

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CUYAHOGA AREA

PROGRAM 2011-2012

GOVERNMENT

Local Governing Structures

- Support of strong, responsive and representative governing structures.
- Support of periodic review of city charter or other governing documents.

County Government

- Support of a structure of county government that would include a single executive and a responsible representative legislative body.
- Support of adequate financing for county services and capital improvements.
- Support of provision of urban services by that level of government that can be most effective.
- Support of measures to provide the accountability, accessibility, visibility, citizen participation in and coordination of all boards (i.e., authorities, boards, commissions, and special districts) connected to Cuyahoga County governance.

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (CCCPA)

- Support of public hearings for developments and plans; a budget that shows how tax revenues are spent; a separate capital budget, demonstration of market demand, community impact, and return on investment of capital projects; disclosure statements of each board member; and periodic reviews of board compliance with legal requirements.
- Support of equal numbers of members of the CCCPA Board appointed by the Mayor of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Commissioners.

Planning:

- Support of community planning programs for municipalities and Cuyahoga County with specific emphasis on land use, development and revitalization of aging areas.
- Support of adoption of comprehensive long-range planning programs that promote the common good and periodic updates.
- Support of encouragement of citizen participation in the planning process.
- Support of acquisition, development and maintenance of green space and park-like areas within municipalities and Cuyahoga County.
- Support of signs and building setbacks.

Regionalism:

- Support of voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies and maintain service standards.
- Support of regional tax-base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of all participating communities.

SOCIAL POLICY

Diversity

Support of measures designed to promote understanding and responsibility in the diverse and multi-racial, multi-cultural community of Cuyahoga County.

Primary and Secondary Education

Support of quality public education in Cuyahoga County.

Support of providing sufficient funding for quality public education. --- Support of continued monitoring of educational facilities, allocation of resources, programs and educational methods.

Support of long-range planning of finances, facilities, staffing and educational methods with citizen input.

Community College

Support of Cuyahoga Community College as the two-year higher educational institution in the county that provides accessible and affordable educational programs and services that meet the needs of the County's population.

Public Libraries

Support of the best possible public library services that reflect the needs of the community being served.

Support of continued evaluation of financing and of future development.

Support of cooperation between public libraries and school systems.

Housing

Support of enforcement of local housing codes to protect the health and safety of citizens within Cuyahoga County including, but not limited to: routine inspection of every dwelling; mandatory inspection of all rental dwellings and mandatory re-inspection at a specified period of time; point of sale inspection; and adequate staffing and training of impartial housing/building inspectors within Cuyahoga County

Support of access to information for the parties who qualify as low income about programs, which offer assistance in the correction of code violations.

Support of sufficient housing that meets the varying needs of residents, including housing assistance programs for those of limited income.

Support of an adequately funded and efficient housing court, if applicable.

Health Services

Support of health care delivery system that provides adequate health care to all citizens of Cuyahoga County, and effective comprehensive health planning by bodies representative of consumer interest as well as health professionals.

Support for continued evaluation of health care services, including mental health, for all in Cuyahoga County, with particular attention to financing, delivery, distribution and availability.

Support of continuation of health services to the medically indigent.

Administration of Justice in Cuyahoga County

Support of comprehensive planning, improved bail system, rehabilitation of offenders, alternative handling of some crimes termed as “no victim”.

Support of improved police-community relations, uniform code of training and conduct, and adequate financing.

Taxation and Revenue Sources

Support of taxes that are fair and equitable.

Support of taxes that provide adequate resources for government programs while allowing flexibility for financing future program changes.

Support of taxes that are understandable to the taxpayer and encourage compliance. Support of taxes that are easy to administer.

Support of continual evaluation of governmental tax resources and allocation.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Support of continued development of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its restoration and preservation as open green space.

Public Recreation

Support of public recreation programs based on needs of the community served and providing recreation to all ages.

Support of continued evaluation of financing, programs and facilities.

Transportation

Support of mass transit as a public service, publicly controlled, with operating costs subsidized, to meet the needs of all residents of Cuyahoga County, including the special transit need of senior citizens and handicapped persons.

Support of comprehensive planning by local, county, regional, state and federal governments and agencies in order to achieve policies on transportation, tax structures, and allocations that will encourage a sustainable balance between urban areas, farmland and open spaces.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Support of a precautionary moratorium on all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations that produce untreated animal waste.

Support of improved and similar wastewater transportation, delivery and treatment systems on each CAFO site within the Lake Erie watershed, equivalent to the state requirements for municipalities producing the same.