

Local Government

I. City Government Structure

The League favors an Administrator-Mayor-Council form of local government. We favor a small, part-time council elected by ward and an executive budget which is spelled out by ordinance, and the judicious use of bonding.

II. Town Government

The League favors representative government employing professional administrators, adoption of a comprehensive plan and village powers, five-member town boards, the creation of special service districts and consolidated services with adjacent municipalities.

III. Outagamie County Financial Planning

We favor executive budget procedures including consultation with department heads and review by finance committee members. We favor a flexible schedule and a posted meeting agenda with adequate time for consideration.

IV. Outagamie County Government: Organization and Function

We favor a small County Board and a County Executive form of government, with well-defined committees and an emphasis on legislating policy, not administrative detail. The League also supports consolidated County-municipal services where possible, equitable assessment for services, and improved communication between citizens and their county government.

V. Local Police Protection **

The League supports a flexible recruitment policy and merit-based promotion policies that favor internal promotion. We also support having written enforcement policies which are approved by local office holders, and specialized in-service training for officers.

VI. Regional Law Enforcement

The League supports consolidation of regional law enforcement services, with rural areas policed by sheriff's departments and a long-term goal of a full Fox Cities metro law enforcement system if consolidation is successful. The League espouses several criteria to judge successful consolidation, and believes this issue should be an election issue which is kept in the public eye.

VII. Parks and Recreation

The League favors a Park and Recreation Dept. with a single director and elimination of duplication of duties. The League supports making the Dept. responsible to a commission, which is in turn responsible to the Common Council. The commission should consist of five members, including an alderman and a school board member. The League encourages user fees to cover operating costs of certain programs and independent annually auditing of the Dept.

VIII. Appleton Public Library

The League supports increased funding for facility and program planning to meet the needs of a diverse and growing community.

IX. Land Use Planning in Appleton

The League strongly believes in citizen involvement in the planning process, and comprehensive planning based on community goals and objectives. The League believes the goals for the city's future design should balance economic, human resource, and environmental concerns. It also supports diverse redevelopment in the downtown region.

X. Criteria to be Applied in Annexation Decisions

The League has a comprehensive set of guidelines for annexation decisions and believes that such decisions should be judged based upon: the overall good of the area; environmental preservation; fairness in paying for services; and efficiency of urban services. The League also supports action at the state level, specifically involving the revision of county boundaries to help address the challenges of Appleton's location within three different counties.

XI. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) **

The Appleton League believes the Appleton and Oshkosh/Neenah-Menasha Leagues should cooperatively deal with issues of environmental concern, area wide recreation, mass transportation and public communication.

XII. Regional Planning Agency

The League supports a regional planning agency representing both urban and rural interests, focused on priority community needs.

XIII. Regionalization

The League supports regional intergovernmental services when such practice would improve services and/or reduce costs/

XIV. Smart Growth

NATURAL RESOURCES

I. Energy Conservation

The League believes that local governments should support energy conservation in their own facilities and policies, via energy-efficient public buildings, public transportation systems, education, legislation on solar access, and focus on recycling.

II. Solid Waste Disposal

The League supports WI DNR minimum standards for solid waste disposal sites and encourages regional cooperation to solve solid waste disposal problems.

III. Criteria to be Applied in Recycling Positions

The League supports responsible waste management with a focus on diverting waste from landfills and instituting fee structures that encourage waste reduction and recycling.

IV. Billboard Control

The League supports measures that ban construction of new billboards, phase out old billboards, and replace billboards with standardized logo and tourist-oriented directional signs.

V. Fox River Corridor

The League supports measures protecting water quality and natural areas while also providing for public access and appropriate economic development. The League believes that efforts toward these goals should be guided by regional local government organizations with input from a citizen Waterfront Advisory Committee.

VI. PCB Study

The League supports the effort to reduce the level of PCBs in the Fox River via site-specific methods and ongoing monitoring of the water quality. The League believes that contaminated sediments should be disposed of in segregated landfills near the Fox, and that the cleanup should be funded by the responsible parties and all available state and federal grant dollars.

SOCIAL POLICY

I. Juvenile Law Enforcement and Correction System

The League supports expansion and strengthening of city and county law enforcement agencies and juvenile facilities, with a particular focus on upgrading the Appleton Police Department juvenile section to ensure that juvenile specialists are available around the clock.

II. Juveniles at Risk

The League supports juvenile support programs such as youth work programs, drug and alcohol programs, mentoring programs, and non-traditional systems for responding to and discouraging minor crimes. The League supports stronger coordination of these programs between schools, local governments, law enforcement agencies, libraries, and organizations such as the YMCA and AAL.

III. Alternatives to Incarceration

The League promotes reliance on alternatives to incarceration except for the most dangerous offenders. Such alternatives must be fiscally responsible, promote safety, and satisfy justice for both the victim and the perpetrator, with a focus on successful return to the community.

IV. Housing

The League recognizes the need for low-income and special needs housing, and encourages local and regional governments to actively pursue the development of adequate and affordable housing through regulation and comprehensive planning.

V. County Department of Health and Human Services

The League supports adult day care and respite programs, domestic abuse services, and family planning programs. The League encourages public participation in the planning of such programs.

VI. Public Health Services

The League supports public health services that provide for the health and safety of all residents in the community.

VII. Mental Health Care

The League supports community-based mental health system which is financially and geographically accessible to everyone and coordinated among all providers, who must have knowledge of the complete delivery system.

VIII. Local Transportation

Tabled.

IX. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

The League believes that the PAC improves the quality of life and stimulates economic development and therefore supports public and private financing for the PAC.

X. Education

The League believes that education equity is an important goal for public education. School curriculum should create literate, productive members of a democratic society, and include competency testing, guidance services, disability services, and gifted and talented programs. The League believes in a maximum 30:1 student-teacher ratio, and an effective teacher-hiring procedure offering competitive salaries and a formal system of evaluation. The League also supports formal evaluation of administration, and modifying school boundaries to balance enrollment.