

League of Women Voters of Brookline Support Positions – Local Program

1. Education

- a. The School Committee should have an up-to-date written policy manual to include an overall educational philosophy for the Town.
- b. Equalization of educational opportunities in Brookline (1970-1971).
- c. Concept of voluntary cooperation among educational systems within the Boston Metropolitan areas and the Brookline School Committee and administration in its efforts to join in planning for metropolitan cooperation (1973).
- d. Measures to strengthen and define the role of the elementary school principals in curriculum delivery and evaluation (1979).
- e. Measures to improve methods and procedures of curriculum evaluation (1979).
- f. Support action to encourage a strong public education element and public input throughout the development and implementation of the basic skills program (1979).
- g. Support measures to increase the numbers of required courses at the high School, with an exemption process.
 - (1) Exposure to the following subjects should be mandated: mathematics, science, social studies to include U.S. History, World History and Civics (i.e., processes of government and comparative government); alcohol and drug abuse education.
 - (2) Exposure to the following subject areas to be strongly recommended; keyboard skills; foreign language; drivers education as a classroom course; unified arts (1980).

2. Pensions

- a. Support partial pre-funding of pensions and personnel policies recognizing costs of future retirement benefits (1982).

3. Housing (2003)

The LWVB will support measures to:

- a. Provide as much affordable and moderate income housing as possible, in accordance with applicable regulations
- b. Support preservation of existing affordable units and negotiate the longest terms of affordability
- c. Encourage the creation of affordable units in new development
- d. create affordable housing in all parts of Brookline
- e. Work toward meeting Chapter 40B affordable housing goals in order to be eligible for state funds
- f. Give preference, to the extent permitted by law, to Brookline residents and people with ties to Brookline
- g. Encourage design of all housing to blend into surrounding context including the use of aesthetically pleasing materials
- h. Insure ongoing compliance with affordability requirements of residents.
- i. encourage mixed use and mixed income buildings
- j. Pursue predictable funding streams for maintaining and expanding affordable and moderate housing
- k. Maintain/increase affordable and moderate income rental units through Town programs

4. Land Use (1974 and 2003)

The LWVB will support measures to:

- a. Encourage payment by tax-exempt institutions for services rendered by the Town in lieu of taxes. Property tax exemptions should be clearly defined and should, at the most, include only those properties which are used in the direct performance of the organizations' tax-exempt functions. Off-campus residences used by residents or other employees should be taxed (1974)
- b. Provide publicly financed incentives for rehabilitation of older houses in need of serious repair (2003)
- c. Expand Brookline's tax base through development of under-utilized commercial properties in ways that meet Town regulations, allowing for feasible variances (1980)

5. Town Government

a. Town Meeting

- (1) Measures that implement a public recorded vote of Town Meeting Members (1970).
- (2) A time limit for all speakers equitably distributed both pro and con (1970).
- (3) A balanced presentation of arguments on warrant articles (1970).

b. Executive Branch

- (1) Encourage the efforts of the Committee on Organization and Structure to evaluate the Executive branch of Brookline's Government (1984).
- (2) Support governmental approaches that would allow the Board of Selectmen to give greater emphasis to comprehensive and long range planning (1984).
- (3) The Board of Selectmen should retain their licensing function subject to establishing guidelines upon which to make their decisions (1997).
- (4) To make the licensing process more accountable and efficient, a broad-based Town Committee should be established to develop clear guidelines, which could include possible revision of zoning by-laws (1997).

c. Fiscal

- (1) Provided the need can be documented and the cost justified, support a general override to increase Town operating revenues, and any combination of debt exclusion, capital expenditure exclusion, or general override for funding needed capital improvements to its buildings and equipment (1994, 1998).
- (2) Support efforts to achieve management and accounting reforms (1994).

6. Parking

The Brookline League believes that there is a need for further Public Parking in Coolidge Corner and that there should be a feasibility Study of a Structure at the Centre St. East parking lot. Subject to consideration of the transportation needs of the overall Coolidge Corner community, this structure should include space for parking, mixed use (retail, office, housing, etc.) as well as civic amenities such as green space, benches, etc. (2004)

The League supports transportation measures to help alleviate the parking burden in Brookline. These could include the use of zip cars, MBTA subsidy passes, lower rates, and/or dedicated spaces for carpoolers, bicycle racks, shuttle buses, etc. (2004)