

LAND USE

Consensus 1975; Reviewed 1995

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports:

- Action to achieve a physical environment beneficial to life, with emphasis on achieving an optimum balance between human needs and the carrying capacity of the land and its resources.
- Statewide land use planning which should include economic, social and environmental components, basic services, transportation, new concepts of community design, the best use of resource conservation measures in land use planning, with emphasis on the effects of population growth and distribution.
- Measures to preserve open space and natural habitat, identify and regulate areas of critical concern, including fragile areas, historic areas, riparian habitats, renewable resource lands, and natural hazard lands.
- Statewide authority over areas and activities outside of local government jurisdiction, or which their governmental bodies fail to regulate.
- Protection of private property in accordance with the Fifth Amendment, but retaining the government's right to regulate the use of land through its power to protect the public health, welfare and safety, the decision whether a regulation constitutes a partial taking should be determined by the courts.
- Requirements for evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts of major land use projects, whether initiated by government agencies or by private interests.
- Policies which assure the quality of the environment for people of all economic levels.
- Increased coordination and communication among land use agencies at all levels of government, and between those agencies and the public.
- Requiring any boards, commissions or agencies having authority or responsibility over land use planning to be comprised of individuals representing a balance of diverse citizen interests and concerns.
- Public input into all stages of planning and decision making.
- Increased technical and financial assistance to localities for growth management, encouragement of local communities to use innovative planning and regulatory techniques, and to incorporate measures to conserve energy, integrate transportation planning, consider availability of water and other resources.

WATER

Consensus 1975, 1979; Revised 1995, Amended 2009

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports the following goals:

Water resource management should ensure:

- The sustainability and long term productivity of water resources of the state and their future availability at reasonable costs. Reasonable cost is defined as costs that fairly and accurately reflect the value of this precious resource.
- The equitable utilization of water resources.
- Conservation of water resources.
- Prevention of harmful contamination of our surface and groundwater supplies from all sources.
- Coordination at all levels of government (federal, state and local) in planning for and managing water resources.
- Availability of detailed information on all groundwater withdrawal and hydraulic characteristics of aquifers.
- Energy consideration to be included as part of any water management plan.
- Public participation at all levels of water resource management planning. Arizona water laws should:
- Reflect the hydrologic cycle and treat all water as interrelated.
- Recognize and provide for physical differences between various areas of the state.
- Define and quantify ground and surface rights.
- Consider priority of use and coordination of planning for water and land if water rights are transferred.
- Recognize riparian habitats as beneficial use.
- Assure that riparian habitats and in stream flows are protected when any new water rights are granted, or when there are water exchanges or changed uses.
- Clarify and strengthen in stream flow rights.
- Provide for incentives for stream/habitat restoration.
- Provide authority to:

- Monitor water use;
- Limit non-beneficial or wasteful use;
- Limit new water uses in areas of long-term shortages;
- Decide which users should have priorities in times of shortages.

The administration of the above should be determined at the state level, with emphasis on implementation and enforcement at the local or regional level.

Require conservation of water by large individual users, such as large industries and agricultural entities, and encourage conservation by all other users. Tax incentives should be utilized.