

Sustainability – Santa Fe Unit Meeting 11/15/06

- Definition of sustainability as presented can't be all inclusive. For example, it is the wrong word to be used to connect to a women's right to choose. The definition should be applied to natural resources, but to reduce ambiguity shouldn't be a blanket word.
- Regarding ecological impact and whether existing League positions would be in conflict, natural resources and the economy should not be negatively impacted for the future.
- Native Americans consider future impact to cover seven generations, should that be the measure applied for sustainability?
- The focus should be on the environment and natural resources because we do things that will negatively impact the future generations and certain segments of the population.
- If we maintain a balance of natural resources, social, and environmental concerns, then it is more likely they won't negatively impact each other.
- Is there a lack of connection in traditional League thinking? (Kathy)
- Connections naturally exist. Our economic based system creates a drain on our natural resources, for example trees with too much cutting for the sake of energy and the need for profit. Every step should be considered rather than just growth and its needs.
- Developers, specifically regarding the contemplated development of Santa Fe's Northwest Quadrant, do not always consider all implications.
- The significance of sustainability regarding natural resources is diluted when it is spread too thin over other areas.
- Not only in the U.S. is this an issue, its global implications should be considered too. U.S. is dragging its heels.
- Sustainability is subject, which complicated its application.
- Regarding the League, if we compromise too much with our positions, we run the risk of losing our impact. If the argument is so hard to make to defend our position, we won't be able to make one.
- That is the fundamental job of the League, to provide good information to support our positions.

- Population growth has an environmental impact.
- Consumption levels and the use of technology also impacts growth.
- As women's expectations rise, population growth declines. Education and health levels rising tends to reduce the growth rate.
- One way to discourage growth is to tax people more on their second homes.
- The pros and cons presented represented little difference.
- In considering every position, its burden and condition should be considered (?)
- Sustainability should be considered a filter on League positions.
- A lack of clarity might go against some existing positions.
- A lens should be there for all positions.
- The League's economic development position might be in conflict. Regarding what constitutes a fair tax, would its effect on sprawl need to be considered? Would taxation on levels above sustenance be valid?
- Is it reasonable to think taxation is a valid deterrent?
- If we agree that there are too many unknowns about the future, how can we make judgments for future generations?
- Connections naturally exist between natural resources and the economy. Corn bought from China would provide land for other uses, but is shortsighted regarding its impact on the U.S. economy.
- There was general agreement on the value of sustainability, but it was not necessarily thought that it should be applied by the LWV as organization to every position. It was felt that it is subliminally applied anyway.

Present: Jane Hanna, Margot Ladwig, Joyce Blalock, Carl Jones, Carol Johnson, Edie Pierpont, Babs Peck, Elizabeth Skendar, Jane Gaziano

Kathy Campbell and Gale Zander Barlow