
LWVODC Issues for Emphasis & Local Advocacy Positions 2014-2015

The League Board recommends that LWV-ODC adopt for 2014-15 four specific *Issues for Emphasis* and the *Local Positions* previously adopted. *Local Positions* are also called *LWVODC Program*.

Issues for Emphasis

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

The 2014-2015 *Issues for Emphasis* will guide the LWV-ODC Board 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. Implementation of the Program may include educational events, roundtables, collaborations with other local non-partisan organizations, and other activities.

The recommended Issues for Emphasis for 2014-15 are listed in alphabetical order. To carry out the program, League members may participate in roundtables and may plan educational programs on these issues.

Education – Continue to explore the impact of increased numbers of charter schools on school systems as well as the broader impact of recent legislation upon our education community.

Environment – focus on water quality

Health Care – focus on Medicaid expansion

Voter Protection and Voter Education

The LWVODC Board recommends retention of all of the following previously adopted Local Positions:

LWVODC PROGRAM: Local Positions 2014-2015

Local Positions are positions on local governmental issues to which the LWVODC has given sustained attention and in which it may continue to act. The Local Positions can be found at www.lwvdc.org (Dates indicate when these positions were adopted or modified)

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, 2011)
- Durham County: Support for a continuing consolidation of Durham City and County services and functions to achieve efficiencies and the eventual formation of a single governing body for all of Durham County. The group also agreed to continue studying City/County consolidation for the upcoming year, with an emphasis on outreach to various community stakeholder groups. (2013)

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).

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).