

Local League Positions for Program Action 2015-2016

GOVERNMENT

Support for ongoing voter registration and voter education to achieve maximum informed participation in the process of government.

Support for government that is open, transparent and ethical, in which office holders act in the best interest of the whole community.

Objective: Effective, honest, participatory government, with all eligible voters registered to vote, informed, voting and sharing responsibility for governing. (2015)

AREA-WIDE PLANNING

Support of area-wide planning and consolidation of services such as water, sewer, transportation, and other services of consequence to the South Coast. When consolidation occurs, consideration should be taken that it does not eliminate representatives from those communities involved in the consolidation. (Reworded 1982, 1983, 1998, 1999)

FISCAL STRUCTURE

Support of measures to provide a flexible, economical and equitable fiscal structure to finance the necessary services for the South Coast cities and county of Santa Barbara.

Objectives:

- A broad tax base, including possible special charges for special services.
- Coordination and efficiency in governmental jurisdictions and special districts.
- Flexibility of allocation and emphasis on areas of greatest need as guidelines for spending revenue from oil and gas development.

LIBRARIES

Support of measures to ensure financing of professional standards and services in public libraries.

Advisory Boards and Commissions (1980)

Support of the following criteria to be used when determining the amount of compensation, if any, for elected officials/appointed board and commission members (This consensus does not apply to full-time elected officials in administrative positions.):

- Complexity of position, number of functions, size of budget, number of constituents.
- Time demands of the position, within reasonable limits.
- Level of responsibility, final or advisory decisions.

The public should be informed regarding salary paid and benefits available to elected officials. (Updated 1990)

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Support of an independent commission to recommend the amount of compensation or changes in compensation to the elected body, which could not approve an amount exceeding the recommendation. Changes in compensation for all members of an elected body should become effective following the next election.

Support for reimbursement of advisory boards and commissions for allowable expenses only.

CITY CHARTER

Support of actions to implement effectively the provisions and intent of the city charter for the city of Santa Barbara including a council-manager system, with responsibility for policy-making concentrated in the council and responsibility for administration concentrated in the City Administrator. (Amended 1978 and Updated 1990, 2015)

SANTA BARBARA CITY RE-DEVELOPMENT

Support of the following criteria for evaluating central city redevelopment:

- Provision of benefits to the community in any publicly funded redevelopment.
- Top priority for rehabilitation of older homes where feasible, and for expansion of the low and moderate income housing supply. (1980)
- High priority for consideration of parks and open space.

NATURAL RESOURCES

PLANNING

Support of comprehensive planning for the South Coast, recognizing that harmony between people and the community in which they live is the ultimate goal of comprehensive land use planning. (Amended 2004)

Objectives:

- General Plans which reflect the critical limits of population densities that follow upon community carrying capacity through studies at least every five years covering the effect of these densities upon the citizens and the environment; zoning regulations which conform to the General Plan.
- Balance the South Coast annual growth rate against the resources of the environment. (Reworded 1996)
- Building height limitations for the city of Santa Barbara specified in the charter.
- Land use decisions which coordinate with water supply planning.
- Preservation of natural drainage channels, park sites, beach access and green belts.
- Consideration of land primarily as a limited natural resource with an accommodation of private ownership to public need. (Reworded 1996)
- Preservation of natural beauty as an important economic factor.

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- Long term, comprehensive planning for oil and gas development that considers cumulative impacts, socio-economic as well as environmental.

Within this framework, case by case permitting should be accommodated at a rate that allows careful consideration of each project.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Support efforts to preserve and make prudent use of our natural resources.

Objectives:

- A strong program for reduction of all forms of pollution, including noise, air, and visual pollution; control through adoption and enforcement of strong performance standards.
- Opposition to oil projects in the Santa Barbara Channel off the South Coast that would be harmful to the environment. (Reworded 2008)
- Support of Santa Barbara city charter ban on oil drilling in the city. (Reworded 2008)
- Consideration of environmental impacts in making decisions on oil and gas development, with air quality as a top priority, a strong emphasis on adequacy of water supply and protection of agricultural and fishing industries and tourism.
- Programs to achieve maximum recycling of resources and goods used in the community.
- Use of the following criteria in decision-making for development of water resources (1980, 1991):
 - environmental impacts
 - economic impacts
 - energy consumption
 - enhancement of the quality of life
- Conservation, conjunctive use, reclamation, and desalination are the preferred supplemental sources based on the above criteria. (Updated 1991)

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (1984)

Support of a Hazardous Materials Disclosure Ordinance (a “Community Right to Know” ordinance) which would establish a long term (e.g. 30 yrs.) historical record, retained by the administering agency, and which would include strong enforcement provisions. Trade-secret confidentiality could be allowed in a manner consistent with the need to keep complete records and to provide information in cases of public or individual emergencies. (Reworded 1992)

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SOCIAL POLICY

COORDINATION OF SOCIAL POLICY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Support of the following criteria for evaluating proposals for growth and change in the South Coast area:

- Staying within the South Coast's carrying capacity based on the environmental constraints of water supply and air quality. (In our view, this requires a conservative approach which allows for added growth when present and projected demands are within established resources capability).
- Preservation, to the maximum possible extent, of the special character of the South Coast area and its existing quality of life, including prime agricultural lands, which should be protected. (1981)
- Policies which seek a balance between employment opportunities and any required additional housing.

Support of efforts to manage growth within limits of South Coast natural resources.

CORRECTIONS SYSTEM (2012)

Support of a corrections system which has as its primary goal rehabilitation, that is, the prevention of recidivism, with emphasis on alternatives to incarceration, and on compliance with state standards for facilities and staffing. Support of programs and public education to involve the community in rehabilitation.

DIVERSITY (2001)

- Encourage minority persons who reflect the diversity in our communities to serve on existing governmental boards, commissions and councils as well as on boards of non-profit agencies.
- Support the development and continuance of human relations commissions and task forces to study community needs, to resolve conflicts between different ethnic groups; and to help implement those recommendations which are consistent with League policies. (Reworded 1995 and 1998)
- Develop a League outreach effort leading to co-sponsorship of forums and other events on issues of concern to minority communities.
- Encourage diversity in League membership.

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HOUSING

Support of efforts to preserve and increase the low and moderate income housing supply in the South Coast area.

Objectives:

- Open housing.
- Improvement of substandard areas.
- Systematic code enforcement.
- Financial incentives to encourage the building and rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing where appropriate within the environmental constraints of water supply, air quality and transportation. (1999)
- Policies and ordinances which give priority to low and moderate income people already resident or working in the South Coast area, and which address the needs of families with children. (1981)
- Controls to assure that any low and moderate income housing built or otherwise created in the South Coast remains affordable to those income groups for at least 30 years.
- Establishment of inclusionary zoning when new units are created through construction, rehabilitation, or other means.
- Consideration of density adjustments for low and moderate income housing where appropriate within the environmental constraints of water supply, air quality and transportation. (1999)
- Options of mobile homes for low and moderate income housing.
- Subsidized rental programs. (1979)
- Zoning that maintains a balance between residential needs and commercial development.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Support of a health care delivery system for all South Coast residents adequately financed by private or public funds.

Objectives:

- Cost containment of health care services.
- Long-term custodial care with institutional regulation and/or supportive services for alternative health care.
- Disease prevention and health maintenance.
- Emergency care when needed.
- Greater availability of affordable catastrophic insurance. (1983)

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MENTAL HEALTH

Support of comprehensive, flexible and effective mental health legislation and programs for adults and children needing preventive help, maintenance, treatment and rehabilitation. (Amended 1979 and 1990; updated 1997)

Objectives:

- Improved financing, including state and county financial aid for locally administered mental health programs.
- Coordination of services among agencies serving clients.

HOMELESSNESS (1986)

Support of joint planning and coordination by federal, state, county and city government entities with the private sector, including non-profit and private organizations, the business community and private citizens.

Support of government sponsored community-wide task force. The magnitude and diversity of the needs of the homeless require active participation at every level of government with the private sector in Santa Barbara.

Support of appropriate solutions with adequate financing, to respond to both short term and long term needs of homeless people. These include the provision of better access to existing social services, emphasis on affordable housing, including subsidized rentals, and establishment of criteria for shelter services to include counseling and referral of those with special needs. (1986)

- Denotes 50 Years or Greater Membership in the LWV