

Local Program Positions

Child Care

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports the policy that rearing of children is a social, as well as parental, responsibility. Publicly subsidized or private childcare programs are an essential support system for both parents and children.

Program should:

- Provide a nurturing, caring environment that will promote the emotional, social, physical, and intellectual well-being of children in all age groups, and be designed to meet their different needs.
- Be affordable, flexible, accessible, of high quality, and be available to parents at all levels who choose to utilize them.
- Have a sliding fee schedule if receiving government funding.

Governmental regulations are necessary to ensure that private and public facilities meet basic standards of environmental safety, educational programs, and staffing qualifications. Teachers and those who participate in the care of children should receive salaries that reflect the level of skill and training for high quality care.

Domestic Violence

The League of Women Voters of Knox County support policies which serve to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and improve the assistance available to its victims. We support and encourage efforts which:

- Emphasize education on domestic violence to increase the awareness and understanding of the general public and by our school age population.
- Foster communication and coordination between those agencies serving victims, and
- Strengthen and develop regulations and legislation the impact domestic violence victims and services.

Teenage Pregnancy

Support of coordinated and accessible health, education, and social services for pregnant teens; support of teen pregnancy prevention efforts in the public school.

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports:

- The collection of data on dropouts for reasons of

pregnancy or adolescent parenting. Though the public schools are not required to do so by the Indiana Department of Education, the L WV recommends that they collect such data.

- Increased prevention efforts in the Knox County schools in order to lower the rate of pregnancy prevention program can include:
 - a. Sex education for both elementary and secondary students.
 - b. Development of decision-making skills
 - c. Support Groups
 - d. Outreach for high-risk students
 - e. Training for school staff awareness
- A recommendation that a prevention curriculum which includes the legal and financial responsibilities of male teenage parents be used in the Knox County Public Schools.
- Strong staff training programs for Knox County school personnel. School staff needs an awareness of the problems faced by pregnant and parenting adolescents. They also need the skills to work effectively with these groups. In addition, they should be able to identify high-risk students and refer them to appropriate programs offered by public or private agencies.
- A recommendation that childcare is made available in or near Knox County high schools for use by school age mothers.
- A recommendation that the medical community provide periodic mini-clinics in or near high schools for students from high-risk populations to address health needs for high school students.
- A recommendation that health care providers work together to publicize the necessity of prenatal care and the location where free and low-cost health services can be obtained.
- A recommendation that organizations and/or appropriate agencies develop and up-to-date directory of services available to Knox County and facilitates coordination between all adolescent parents are duplicative, but there are still many service gaps.
- A recommendation that the United Way and private funding be encouraged to help fund the public health and educational programs for pregnant teens and teenage parents in Knox County.
- A recommendation that there be a community effort to locate adolescent mothers who have not completed high school and direct them to educational support services.

Economic Development

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports economic

development in Knox County which will improve the quality of life for citizens by:

- Encouraging cooperation, which should involve all educational and economic levels in the community.
- Supporting efforts to retain and obtain business and industries that are environmentally safe, complementary to existing businesses and facilities, and that will increase the tax base.
- Supporting efforts to obtain jobs that are secure, well-paid, and physically safe.
- Promoting our unique community assets including history, volunteer efforts, available workforce, Vincennes University, Good Samaritan Hospital, foreign trade zone, transportation services, and available land development.
- Improving community liabilities such as infrastructure, community appearance, low wages, opportunities for women to make a living, and lack of cooperation between community agencies.
- Encouraging the proliferation and participation in leisure activities such as reaction, cultural events, and those activities associated with the development of a lake.

Planning and Zoning

Based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Study Committee, the following consensus was approved by the Board of the League of Women Voters of Knox County in November, 1986.

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports measures to:

- Provide adequate planning and zoning in urban and rural Knox County.
- Urge provisions for the enforcement of ordinances and codes. Support and encourage prompt enforcement of violations. Support and promote the historical districts in Knox County and Vincennes.
- Support the development and continuing evaluation of a long-range plan, coupled with monitoring efforts and active participation in seeing that plan carried through.

Solid Waste Recycling

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous waste by:

- Engaging in lobbying local government agencies on the environmental and economic benefits of recycling solid waste in Knox County.

- Seek information from communities with successful recycling programs. . Research markets for recyclable products. . Working with local businesses to institute and expand recycling in Knox County.
- Presenting L WV views on recycling through community education tools.

Illegal Drug / Methamphetamine Use

Illegal drug/methamphetamine use and addictions in our community have escalated and accelerated over the last decade. Our community is now recognizing and measuring the devastating effects of this epidemic on individuals, families, schools, law enforcement, judicial systems, health care providers, social service systems, and our economy. The destructive potential of this problem cannot be overstated. Only through collaborative, aggressive, persistent and innovative means will our community be able to address this challenge.

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports a concerted, comprehensive and cooperative effort by all members of law enforcement and the judicial system, to aggressively and effectively combat the illegal drug/methamphetamine problem in our community, including but not limited to prevention and intervention efforts, information sharing and coordination, educational efforts, and resource pooling.

In conjunction with the L WVUS position on Health Care, the League of Women Voters of Knox County supports a responsive and accessible system of health care in our community that will provide comprehensive and effective treatment for all who suffer from the . damaging effects of illegal drug/methamphetamine use and addictions.

The League of Women Voters of Knox County further supports a full continuum of social services provided by a broad spectrum of agencies, schools and organizations, to complement and supplement prevention and intervention efforts by health care providers, law enforcement agencies and the judicial system.

The League of Women Voters of Knox County supports the identification of traditional and innovative mechanisms to adequately fund the aforementioned prevention and intervention efforts, educational efforts, information coordination, and support systems to comprehensively and positively impact the illegal drug/methamphetamine problem facing our community.

***A VISION FOR KNOX COUNTY
COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, COMMUNITY PRIDE
AND REGIONALISM (3CPR)***

Knox County is blessed with rich history, a comprehensive medical community and hospital, Indiana's first college – Vincennes University, active community foundation, comprehensive social service agencies, diverse agriculture and abundant mineral resources. In order to prosper and grow the citizens and organizations in Knox County need to plan for the future with a focus on Communication, Collaboration, Regionalism and Community Pride (3CPR). To achieve success citizens and organizations must embrace Knox County's historical attributes and current assets through planning for the future by addressing the following quality of life issues.

1. Economic Sector – Government, Business, Retail and Civic Organizations

- Develop an entrepreneurial climate in Knox County to support and assist the business community, agriculture, professional development, and education to include:
 - a. Support and incentives for attracting small business entrepreneurs.
 - b. Increase availability of investment capital.
 - c. Provide a clearinghouse for community assessment data for trend analysis to assist in predicting and crafting strategy for the future.
 - d. Make available resources for organizations in Knox County to successfully apply for and receive more foundation, state and national grant dollars.
 - e. Identify areas and opportunities for government and commerce to collaborate with state and regional entities to develop regional possibilities.
- Emphasize lines of communication so all stakeholders and citizens will have knowledge of current and new initiatives in order to provide support for them.
- Identify and implement ways to improve county wide planning, image and attitudes.
- Implement programs and infrastructure to insure Knox County has access to current and future technology.
- Address issues regarding the delivery of information via internet, newspaper, TV and radio to enhance communication county wide.

2. Recreation and Arts/Culture

- Collaboration between all of Knox County's arts/culture organizations to create a Council for the Arts and Humanities in order to:

- a. Strengthen opportunities for applying and receiving foundation, state and national grants to support and expand the arts in Knox County.
 - b. Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan to increase and insure maximum participation in the arts in Knox County.
 - c. Develop and distribute a County wide arts calendar.
- Create a county wide wellness campaign to expand the use and growth of Knox County recreation areas.
 - Develop a plan for creating and providing new recreation opportunities in Knox County.
 - Continue to support and expand County wide Historic Programs.

3. Health Care and Social Services

- Support the new 211 service to provide information regarding health care and social service agencies available in Knox County.
- Provide access to healthcare and social services by expanding transportation for those in need.
- Create new treatment programs for addicts to address the drug dependency crisis in Knox County.
- Determine and act on quality of life issues that need to be addressed in order to attract qualified healthcare professionals to staff our hospital, clinics, healthcare, and social service agencies.
- Implement wellness programs to promote healthy lifestyles for all citizens of Knox County.

4. Education

- Create a culture that values and supports educational progress in our county schools.
- Knox County's school corporations are the centers of their communities and should provide an atmosphere of community pride and unity.
- Develop plans for organizations within the community to support K-12 classes by sponsoring activities to enhance learning for Knox County students.
- Community support for school corporations to collaborate with Vincennes University to create new learning experiences for county HS students.
- Business and industry support and encourage employees to pursue life-long learning opportunities to improve job skills.
- Active community support for adequate and equitable funding for improving academic achievement and quality facilities.
- Study the impact of county wide school consolidation.

5. *Housing*

- Community support of current and new initiatives addressing affordable housing.
- Support the growth of Neighborhood watch groups and associations countywide to include safety, neighborhood pride, assistance with neighborhood projects, and care of properties.
- Increase efforts to clean-up communities and develop community pride.
- Address issues regarding rental properties and increase enforcement of rental property ordinances.
- Develop programs to assist homeowners in need with maintenance and repairs of existing housing.