

League of Women Voters – Acton Area Local Program Positions – ARCHIVED* 1961-2016

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*Local League positions that are no longer actively used for advocacy. These positions will not be reviewed annually through Local Program Planning. They will be stored electronically on the LWV-AA website.

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EDUCATION

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS

IN THE STOW SCHOOLS

Stow Position, 1984-85

This position was updated with minor edits in 1998. Archived in 2016.

The Stow members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- Fund raising efforts for local public school programs including new resources such as industry, foundations, and grants.

Support for these efforts should be based on the following criteria:

- Program need/demand
- Program meets curriculum objectives
- Program should be established in a timely manner

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Acton Position, 1974

This position was revised in 1987 and 1992. It was updated with minor edits in 1998 and 2015. Archived in 2016.

The Acton members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support a Family Life Education program in the schools. Life Education should include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- Relationships, self-esteem and decision making
- Racism
- Health, including nutrition and eating disorders
- Human sexuality, including homosexuality
- Verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, including rape and date rape
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS
- Birth control and Abortion
- Responsibilities of marriage, understanding divorce
- Preparation for parenthood and parenting skills

The program should meet the following criteria:

- This program should be available to every student.
- Program material should be a part of the K-6 curriculum and required in grades 7-12.
- The program contents should be designed by teaching staff and a trained, system-wide health coordinator.
- The program contents may be taught by teachers willing to participate and trained in the subject matter.
- Professionals and non-professional should be used, as necessary, to enrich the program.
- The program contents should be designed to anticipate the problems of students' physical and emotional development.
- In general, boys and girls should be taught together, rather than segregated by sex, for Life Education courses.
- Schools should make the program available to parents and encourage their participation in related workshops.

ROLE OF THE COUNSELOR IN ACTON AND ACTON-BOXBOROUGH SCHOOLS

Acton Position, 1980

This position was updated with minor edits in 1998. Archived in 2016

The Acton members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support the following as priorities of the Counseling Department:

- Broad-based preventative and information programs for students, staff members, and parents
- Personal counseling
- Education and career counseling

In order to implement and to increase the effectiveness of these services, the LWV suggests that the Counseling Department:

- Increase communication with students, staff members, and parents about programs and resources available.
- Provide more time for planning and program development by
 - Using volunteers, community resources, paraprofessionals, and advisors
 - Increasing the use of group counseling
 - Increasing counselor specialization
- Form an advisory committee of counselors, students, recent graduates, School Committee members, administrators, parents, and teachers.

HUMAN RESOURCES

YOUTH COUNSELOR AND YOUTH OFFICER

Acton Position, 1979

This position was revised in 1987 and updated with minor edits in 1998. Archived in 2016.

Youth Officer

The Acton members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- The establishment of a permanent position for a Youth Officer, within Acton's Police Force, in order to provide continuity of services to youth, to coordinate with the counseling services available in the area, and to provide programs in the school system.

Basic criteria for this position should include:

- personal commitment to problems of youth,
- specialized training and updating relating to youth and crime prevention, and
- good interpersonal skills.

The position should be non-rotating and held on a long-term basis.

Youth Counseling

The Acton members of the League of Women Voters - Acton Area support:

- Increased efforts to provide information on areas of concern to youth, such as alcohol abuse, drugs, and sexuality.
- The education of the public concerning available counseling services.
- The periodic review of the schools' Life Education Programs with strong consideration for updating information on drugs, birth control, alcohol, sexual abuse, etc.
- After school programs for youth, supervised by appropriate personnel.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TOWN FINANCES

AREA Position, 1998

This area position was updated from Acton's position on Town Finances (1976). The area position was adopted by concurrence in 1998. Archived in 2016

Town Accountant

The members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- Modernization of town accounting procedures
- Central purchasing for the town and schools using local, state, and regional contracts

Budget Preparation Procedures

The members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- Joint fiscal planning meetings of the Finance Committee, School Committee(s), Selectmen, Town and School Administrations
- Communication among these groups during budgeting time

Methods of raising revenues and budget preparation procedures which are:

- professional
- operationally efficient
- economical
- effective
- accessible to citizen's input and participation

Finance Committee and Moderator

The members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- Submission of standardized minutes to the Finance Committee from all major town boards and committees to provide information regarding their philosophies, goals and activities.
- The Finance Committee voting upon and making public all policies and that the members periodically review these policies.
- The orientation of all newly appointed Finance Committee members by the Moderator.
- The requesting of minutes from the Finance Committee by the Moderator so that he is aware of attendance, policies, and philosophies of his appointees.

State Aid

The members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- The Town making every effort to obtain state aid with consideration given to the long-range financial impact and limitations of that aid upon the town.
- The Town Manager and School Administration gaining familiarity with state formulas used for the state aid.

LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

PRINCIPLES, PLANNING, AND ACQUISITION

AREA Position, 1998

This area position was updated from Acton's position on Conservation (1968) and Recreation (1978). The area position was adopted by concurrence in 1998. Archived in 2016.

CONSERVATION

The members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- The principles of conservation and recreation with the development of natural resources in the public interest.
- A comprehensive plan for the acquisition and preservation of open spaces and the flood plains; for the development of green belts using the multiple land use concept; and for the retention of the natural beauty of our towns.
- An emphasis on a balanced approach to conservation and recreation through wider geographic distribution of such lands; balance between land purchases and less costly alternatives such as conservation restrictions; financial planning that provides for both land purchases and land management; and the acquisition of land for a variety of uses.
- Land acquisition for purposes of conservation and/or recreation.
- The acquisition of parkland to provide usable green space in highly developed areas.
- Communication and cooperation between recreation and conservation commissions, also with other town boards when necessary.
- Periodic updating of long-range plans as pertaining to recreation and conservation as well as participation at regional levels of planning
- Having the uses of conservation and recreation lands, both active and passive, determined by the characteristics of the land itself. Use may be regulated by the appropriate authorities.
- Active seeking of federal and state funding for land purchases for conservation and recreation. We would support the use of local funding when feasible.
- The use of alternatives to land purchase to preserve open lands. These would include the purchase of development rights, wetlands, zoning, conservation restrictions, accepting gifts of land, and any other land preservation techniques developed in the future.

RECREATION

The members of the League of Women Voters – Acton Area support:

- The establishment of activities and programs designed to provide both active and passive recreation.
- Self-supporting and subsidized programs as well as the use of any other sources of funding that are available.
- A periodic review of existing standards for recreational safety, supervision, and instruction.
- Use of school facilities for recreation and community affairs
- The coordination of programs with other groups offering similar programs. An effort should be made to offer programs and activities that will meet uncovered needs.

The League of Women Voters – Acton Area will apply the following criteria when determining support of future recreation proposals for facilities, programs, or increases in staff:

- Is there a demonstrated need or desire?
- Has a comprehensive plan been submitted?
- Have alternative plans been considered?