

League of Women Voters of Curry County

Local Positions

- Planning, 1989
- Recycling, 1990
- Conditional Use Permits, 1992
- Water Sources and Uses in Curry County, 1993
- Family Violence in Curry County, 1995
- How We Govern Ourselves in Curry County, 1999

The positions included here are based on local studies conducted by the League of Women Voters of Curry County.

Planning

Statement of Position, adopted April 1989

Water and Sewers

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters believe that Curry County should consistently follow the regulations which guarantee the highest quality and protection of ground, surface, and ocean waters.

Applying this principle, the League supports:

1. Cooperative interaction between municipal government, county government, and appropriate agencies;
2. Strict regulatory laws governing the placement and maintenance of wells and septic systems taking into consideration the effect of neighboring wells and septic systems, as well as the overall community;
3. Routine inspection of all septic systems;
4. Attention paid to the overflow of drainage systems during peak seasonal rain fall.

Urban Growth Boundaries

The Curry County League supports the Oregon State League of Women Voters position which recognizes certain principles of good local government. These are:

1. Democratic representation and control;
2. Basic simplicity with power to plan for future growth or change;
3. Provisions of services and functions of overall concern with equitable quality and distribution to the entire integrated area.

League believes Curry County should have an orderly and comprehensive transition in the urban growth boundary plan:

1. With adequate cooperation and coordination between our three cities and the county;
2. Without conflict of interest in the development of the urban growth boundaries;
 - a. In the cities;
 - b. In the rural communities;
 - c. In the rural exception areas.

Planning and Building Department

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters support a County Planning and Building Department with a sufficient number of qualified staff to meet the county's increasing growth. League members favor:

1. An impartial geologist hired by the Planning Department with cost borne by the applicant;
2. A fully researched engineering report when deemed necessary;
3. Consistently uniform and impartial inspections on all new construction;
4. Current specifications and code changes furnished to the applicant when applying for a permit.

Planning Commission and Zoning Ordinances

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters support consistent and impartial land use decisions made by a County Planning Commission whose members have been appointed impartially, are without conflict of interest, and have adequate qualifications and orientation.

The League recognizes the need for:

1. County Planning Commission members to have access to and knowledge of all pertinent information prior to rendering decisions;
2. On-site inspections by a Planning Commission member prior to granting a permit;
3. A Curry County inspector to assist in the enforcement of the Planning Commission's decisions.

The League supports:

1. A governmental structure so organized that the responsibility for the enforcement of land use decisions is easily assigned, with no overlapping of authority;
2. Enforcement bodies which have sufficient strength and courage to withstand pressures from special interests;
3. Granting of conditional uses by the Planning Commission only when compatible with outright uses of the zone and with existing community and regulatory standards.

Recycling

Statement of Position, adopted January 1990

Curry County League of Women voters believes recycling issues should not be based solely on economic considerations.

Recycling reduces the volume of solid waste.

Recycling reduces the need for raw materials in manufacturing.

We believe recycling should become mandatory, regulated by state law that mandatory recycling will provide impetus to industry as well as individuals.

It is expected that, short term, Curry County may have to provide county subsidy beyond what can be covered by user fees and income from the sale of recyclables.

League research indicates that in the future the recycling of products such as glass, metals, paper and others will be determined to be profitable and county subsidies may not be necessary.

League supports recycling education and encourages full citizen participation in recycling efforts.

We urge the reduction of consumption of natural resources by buying items with less or no packaging, by reusing containers, and by composting. **(updated June 2012)**

Conditional Use Permits

Statement of Position, adopted April 1992

In accordance with the 1989 position on planning of the Curry County League of Women Voters, the League supports the granting of conditional uses by the Planning Commission only when compatible with outright uses of the zone and with existing community and regulatory standards.

1. The League believes:
 - a. Conditional use permits should not change the character of the zone to the detriment of established neighborhoods;
 - b. Conditional use permits should not depreciate the value of surrounding properties;
 - c. Community comments should be a major influence when considering the conditional use permit compatibility with outright uses.
2. The League supports the cities and the county:
 - a. Following the same criteria for granting conditional use permits;
 - b. Following the same procedure for processing conditional use permits.
3. The League endorses the de novo process of appeals.
4. The League recommends the frequent review and revision of the county and cities zoning ordinances.
5. The League believes that in areas where site review plan committees are used, affected parties should be given written notice of the committee's decision and fifteen days to appeal.

Water Sources and uses in Curry County

Statement of Position, adopted 1993, reviewed 2006, Revised May 1997 and June 2012

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters recognize that watersheds are a part of the earth's hydrological cycle and are, therefore, affected by rainfall shortages.

Applying this principle, the League supports:

1. Maintaining a healthy balance between the water requirements for population growth and the water requirements of anadromous fish runs and other life forms;
2. Consideration of water availability should be a prime factor when making land use decisions;
3. Research of ecologically safe water storage and of sound water conservation methods in the county;
4. Identification and regulation of areas of critical concern such as watersheds, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas.

The League believes that accurate information about the amount of water available is essential before long-range plans can be developed.

The League supports taking routine measurements at various strategic locations on the rivers and their tributaries.

Family Violence in Curry County

Statement of Position, adopted March 1995

The League of Women Voters of Curry County supports:

1. Programs to educate individuals, organizations and institutions as to all aspects of family violence, and to promote abuse-free family units as those units are defined under all applicable laws and regulations;
2. An integrated agencies system to provide family violence intervention and prevention programs;
3. Development of programs to promote equal economic rights between marriage partners;
4. The implementation of programs to teach interpersonal relationship skills;
5. Development of centralized community facilities and methods to provide services and program supporting families;
6. Development and promotion of programs establishing a framework necessary to encourage and foster healthy physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development of individuals within the family unit;
7. The development and dissemination of effective, comprehensive and detailed programs to gather statistics on all aspects of family violence;
8. The development of programs designed to counter and decrease the pervasive depiction and promotion of violence.

How We Govern Ourselves in Curry County

Statement of Position, adopted 1999

The League of Women Voters of Curry County supports a County government led by three duly elected Commissioners who follow State laws on budget and County rules on personnel evaluation. Alternative sources of funding should be explored. Efforts should be made to streamline advisory bodies as to function, membership and training.

1. The League of Women Voters of Curry County believes the Board of Commissioners and all other appointing powers should follow the adopted personnel rules and report to the people that the evaluation has been completed. A program evaluation procedure should be adopted and implemented on an annual basis. We recommend that the Chair of the Board of Commissioners shall make a State of the County report to the people at the beginning of each calendar year;
2. The LWVCC stresses the importance of adherence to the State balanced budget law. County fees for services should reflect the true cost;
3. LWVCC supports combining advisory bodies with similar focus, actively recruiting members and providing training for them;
4. LWVCC believes all elected County officials should be nonpartisan.