

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR
BOARD MEETING
October 20, 1961

The meeting was called to order by Carol Campbell in the home of Barbara Brown at 7:45 p.m.

Present: Carol Campbell, Barbara Brown, Barbara Emery, Marianne Erickson, Karen Jensen, Maggie Lauterjung, Margaret Coberly, Dee Meyerson.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report for this meeting. It was decided that Barb Brown would prepare a dues reminder for those members who have not yet paid their dues and we can include another notice in the December Voter.

Communications: Carol Campbell reported on responses received from our representatives with regard to Times for Action:

A letter was received from Representative Madigan re Clean Air Act. He is co-sponsoring HR 3471 which has the objective of setting ambient standards with flexibility in the regulations, and provision for enforcement. Carol has asked national LWV for information on this bill.

A letter was received from Governor Thompson re funding of probation and court services up to 50%. The Governor vetoed the bill and the veto was not overridden.

Two letters were received from Michael Tate with regard to the local LWV testimony at the gun control hearing held in Decatur.

A letter was received from Leslie Allen, City Manager, and the Metro Chamber of Commerce with information on the surface drainage bond to be issued. Target date to complete the sale of the bonds is 1/1/82.

A letter from C.M. Jensen indicated that the audit of our books is now complete. We will show our appreciation with a bottle of Scotch (?), - Irish Whiskey ?

Reports from board members: Marianne Erickson had notices ready for the Voter and the Herald and Review Daybook concerning the November 11 meeting on Health Care. It will be held at the Community Health Improvement Center so that members may become familiar with our facility. (Since Marianne is the Director of CHIC this will also save her time and effort in transporting materials for the meeting.) Dessert and coffee will be served.

Marianne also reported that an ERA meeting will be held November 12 at 1st Methodist Church at which Representative Susan Catania will speak. Other legislators have been invited also. The meetings have been well attended and the committee is trying to interest more people from labor and industry.

The December brunch will cover national and local program. Barbara Emery said that she has received a letter from the Millikin Homestead committee offering the Homestead for meetings at approximately \$1 per person for a group of 19 and over, with additional charge for use of the kitchen. She will investigate the possibility of holding the brunch there on December 9. It is a central location for people who must come from work.

Barbara Brown reported receiving Voter Service posters which she has given to Milli Protsman, Voters Service Chair. She said the directory of government officials will be printed in January and that no estimates of cost have been obtained as yet.

OLD BUSINESS

Maggie Larterjung reported that the Decatur LWV has concurred with the Fiscal Policy consensus arrived at by some leagues last year. Our league did the study and we agreed with the positions arrived at with the exception that a minority does not support ~~not~~ extending exemptions ~~to~~ (sales tax) to other items. (Other than those already exempted.) Ten members were present at the concurrence meeting.

The next board meeting will be held November 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Carol Campbell's home.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Meyerson, Secretary

FISCAL POLICIES CONCURRENCE

This statement of position incorporates positions in WHERE WE STAND with the position developed from the March, 1981 consensus reports on the Illinois Revenue System. The PROPOSED position is printed in all capital letters; the existing position is ordinary type. Concurrence will be sought on the proposed sections only.

1. THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SUPPORTS A DIVERSIFIED REVENUE SYSTEM WHICH RELIES ON PROPERTY, SALES, AND INCOME TAXES AS MOST LIKELY TO DISTRIBUTE THE TAX BURDEN EQUITABLY AND PRODUCE ADEQUATE REVENUE FOR THE SUPPORT OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

(The League supports revisions in the tax system to encourage sound land use decisions, eliminate the sales tax on food and drugs, and reduce reliance on the local property tax for the support of schools.)

The League opposes any constitutional limitations on taxes and spending for state and local governments. The League supports a revenue article in the state Constitution with as little restrictive detail as possible which does not contain limitations on tax rates or bonding power and does not prohibit any particular tax. The League does not support additional statutory limits on local governments' ability to raise and spend revenue.

The League supports measures, such as full disclosure procedures which encourage the public to participate in tax and spending decisions.)

2. THE LEAGUE FINDS THE PROPERTY TAX AN APPROPRIATE TAX FOR THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE IT IS LOCALLY CONTROLLED.
3. THE LEAGUE OPPOSES ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION PROGRAMS SINCE THIS ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIMITS LOCAL ACCESS TO THE TAX.
4. THE LEAGUE ENCOURAGES RE-EXAMINATION OF EXISTING EXEMPTIONS TO DETERMINE THAT THE EXEMPTIONS BENEFIT THE INTENDED GROUP OF TAXPAYERS AND REGULAR REVIEW OF THE TAX ROLLS TO DETERMINE THAT EXEMPT PROPERTIES ARE RETURNED TO TAX PAYING STATUS WHEN THE USE FOR WHICH THE EXEMPTION IS GRANTED IS DISCONTINUED.
5. THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS CONTINUATION OF THE CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM FOR THOSE PRESENTLY ELIGIBLE - THOSE OVER 65, BLIND OR DISABLED, AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR THOSE FOR WHOM PAYMENT OF THE PROPERTY TAX IS A HARDSHIP.
6. THE LEAGUE DOES NOT SUPPORT EXTENDING THIS PROGRAM TO OTHER CATEGORIES OF TAXPAYERS.

(The League supports measures to administer the property tax uniformly and efficiently, including the requirement of professional qualifications for assessing officials, appointment of assessors, consolidation of assessment districts.)

7. AND THE USE OF APPROPRIATE AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY IN THE ASSESSMENT, EXTENSION, BILLING AND COLLECTION OF THE TAX.

(The League supports broadening the geographic base of assessments and supports differential taxation and inter-governmental cooperation for shared services and revenue.)

The League supports tax incentives for the preservation of open space, floodplains, drainage areas and historical sites. Tax incentives should encourage maintenance and rehabilitation of property and should be designed to strengthen deteriorating city neighborhoods and provide an adequate supply of low and moderate income housing. Assessments should not favor the owner who permits property to deteriorate, nor penalize the owner who improves property. Preferential tax assessments and tax incentives should be used to protect prime agricultural land from lesser uses or intensive development.)

(over)

8. THE LEAGUE FINDS THE SALES TAX TO BE AN APPROPRIATE RESOURCE FOR THE SUPPORT OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IT IS A PRODUCTIVE TAX, ACCEPTABLE TO THE TAXPAYER, AND RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO ADMINISTER.

9. HOWEVER, THE SALES TAX PLACES A HEAVIER BURDEN ON LOWER INCOME GROUPS WHO MUST SPEND A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF THEIR INCOME ON ESSENTIAL CONSUMER GOODS. TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THIS REGRESSIVITY, THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS ELIMINATION OF THE TAX ON FOOD AND MEDICINE,

10. BUT DOES NOT SUPPORT EXTENDING SALES TAX EXEMPTION TO OTHER ITEMS.

11. THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS GREATER USE OF SELECTIVE SALES TAXES ON NON-ESSENTIALS, SUCH AS LIQUOR AND TOBACCO, TO RELIEVE OTHER TAXES, REPLACE REVENUE LOST DUE TO ELIMINATION OF THE TAX ON FOOD AND DRUGS, OR TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL REVENUE, IF THAT BECOMES NECESSARY.

(The sales tax redistribution formula should be restructured to reduce fiscal zoning decisions and to allow regional sharing of the sales tax revenue. Jurisdictions responsible for supplying government services to shopping centers, industrial developments and other large complexes, however, should have a percentage of sales tax receipts returned to them to cover their costs. Revenue from motor fuel taxes should not be restricted to roads and highways, but should also be used to support mass transportation.)

12. THE LEAGUE BELIEVES THAT THE STATE INCOME TAX IS FAIR AND EASY FOR THE TAXPAYER TO UNDERSTAND. IT IS A PRODUCTIVE TAX AND RELATIVELY UNCOMPLICATED TO ADMINISTER. THE FLAT-RATE TAX IS GIVEN A DEGREE OF PROGRESSIVITY BY THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION.

13. THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS ADJUSTMENT OF THE BASIC EXEMPTION WHICH WOULD REFLECT CHANGING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE TAX IN 1970.

14. THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS RELIANCE ON THE INCOME TAX TO RELIEVE THE SALES TAX AND THE PROPERTY TAX AND TO PROVIDE REVENUE GROWTH, IF GROWTH IS NECESSARY.

15. THE LEAGUE DOES NOT SUPPORT A LOCAL INCOME TAX, BASED ON RESIDENCY,

(but does support a shift of support for the common schools from the property tax to the state-administered income tax, with an increase in rate, if necessary.)

16. THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS GREATER RELIANCE ON USER FEES TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT SERVICES, PROVIDED THAT ACCESS BY THE POOR TO SERVICES IS NOT THEREBY CURTAILED.