

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Adopted 2016)

The League of Women Voters of McLean County supports the assessment and development of affordable, supportive, permanent housing opportunities for all citizens of McLean County.

To achieve and sustain this goal, the League supports:

- Providing permanent and/or supportive housing options that address the wide spectrum of socio-economic needs of impacted citizens including—but not limited to—factors such as age, family size, mental health, disabilities, addictions, the specific needs of veterans, etc.
- Securing adequate financial resources (local, state, federal, and private funding sources) to adequately address the supportive, permanent housing needs within our community.

The League endorses and encourages intentional and ongoing collaboration, leadership, coordination, and community engagement to achieve and sustain this goal.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Adopted 2014, retained through 2016)

Administration

League supports:

- Appointment of all administrative personnel;
- Election of all policymakers County Board

County Board

League supports:

- Review of the general structure, procedures, committee structure, districts and size with a view toward greater transparency, accessibility to the public and more effective communication within the board;
- Production of a five-year strategic plan required of all county department heads, including budget provisions; presentation of these plans each year to the county board as part of the budget process for accountability purposes;
- Pursuance of intergovernmental agreements that address the issue of land annexation, including transferring road maintenance to the annexing body.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR McLean COUNTY (Adopted 2005, retained through 2016)

League supports:

- A written plan accompanied by maps;
- Development of community support;

- Preservation of natural resources and prime agricultural land;
- Enforceable land use ordinances.

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE (Replaces/combines/revises Options for Justice, and Juvenile Justice/Child Welfare, Retained through 2016)

The League of Women Voters of McLean County supports implementing and/or enhancing a wide array of viable measures in order to: decrease incarceration rates for low-risk, first-time offenders, provide alternatives to jail where warranted, and increase options for justice in criminal and/or civil matters brought before the Courts as follows:

Alternatives to Jail Measures:

League endorses:

- Continuing efforts to maintain a Drug Court Program, Mental Health Court Program, GPS electronic monitoring, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and its committees.
- Implementing the following: Restorative Justice programs and appropriate supervision and treatment of offenders in community-based programs based upon risks and needs assessments
- Supporting diversions for low-risk, first-time offenders through Drug Court and Mental Health Court
- Increasing community-based supervision in lieu of incarceration, including housing, job-training, and cognitive-behavioral therapy

Incarceration and Ex-Offender Measures:

League endorses:

- Improving support in jail: education and life skills programs, mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Reducing obstacles to restoring ex-offenders to become productive citizens by providing an effective, wide array of community services and supervision
- Improving re-entry of ex-offenders into the community by increasing collaboration and cooperation among social services agencies

Juvenile Justice Measures:

League endorses:

- Implementing improvements to juvenile justice with appropriate efforts aimed at doing everything possible to keep young people from entering a juvenile facility; diversion and services are key to doing so.
- Encouraging cooperation and coordination among agencies and government officials who work with juveniles (formerly Juvenile Justice position)

ELECTION COMMISSION (Adopted 2009, retained through 2016)

McLean County should unify its election offices in a County Election Commission.

EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE (Adopted 2004, retained through 2016)

League supports a paramedic service for Bloomington-Normal, funded by a combination of government. League opposes a separate taxing district or special assessment for paramedic service.

HOME RULE FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (Adopted 2004, retained through 2016)

League strongly supports provisions in the 1970 Illinois Constitution that allow certain local governments to adopt home rule and opposes any attempt to restrict this option.

LIVING WAGE (Adopted 2009, retained through 2016)

League supports a living wage for all City of Bloomington employees.

LOCAL EDUCATION (Adopted 2005, retained through 2016)

League supports:

- Broadly-based measurement of student achievement by teachers and administrators;
- Frequent teacher evaluation by principals or department heads;
- A diverse curriculum made possible, if necessary, by an extended school day.
- Organization of districts for educational benefits to students, administrative efficiency and economy;
- A financial basis for schools in McLean County that can provide a good education for all students.

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH (Adopted 2000, revised 2014, retained through 2016)

League supports:

- Proactive core leadership, planning, coordination, and collaboration for mental health services in McLean County
- Funding which is effective to meet the needs for a comprehensive continuum of mental health services in McLean County
- Cradle to grave mental health services for all individuals in McLean County

PUBLIC HEALTH (Adopted 2004, retained through 2016)

League supports the following:

Financing the McLean County Health Department

- Primary support from the State of Illinois;
 - Increase of the current limit on the local county tax level for the Health Department.
- Hiring Practices for the Health Department

Hiring Practices for the Health Department

- State set minimum standards;
- Open hiring policy, including an equal opportunity statement.

Services

- Continuous evaluation of needs and monitoring of existing programs;
- High priority on services to low-income families;
- Cooperation and coordination between the Department of Public Health and mental health services

Selection of New Board Members

- County-wide representation;
- Unlimited number of terms for members;
- Application for appointment through the County Board.

Keeping the Public Informed

- Filing of reports in the public libraries;
- Publicizing of services available;
- Publication of board meeting times.

PUBLIC RECREATION (Adopted 2005, retained through 2016)

League endorses:

- Continuous maintenance and improvements of recreational facilities (national standards based on population are an appropriate goal)
- Continued development of a wide variety of recreational programs for all age levels
- Cooperation among government units whenever possible.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (Adopted 2009, retained through 2016)

League supports an integrated solid waste management strategy that encourages a regional approach to ensure maximum waste reduction, adequate disposal capacity, recycling/reuse program for the entire community.

WATER CONSERVATION (adopted through 2016)

League supports:

- Government action to promote water conservation
- Public education about the need for conservation
- Fair rate system that encourages conservation