

SUSTAINABILITY POSITION STUDY, 2005-6

SHOULD LWVNM ADOPT A STATE SUSTAINABILITY POSITION OR PRINCIPLE?

Do you agree that a notion of sustainability should inform all League positions? Why or why not?

Do you think that the League needs a stronger position in this area or do you find the existing positions [national and state] sufficient? Would the adoption of a state “principle” be preferable? (Note that most principles, which do exist at the national level, have eventually been turned into positions.)

Are there worthy legislative initiatives that LWVNM is currently unable to support for lack of sufficient positions in the area of sustainability?

Should League positions explicitly acknowledge the limits to growth and the importance of recognizing them?

Should the League take a leading role in educating politicians and the public on the urgency of global warming? (Note: LWVUS does support the U.S. signing the Kyoto Treaty, but has not gone further to acknowledge that much more is required.)

Does LWVNM need an explicit position on a New Mexico water budget in order to develop a coherent set of action priorities for water legislation?

Should the League strengthen the “maximum protection of the environment” clause in its national position to make it clear that this requirement may not be overruled by short-term economic considerations?

Should the NM League reevaluate its position on taxation to promote ecological tax reform, and augment this with strong positions against the use of tax money to subsidize economic development that does not take ecological constraints into account?

Should LWVUS be supporting the expansion of international trade as a goal?

Should LWVNM’s economic development position make a clear distinction between development and growth?

In the area of climate change, what should the League advocate beyond its support for the U.S. signing the Kyoto Treaty? Should we be observing the NM Citizen’s Climate Advisory Group deliberations? Are we prepared to take a position on any resulting legislative proposals in 2007?

Should LWVABC positions on sprawl and transportation be adopted by consensus by the state so that we can lobby for (or against) legislation at the state level as appropriate?

Should the League augment its support for representative democracy to encourage voting systems that produce more representative results?

Should we be more aggressive in promoting opportunities for participatory democracy, particularly as we face the state’s water problems?

Internally, should the League continue to rely on “experts” to tell us what to think, or even to prescribe the scope of the debate, about topics such as economic development, apportionment, and trade?

Please go to <http://www.lwvnm.org/sustainability.html> for many more references and links.