

## **LWVODC Program (2011-2012)**

The adopted 2011-2012 Program guides the new Leadership Team as they plan meetings, forums and other activities during League year. This process is not intended to exclude other League interests. Rather, because of limited resources, it helps the Board to identify priorities, focusing on (but not limited to) specific government-related issues in Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties. The Leadership Team formulated the following Program for the League year beginning July 1, 2011:

### **PROGRAM**

***Issues for Emphasis and Local Positions.*** These categories of Program are defined as follows:

***I. Issues for Emphasis*** are timely governmental issues based on local, state, or national positions selected for education, advocacy and action in the coming year.

***II. Local Positions*** are positions on local governmental issues to which the LWVODC has given sustained attention and in which it may continue to act.

### **I. LWVODC Issues for Emphasis 2011-2012**

The adopted Program guides the new Administrative Team and as it plans meetings, forums and other activities during League year. This process is not intended to exclude other League interests. Rather, because of limited resources, it helps the Board to identify priorities, focusing on (but not limited to) specific government-related issues in Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties.

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

#### **1. Affordable Healthcare for All** (See LWVUS position “Health Care”.)

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Respond to and create action alerts, provide educational material.

#### **2010-2011 Actions:**

1. Medicare for All 101: Who Wins, Who Loses? Public forum. Co- sponsored by LWVODC and The UNC-CH School of Social Work Clinical Lecture Series. Peter S. Kussin, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, Dept. of Medicine Duke University Medical Center, spoke on the importance of Medicare for patients and the need to expand its coverage to all citizens.

2. Medicare for All. Public: Dr. Flowers, Maryland pediatrician with experience as a hospitalist at a rural hospital and in private practice, discussed how to strengthen the Medicare system and expand it to everyone through a singlepayer system.

#### **2. Affordable Housing** (See LWVNC Human Resources/Social Policy position on Housing)

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Identify affordable housing needs in the community, and educate the general public on how they can be involved in helping to promote more affordable housing in their community.

2010 – 2011 Actions: The Chatham Unit sponsored a public meeting, Affordable Housing in Chatham: Will it Happen? Speakers: Jeffrey Starkweather, Chair, Affordable

Housing Advisory Board and Sybil Tate, Affordable Housing and Green Building Specialist, addressed the need for affordable housing in Chatham and the challenges and opportunities the Board and County Commissioners have in ensuring balanced mix of rental and owner-occupied housing that is available to residents of all levels of income.

**3. Immigration** (See LWVUS position “Immigration”.)

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Promote informed involvement in immigration policy at all levels of government.

2010-2011 Actions: The Chatham Unit co-sponsored with the NC Council of Churches a public meeting, Immigration Reform: Three Views. The Reverend Donna Banks (Evergreen UMC); Brenda Rogers (LWVODC); Chris Liu-Beers (Program Associate, NC Council of Churches); and Nayely Perez-Huerta (Advocacy Initiative Program, El Pueblo, Inc. discussed the complexities of immigration reform from their first-hand experience.

**REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

**4. Redistricting** (See LWVNC position. “Fair & Equitable Representation”)

Objective: Advocate for redistricting reform and citizen involvement

Example: Inform ourselves as to the process and prepare to monitor redistricting when it occurs.

2010-2011: LWVODC applied for and received LWVNC funds to monitor and participate in the redistricting process at the local and state level and to encourage citizen involvement in the redistricting process and in redistricting reform. LWVODC is planning a public forum by early June in support of an Independent Redistricting Commission for future Congressional and Legislative redistricting requirements. Chatham League members will monitor and participate in the redistricting plans for the Chatham County Commissioners’ electoral districts later in 2011.

**II. LWVODC Local Positions**

Positions are arranged by the headings used in LWV state and national listings of positions. Local Leagues may take action within their jurisdiction based on their local positions or on state and national League positions. Most importantly, members should support the action, be kept informed, and have opportunities for discussion and evaluation. The dates in *parentheses* are the dates that the positions were revised.

**REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

**County Budget Process**

- Support for a long-range local government budget process that includes establishment of goals and priorities, for operation expenses and for capital improvements (2006).
- Support for clear communication in the budget process (2006).

**Local Government**

- Local governing boards should adopt written ethics codes and local municipalities should adopt the state statute for candidates reporting campaign contributions and expenditures. (1989, 2006, 2010).

### **Growth and Development**

- Support of a sound planning program through which public improvement, policies, and regulations are coordinated for the orderly and attractive development of the community (1964, 2006).
- Support for joint planning as the best process for managing growth cooperatively in our districts (2006).
- Public facilities should be adequate before new development is permitted (1987).

### **Redistricting Reform**

- This is covered by the LWVNC position “Fair & Equitable Representation.”

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Greenways**

- Support for greenways systems and open space (1984, 2006, 2010).

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### **Education**

- Support redistricting policy that maintains racial balance, continuity of individual educational experience and supports the quality of integration within the schools and individual classrooms (2006).
- Support actions to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of school bus transportation systems (2006).
- Support for adequate funding of the capital needs of local schools (2006).

### **Public Recreation**

- Support for public recreation (2006).

*Additional, previous local positions have been archived. These will be found on the LWVODC Webpage:*

<http://lwwodc.org/members.html>