county park systems for the future use of all citizens;
6. Supporting and encouraging public education about the links between preservation of natural areas, community health, environmental sustainability, economic growth and resistance to global warming.

XII. DIVERSITY IN HOUSING (2007)

The LWVWC supports the creation of varied housing options to serve the entire range of income levels in our community through the following policies:

1. Incentives for creating higher density projects that incorporate “green” building and development practices such as a contiguous system of bioswales and rainwater gardens to capture runoff;
2. Incentives for traditional neighborhood developments that incorporate a range of housing options within one neighborhood.

XIII. CHILD POVERTY (2011)

The LWVWC, concerned about the rise of child poverty in our area, advocates for Washington County lawmakers to address the links between child poverty and educational opportunity, economic barriers and physical well-being. The League supports:

1. Placing limits on school districts’ ability to carry over state revenue that is supposed to be used for the benefit of low-income children;
2. Expanding access to quality early childhood education, such as the Arkansas Better Chance Program;
3. Creating quality after-school and summer programs;
4. Providing equal opportunity for higher education for all Arkansas high school graduates, without exception;
5. Expanding access to subsidized childcare for all eligible, low-income families;
6. Establishing a refundable, state-level, earned income tax credit;
7. Expanding school wellness centers in more schools;
8. Reducing the number of uninsured children in Washington County by increasing ARKids First funding and making enrollment in the program easier for families;
9. Establishing health literacy programs.

Updated at LWVWC Annual Meeting, 5-19-11