

## **CONSENSUS POSITIONS - LWV MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

#### Consolidation of the City-County Transportation Systems

The Morgantown-Monongalia County LWV urges the City and County governments to work toward a unified bus transportation system immediately. This system should include both regularly scheduled handicapped buses and an on-call van system. Coordination between existing government supported van systems should be encouraged.

The new combined systems should be encouraged to use modern methods of management including computerization and should also institute a course of training and standards for drivers which include sensitivity training toward minorities, elderly and handicapped.

We suggest that the bus transport system be governed by a five member board. The members should be chosen by those governmental units who contribute to the funding of the system in proportion to their contribution. The make-up of the board should include representatives from the elderly, financial and business communities plus an elected official and a citizen advocate.

In order to promote ridership, the League calls attention to the need for publicizing the routes, fares and schedules in a multitude of readily available places. (March 24, 1994)

#### Library

The LWVMMC supports changing the structure and/or bylaws of the Board of Directors of the Morgantown Public Library to enable the County Commission to name at least one person to the board. We also feel that non-city residents should be able to serve on the board. The County Commission should provide more funding for library services; the city should not necessarily be the primary local funding body, as is now the case. We would support a special county-wide levy for library services. Private funding should be actively sought. (October 31, 1990)

#### City-County Planning

The LWVMMC favors the adoption and implementation of comprehensive plans for Morgantown and Monongalia County: meaning a comprehensive plan or any of its parts such as a comprehensive plan of land use, or thoroughfares; of water and sanitation; of recreation and other related matters; and including such ordinances as may be deemed necessary to implement such complete comprehensive plan or parts thereof, with provision for such regulations as are deemed necessary. (September 1969; reworded November 1973)

#### City Government

The LWVMMC

1. Supports the city manager form of government as being the most appropriate system for the City of Morgantown. (October 1973)
2. Supports a plan for the reconstitution of City Council which would provide (1) a combination

of council members elected as ward representatives and at-large candidates (the League does support either an all at-large election or a system which is limited only to ward representation); (2) a decrease in the number of members of the Council; (3) an odd number of Council members. (April 1972 and October 1973).

3. Supports enforcement of the City Charter provision requiring Council to select a mayor at its first meeting in July. The League recognizes that procedures to avoid deadlocks in mayoral elections are necessary to ensure the efficient functioning of City Council. (October 1973).
4. Recognizes the benefit of less party involvement in the nomination procedures for City Council and supports a combination of nonpartisan ward conventions, petitions, and filing procedures. (April 1973).
5. Recognizes the Council's right to fill a vacancy in a municipal elective office by appointment, but also maintains that such appointment should be made only until the next municipal election instead of for the unexpired term. (April 1973).
6. Supports general updating of the City Election Code to Conform to the State Code. The League suggests that the law which provides that poll workers must be placed in the precinct in which they live be changed in order to make it more realistic. The League strongly supports training sessions for poll workers and maintains that such training would improve the enforcement of the Code. (April 1972).

The LWVMMC Supports the goal of hiring the best-qualified professional public administrator available for the position of City Manager regardless of residency. To facilitate this, the League supports revision of the City Charter to include "experience in public administration" as a qualification for the position of City Manager. The League also supports the adoption of hiring policies which, at a minimum, stipulate precise qualifications for City Manager and active recruitment (such as advertisement in professional newsletters) by City Council to insure comparison of candidates.

The LWVMMC feels the City Manager should be responsible for determining the need for and the type of assistants he/she requires with no formal approval required by council.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### Education

The LWVMMC supports policies to provide adequate revenues for public schools. (Adopted as a support position at the Annual Meeting in March 1971; reworded March 1973).

### Housing

1. Supports local legislation to provide access to housing to all persons free from discriminatory practices, and favors the establishment of procedures for adequate and efficient redress of grievances. (May 1968).
2. Supports action to achieve the goal of adequate housing for all. (Adopted as a support position at the Annual Meeting in March 1971; reworded March 1973).

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### Environmental Quality

Action to promote a local physical environment beneficial to life - including water and air quality, sewage and solid waste disposal.

### Land Use

Support for the implementation of planning concepts in Morgantown and Monongalia County.