

Albuquerque Luncheon Unit Meeting on Sustainability Position

January 11, 2007. Notes by Susanne Burks

PRO

1. (In answer to charge that the first statement is too broad) -- Making the statement broad was intentional because if you are too specific you limit yourself. Something may come up that you really want to support or work against but then you can't because you have been too specific.
2. Sustainability is moving into the mainstream and it would be advantageous for us to take a position because this issue has been considered by a lot of groups since the late 1960's and there is going to be more and more discussion.
3. The league could address the natural resources question now because the issues, which include urban growth, water and transportation, are all current and likely to continue. The subject is more concrete (than another one under discussion) and may be easier to deal with.
4. If members believe that economic policy and public finance should be tied to natural resources. . . , we can take it to the other groups and if they agree, then this can be the policy we follow.
5. Without a position on sustainability, when we are asked to join with other organizations we have no basis on which to support them.

CON

1. This is very much "a motherhood and the flag kind of statement" (apparently referring to the introduction) and the approaches to sustainability are very varied." Having a blanket kind of position would enable the League to do many things but might not enable us to do what we particularly want to do. "It's so broad and so sweeping that it's more like an underlying philosophy than a position."
2. The statements should stand on their own so a person who was not involved in the process could understand them, but they are so broad (the member speaking) is "having a hard time understanding what they're supposed to mean."
3. "I (member speaking) don't see this as a mandate for us to jump into with both feet as an issue."

QUESTIONS RAISED

1. How broad or how specific should the statements/questions be?
2. Could the League grandfather in existing positions so we won't have to be constantly reviewing them?

3. Or, alternatively, could we insert the word "future" in the first statement so it would read "future position or action"?
4. Would the "grandfathering" question have to go to the state LWV board for approval?