

ALL LWV PALO ALTO POSITIONS IN BRIEF

and a sample position IN FULL

CITY GOVERNMENT

CHARTER (Revised 2003) Support of the principles of the charter of the City of Palo Alto in effect July 1968, and the Council- Manager form of government as embodied therein, with specific endorsements and exceptions as outlined in the objectives of this position.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (Revised 2002) Support of an open and fair selection process for members of the Planning and Transportation Commission.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (1971, revised 1996) Support of an architectural review board to provide effective city-wide architectural review.

CITY FINANCE (1988) Support of a financial structure for city government which recognizes public service as its prime objective; is equitable to those who pay; is prudently managed and reasonably flexible in application.

Support of maintenance of city services and programs at the highest level possible under budget constraints. Support of the concept of raising reliable revenues as efficiently as necessary to meet these needs.

Support of a budget formation process which promotes efficient staff operations, extensive legislative review, and citizen participation and involvement.

PALO ALTO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (1986, revised 1994) Support of a process which keeps the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan, including its Land use map up to date and reflective of the desires of the community.

COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS (1981, revised 1994) Support of cooperation between the City of Palo Alto and other jurisdictions, agencies, and contractors to provide services and programs for the citizens of the area, when such cooperative arrangements meet one or more of certain specified criteria.

Support of the following as city policy: When a service is needed which the City of Palo Alto cannot provide by itself, the City's role is to see that the needs of its residents are met by working in cooperation with other jurisdictions, agencies or contractors including non-profit groups or private individuals.

PALO ALTO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (1998) Support of the City of Palo Alto Emergency Management Plan for utilization in all disasters.

For more detail, see [City Government Positions](#)

SOCIAL POLICY

HOUSING (Revised 1990, 2002, 2010) Support of policies and actions by the City of Palo Alto towards the goals of: maintaining the vitality of both immediate and larger neighborhoods, including the general green and open feeling of all residential neighborhoods; improving the diversity of housing opportunities for all economic levels, ages and ethnicities; ensuring that all housing is open to everyone without discrimination based on gender, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or marital status; promoting a balance of jobs and housing; and promoting regional planning and programs.

EDUCATION (Revised 1993) Support of community involvement including parents, students, certified and classified employees, and residents of our district in evaluation, with consequences, of certified and classified employees and of locally developed educational programs.

Support of a budget-making process in the PAUSD which promotes school board and citizen involvement and understanding.

Support of a PAUSD budget format which serves the needs of its users: the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the public.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES (1977, 1987) Support of planning for human services in Palo Alto using a broad definition of human services and considering services provided by both government and the private sector.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE (joint position with LWV Los Altos-Mountain View and Cupertino-Sunnyvale) (1985, 1986) Support for the local Community College District

Support of a locally controlled public Community College District that meets the diverse needs of the District's population. (1986)

Support of a Community College District that is supported by public funds controlled by the Board of Trustees.

CHILDREN AT RISK (1996) Support of the following Policy Statement: (in concurrence with LWVC) The LWV of Palo Alto is committed to the principles that all children are entitled to safe nurturing care and that caring for children is a societal as well as a family responsibility.

The LWV of Palo Alto supports programs and policies that would effectively coordinate and integrate services that meet basic human needs, prevent or reduce poverty, and promote self-sufficiency for individuals.

For more detail, see [Social Policy Positions](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

PALO ALTO LAND USE AND PLANNING (Revised 1993, 2007, 2017) Support of continued efforts toward effective general planning in Palo Alto. [later shown with full details]

TRANSPORTATION (Revised 1993, 2007, 2017) Support of transportation planning measures and actions by the City of Palo Alto that promote efficient flow of traffic, that minimize the use of single occupant vehicles (SOVs), that are designed to provide safe and convenient transportation for motorized vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and that reduce greenhouse gases (GHG). The overall transit system should address the needs of mobility for all, be designed to reach employment, educational and shopping locations, and be effectively and efficiently coordinated.

FOOTHILLS (Revised 1993, 2004, 2017) Support of measures to retain the maximum possible undeveloped land in the Palo Alto foothills with efforts to preserve, protect, and restore landscape resilience, characterized by healthy functioning ecosystems. By foothills, we mean lands between Foothill Expressway and Skyline Boulevard within the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto sphere of influence.

BAYLANDS (1976, 1977, 1978; revised 1993, 2004, 2017) Support of measures to retain the maximum possible undeveloped land in the Palo Alto Baylands with safeguards to preserve and protect the natural quality of the land and with particular emphasis on the impacts of climate change (especially sea-level rise). By Baylands, we mean lands between Bayshore Freeway and the Bay within the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto sphere of influence.

WATERSHED (1968, 2004, 2017) Support of measures to protect the watershed from sedimentation, erosion, pollution, and flooding.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT (2004 - previously part of Watershed Position; 2017) Support of:

1. Planning for implementation of more advanced sewage treatment which would consider environment, need, economic feasibility, and technological advances
2. Encouraging reclamation and reuse of wastewater
3. Assumption by industry of the responsibility for its special wastes.

STANFORD LAND USE (Joint position with LWV South San Mateo County, 1974) (Revised 1997) The League supports area-wide planning to assure uses of Stanford lands that will have a beneficial impact on housing, open space, transportation, and the housing/job ratio.

Support of a range of housing opportunities for University students, faculty, and staff, and those employed on Stanford lands, in relation to the range of income levels.

Support of adequate open space and recreation facilities in the mid-peninsula.

Support of an interjurisdictional planning mechanism to assure timely and adequate information regarding proposals, public involvement at all stages, and coordinated decision making.

Support of transportation facilities which minimize the use of private automobiles and encourage a closer relationship between housing and employment.

For more detail, see [Natural Resources Positions](#)

Sample NATURAL RESOURCES Position in Full:

PALO ALTO LAND USE AND PLANNING (revised 1993, 2007, 2017) Support of continued efforts toward effective general planning in Palo Alto

OBJECTIVES Support of:

1. Inclusion of social planning and environmental planning in the comprehensive plan. Social planning should include, but not be limited to: housing, jobs, mixed uses, transportation. Environmental planning should include, but not be limited to: conservation and sustainability (including water resources, air quality, energy,) open space, and geological conditions.
2. Evaluation of physical planning decisions in terms of their effects on people.
3. Zoning decisions that include consideration of social, environmental, and economic effects
4. Evaluation of local planning decisions in a regional context.
5. Basing major planning decisions on analysis of development alternatives. These alternatives and their probable consequences should be publicized and presented to the public at appropriate stages before final decisions are made.
6. Requiring the effects of allowable build-out to be clearly identified when considering land use and zoning designations.
7. Use of interim zoning and moratoriums as mechanisms to restrict development in areas under special planning studies or zoning change consideration.
8. State-mandated building codes for energy use and conservation that currently exist for new buildings. City measures to improve codes if they are cost effective. Performance, not specification, should be the criterion for building codes and for performance rating.