LWVGE Education Position (proposed updates)

With ~~strikeouts~~ of removed language and additions noted in **bold**
April 27, 2023

Education Positions

Rational for the Recommendation to adopt LWV-Wheaton's 'Quality Education' position by Concurrence

- *The LWVGE education position is lacking an important section on the quality of local education.*
- *The Wheaton LWV already has a well written Quality Education position for which they conducted a study and consensus meeting.*
- *The Wheaton LWV position will be adopted word-for-word as required for the LWVGE to adopt a position by concurrence.*

1. **Quality Education**

   We reaffirm our support of quality education. Quality education should be sufficiently diverse to meet the needs of all students. Public education should provide a foundation for lifelong learning, which includes critical thinking and communication skills, as well as fundamental knowledge to function independently in society.

   Some of the ways to achieve these goals include:
   - **reasonable and appropriate class size**
   - **teachers and administrators who meet high professional standards**
   - **teachers and administrators maintained in positions for which they are trained**
   - **quality and equity throughout the system of physical plant, program and materials**
   - **mutual trust and communication between the community and school system**

   Adequate resources are necessary to accomplish these goals, and they should include sufficient constitutionally-mandated state funding and exploration of alternative sources of funding. We support a balanced budget, but not at the expense of quality education.

   It is in the interest of the entire community to invest in and support public education. Moreover, the League firmly believes it is also the obligation of the citizens of a participatory democracy to support public education to foster an informed electorate.

Rational for the Recommendations for LWVGE Education Positions Update

- *Number the sections to identify three distinct positions*
- *Update language regarding school facilities*
- *Match the evaluating referenda criteria format to that of Criteria for Evaluating Referenda by Local Taxing Bodies Other Than Schools.*

2. School Consolidation Study Consensus (1984)

It is the consensus of the League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn that the League not encourage consolidation of Elementary School Districts #41 and #89 at this time. We do recommend continuing cooperation between the districts and expanding cooperation wherever possible.

Consolidation of Elementary Districts #41 and #89 is feasible. Both districts have similar tax rates, financial resources, demographics, facilities, educational philosophies, programs and administrative structures. However, no overriding advantages were determined that would lead the League to encourage consolidation at this time.

Philosophy and structure of certain special programs, including gifted education and special education, differ substantially and would be difficult though not impossible to reconcile.

Possible expansion of curriculum in a consolidated district would require increased transportation of students.

There would be some reduction in administrative costs, but this would probably be offset by increases in the cost of teachers' salaries and benefits due the fact that the two districts have differing contract packages.

Consolidating Elementary District #41 and #89 would result in a single elementary district encompassing almost all of Glen Ellyn and its planning jurisdiction. However, such a district would also include parts of Wheaton, Lombard, Downers Grove, Glendale Heights and Carol Stream, as well as large unincorporated areas. Moreover, the students of this district would continue to attend two different high schools, Glenbard West and Glenbard South.

3. The Status of Facilities in School Districts 41 & 89 (2013) (revised 2019, **2023)**

Information has been provided by a questionnaire sent to the superintendents of both districts in November, 2018. Both CCSD89 and D41 have addressed updates for infrastructure, security, technology, media centers and playgrounds, as well as accessibility. Early Childhood Education is provided in both districts.

D89 – Based on the information provided by the District, it was determined that the current facilities in CCSD89 are adequate to meet both current and projected enrollment needs. Increased enrollment has necessitated some boundary changes and has brought class sizes to the higher end of the target range. Although enrollment is projected to increase, current facilities appear adequate to meet both current and long-range program needs. However, some space may need to be repurposed to meet changing program needs. Full-day kindergarten is provided in all buildings. The District does not currently own any vacant land.

D41 – ~~All D41 portable classrooms will be eliminated by 2019.~~ Capital improvement funds were used for additions to all elementary schools to replace the portables but did not provide extra room for enrollment growth. A referendum in 2017 provided additional classrooms at Hadley Junior High to replace the portables. The 10-room addition and renovations to the existing building addressed the need for flexible learning environments at Hadley as well as designated music space. All current available classroom space is being utilized in all buildings with a shortage of space for student support services and non-classroom space.

The D41 enrollment figures are projected to remain stable for the foreseeable future. However, the Village of Glen Ellyn is projecting additional residential developments. The District is exploring options to move the preschool program out of Forest Glen to provide more classroom space. There is no space available in any of the buildings to provide full-day kindergarten. The District owns 4.73 acres of vacant land (old Spalding School site) which could accommodate a small school.

Criteria for Evaluating School Referenda (2005)

Use the School Referenda criteria adopted in 2005 to evaluate the current status of our school districts in the event of a referendum. The criteria act as a basis on which to examine districts in areas of finance and program, but will not prohibit a broad-based study in the future.

Criteria for Evaluating School Funding Referenda

1. Is the funding request consistent with the other positions of the LWVUS, LWVIL, and the LWV of Glen Ellyn?

2. Has the school board communicated the reasons for seeking additional funding through accessible public channels, for example open meetings, web sites, news releases, community mailings, pamphlets, etc.?

3. Has the opportunity been provided for citizens to respond to the school board's proposal for increased local school funding?

4. Has the school board demonstrated fiscal responsibility in the following ways?
   a. Implementation of cost-effective measures, including but not limited to identifying operating inefficiencies such as utility costs, outside contracts, transportation routes;
   b. Long range planning (within a range of three to five years), including projections of income and expenses and their effect on reserves, programs, and personnel;
   c. Continued evaluation of the need and cost-effectiveness of programs;
   d. Search for other suitable sources of revenue, e.g., charitable foundation grants;
   e. Pursuit of intergovernmental cooperative agreements for improved delivery of services or cost savings.

5. Do income and expense or enrollment projections indicate current and/or future financial difficulty? Consider the following:
   a. Budgeted expenditures have exceeded budgeted revenues in one or more funds and in more than one fiscal year.
   b. The working cash fund has been closed out and (1) has been combined with repeated short-term borrowing, or (2) the debt incurred is not being systematically retired.
   c. There has been repeated postponement of (1) maintenance actions, (2) purchases of instructional materials, or (3) program implementation.
   d. There has been late payment of debt service, salaries, or contributions to pension funds

(signaling that a fiscal crisis has already occurred).

e. Financial institutions have imposed a limit on borrowing. The school district bond rating has changed (signaling a fiscal crisis has already occurred).

f. Have unique financial hardships been imposed on the district (e.g. tax caps, tax exempt properties, TIF districts, rapidly increasing enrollment, property reassessment, and other unfunded state and federal mandates)?

g. Have future educational or demographic trends which may require additional funding been considered, e.g. increasing use of technology, increasing special education costs, "at-risk,"bilingual, special needs?

6a. Is passage of the referendum essential to maintain, restore, or achieve the established educational goals of the district? Consider the following in comparison with comparable districts:

(1) Cost-per-pupil expenditures, as defined in the State Report Card, are within an acceptable range.

(2) An acceptable student-teacher ratio and student-administrator ratio, as defined in the State Report Card, are offered.

(3) Salaries for teachers and administrators are competitive enough to attract highly qualified, talented personnel.

(4) The curriculum and program are competitive and of a high enough standard to prepare students for their future.

– OR –

6b. Is passage of the referendum proposal essential for maintaining the physical plant for health, safety, and educational needs, e.g. increased enrollment space need, asbestos abatement, compliance with ADA requirements?

7. In determining the amount of the referendum were the district's current reserves considered? Is any portion thereof being used to reduce this referendum? If not, why not?

8. Are there unique community factors that could affect the League's position on the referendum?

LWVGE Park District Positions (proposed updates)

With ~~strikeouts~~ of removed language and additions noted in **bold**
April 27, 2023

Rationale for Recommendations for Park District Positions Update:

- *The position needs to be updated to reflect current conditions. The length of term is removed as it has been at 4 years since 1996 and the reference to the Park District Long Range Plan is removed as it no longer exists.*
- *The Park District's mission statement is missing clarifying language.*
- *The format is reorganized to align more closely with other positions.*
- *Language has been added to reference sustainable maintenance practices that aligns with State and National League positions.*

Glen Ellyn Park District Positions (1989) (revised 2005) (2019) **(2023)**

~~Glen Ellyn Park District Length of Term Consensus (1988) (Updated 2013) (Updated 2014)~~

~~The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn supports a four-year term of office for Glen Ellyn Park District Commissioners. The role of the Commissioner is that of policy maker. The professional staff is there to handle day-to-day activities and implement policy. A four-year term makes board members more responsive to the community. Constant updating of ideas and procedures necessitated by new board members helps to keep the board as a whole and the staff accountable to the community. Our community is very mobile. More people are willing to make a four-year commitment than a six-year commitment. Four years is long enough for people to learn a job and be effective board members. The Glen Ellyn Park District Board changed the length of term of Board members to four years in June of 1996.~~

~~Glen Ellyn Park District Long Range Plan Consensus (1989) (revised 2005) (revised 2019)~~

1. ***The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn supports the*** *Glen Ellyn Park District Mission* **as stated here:**
   "*The Glen Ellyn Park District is driven to foster diverse, community-based leisure opportunities, through a harmonious blend of quality recreation programs, facilities and open space which will enhance the quality of life into the future."*

2. *Land Acquisition and Park District Development*: The League supports the continued exploration of land acquisition to meet the Park District Mission when financially feasible and appropriate, including scattered vacant lots or unique parcels. The League encourages the Glen Ellyn Park District to continue to pursue annexation of properties contiguous to current boundaries.

3. *Intergovernmental and Public Cooperation:* We encourage continued cooperation and open dialogue between the Park District and other public and private facilities for the public benefit. Continued intergovernmental cooperation is to be encouraged between the Glen Ellyn Park District and other governmental bodies, such as other park districts, the Glen Ellyn Recreation Commission, school districts, Village government, and the DuPage County

Forest Preserve District.

4. *Recreation and Facilities Development*: The League of Women Voters recommends that the Glen Ellyn Park District actively seek broad community input during its planning processes and before adoption of any long-range plan.

    - We encourage a continuing dialogue with the community to ensure informed support of Park District facilities, services, programs, and financing.
    - We recommend that the Park District continue to foster emerging sports and accept responsibility for the management of recreation programs that have become too large for volunteers to manage.
    - We recommend that the Park District continue scholarship programs that allow all children to participate.

5. *Park Maintenance:* We agree that the Glen Ellyn Park District should follow a well-Planned program of maintenance of existing parks and equipment. **The LWVGE supports sustainable maintenance practices aligned with State and National League positions on natural resources.**

    For example:

    - **Develop an anti-idling policy for the Park District fleet (LWVUS air quality pollution position)**
    - **Encourage a reduction in pesticide use through the promotion of management programs such as integrated pest management, sustainable agriculture and non-toxic control techniques (LWVIL position on pesticides)**
    - **Focus on water conservation and water pollution prevention parks (LWVIL position on Water)**
    - **Other sustainable maintenance practices aligned with the LWVUS Position on Natural Resources**

6. *Finances:* The District's finances should be based on a solid foundation of responsible planning and forecasting. We urge a continuing dialogue with the community to ensure informed support of Park District financing.
    - We encourage the District to provide free and low-cost programming for low-income families, setting a threshold designated to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.
    - We support the mission of Friends of the Glen Ellyn Parks, a (501(c)(3) that benefits the Park District and the community-at-large.

LWVGE Socio-Economic Study Consensus (proposed updates)

With ~~strikeouts~~ of removed language and additions noted in **bold**
April 27, 2023

Rationale for Recommendations for the Socio-Economic Study Consensus Update

- *The1977 position date is missing, as search of Archives indicates this position originated in 1977.*
- *The information reported in this position lacks a clear League position statement. An overarching position statement is added based on existing LWVUS positions to ground and give basis to all the reports that follow.*
- *The format is updated to align closer to other positions. Added are numbered category titles (1 to 5) and lettered subsections (A. B.) to clearly identify distinct socio-economic categories, improve the format/organization, improve ease of reading, and address confusion regarding the use of questions.*
- *The position is missing an important social category in the housing section, persons with disabilities.*
- *The language needs to be updated to accurately reflect the current situation.*

Socio-Economic Study Consensus **(1977)** (1994) (revised 2005) (revised 2012) (2019) (2021)**(2023)**

LWV believes that all levels of government (local, state, federal) share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, housing and health care including behavioral health care for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.*
as summarized from the following LWV positions: Equality of Opportunity (page 122 of the 2022-2024 LWV Impact on Issues) and Health Care (pages 137-139 of the 2022-2024 LWV Impact on Issues).

1. Affordable Housing and Temporary Shelter

LWV of Glen Ellyn believes that *safe, quality, affordable housing is essential to the health & well-being of individuals, families, and the community.*

A. Is there a need for more affordable housing in Glen Ellyn? If so, to what degree is the need being met?

The Glen Ellyn Planning Department reports that our Village meets and exceeds the requirement that 10% of all housing stock in a community be affordable, as defined in the Illinois “Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act (AHPAA). The League of

Women Voters of Glen Ellyn believes, however, that as older multi-family housing and other properties continue to be redeveloped into higher-priced housing, and single-family homes continue to increase in value, meeting and exceeding this minimal threshold will not be sustained unless proactive steps are taken by the Village.

As the Village assesses housing needs, consideration also needs to be given to changing demographics, including the housing needs of our aging population, **persons with disabilities**, of singles and young married couples, many just beginning their professional careers, and the increasing number of people working in service sector jobs.

Glen Ellyn has the opportunity through thoughtful, informed and deliberate planning to influence the types and price points of housing especially within the downtown retail and transit-oriented district. Deliberate planning can result in housing that appeals to and is affordable for people with a wide range of incomes and lifestyles, and promotes a vibrant, welcoming community. This will require the Village to purposefully use its zoning and approval process to influence developers, based on the Village's Comprehensive Plan and with input from the community.

The League encourages the Village to require builders of large multifamily developments to include a percentage of affordable housing as well as encourage the use of tools, such as inclusionary zoning and density variances as a way to leverage well-planned housing development.

B. Is there a need for more temporary shelter in Glen Ellyn?

There is a major need for shelter with case management to help homeless persons become situated in adequate residences. During the ~~pandemic~~ 2020 **Covid-19 Pandemic**, DuPage PADS congregational model has shifted to emergency housing in hotels. **DuPage Pads has since purchased a hotel in Downers Grove in 2021**. There is a need to find more permanent housing, and this should continue to be pursued.

2. Employment

Is employment a problem in Glen Ellyn?

Despite the fact that there are programs to ~~that~~ assist people looking for employment, ~~individuals and families continue to experience negative effects of unemployment and underemployment~~ transportation and child care issues remain a problem.

3. Public Transportation

Is there a need for improved public transportation in Glen Ellyn?

The public transportation system in DuPage County needs to be better coordinated and enlarged in order to serve the community adequately.

4. Needs of Senior Citizens

How have the needs of senior citizens changed? Are the identified needs being met?

The infrastructure exists to help seniors manage everyday life and stay as long as possible in their homes. The Glen Ellyn Senior Center provides many services to residents 60 years of age and older and is supported by the Village of Glen Ellyn. Transportation ~~particularly~~ continues to be a problem. ~~In addition, the pandemic raises additional concerns about mental health concerns for this population going forward~~. Additional concerns are mental health and housing.

5. Children and Family Support Services

A. *Are child care and support services for Glen Ellyn's young families adequate?*

Child care and support services are available, some on sliding fee scales. Subsidized child care opportunities may be limited, but do exist. ~~As a result of the pandemic, however, childcare has become a primary concern impacting~~**The 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic exposed the unmet needs for** ~~Many of the traditional~~ **child care**, before and after school programs, and summer and vacation programs for families in all socio-economic categories ~~continue to be affected based on evolving State guidelines.~~ For many children in Glen Ellyn*,* our public schools are the most stable part of their lives. ~~But that has also been changed as a result of the pandemic.~~ Social Workers and Counselors ~~will be~~ play~~ing~~ an important role ~~as we work through the effects of these tumultuous times~~ **in meeting the needs of children and families**, but there's also a continued need to expand **services and** access for all families ~~need of assistance~~.

B. *Are services for 6th through 12th graders and their families adequate?*

The overwhelming concerns for our teens are related to mental health **and suicide** as a result of social-emotional challenges ~~and academic pressures~~. The **2020 Covid-19** Pandemic has exacerbated these concerns. In response, the Village increased their support for Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service, ~~that~~ which provides mental

health services and counseling. The Glenbard Parent Series (GPS) provides programs on mental health issues ~~that offers strategies to parents on how to assist their children~~ **and parenting topics**. Yet, this may not be enough to meet the mounting need. ~~It is evident that~~ Race and culture matter. ~~The~~ **Local** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) ~~initiative is a good beginning toward addressing~~ **efforts attempt to address** these issues. In addition, the limited programming currently offered to this age group through public funded sources such as the schools and Park District ~~must~~ **should** be improved and expanded.