

**GREELEY/WELD COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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POSITIONS IN BRIEF

CHILDREN IN WELD COUNTY (2005) Support efforts to enlarge child care facilities at the courts.

EDUCATION (1989-90)

Local education: alternatives and diversities for meeting the needs of all students through grade 12.

EDUCATION (2005) Support for programs and activities that provide education for young children, 0-5 yrs., in Greeley and Weld County

FEDERAL FUNDING IN WELD COUNTY (1982)

The LWVGW holds that priorities should be set among human service needs on the local level. Since the LWV supports coordination among agencies and all levels of government, it submits that the process of priority setting could best be facilitated by a broad-based human services coalition. This coalition should have representation from funders (both private and public), recipients, providers, and the community. This coalition should (a) set priorities, (b) provide a vehicle for communication among all funding entities to ensure that the basic needs of people are met, (c) evaluate the human service delivery system of Weld County to identify unmet needs and duplication of services, and (d) educate the public.

The LWVGW supports the formation of a Human Services Coalition, and will seek an active role in its formation and functioning.

GROWTH (1997)

Support for the Northern Colorado Regional Planning study which includes participation and adoption by Weld and Larimer Counties, the cities of Greeley, Fort Collins, Evans, Berthoud, Johnstown, Milliken, Wellington, and Windsor. Support of the recommendations of that study: establishment of regional resource areas, regional corridors, communicator separators, regional gateways, critical linkages, establishment of urban growth boundaries, uniform intergovernmental agreements, and regional transportation and infrastructure linkages.

HEALTH (1976)

The LWVGW supports the immediate implementation of Weld County Charter provisions regarding the Board of Health and manner of selection of the Director of Public Health. In particular the League supports the provision requiring that the Health Board study county health programs. We support cost accounting and perpetual inventory systems, the handling of all monies in the business office, computerization of payroll, monthly reconciliations of Home Health Care accounts, under the direction of a business manager.

Maximum communication and cooperation between WCHD and all other health agencies in the county should be encouraged. League advocates a liaison between the environmental health division of public health and agricultural groups. We would also support environmental planning for the future.

- The results of specific cost accounting should be made available to the public, and the annual report is as inclusive as practical.
- The WCHD should purchase medical supplies and equipment from the lowest bidder offering equal quality; some additional savings can be realized by purchasing in conjunction with other county agencies.
- The League supports the expansion of the practice of charging fees on a sliding scale or flat fees for service in all areas where it is useable.
- We suggest that merit increase reviews occur after a shorter period of employment than the present provision of five years.
- We recommend that the WCHD continue to seek federal funding when a specific need arises.
- We support the Alcohol Recovery center, Home Health Care and Homemaker Aide programs.
- We support the maintenance of education and treatment programs to combat tuberculosis, strep and venereal disease. Additional services suggested are preventative dental care and more nutrition services for the indigent.
- We encourage strong and aggressive representation from Weld County on the Central Northeast Health Service Area Board.

Health In Weld County (1991, updated 1998). Develop and distribute factual information on health in Weld County.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION (1979, updated 1997)

Support for the Greeley Historic Preservation ordinance and for historic preservation throughout the county. Support for redevelopment that reflects Greeley's past and emphasizes restoration of existing buildings to their original appearance. Continue to educate commercial property owners on the economic benefits of preservation. Continued support of the Greeley museums, and creation of a single source of access to archival materials dealing with Greeley history.

Support of Monroe Street Preservation District and consideration of other preservation districts.
Support of efforts to maintain and restore the downtown Greeley area.

HOME RULE CHARTER (1973, updated 1975)

Support for the Weld County Home Rule Charter which includes initiative and referendum, and has provision for changes for future needs toward responsible county government.

The League originally proposed the election of a Home Rule Charter Commission with the hope that a charter would be representative of the people. The increased number of county commissioners proposed by the charter is an excellent step in the direction of more responsive government. The expansion of the Board of Health, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Adjustments is also a positive step toward government that is more responsible and more aware of the will of the people.

LAND USE (1979, updated 1997)

Support a comprehensive land use plan for Weld County and for each municipality within the county.

- The League supports a comprehensive land use plan which anticipates changes in population, facilities and uses of natural resources. The plan should provide a guide by which changes can be directed and controlled to work for the benefit of all citizens. Implementation of a plan should endeavor to maintain a balance between public and private rights. We recognize land use decisions involve weighing values and comprehensive planning should be flexible and at time involve compromise. Units of government need to cooperate in land use decision, particularly planning jurisdiction and development standards.
- The LWVGW supports the way in which comprehensive planning in Greeley and Weld County addresses industrial and commercial development. Planning that requires growth within and contiguous to existing incorporated areas is less damaging to the total agricultural community than dispersed growth. Such planning also promotes energy conservation and protects air quality. Aesthetic considerations should be an important part of comprehensive planning.
- The League recognizes the importance of a diversified economic base. The preservation of agriculture and prime agricultural land is crucial to the economy and character of Weld County. It is important that incoming industries be non-energy abusing, environmentally clean, judicious in use of water, and compatible with the existing labor supply. We would encourage industry that is agriculturally related. We favor dispersal of industrial development throughout the county, but contiguous to or within existing incorporated areas.
- Supports a range of commercial areas which will accommodate consumer demands as they emerge. Small shopping areas should be within walking distance and designed to blend with the neighborhood served. We oppose commercial strip development.
- Allowing central business districts to deteriorate wastes earlier capital investment and may cause economic and social problems. League members strongly support the redevelopment of Greeley's central business district as a regional shopping area, as specified priority in the

Greeley comprehensive plan. We support a convenient and efficient city-wide transportation system as important to achieve this goal.

LAND USE (1973, updated 1997)

Support of land use policies which place importance on land as a limited nonrenewable resource, with a philosophy of land as a public good. Support of planning commissions on the municipal, county and regional levels, representative of the people they serve, with clear lines of communication, and with final decisions on land use made by elected representatives at each level in accordance with accepted policies.

LIBRARIES (1999, updated 2002)

Support for adequate library services for all residents of Weld County.

Support for library services for all residents of Weld County through support of efforts toward maintenance of a downtown Greeley library. Better communications on the part of the District Library Board with the community, citizens and staff in deliberations; wider distribution of advanced meeting agenda and formal reports.

Weld Library District:

- Support for better communications on the part of the District Library Board with the community to include citizens in its deliberations, by wider distribution of official materials, advanced meeting agendas, and formal reports.
- Support for greater cooperation with school district libraries.
- Support for increased hours of operation at libraries and on bookmobiles.
- Support for efforts to provide statistics on actual library use, including computer use and reference assistance in addition to book circulation
- Support for predictions secured from the community for future needed facilities, maintenance, and materials.
- Support for provision of materials in alternative languages, especially Spanish.

School Libraries:

- Support for better coordination of school libraries with the Weld Library District.
- Support for libraries at all schools.
- Support for requirements for library services for students in charter schools.
- Support for professional and/or experienced library personnel to work with teachers in all schools.
- Support for library service after school hours, nights and weekends, and during summer vacations.
- Support for efforts by school districts in obtaining funding for after-school library use.

MENTAL HEALTH (1974)

LWVGW supports local funding of Weld Mental Health Center. Since the Center serves all of Weld County, the major source of local funding should be from county government with revenue sharing as a suggested possibility. Other important sources should be the city governments where the Weld Mental Health facilities are located. The Weld Mental Health Center should be governed by a local, autonomous board with the selection of board members on a self-perpetuating basis.

NOISE CONTROL IN GREELEY (1974, updated 1993)

Support for the control of noise from both vehicular and stationary sources, under city and county ordinances and state statutes, cooperatively administered with the use of trained personnel using equipment capable of determining noise levels.

The LWVGW supports a city noise control ordinance, covering both vehicular and stationary noise. The ordinance should allow for noise of a higher decibel count in the daytime than at night. It should be enforced by a single agency with officers armed to measure decibel count and supplied with proper equipment and with summons powers. Emphasis should be placed on compliance rather than on the collection of fines.

OIL AND GAS DRILLING (1985)

Support for requirements for safety, and consideration of long-term effects, environmental hazards, and economic impact associated with energy development in Weld County, with authority for municipal and county governments to participate in setting regulations for oil and gas drilling.

The LWVGW supports the following statements regarding oil and gas drilling in Greeley and Weld County.

- Any oil and gas activity pursued in Weld County should keep in mind the safety and long-term effects, environmental hazards and economic impact associated with energy development in Weld County.
- It is important for city and county governments to have the right to participate in setting regulations for oil and gas drilling.

POUDRE TRAIL (1990, updated 1997)

Support for recreational development of waterways in Weld County that is environmentally sound and ecologically responsible with emphasis on preservation of wildlife and of history.

RECYCLING (1991)

A study of recycling potential in Weld County. Scope: To find what has been done, what can be done and the coalitions within which LWV can work.

REGIONAL SERVICE AUTHORITY (1972)

The Greeley/Weld League of Women Voters favors the formation of a Regional Service Authority which would include Weld County. The members felt as RSA would enlarge the scope of planning and increase accountability to the public. The following factors should be considered in determining the membership of an RSA.

1. The developmental plans for the future of RSA counties should be harmonious in philosophy; if the development plans call for the retention of viable agricultural land, counties in an RSA should seek to preserve the agricultural land.
2. Each county participating in an RSA should have both urban and rural interests within its boundaries. The counties should have common concerns, such as water and land management problems.

3. The counties should be adjacent to or in approximation to each other but together they should not be unwieldy in area or population.

Regional Service Authority (1973 update)

The Greeley, Loveland, and Ft. Collins Leagues of Women Voters support the formation of a Regional Service Authority for our area. Common interests and problems should determine the choice of counties to form an RSA, and members generally agreed that Larimer and Weld made a logical grouping. A minority of Larimer County members felt that Boulder County should be considered since several of our Front Range problems are similar.

SIGN CONTROL (1973, updated 1993)

Support for an inclusive and restrictive sign code requiring permits for all permanent and temporary signs, with inspections for compliance and maintenance with regulations.

The League of Women Voters of Greeley/Weld County believes that the present city sign code is inadequate. We favor a more inclusive and restrictive code which would require permits for all permanent and temporary signs. These signs should be inspected for compliance and maintenance. Regulations should be made regarding removal of temporary signs. The code should provide that existing nonconforming signs be maintained and not altered in any manner that would increase the noncompliance of the sign. We would support a court-approved, equitable program to eliminate existing nonconforming signs.

SPENDING LIMITATION (1983)

The LWVGW supports the concept of a spending (i.e., taxing) limitation based on a formula which takes into account changing economic and social conditions rather than a fixed percentage. Such a limitation should be flexible to allow for factors such as evaluated periodically to determine if the limitation continues to meet these criteria.

The LWVGW supports modification or elimination of the 5% spending limitation from the Weld County Charter.

The League prefers elimination of the 5% spending limitation in favor of the State of Colorado limitation.

The League supports modification of the Weld County Charter limitation as a short range goal. If elimination of the Weld County Charter limitation is not feasible we support modification of the Charter to meet our criteria of flexibility in taxation to meet changing growth, economic and social conditions.

The League supports the limited use of special districts in order to provide Weld County Charter with more flexibility in funding.

The League supports a county sales tax exclusive of food, drugs and utilities that has the cooperation of and equitable formula for sharing with the municipalities.

Earmarking sales tax funds may be necessary in some cases but should be used on a limited basis and with discretion.

TRANSPORTATION (1980)

The members of the League support the concept of a well-coordinated transportation plan. This should include all methods of transportation.

We support Greeley's bus plan. We favor cooperation between the city and School District 6 in combining bus systems when mutually practical. We support legislation allowing contracts between city and school bus systems and changes in PUC regulations allowing non-students to pay to ride school buses. It is felt that the expansion of service within Greeley is the priority. We also support future expansion of the bus system to towns surrounding Greeley if and when those municipalities request and subsidize such service. Fares should at least support some of the cost of Greeley's bus system although they should not be so high as to discourage people from riding the bus. Other sources of funding should be investigated.

We support a comprehensive bicycle plan and strongly encourage its implementation and financing according to a programmed time schedule. The plan should provide for a direct, continuous and safe bicycle system: the availability of secure bicycle storage facilities; continual maintenance of bicycle routes; easy methods for licensing bicycles; and safety education programs for both cyclists and motorists.

We support the mandatory construction and maintenance of sidewalks within the city limits of Greeley. Owners, both public and private, should bear the expense of the sidewalks in both existing and new areas.

We support the concept of a regional transportation system or coordination among systems in Larimer and Weld Counties.

WELFARE (1998, updated 2001)

Support of efforts to help welfare recipients become self-supporting through education, mentoring, access to adequate child care, transportation, and housing. Encourage coordination of agencies that support these services, and support any other efforts that encourage and support self-sufficiency.

Support for efforts to assist former welfare clients in obtaining meaningful work through mentoring and provision of clothing bank for job seekers.

YOUTH SERVICES (1974, updated 1991)

Opposition to placement of children in county or city jails. Concern for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and support of a variety of programs as alternatives to detention.

League supports a master plan similar to the Youth Services System, as encouraged by the Youth Department and Delinquency Prevention Administration, for providing needed youth services. Members want a type of youth commission that would be county-wide and have the necessary legal authority to bring about these objectives:

1. Coordinate services to youth.
2. Eliminate duplications of services.
3. Identify gaps in services and bring in needed services.
4. Make long-range plans and establish priorities.
5. Evaluate and monitor existing youth programs.

6. Identify problems.
7. Encourage research on youth problems.
8. Improve record-keeping among agencies (such as records on number of youths detained by police and sheriff, etc.) and standardize terms (such as “custody”, “Police contacts”, etc.).
9. Pursue and channel some funds to needed areas.

ZONING (1979, updated 1997)

Support zoning as an effective land use control, with consideration of energy, environment, and resource management, and with consistent enforcement.

- Consistent enforcement is seen as an important aspect of proper zoning, as is the stability of zoning in maintaining and preserving the character of the neighborhood and protecting the residents.
- The League believes it is important to keep in mind all innovative and creative methods in land use control. In particular, the following options are seen as appropriate alternatives: taxation, condemnation, subdivision requirements, critical areas and capital improvements and/or investments. We support more consideration for regional planning and critical areas.
- The League supports a wide representation of the community on planning and zoning boards with a careful balance of vested interests. There should also be consideration and attention to geographic representation. In regard to enforcement, we believe the current system of neighbor complaints and city response is adequate.