

League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Local Program, 2010-2011

1. 6/2009 Action consistent with these criteria for support of intergovernmental relationships: Local intergovernmental relationships may include but not be limited to shared services, cooperative agreements, mergers of local government functions, consolidations of local government structures, dissolutions of villages and towns, and annexations.

When deciding whether to support a local intergovernmental relationship, the following criteria should be applied:

- a. Cost saving and positive effect on taxes;
- b. Quality and efficiency of services;
- c. Cooperative and collaborative planning process;
- d. Transparency of the process;
- e. Well defined channels for citizen input and review;
- f. Social and economic justice;
- g. Provision of both short and long term evaluation.

2. 11/2006 Support of LWVNY position on financing education with emphasis on seeking best practices of public schools, with action when appropriate.

3. Support of a change in the way the Erie County sales tax is distributed. Specifically, support of a formula that includes consideration of a municipality's

- a. population
- b. percentage of residents at or below the poverty level
- c. amount of tax-exempt property
- d. relative fiscal capacity
- e. the value of urban centers

4. Continue education campaign on sprawl, with emphasis on the impact of subsidies to sprawling development and the lack of financial incentives for redevelopment in already developed areas.

5. Action in support of regional land use planning enhancing urban neighborhoods, containing urban sprawl and protecting agricultural land, open space, watersheds and other sensitive areas.

6. Support of a broader management of local government services. Specifically support of:

- a. regional land use planning developed by a representative body with professional staff, adequate funding, citizen participation and with authority to implement its plans.
- b. strategic planning and management on a regional basis for the region-serving infrastructure such as sewers, water, highways, hospitals, regional cultural facilities and parks;
- c. regional support and management of services such as public transit, solid waste disposal, environmental planning, central police services and libraries;
- d. extension of metro light rail transportation on surface rights-of-way to connect the cities and suburbs; and
- e. development of redistributive revenue programs which would narrow the inequities between the city and the suburbs and would strengthen the region economically; and
- f. regional management of the promotion, marketing and economic development of the region. The League further supports the consolidation of industrial development agencies on a county or regional level.

7. Support of plans for the waterfronts of Erie County (along Lake Erie and the Niagara and the Buffalo Rivers) that provide and ensure

- a. year-round public access to the waterfront;
- b. a coherent regional planning process arrived at and adopted with adequate public participation;
- c. only such commercial development as makes appropriate use of a waterfront location;
- d. documentation and preservation of the area's significant industrial, commercial and social history;
- e. development of services and facilities necessary for a variety of recreational activities; and
- f. protection and enhancement of the natural environment at the water's edge.

8. Support reduction of the use of pesticides and support the permanent passage of Pesticide Neighborhood Notification (PNN) in Niagara county.

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9. Continuation of the study to examine the situation that exists in the two Erie County jails involving the incarcerated population and their children. Recommendations will be devised to improve the outcome for this population, including but not limited to alternatives to incarceration, discharge planning, service provision in jail as well as upon release and other similar measures.

10. 6/2010 Develop programs designed to address problems created by global warming and climate change.

11. 6/2010 Review the Erie County ethics code.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES 2010-2011

1. Support of the consolidation of the registration of vital records (birth and death records) into a single Erie County district in order to obtain a system that:
 - a. is efficient and economical,
 - b. provides accurate records,
 - c. holds records confidential and secure,
 - d. affords convenient access to the public and
 - e. ensures that the revenue derived would benefit all taxpayers in the county equitably.
2. Support of an Erie County Charter with a strong executive form of government in which:
 - a. the lines of responsibility are clearly fixed;
 - b. the governmental organization and administration contribute to economy and efficiency;
 - c. the county legislature shall consist of 17 or fewer uneven number of single member districts apportioned equally according to population.

LWVBN UNIT PROGRAM 2010-2011

AMHERST UNIT

1. Affordable Housing:
 - a. Support the retention of all subsidized housing units existing in Amherst in June 1993;
 - b. Support an increased number of subsidized units for low income families to be dispersed among non-subsidized units and for an increased number of subsidized units for the low income elderly;
 - c. Support the following social services for the residents of affordable housing: accessible recreation facilities for youth, clinical services for families, outreach staff effective with target population, daycare for children and subsidized preschool programs.
2. Support measures for environmentally sound water, air and land management in the Town of Amherst.
 - a. Support the Town of Amherst's Adopt-A-Highway program.
 - b. Support the Town of Amherst Recycling program.
3. Review of town government organization: the roles of board and committees, under what authority and how members are selected, in order to increase the number of appointments of women.

AURORA-ELMA UNIT

1. Support methods to reduce the waste stream.
2. Study planning in the Town of Aurora and the Village East Aurora

BUFFALO UNIT

The Buffalo Unit is currently reorganizing.

CLARENCE UNIT

1. A re-examination of Clarence's ongoing wastewater management plans to ensure that they reasonably meet the following standards:
 - a. Maximum use of federal and state aid.
 - b. Prior input from the private sector: engineering and financial data made available to the public before final action is taken.
 - c. A plan that is cost effective, environmentally sound and energy-efficient.
 - d. Coordination with national and state water quality objectives.
2. Support of broad public access to the town budget-making process leading to greater input and understanding.
3. Support of the Master Plan and appropriate zoning laws to implement it.
4. Monitor the Town's ethics code.

